



**Aleppo's Eastern Neighborhoods are being Torn Apart by the Shells of the Russian and Syrian Forces, A Detailed Account of the Violations One Week after the Second Cessation of Hostilities Statement  
250,000 People under Siege Are being Killed and Bombed and the Goal is a Demographic Change while the Security Council is Standing Idly by**

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## I. Introduction

SNHR documented the breaches by the parties to the conflict when the second Cessation of Hostilities statement was signed on 12 September 2016 and outlined it [over three reports](#) in which we documented no less than 242 breaches where the Syrian regime and its ally the Russian regime committed the most and greatest of these breaches.

Ever since the Cessation of Hostilities ceasefire ended on Monday 19 September 2016, government forces and its ally Russian forces have escalated the indiscriminate attacks and military operations throughout Syria and especially in Aleppo's Eastern neighborhoods where Russian and government forces perpetrated violations that amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes during the week following the end of the second Cessation of Hostilities ceasefire.

The eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo have been under siege since the beginning of September 2016 where the medical situation is aggressively deteriorating in light of the severe shortage in medical resources and the hospitals' and medical points' incapability to take in the huge number of injuries. Some of the hospital has already announced that it is at capacity while other medical centers launched appeals for blood donations. Furthermore, the targeting of civil defense centers impeded it from rescuing victims and wounded and extinguishing fires that resulted from the consistent and relentless bombardment in the city.

The Syrian regime and its allies are preventing any aids to enter





the city and anyone from going in or out. Additionally, Russian and Syrian forces bombed a U.N. aid convoy as we documented in a previous report [“Multiple Evidences Indicating that Russian and Syrian Forces Deliberately Targeted the U.N. Aid Convoy in Aleppo”](#). As of this writing, these neighborhoods haven’t seen any humanitarian aids.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR, says:

“The responsibility for the systematic killing and destruction that are being recorded every hour doesn’t only fall upon the Syrian, Russian, and Iranian regimes, but also all the states in the Security Council bears responsibility and even all the official of the United Nations and decision makers around the world. The people of Aleppo won’t be saved by phrases of condemnation and denouncement. People with moderate injuries are dying due to medication and treatment shortages.”

Through daily monitoring and documentation, SNHR teams have documented these incidents and attacks and followed-up and talked to survivors, victims’ families, and eyewitnesses. Also, we have reviewed the pictures and video we received and verified its authenticity where the pictures showed the huge destruction in Aleppo’s eastern neighborhoods and the targeting of mosques, schools, hospitals, and other vital civil facilities. Moreover, some of the pictures showed incendiary weapons that were used by forces that we believe are Russian. We have copies of all the videos and pictures that are included in this report. The investigations mentioned in this report have proved that the targeted areas were civil areas where there was no military centers or weapon warehouses for armed opposition factions or extremist Islamic groups during or before the attack.

This report only represents the bare minimum of the severity and magnitude of the violations. It also doesn’t cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

## II. Executive Summary

The report documents the escalating military operations by government forces and its ally Russian forces in the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo after the Cessation of Hostilities statement ended from 7:00 PM on Monday 19 September 2016 until 7:00 PM on Sunday 25 September 2016 where government and Russian forces have carried out hundreds of airstrikes in which government forces used no less than 112 missiles while 282 missiles at least were used by forces we believe are Russian. Most of these bombardments were indiscriminate and targeted the middle of the neighborhoods rather than frontlines. All of this is to force armed opposition factions to submit by killing as many as possible of their





families to pressure them.

The following is the most notable of these violations. It should be noted that this is the minimum and there are many incidents that are undergoing investigation.

First: Massacres and other forms of unlawful killing: 171 civilians were killed including 37 children and 26 women that are distributed by the perpetrating party:

- Russian forces: 114 civilians including 26 children and 19 women.
- Government forces: 57 civilians including 11 children and seven women.

forces committed seven massacres while government forces committed two massacres.

Second: Vital civil facilities: We recorded 12 incidents of attack on vital civil facilities that are distributed by the perpetrating party as follows:

- Russian forces: 10 incidents.
- Government forces: 2 incidents.

Third: Unlawful attacks:

- Russian forces: We recorded four attacks that involved the use of incendiary weapons.
- Government forces: we recorded no less than 94 barrel bombs.

### III. Details

#### Russian forces

##### A. Massacres and unlawful killing

SNHR documented the killing of 114 civilians including 26 children and 19 women at the hands of forces we believe are Russian. Also, these forces committed seven massacres.

Monday 19 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles at the residential homes on the road leading to Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood from Al Salhein neighborhood. As a result, two individuals including one woman was killed.

Monday 19 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of the vegetables market in Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Thursday 22 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Kallasa neighborhood. As a result, nine individuals were killed including two children and three women.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Marja neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals including two children and one woman.





Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian Al Qaterji neighborhood which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including three children and two women.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian the residential homes in the vicinity of Al Kanej gas station in Al Kallasa neighborhood which resulted in the killing of 10 individuals.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential homes in the vicinity of Khayyata mosque in Al Ferdous neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals; one of whom was a child.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential homes in the vicinity of Al Isharat intersection in Al Ferdous neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals including one female child and one woman.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Ma'adi neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals including two children.

Saturday 24 September, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of Al Sena'a circle in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three children and one woman.

Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential homes in the vicinity of Hamza mosque in Al Mash-had neighborhood which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including five children and one woman.

Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Ard Al Hamra area in Al Haydariya neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of [Sukkar mosque](#) in Bostan Al Qaser neighborhood which resulted in the killing of 13 individuals.





Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted Al Mustwd'at street in Al Ferdous neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals including one woman.

Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential buildings on the road leading to Al Qaterji neighborhood from Tareaq Al Bab neighborhood which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including five children and one woman.

Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the residential homes in Al Kassara area in Al Sakhour neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals including one child and one woman.

Sunday 25 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the road leading to Al Zebdiyeh neighborhood from Salah Al Din neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals (three children and their mother)

Sunday 25 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted on Al Hollok neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals.

### **B. Targeting of vital civil facilities**

We recorded 10 incidents of attacks on vital civil facilities by forces we believe are Russian. The following are the most notable:

Thursday 22 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles





that [targeted Bab Al Nayrab](#) water station in [Bab Al Nayrab](#) neighborhood to damage all [the main interrupters](#) and the high-voltage wire that supplies the station. As a result, the station was [temporarily rendered out of commission](#).

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted [the civil defense center](#) in Al Ansari neighborhood to destroy the center offices and four vehicles belonging to the center (An ambulance, a fire truck, and two service vehicles) which all were rendered [out of commission](#).

Friday 23 September 2016 at morning, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the civil defense center in Masaken Hananou neighborhood to destroy the building and an [ambulance](#) belonging to the center which both were rendered out of commission.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of Al Hamza mosque in Al Mash-had neighborhood which resulted in moderate damages to the mosque furniture and cladding [materials](#).

Saturday 24 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian fired missiles that targeted the center for vehicles maintenance (Al Rahba) which is affiliate to the local





council in Aleppo city in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood. The center and the machines were widely damaged and were rendered out of [commission](#).

### **C. Unlawful attacks**

We recorded no less than four attacks that involved the use of incendiary weapons by forces we believe are Russian

Wednesday 21 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons to [target the vicinity of the vegetables market](#) in Al Sukkari neighborhood.

Thursday 22 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons to target the residential homes in [the vicinity of Badr mosque](#) in [Bostan Al Qaser](#) neighborhood.

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used [incendiary](#) weapons to target the [residential homes](#) in eastern [Al Asila neighborhood](#).

Friday 23 September 2016, fixed-wing warplanes we believe are Russian used incendiary weapons to target [the residential homes](#) on the road leading to Al Qaterji neighborhood from Tareaq Al Bab neighborhood.

### **Government forces**

#### **A. Massacres and unlawful killing**

SNHR documented the killing of 57 children including 11 children and seven women at the hands of government forces. Also, government forces committed two massacres. The following is the most notable:

Wednesday 21 September 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of the Eye Hospital in Qadi Askar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals including one woman.

Wednesday 21 September 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted the vicinity of the market in Al Myassar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of one individual.

Wednesday 21 September 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted Al Wakalat street in Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.





Wednesday 21 September 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes targeted twice Al Mwaslat area in Al Sha'ar neighborhood using missiles. As a result, seven individuals were killed including two children.

Wednesday 21 September 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes fired missiles that targeted the road leading to Al Amriya neighborhood from Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of four individuals including one child.

Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Karm Al Tahhan area in Al Myassar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of seven individuals.

Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Bostan Al Basha neighborhood which resulted in the killing of seven individuals including six children.

### **B. Targeting of vital civil facilities**

We recorded no less than two incidents of attacks on vital civil facilities by government forces

Tuesday 20 September 2016, fixed-wing government forces warplanes targeted [the school of Abu Obayda](#) ben Al Jarrah school in Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the destruction of a [number of classrooms](#).







Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the civil defense center in Al Sakhour neighborhood which greatly destroyed the building.

### **C. Unlawful attacks**

We recorded 94 barrel bombs at least that were dropped by government forces on the neighborhoods of Aleppo city over the course of the period covered by the report

Monday 19 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Albesa street in Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of three individuals.

Wednesday 21 September 2016, government forces warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on the road leading to Al Zebdiyeh neighborhood from Al Mash-had neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Thursday 22 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Sukkari neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in Qadi Askar neighborhood which resulted in the killing of two individuals.

Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential homes in the vicinity of Al Halwaniya circle in Al Qaterji neighborhood to kill two individuals.

## **II. Conclusions and Recommendations**

### **Legal Conclusions**

1- The Russian and Syrian regimes have, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254 which both state that indiscriminate attacks must be halted. Also, they violated Article 8 of Rome Statute through the act of willful killing which constitutes war crimes.

2- We can confirm that the bombardment mentioned in this report has targeted armless civilians. Therefore, the Russian and Syrian forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, these violations were perpetrated in a non-international armed conflict which amount to a war crime where all elements were fulfilled.

3- The attacks mentioned in this report, which have been perpetrated by the Russian and Syrian regimes, are considered a violation of the customary international law as the shells were fired at a populated area rather than a specific military object.





4- The aerial bombardment has caused collateral damages that involved loss of lives, injuries, and significant damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

## Recommendations

### **To the Russian regime:**

- To investigate the incidents included in this report, inform the Syrian people about the results and hold the perpetrators accountable.
- To compensate all the affected centers and facilities, and rebuild and re-prepare them. It also has to redress for the victims and the injured who were killed by the present Russian regime.
- To completely cease the bombardment of hospitals, protected facilities and civil areas and to respect humanitarian customary law.

### **To the Security Council**

- The Security Council has to take additional steps as it has been a year since Resolution 2254 was adopted which states explicitly “that all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment.”
  - The Syrian case must be referred to the International Criminal Court and all those who are responsible must be held accountable including the Russian regime whose involvement in war crimes has been involved.
  - To instill security and peace in Syria and implement the norm of the Responsibility to Protect in order to protect the lives, culture, and history of the Syrian people from being thieved and ruined.
  - To expand the sanctions to include the Russian and Iranian regime who are directly involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people.
- To the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  
The Office must submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on this massacre specifically considering that it was perpetrated by forces which we believe that they are Russian in coordination with government forces.





### **To the International Community**

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect it from the daily killings and siege and increase the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must be activated in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect in tens of studies and reports and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League's plan and then Mr. Kofi Annan's plan were drought out. Therefore, steps under Article 7 of the Rome Stature must be taken and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, must be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- To renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.
- To work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

## **Acknowledgment**

Our thanks and condolences for the families and local activists who majorly enriched this report.

