



Most Prominent Massacres Perpetrated by Shiite Militias in Syria “It barely goes unnoticed”



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First: Introduction

The first extremist foreign militias to emerge in Syria were't Daesh or An-Nusra Front where months before their emergence, non-Arabic fighters appeared in Syria. Also, at the end of 2011, rebels arrested fighters from Al-Mahdi Army which is affiliated to the Iraqi-Shiite leader Muqtada As-Sadr as reports surfaced about him recruiting and sending soldiers to Syria despite that fact that he denied openly his involvement in the Syrian conflict until recently. The most notable development regarding the Shiite involvement in the Syrian conflict was in the summer of 2012 when Liwa Abdulfadl Al-Abbas emerged and many Shiite leaders called for Shiites to come and protect the Shiite shrines in general and As-Sayda Zainab shrine in particular which was in conjunction with a huge amassing propaganda that was adopted by various media institutions including newspapers, TV channels, and social websites.

Shiite fighters kept flowing into Syria to fight for Liwa Abdulfadl Al-Abbas. Hezbollah entered the conflict openly in April 2013 in Al-Qusair and its suburbs which was a major development with respect to the nature of the Shiite regional forces that support the regime. Over the next months, Shiite groups affiliated to Iraqi factions emerged openly which was a noticeable change for most of the political and military Shiite-Iraqi forces even for the Iraqi government which facilitated the flowing of fighters into Syria in addition to some evidences that suggested that the Iraqi government itself is involved.

While most of the fighters were Iraqis and Lebanese, other nationalities were documented such as: Afghanis, Pakistanis, Yemeni, and even African nationalities.

We detailed this extensively in a study named: “[The Fighting Shiite Militias in Syria](#)”. In this report, we will highlight the massacres and shelling that resulted in the killing of no less





than 1447 Syrian citizens. Despite all of this and the many statements by Iranian leaders, Hezbollah, and the Iraqi leaders of these militias about the Shiite militias that is fighting with the regime, the international community seems unconcerned which was noticeable in resolution 2170, adopted on 15 August, 2014, which focused absolutely on extremist Sunni factions and condemned its crimes and recruitment of foreign fighters. Furthermore, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic published a special report on Daesh's crimes whereas SNHR published [an extensive report earlier on 1 February, 2014](#) in which we warned about the faction and documented its crimes. We emphasize here that the international community's double-standard policy in dealing with crimes perpetrators and the international community's inequality towards the extremist Shiite factions and the extremist Sunni factions are one of the most prominent ways to highlight these factions, enhance its moral image, and attract supporters for it from around the world where it focus in its propaganda on the prospect: "Why are we being targeted alone without the Syrian regime and its militias... It is because we are right"

It should be noted that documenting sectarian massacres are extremely difficult because such massacres result in the killing of everyone in the neighborhood even women which makes it very difficult to find witnesses that can offer us their testimonies. Additionally, most of the areas that witnessed sectarian-cleansing massacres are still under the Shiite militias' control in coordination with government forces. Therefore, what was documented in this report was the minimum according to SNHR standards which requires the name and image of the victim to be documented. Please see [our documentation methodology](#).

Second: Massacres of a Sectarian Nature

Government forces relied at first on the local militias that shared its beliefs and supplied these villages and towns with various kinds of weapons. Some of those villages have become more of military centers that we believe will be a major threat after the collapse of the existing regime. On many occasions, those militias perpetrated crimes and atrocities without the knowledge of the central command in Damascus, however, those crimes were perpetrated in cooperation with the central command. Those militias completely realize that the central command is pleased with what it is doing and the absence of any form of accountability on it is an indication of that.

Moreover, government forces, whether it was security forces, the army, or local militias, participated in these massacres like what happened in Homs – Der Ba'lba. Presently these massacre are usually perpetrated by government forces, local and foreign militias, after tens of thousands of Shiite foreign fighters came to Syria. The most notable massacres were in Homs, Aleppo, and Damascus suburbs.

SNHR has documented since March 2011 10 massacres perpetrated by government forces along with Shiite militias. 1005 were killed in those massacres at least as follows:

962 civilians including 172 children and 143 women

43 rebels





1- Der Ba'ba (Homs) between 2 April, 2012 and 9 April, 2012

Local Shiite militias from Al-Hazimiya, Al-Khathimiya, and Al-Mukhtariya villages, next to Der Ba'kba neighborhood, raided the neighborhood on 2 April and perpetrated horrific massacres in the neighborhood that included field-executions, raping, disfiguring dead bodies, and burying it in mass graves.

SNHR documented 200 victims including 21 children and 20 women by documenting [the whole massacre](#)

2- Al-Malikiya village (Aleppo) on Wednesday 27 February, 2013

Government forces, supported by foreign and local Shiite militias, raided Al-Malikiya village for unknown reasons except to terrorize the residents. Many residents were executed using live bullets including children, women, elders, and youngsters in addition to physically torturing civilians and burning their houses.

SNHR documented 69 civilians who were killed in Al-Malikiya town on that day including five children and three women.

3- Tal Shaghib village in Eastern Aleppo suburbs on Friday 1 March, 2013:

Hezbollah militias executed six guys from the village and burned their dead bodies.

4- Al-Adnaniya village in Aleppo suburbs on 13 March, 2013

Hezbollah militias executed five people where the residents found their dead bodies tossed in the street. We found out later that they were rebels that were arrested by Hezbollah militias.



Video footage showing three dead bodies with signs of torture on it

5- Um Amoud massacre in Aleppo suburbs at the end of April 2013

SNHR documented the killing of 15 youngsters whose dead bodies were found in a well in Um Amoud village in the middle of May 2013. According to some testimonies collected by SNHR, the main suspect in such crimes is Hezbollah militias. Some of the residents told us that there is a military checkpoint for Hezbollah near the village which is located in Eastern Aleppo suburbs near As-Sfira.



A video footage shows one of the wells in which the bodies were thrown and rebels trying to pull out a body from inside the well





6- Rasm An-Naql village in Aleppo on Saturday 21 June, 2013

Government forces, supported heavily by Shiite militias, managed to take over Rasm An-Nafl town in Aleppo suburbs and field-executed tens of women, children, men, and elders. We documented the killing of no less than 192 civilians including 21 women and 27 children.

7- Al-Mazr'a massacre on Saturday 21 June, 2013

Government forces, supported by Hezbollah militias, killed tens of Al-Mazr'a As-Saghira village residents, including women and children. Afterwards, they threw some of the dead bodies in the village well and burned the other. SNHR documented the killing of 55 people including 21 children and five women.

A video footage show the well in which the dead bodies were thrown and one of the residents talking about the massacre

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnfdeuODUMY>

8- Ath-Thyabiya massacre on Thursday 8 November, 2013

Shiite militias affiliated to Lewa' Abdulfadl Al-Abbas field-executed tens of victims in Damascus suburbs – Ath-Thyabiya town after it raided the town from four point. The raiding was in conjunction with bombarding the town using tanks and heavy weapons. Also, government forces warplanes was involved in the shelling.

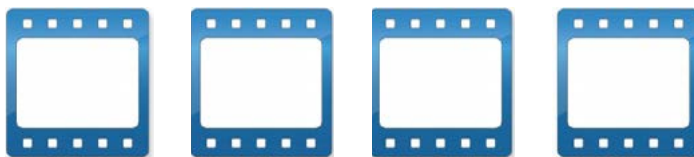
SNHR documented 13 families at least who were either killed or missing.

SNHR documented the entire massacre in a special report entitled: (The Military Campaign against Al-Thyabeya Town in Damascus Countryside Has a Sectarian Cleansing's Nature)

9- An-Nabak between Wednesday 20 November, 2013 and Friday 27 December, 2013

Government forces, supported with Shiite militias, besieged An-Nabak city for 13 days before it raided it and field-executed a number of An-Nabak residents. SNHR documented the killing of no less than 399 victims including 38 rebels, 361 civilians; among whom were 98 children and 94 women.

Pictures documenting the victims who were killed in An-Nabak massacre and were found on 24 December, 2013 behind a gas station where they were executed and their bodies were burned.





10- Aleppo suburbs – Khanaser on Saturday 22 February, 2014

Fighters from Liwa Abdulfadl Al-Abbas arrested a number of guys from the cultural center's building in Khanaser town and then they brought them out, had them gathered in the main square with their eyes blindfolded, sided them against the wall and opened fire to kill 26 guys according to what SNHR documented.

Third: Killing through Shelling

In addition to the raiding, disfiguring and burning dead bodies, and saying sectarian remarks, the Shiite militias participated and supported government forces in shelling and besieging. Since March 2011, 442 people were killed by the Shiite militias' shelling on villages and residential areas which are located nearby the centers of those militias as follows: 437 civilians including 20 children and 21 women
Five rebels

In Idlib, northern Syria, Shiite militias are stationed in Al-Fou'a village and systemically target the surrounding villages, such as Binnish, Ram Hamdan, Taftnaz, and Ta'oum, with mortar shells.

In Daraa, mainly in Bosra Ash-Sham city, Shiite militias are stationed in the southern parts of the city and indiscriminately target the eastern neighborhood of Bosra Ash-Sham city and Al-Jiza city in the west.

In Lebanon:

Between Saturday 2 August, 2014 and Thursday 7 August, 2014, SNHR documented the killing of 61 civilians including 17 children and eight women at the hands of the Lebanese army and Hezbollah which shelled a refugee camp in Aarsal town.

Fourth: Conclusions and Recommendations

Political and military leaders at the Iranian government, Hezbollah, which is a main component of the Lebanese government, the previous and current Iraqi governments are all responsible for the crimes that are being perpetrated by their militias in Syria in accordance with the principle of "Command Responsibility" of the international laws. These crimes include extrajudicial killing and torture, which can be classified as crimes against humanity, and undifferentiated indiscriminate shelling and the crime of siege, which can be classified as war crimes.

The international community should fight all forms and kinds of extremism in instead of fighting one specific sectarian group. The United Nations bear the responsibility to preserve civil security and peace. The Security Council should maintain peace and adopt a resolution to address the fighting Shiite militias in Syria similar to the resolution 2170, which addressed the Islamic extremist factions. We also call upon the Council to issue sanctions on Iranian, Iraqi, and Lebanese leaders who supported these militias that perpetrated crimes against humanity and war crimes.

