



## Russian Airstrikes Kills 254 Civilians Including 83 Children and 42 Women “Russian Forces Kill More Civilians than the International Coalition Killed in a Year”

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### I. Introduction:

“Targeting ISIL” is Russia’s new strategy to bombard Syrian cities since its military intervention started in 30 September 2015. To the Russians, any military body that fights the Syrian regime is labeled as a “terrorist” that must be eliminated. Russian political figures claimed that their aim is fight terrorism in Syria, embodied by ISIL; however, they are killing civilians and armed groups that oppose the Assad government which killed not less than 96% of the total number of victims.

SNHR’s methodology is based on certain criteria that documents victims’ names, casualty’s death toll, the most significant and relevant information, and a series of different eyewitnesses’ testimonies, as we also had to differentiate between the Syrian and the Russian shelling.

On 11 October 2015, we issued our first report that documented the Russian airstrikes on Syrian and its victims’ death toll. In this report, we update the information about the airstrikes, victims’ death toll and violations up till the 26th of October 2015, as we also included the initial violations that we previously documented since 30 September 2015 and until 6 October 2015 that we have verified.

#### *In this report, we focus on:*

- a. Targeted civilian and military regions under the control of armed opposition
- b. Targeted civilian regions under the control of ISIL.
- c. We excluded military targets on ISIL’s areas due to the difficulty we face in verifying its occurrence.





Our team conducted interviews and investigations with residents, local activists and eye-witnesses. We analyzed footages and images we received and cross referenced these outcomes with information about the air strikes from pro-Russian media outlets. All eye-witnesses spoke in Arabic as we also explained the aim behind conducting these interviews where some of them preferred their real names to be kept confidential, as we also kept a record for all the contact details to all eyewitnesses.

We were able to distinguish the shelling pattern of the new Russian air strikes; as it has a different destructive power, warplanes' sound, and weapons. Additionally, through the testimonies, images and videos we received, we were able to investigate the use of new warplanes which is not possessed by the Syrian regime. We also obtained images for new used weapons that we have not seen since 2011.

We faced a number of challenges while conducting this study; the most notable difficulties were that we received several allegations that the shelling was Russian midst the continuous shelling on Homs, Idlib, Latakia, Deir Al Zour, Al Raqqa, Daraa, Damascus suburbs, Hama, and Aleppo, where Russian warplanes also attacked all those governorates.

Whether the shelling was perpetrated by the Syrian regime or the Russian, we are facing the same result, a continuous bloodshed, as civilians and armed opposition members are getting killed. Also, among the challenges we face is classifying the shelling incidents to whether it was perpetrated by the Syrian regime or the Russian. Therefore, the Russian government is now considered as a conflict party in Syria according to the International Humanitarian Law.

**Fadel Abdul Ghany, head of SNHR says:**

*“If the Russian regime wants to play an effective political role in the Syrian crisis that it must stop the bloodshed instead of contributing to it. In one month the Russian regime killed civilians and armed opposition more than the International Coalition did in one year, in addition to displacing tens of thousands of civilians. The Russian intervention worsened the situation dramatically.”*





## II. Executive Summary:

We recorded not less than 57 alleged Russian airstrikes since 30 September 2015 and until 26 October 2015; however we are still investigating all the incidents which will be included in the following updated report.

### A. Regions under the control of armed opposition:

#### ► **The airstrikes as detailed as follows:**

SNHR documented 52 airstrikes in regions that are under the control of armed opposition, detailed as follows:

- 44 airstrikes that targeted civilian targets
- 8 airstrikes that targeted military targets.

#### ► **Classification of the airstrikes according to the Syrian governorates:**

- Idlib: 21 airstrikes
- Aleppo: 15
- Hama: 5
- Latakia: 3
- Homs: 8

### B. Regions under the control of ISIL:

SNHR documented 5 allegedly Russian airstrikes on regions under ISIL's control, detailed as follows:

- Aleppo: 3 airstrikes
- Homs: 2

For every 44 targeted civilian regions under the control of armed opposition, 5 regions under ISIL's control were targeted. Therefore, armed opposition regions were targeted nine times more than ISIL's regions. Nevertheless, we can conclude that the strategy followed by the Russian forces is systematic and similar to that of the Syrian regimes', as we discussed in a previous report, Is it ISIL or the Syrian Regime?

#### ► **According to SNHR documentation team, these airstrikes killed 265 individuals, detailed as follows:**

- 254 civilians, including 83 children and 42 women
- 11 armed opposition gunmen

Additionally, we received news about the death of a great number of armed opposition members in the Kurd Mountains and in Hama suburbs, but up till this moment, we could not receive or verify the victims' names, death toll or shelling details, and therefore we cannot include it in this report. However, almost 75% of the victims' death toll is civilians due to the Russian shelling.





► **These allegedly Russian airstrikes targeted the following vital facilities:**

- Medical Facilities: 4 were targeted
- Schools: 2
- Mosques: 4
- Shelters: 1
- Bakeries: 2
- Service Facilities: 3
- Industrial Facilities: 1

**III. Details About the Most Recent Shelling Incidents: (for the previous shelling incidents, please refer to “Syria’s Sun Won’t Rise from Moscow” )**

In this report, we document the alleged Russian airstrikes that occurred between 6 and 26 October 2015, which were 33 airstrikes, in addition to an airstrike on 4 October 2015 on a town in Hama suburbs which was not included in the previous report since we were still investigating it.

**The classification of the airstrikes according to the Syrian governorate:**

- Idlib: 13
- Aleppo: 11
- Hama: 4
- Lattakia: 2
- Homs: 2

► **The classification of the airstrikes according the regions that are under the control of armed opposition:**

**A. Regions under the control of armed opposition:**

**i. Civilian Targets:**

**Akraybat Town – Hama – 4 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled with 4 rockets a sheep market in the entrance of Akraybat town, at the crossroads of three towns (Al Hanouta, Fakher, and Al Salalya). The shelling killed 6 civilians, including a child.

The victims’ names are:

Child Zakaria Mamdouh Innad Al Jarro

Hassan Al Ahmad

Ayoub Hassan Al Ahmad

Ezz Deen Ali Al Sheikh

Fawaz Al Ghazi

An unidentified victims since the body was mutilated from the severity of the shelling.





An image that depicts the shelling remnants that targeted Dar Ezza City on 7 October 2015:



**Aleppo – Adnan City – 6 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled 4 rockets on Adnan City, 3 amongst which were shelled on residential neighborhoods which killed 3 civilians, including two children. The fourth rocket targeted a checkpoint for an armed opposition groups.

The victims' names are:

Abdul Rahman Mohamad Al Sagheer, 10 years old

Mohamad Ameen Al Shageer, 46 years old

Ahmad Othman Hamidi, 17 years old.

**Aleppo – Dar Ezza City – 7 October 2015:**

Russian naval forces shelled Aleppo city with two rockets. The shelling targeted Dar Ezza city and killed 4 civilians, including two women and a child.

Abu Ammar, the Director of the Civil Defense Center, gave SNHR his testimony:

*“It was 6:50 a.m. when I heard the sound of two powerful blasts but we did not hear the warplanes' sounds. I went with the team to the shelling site. The destruction was massive as it flattened 8 buildings to the ground and burned 9 cars. The destruction area exceeded 200 meters.*

*The shelling targeted the city center 300 meters away from a crowded market. Luckily, the buildings were vacant of any civilians or else we would have witnessed a heinous massacre. We continued to dig rubble off and pulled three individuals who were alive but one of them died the next day due to his wounds. Our city is free of any presence of armed opposition groups or extremist Islamic groups. We are all civilians and we have a court and a police from the people of the city.”*





An image that depicts the shelling remnants that targeted Dar Ezza City on 7 October 2015:



[Video](#) footages that depict [the shelling remnants from the alleged Russian airstrikes](#) that targeted Dar Ezza City on 7 October 2015:

A [video](#) that depicts victims who were pulled out from under the rubble:

The victims' names are:

Moutaz Jannat

Lina Jannat Al Dou'ma

Child Talal Mohamad Bazar

Jouwaida Nasser Bazar

#### **Idlib – Ma'art Al No'man – 7 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched three rockets loaded with cluster munitions on a residential neighborhood northern of Ma'art Al No'man city which injured a child and caused some destruction in some of the buildings.

SNHR interviewed Bilal Omran, a media activist in the city and he gave us his testimony:

*“At 3:30 p.m. our neighborhood was shelled with rockets loaded with cluster munitions which injured a child. The region is under the control of the Free Syrian Army and Islamist Groups. We learned to differentiate between the Russian and the Syrian warplanes. Russian warplanes are usually accompanied with reconnaissance planes, while the Syrian ones usually shell regions without these planes or it is preceded by it. Also, shelling by Russian warplanes is more intense and causes greater destruction than the Syrian regime shelling. Our city is free of any ISIL presence..”*







An image that depicts the remnants of the cluster bombs that were shelled on Ma'art Al No'man in Idlib city on 7 October 2015:



#### 4. Idlib – Ma'saran Town – 7 October 2015:

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched eight rockets that targeted residential houses in the entrance of Ma'saran town. Two of the rockets were loaded with cluster munitions.

The shelling killed 6 civilians, including two children and three women.

The victims are:

Safwan Ahmad Abdullah Al Amouri

Zainab Ali Al Hamadi

Kawkab, mother of Youssef Al Kawkab

A woman from Al Rami town

Taha Youssef Al Youssef (a child)

Samira Houssien Al Youssef (a 3 years old child)

Mouaz Al Shami, a local activist from Ma'saran town, gave SNHR his testimony:

*"The Russian warplanes shelled us with at least 8 rockets, 6 amongst which were apparently vacuum bombs and two other rockets were loaded with cluster munitions. The shelling targeted civilian houses on the periphery of the city and the remnants spread on an area of 50 meters. I rushed to the shelling location and started to document the shelling aftermath and the victims' bodies. Meanwhile, I heard an explosion sound of one of the cluster bombs in one of the civilian's hands when he approached and held it. He was injured in his chest and leg. The shelling killed an entire family, all of which were stuck under the rubble. I saw the body of a three years old child that was deformed and burned due to the shelling. Among the victims was a woman as well. Our city is free of any military presence as well as ISIL. ISIL is not less than 80 Kilometers away from us, but the Russian warplanes did not target it. It targeted civilians only."*

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath from the alleged Russian warplanes on Ma'sareen town





### **Idlib – Babeela Town – 7 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled the international highway between Aleppo and Damascus at Babeela crossroads next to a food product factory which killed 9 civilians, including 4 children.

Victims' Names:

Ammar Ibrahim Hajj Ibrahim

Salah Jomaa Al Deiri

Madhi Bin Hassan Dergham

A martyred child

An unidentified victim

A father and his three children were killed while they were crossing the road at Babeela crossroads. We were not able to identify their identities till now.

Moustafa Ghareeb, a media activist from Babeela town gave SNHR his testimony:

*“The Russian shelling occurred 7 kilometers away from Ma’art Al No’mān, at Babeela crossroads on the international road between Damascus and Aleppo. I rushed to the shelling site and saw the destruction in the pickles factory which was greatly damaged. A number of the employees were injured and others were killed. Also, I heard about the death of a family that was crossing the international road at the moment of the shelling.”*

### **Idlib – Khan Shaykhoun – 8 October 2015**

At 3:30 p.m. allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Wadi Al Ayoun region in the northwest of Khan Shaykhoun with three rockets. As a result, two individuals were killed, including a woman, and three individuals were injured.

The shelled region was free of any military presence for the armed opposition or ISIL.

Victims' Names:

Layla Al Assaad

Mohamad Ahmad Al Rouru.



An image that depicts the alleged Russian shelling on Khan Shaykhoun town on 8 October 2015



### **Idlib – Khan Shaykhoun – 13 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian shelling targeted the northwest region in Khan Shaykhoun city next to the granaries building. The shelling killed an individual called Abdul Rahman Al Hajj Abdullah, and injured three others.

Anas, a local media activist in the city gave SNHR his testimony about the incident:







*“On that day, the Free Syrian Army observatories traced a radio frequency between two individuals who spoke Russian. Directly after, the northern neighborhood was shelled. It was almost 5:00 p.m. The shelling killed a displaced young man from Latmeen city and injured three others. The neighborhood that was targeted was purely civilian and free of any military presence for FSA or ISIL.”*

**Idlib – Al Tamane’aa Town – 10 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched two rockets on a house that sheltered a family, Al Shehnaa, eastern of the town. The shelling killed 6 civilians from one family, including a child and two women. Two more others were injured.

Victims’ Names:

Salah Al Shehnaa

Hind Mohamad Al Soussi

Badreya Salah Al Shehnaa

Abdo Salah Al Shehnaa

Child Ahmad Salah Al Shehnaa



**An image that depicts members from the Civil Defense aiding an injured civilian**

Abdul Kader Al Bakri, a local media activist, gave SNHR his testimony:

*“Russian warplanes fly at a high altitude and do not need to fly at a lower height when it shells. Also, Russian air warplanes have a different destructive power, warplanes’ sound. The rockets that are used by the Russians are much bigger than the rockets used by the Syrian regime. This time we traced a Russian radio frequency. Al Tamanaa’ town is under the control of An-Nusra front, Ajnad Al Sham, Jund Al Aqsa, Faylaq Al Sham, and Ahrar Al Sham, however, the targeted house and its surrounding region were civilian areas that did not have any military presence in it.”*

A [video](#) that depicts the targeting of the Civil Defense members while they were aiding the victims after the alleged shelling by the Russian warplanes on Al Tamanaa’ town in Idlib on 10 October 2015:

An [image](#) that depicts one of the injured people due to the alleged Russian shelling

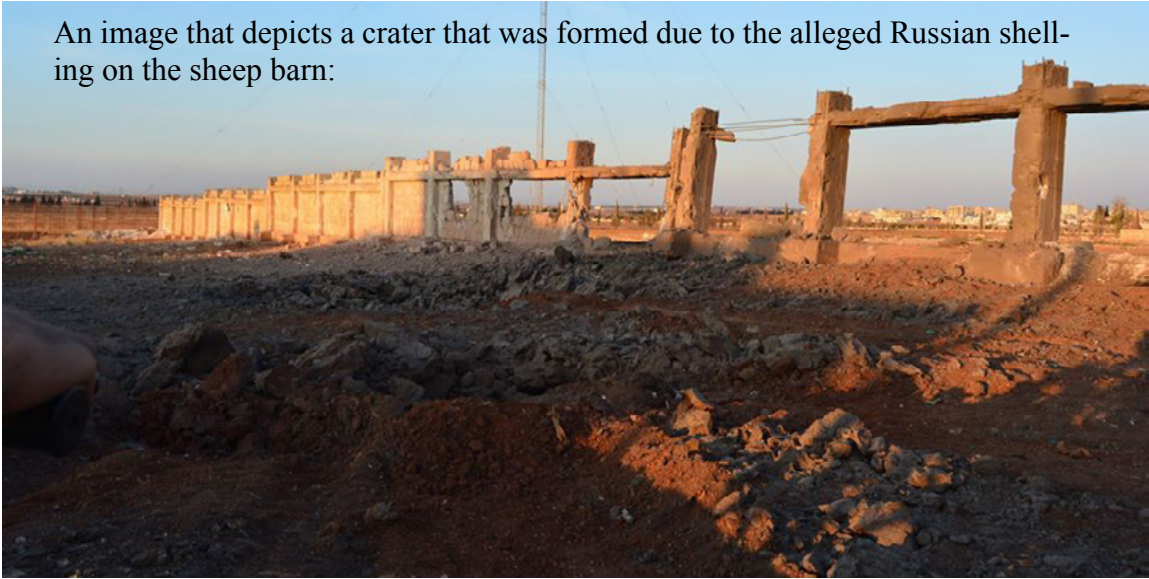
**Idlib – Saraqeb City – 11 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched four rockets on sheep barn in Al Shabour neighborhood which killed the herd and injured the shepherd.





An image that depicts a crater that was formed due to the alleged Russian shelling on the sheep barn:



**Idlib – Ein Larouz Town – 13 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Ein Larouz with two rockets during 7 hours. The first attack targeted a school eastern of the town that sheltered displaced people and the second attack targeted a residential neighborhood northwest of the town.

A [video](#) that depicts the destruction in the school due to the alleged Russian shelling on Ein Larouz town.



Image depict the destruction of school sheltering refugees caused by regime warplanes missiles fired on Ein Larouz town in Idlib governorate, October 13, 2015

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### **Aleppo – Hayyan Town – 13 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Hayyan town with rockets which killed 7 civilians, including 5 children and a woman. A mosque's building was damaged as well (Al Imam Al Shafee' Mosque).

Victims' Names:

1. Mohamad Sabbouh Rustom, 55 years old
2. Anas Mohamad Rustom, 17 years old
3. Mansour Mohamad Rustom, 9 years old
4. Adel Mohamad Rustom, 12 years old
5. Mohamad Abdu Rustom, 4 years old
6. Rawya Mohamad Mansour Ouso, 17 years old
7. Khadija Dibo Rustom, 18 years old

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath and how bodies were pulled out from under the

### **Aleppo – Dar Ezza City – 13 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled residential neighborhoods in Dar Ezza city which killed 5 civilians and damaged several houses.

Victims' Names:

1. Ahmad Zakoumu
2. Kamel Masto Homs
3. Mohamad Abdulkader Affasha
4. Alaa Mohamad Ninna
5. Ahmad Mohamad Tawfeek Al Jammal



### **Aleppo – Al Zeyara Town – 14 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Al Zeyara town with rockets that were loaded with cluster munitions which killed one civilian called Abdullah Hallajj.

A [video](#) that depicts the cluster munitions' remnants and shows one of the armed opposition members who collected the remnants and disarmed it

### **Idlib – Knasfara Town – 14 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Badran hill in Knasfara town with four rockets. The shelling caused material damages to the regions' water tanks.

Abdul Razzak Khaleel, a local media activist said:

*“The Russian warplanes bombard regions randomly without any military targets. The region that was shelled was free of any military presence for armed opposition.*

*The shelling was around almost 4 p.m. and we were able to identify the shelling as a Russian one through the intensity of the shelling and the severity of the damages it caused as it also flies in swarms not individually. The shelling damaged the water tanks and destroyed one of the farmers' rooms. Luckily, no human casualties were recorded. Even though our town is under the control of Ahrar Al Sham and An-Nusra front, but they do not have any military headquarters in it.”*







***A image that depicts the shelling aftermath that was caused by the Russian shelling on Knasfra town:***



**Aleppo – Al Hadder town – 15 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled a makeshift hospital with a rocket which caused severe damage to the hospital's building and caused it to go out of service.

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath from the alleged Russian warplanes on a makeshift hospital in Al Hadder town on 15 October 2015:

**Aleppo – Al Ayes Town – 15 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled the town's makeshift hospital with a rocket which caused great destruction to it and caused it to go out of service.

**Homs – Al Ghanto Town – 15 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled a residential building where Al Assaf family was sheltering it. The shelling killed 48 civilians, including 33 children and 13 women. SNHR spoke to Abu Raten, a local media activist in the town who gave us his testimony:

*“The Russian warplanes did not leave our region that day. At almost 9 a.m., their warplanes shelled with a rocket a residential building northern of the town. Tens of individuals sheltered in that building due to the continuous shelling. The family who was in that building was known for being supporters for the revolution. The building sheltered civilians and children only. The shelling was so powerful and killed almost all the people in the building in addition to some cattle who were near the building. Also, the shelling destroyed 5 surrounding buildings.*

*Most of the victims were my relatives and cousins. There were more than 30 children in that building and we could not pull all the victims' bodies from under the rubble. The rockets that were used with highly destructive and explosive which is how we differentiate between the Russian and the Syrian shelling. ISIL do not exist in northern Homs suburbs but the targets of the Russian warplanes are random as usual.”*





[Videos](#) that depict [the shelling aftermath and pulling out victims' bodies](#) from under the rubble when Al Ghanto town in Homs was shelling on 15 October 2015:

### **Homs – Tier Ma’alee Town – 15 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched a rocket near the only bakery in the town in its western side which killed 24 individuals:

- 23 civilians, including 2 children
- One armed opposition gunman

Firas, one of the media activists in the town said:

*“Our town was considered safe since a truce was established between the residents and the regime. That is why residents from Homs’s northern suburbs fled to it looking for a safe heaven. The regime deployed its checkpoints around the periphery of the town while the FSA protected the region. At 5:30 a.m., Russian warplanes targeted the only bakery in the town where people gathered to buy bread. The shelling resulted in a massacre where at least 30 individuals were killed; all of them were civilians except one FSA member who was the military commander in the town. The Russian shelling coincided with bombardment from the Syrian government. The shelling was followed by an attempt from government forces to enter the town then its aviation started to drop barrel bombs. We do not know the reason behind this attack especially that our town is far away from the rebels’ or ISIL’s centers. We were able to differentiate the airstrikes since Russian warplanes fly on a very high altitude, as we also heard government forces curse the Russian forces when they targeted a regime location by mistake.”*

### **Idlib – Saraqeb City – 15 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched two rockets on Al Ihsan Relief Foundation which destroyed the institution’s building and the nearby bakery’s building. Additionally, two employees were injured.

Hassan Wajeih, head of the media office of Al Ihsan Relief Foundation told SNHR:

*“At 4 a.m. two rockets were shelled from Russian warplanes which caused destruction to the foundation’s building. The wheat grinder was disabled as a result in addition to a number of other machines. A bakery which distributes free bread to residents next to the foundation’s building was also damaged and two of its employees were injured. Our foundation offers relief, food and financial aid to people who are in need in Idlib suburbs. We also have a number of development projects that is independent of any military or revolutionary relevance. Saraqeb city is under the control of the Free Syrian Army and Ahrar Al Sham Brigade but our foundation is located on the city’s peripheries away from any military presence.”*







An image that depicts the shelling aftermath on Al Ihsan Relief Foundation:





Groups of images that depict the shelling aftermath on the grindery due to the alleged Rus



**Aleppo – Kafr Kameen Town – 16 October 2015:**

Alleged Russian warplanes shelled a residential house in Kafr Kameen town with two rockers which killed 11 civilians, including two women, 5 children and a fetus.

Mohamad Abu Ali, one of the Civil Defense members in Al Atareb city went with a number of his teammates to Kafr Kameen town after the shelling and he gave us his testimony:

*“Two Civil Defense teams rushed to the shelling site. A residential building was targeted which killed a woman, three children and a four months fetus. He kept on pulling victims’ bodies from under the rubble for five hours. We also pulled a man and a child from under the rubble. One of the men who were helping us pulled his wife’s body from under the runnel and he screamed: “My wife died!” I was afraid during that time that the Russian warplanes would shell us again.”*

**Victims’ Names:**

1. Sajee’ Saleh Al Hameed, 38 years old, from Droukoush town
2. Jameela Moussa Al Ramadan, 60 years old
3. Abeer Moustafa Al Jawani, 35 years old
4. Jameela Ahmad Al Abdulla, 12 years old
5. Iman Abdullah Al Abdullah, two years and a half
6. Maria Abdullah Al Abdullah, 5 months old
7. Ayoush Mohamad Ali, 2 years old
8. A fetus (Abdulla Al Abdulla’s son four months old)
9. Three unidentified victims

[The shelling aftermath](#) due to the alleged Russian [warplanes on Kafr Kameen in Aleppo](#) on 16 October 2015.







### **Aleppo – Zaytan Town – 19 October 2015:**

Alleged Russian warplanes shelled Zaytan town with rockets which led to the destruction of the Great Mosque's building.

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath on the Great Mosque in Zaytan town due to the alleged Russian warplanes:

### **Aleppo – Deir Jamal Town – October 2015 :**

Alleged Russian warplanes launched two rockets that targeted the provincial council building, which is a civil service institution for relief aid. The shelling damaged the building and a number of employees.

**An image that depicts the shelling aftermath on the provincial council building in Aleppo**





### **Aleppo – A region between Baynoun and Hayyan towns – 22 October 2015:**

Alleged Russian warplanes shelled the region that is between Byanoun and Hayyan towns with three rockets that were loaded with cluster munitions. The shelling caused simple material damages.

Anas Al Byanouni, a local media activist gave SNHR his testimony:

*“Russian warplanes use a new kind of cluster munitions. It explodes in the air then bombs attached with umbrellas are scattered everywhere and I have been told that it were anti-armor cluster munitions and these bombs produce highly explosive sounds. Luckily, nobody got killed but few residents were injured. The Civil Defense team rushed to the shelling site to remove and disarm the remnants from the agricultural lands to protect the farmers.”*

**Some images which depict the cluster munitions shelling on Hayyan and Byanoun towns**







An image of the thought to be anti-armor cluster munitions:



An image of the thought to be anti-armor cluster munitions:







### **Aleppo- Al Barkoum Town – 23 October 2015**

Alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Barkoum town in southern Aleppo suburbs which killed 6 civilians including 3 children and two women.

Victims' Names:

Aisha Al Khather, 40 years old

Fatima Abdul Aziz Bakkar, 15 years old

Abdul Azeez Bakkar, 40 years old

Yasmeen Al Mustafa, 20 years old

Nour Al Moustafa, 12 years old

Mariam Al Moustafa, 9 years old

### **Aleppo – Knasreen Town – 23 October 2015**

Alleged Russian warplanes shelled rockets on Knasreen town in southern Aleppo suburbs and targeted Knasreen Elementary School which led to its almost complete destruction.

An image that depicts the shelling aftermath on Knasreen School





### Aleppo – Hayyan Town – 24 October 2015

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched a rocket loaded with cluster munitions which killed two civilians, Houssien Adel Ousu, and Mohamad Yehya Al Seraj. Five more others were injured, including a member of the Civil Defense team.

Samer Ousu, one of Hayyan residents said:

*“The shelling happened at night but the sky was bright from the severity of the explosion. The cluster bombs fell between our houses and the civil defense teams tried to remove the remnants but one of its members was injured, Youssef Auzwa. The shelling also killed two individuals and injured four others.”*

Images that depict the remnants from the cluster shelling on the town







Allegedly Russian warplanes performed 7 air raids where it launched not less than 8 rockets on the northeastern side of the town. As a result, two individuals died, one of them was a media activist and two others were injured.

Victims' Names:

Mohamad Abdul Razak Al Harami

Waseem Al Adel – a media activist

A [video](#) that depicts the body of the victim Waseem Al Adel

### **Idlib – Al Sheikh Barakeh Town – 25 October 2015**

Allegedly Russian warplanes launched a rocket on the eastern neighborhood in Al Sheikh Baraka town which killed 3 civilians (two children and a woman.)

Victims' Names:

Fatima Khaled Al Haweyan

Child Kamel Mohamad Al Mhymed

Child Sajed Waleed Al Mhymed

An image that depicts a child whose legs were amputated due to the Russian shelling on Al Sheikh Barake town in Idlib suburbs on 25 October 2015:



Ahmad, a resident in the town, gave SNHR his testimony about the shelling incident:

*“I was 3 Km away from the shelling incident. At 8 p.m. on Sunday night, a Russian warplane launched a vacuum missile on the eastern neighborhood. I saw a warplane from a very high altitude and it launched a rocket without even flying at lower altitudes to reach the target. When it launched the rocket the sky was lit from the severity of the explosion. The neighborhood, which is free of any military headquarters, was shelled, and shops and houses around 500 meters were damaged, and a woman, her son and another child were killed. Five minutes later the warplane performed another raid 250 meters away from the first shelling location with a vacuum missile also. There, at least 7 shops were damaged. I do not know why they are shelling civilians.”*





An [image](#) that depicts an injured child due to the Russian shelling on Al Sheikh Barake town in Idlib suburbs on 25 October 2015:

### **Hama – Kafr Zieta City – 26 October 2015:**

Alleged Russian warplanes shelled a hospital in Kafr Zeita with two rockets which injured three individuals and caused material damages to the hospital.

Mohamad Al Abdullah, a local media activist from Kafr Zeita gave SNHR his testimony about the shelling incident:

*“On 5:35 p.m. the observatories informed us about the presence of the Russian warplanes so we took our precautions. We saw the warplane flying on a high altitude then we heard the sound of the rocket when it was launched. A blast happened and the hospital in the northwest region was shelled. I was 50 meters away from the hospital. The shelling from the blast formed a huge black cloud and the other rocket fell almost 100 meters away from the southeast of the hospital. Three individuals who were in the hospital were injured but the material damages were great. Most of the walls were destroyed in addition to the pharmaceutical warehouse, the generators and the lab.”*

*The hospital is located in a residential region in the western of the city. The houses surrounding it were greatly destroyed and the region is free of any military presence. Most of the residents left the city two years ago but there are still civilians in the city and the hospital provides them medical care. It is almost the only hospital in the northern suburbs of Hama which offers free medical care to the residents. Our region is under the control of the Free Syrian Army and it is free of any ISIL presence.”*

Images that depict the damage that occurred to the lab instruments in Kafr Zeita Hospital due to the alleged Russian shelling on 26 October 2015:





### **Military Targets:**

**Hama – Al Latamna Town – 23 October 2015:** Alleged Russian warplanes shelled Al Latamena hospital with two rockets which led to a great destruction to the hospital’s building and made it go out of service. We realized that an armed opposition headquarters is located almost 20 meters away from the hospital, in addition to a military vehicles garage and an ambulance. The shelling killed 7 individuals (an anesthesia technician and six armed opposition members).



The shelling aftermath on the hospital’s ambulances:

Amjad who is a doctor in the makeshift hospital gave SNHR his testimony:

*“At 9:00 p.m. the observatories informed us about the presence of the Russian warplanes and we went to the hospital to shelter in it. However, the warplanes shelled hospital with two vacuum missiles. The explosion was huge and the destruction was enormous. Most of the hospital’s staff and cadres were injured and the anesthesia technician suffered a severe brain injury then died due to his injuries on 28 October 2015. The lab technician was also injured and his leg was amputated as a result, while the rest of the medical staff were mildly injured and sustained bruises. The hospital went out of service; its medical equipment and pharmacy were damaged, in addition to its ambulances. The military vehicles garage that was 10 – 15 meters away from the hospital was damaged as well. It is the second time when Russian warplanes target the hospital even though ISIL are not present in northern Hama suburbs. It is a makeshift hospital that provides medical services to civilians and FSA members in Hama suburbs.”*



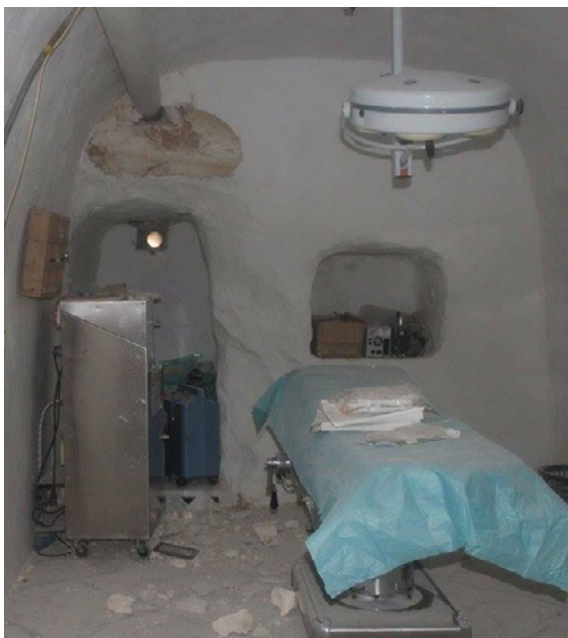




The shelling aftermath on the hospital's ambulances:



The shelling aftermath on the makeshift hospital in Al Latamna town:





### **Hama – Al Latamna Town – 24 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled a garage that belonged to the hospital; however we realized that it was used by armed opposition members to park some military vehicles in it next to the ambulances. The shelling killed an armed opposition member and injured the guard keeper.

### **Lattakia – Masyaf Salma Town – 9 October 2015:**

Allegedly Russian warplanes shelled Kafr Delbe Citadel in Masyaf Salma town northern of Al Nabi Youness Mountain. It is a military region and is considered as a front line between the government forces and armed opposition groups. The shelling killed three armed opposition members.

Victims' Names:

Muhannad Oumayri

Ezz Deen Nasser

Moussa Bajiko

Tamer, a local media activist gave SNHR his testimony:

*“The Russian warplanes are accompanied with reconnaissance planes and it accurately hit its targets. Also, the Syrian warplanes target the rebels’ backlines unlike the Russian warplanes which directly target the frontlines. At 12 p.m. the shelling occurred and it targeted the First Coastal Brigade which killed three rebels and destroyed the FSA trenches. The Russian forces used vacuum missiles.”*

## **IV- Conclusions:**

- Russian forces violated UN Security Council resolution 2139 through its indiscriminate and deliberate shelling.
- Russian forces should abide by the International Humanitarian Law, and therefore responsible for these violations since the beginning of the attacks, which were mentioned through this report. Russia must bear the consequences of all these violations, and avoid its recurrence.
- Indiscriminate bombardment is considered a clear violation of the International Humanitarian Law, and these indiscriminate killings amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- It is necessary to protect civilians from the brutality of the Syrian regime and extremist militias allied with them. A no-fly zone must be established in parallel with the protecting civilians in Syria from the brutality of ISIL.





### Recommendations:

- Russian forces should abide to the International Humanitarian Law and the International Customary Humanitarian Law and uphold its accountability towards the crimes it perpetrated.
- Implement the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in 2005, in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring the implementation of such a principle.
- Indiscriminate bombardment is considered a clear violation of the International Humanitarian Law, and these indiscriminate killings amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

### Acknowledgment

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciations go to the victims’ families, eyewitnesses, and local activists whose testimonies contributed majorly to this report. Our most profound consolations go out to the victims’ families and friends.

