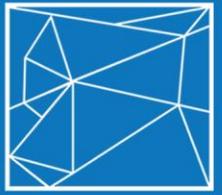


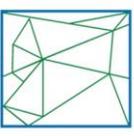
June 2018

سوريون  
من أجل  
الحقيقة  
والعدالة  
Syrians  
For Truth  
& Justice



## The Free Daraa Governorate Council Declares Daraa Eastern Countryside a “Disaster Area” after Violent Attacks

Daraa Eastern Countryside was subjected to a heavy bombardment with barrel bombs and rocket-propelled projectile as of June 22, 2018



## About Syrians for Truth and Justice-STJ

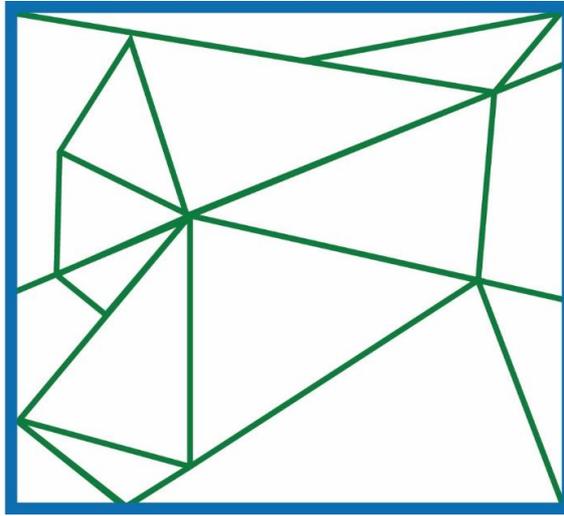
[Syrians for Truth and Justice \(STJ\)](#) is an independent, nongovernmental organization whose members include Syrian human rights defenders, advocates and academics of different backgrounds and nationalities.

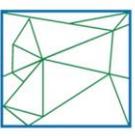
The initiative strives for SYRIA, where all Syrian citizens (males and females) have dignity, equality, justice and equal human rights.

سوريون  
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*Daraa Eastern Countryside was subjected to a heavy bombardment with barrel bombs and  
rocket-propelled projectile as of June 22, 2018*



"The Free Daraa Governorate Council" of the Syrian interim Government, declared on Saturday, June 23, 2018, the eastern countryside of Daraa a "disaster area", after several cities and towns there, such as Lajat, Buser al Harir, Nahitah, Melihit Al Atash and Al Hrak, were subjected to military attacks by the Syrian regular forces and their allies as of June 19, 2018.

Through a statement published on June 23, 2018, The Governorate Council said that the pro-government forces had systematically bombed the eastern countryside of Daraa, causing mass exodus and forcible displacement of its people. According to the statement, the number of IDPs from the eastern countryside of Daraa exceeded (50) thousand people, noting that the bombardment and displacement foreshadow a humanitarian catastrophe, due to the lack of sufficient means and services besides the absence of houses and even tents. The Council, in its statement, called on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities and stop the shelling.

Syrian Arab Republic  
Syrian interim government  
Ministry of Local Administration  
Daraa provincial Council



الجمهورية العربية السورية  
الحكومة السورية المؤقتة  
وزارة الإدارة المحلية  
مجلس محافظة درعا  
رقم :  
تاريخ :

#### مجلس محافظة درعا الحرة

#### محافظة درعا منطقة منكوبة

كُصفَ منمنج من قِبَل عصابات الأسد المشائلة ( بالانظام السوري و الميليشيات العراقية والشبانية والعراقية والأفغانية ) طالت البشر والحجر ، وحرباً إيذاءً جماعيةً وشُئها على بلدات الريف الشرقي من درعا في جنوبي سوريا الأمر الذي أدى إلى حركة نزوح جماعية وتهجور قسري لأهالي تلك البلدات ، حيث فُقت أعدادهم الخمسين ألف مهاجر ، وما زال التهجير مستمرًا في ظل عدم استيعاب القرى الهابطة نسبياً لتلك الأعداد الأمر الذي يندرج يحدث كارثة إنسانية نظراً لنقص الإمكانيات والخدمات ، ولعدم توفر المنازل وحتى الخدم .

وعليه فإننا مجلس محافظة درعا الحرة نعلن قرى وبلدات الريف الشرقي في محافظة درعا مناطق منكوبة بكل ما تعنيه هذه الكلمة من معنى وعليه فإننا نهيئاً بالمجتمع الدولي لتحمل مسؤولياته وإيقاف هذه المحرقة ، كما أننا نهيئاً بالمنظمات الإنسانية والإغاثية للتدخل السريع لإغاثة هؤلاء المنكوبين والوقوف على احتياجاتهم وتلبية خدماتهم

A systematic bombing by the Assad militias: (the Syrian regime and the Iranian, Lebanese, Iraqi and Afghani militias) affected the people and the infrastructure, and a war of genocide against the towns of the eastern countryside of Daraa in southern Syria, which led to mass wave of forcible displacement of these towns people, where more than fifty thousand people were displaced and displacement continues even with the problem that the relatively secure villages can not absorb these numbers, which foreshadows a humanitarian catastrophe due to lack of potentials and services and the lack of homes and even tents.

We "the council of Daraa governorate" therefore state that the towns and villages of the eastern countryside of Daraa as fully afflicted area, and call on the international community to stand for its responsibility and stop this holocaust .

We also call upon the humanitarian and relief organizations to intervene quickly to provide relief to these displaced people and to stand up for them, and cover their needs and meet their needed services

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رئيس مجلس محافظة درعا الحرة

أ. علي الصخدي



Image showing the statement issued by The Free Daraa Governorate Council on June 23, 2018, on the declaration of the eastern countryside of Daraa a disaster area. Photo credit: [The Free Daraa](#)

[Governorate Council.](#)

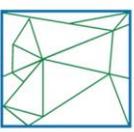


According to STJ field researcher, the cause of such a declaration was the intensified bombardment of the pro-government forces, as of June 22, 2018, on the eastern countryside of Daraa, especially on Buser al Harir, Nahitah, Melihit Al Atash and Al Hrak, north-eastern Lajat, El Karak and Muleihah al-Sharqyah, using rocket launchers and warplanes. The violent bombardment caused the destruction of many civilian houses and vital installations, besides the kill of more than 20 civilians and the injury of dozens, mostly children, it also led to unprecedented displacement waves.

A [footage](#) published by the Civil Defense in Daraa Governorate showed a side of bombarding residential neighborhoods in Buser al Harir and Lajat in the eastern countryside of Daraa on June 23, 2018.



A shot taken from the [aforementioned footage](#), showing a side of the bombardment on Daraa eastern countryside on June 23, 2018.



STJ field researcher reported that military aircraft believed to be Russian backed the Syrian regular forces in bombing rebel held areas in the eastern countryside of Daraa, for the first time, at midnight on Sunday, June 24, 2018. The researcher pointed out that military aircraft had carried out several attacks on each of Buser al Harir, Eastern El Karak, Melihit Al Atash, al-Maseeka and Rakham, causing extensive destruction to residential buildings. These raids lasted until the early morning hours of the same day.

Syrian regular forces, backed by Iranian and Lebanese militias, have unsuccessfully tried to control parts of the eastern countryside of Daraa since June 19, 2018. The residents of Daraa feared that the clashes and air raids would reach the border villages, which had become overcrowded with tens of thousands of IDPs, although Daraa is included in the agreed-upon [de-escalation](#) zones in southwestern Syria, according to an agreement signed on July 9, 2017 between USA, Russia and Jordan.

On June 22, 2018, the UN issued a [statement](#) attributed to the spokesman of the Secretary-General on Syria (Stephane Dujarric), in which he said:

**"The Secretary-General is gravely concerned by the recent military escalation, including ground offensives and aerial bombardments, in southwestern Syria. The attacks have resulted in the displacement of thousands of civilians, the majority of whom are moving towards the Jordanian border. The Secretary-General is also concerned at the significant risks these offensives pose to regional security."**