

February 2020



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## *Syria: Violent Military Escalation Takes Toll on Civilians in Western Rural Aleppo*

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*This report documents the death of civilians due to the shelling of neighborhoods in the city of Aleppo, which the Syrian Government controls.*

## Executive Summary:

As of mid-January 2020, the Syrian regular forces and allies have escalated attacks on the cities and towns of western rural Aleppo, those located near the Damascus-Aleppo International Highway, dubbed M5. In this report, Syrians for Truth and Justice/STJ managed to record two assaults against residential neighborhoods, which resulted in the death or injury of many civilians, women and children included.

On January 21, 2020, warplanes, believed to be Russian, carried out an attack on the town of [Kafar Ta'al](#), western rural Aleppo, which affected a house of one of the families there, killing nine of its members, including four children and their parents.

A few hours later, a second attack was aimed at the residential neighborhoods of the town of [Kafr Nouran](#), western rural Aleppo, killing nine people, among whom were women and children, and wounding 12 others.

The two attacks sent many people on a flight of displacement to the northern border areas, which might be an indicator that the Syrian regular forces may have been seeking to force the residents out of their homes in these areas in a step to take them over, especially those located near the M5 International Highway, which extends between Damascus and Aleppo while it has been completely controlled on February 11, 2020.

The two attacks had actually coincided with violent confrontations in the southern and western rural parts of Aleppo, involving the Syrian regular forces and armed organizations—including armed opposition groups, of which a number are on the world's lists of terrorism.<sup>1</sup> On January 26, 2020, the Syrian regular forces managed to advance on several fronts in southern rural Aleppo, in villages and towns such as Khalsa, Qarasi and Khan Tuman. On January 27, 2020, however, the armed opposition groups regained control over the Cables Storehouse in the town of al-Sahafyeen, western Aleppo, in addition to taking over several posts in the town of 5th al-Rashideen, also west of Aleppo. In a counter-attack on January 29, 2020, the Syrian regular forces controlled a number of posts, such as Khan Tuman warehouses, the town of Zaytoun and the outskirts of the town of al-Sahafyeen, backing these advances by taking over the 5th Al-Rashideen, Khaldiya, Qarasi, Hamira, Qala'agiyeh and Ma'arata in western rural Aleppo on January 31, 2020.

These clashes took place in conjunction with others, which the two parties waged in southern and eastern rural Idlib, also located near the Damascus-Aleppo International Highway, dubbed M5. On January 28, 2020, the Syrian regular forces took over the city of Ma'arat al-Nu'man, southern rural Idlib, which was followed by their control of several villages and towns in southern and eastern rural Idlib, such as Babila, Ma'asaran, Jaradah, Khan al-Subul, Ma'ardibsa, Kafr Batikh, Neirab, Abu Jarif and Hazan, in addition to the city of Saraqib and its countryside on February 6, 2020.

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<sup>1</sup> Of the key armed groups that took part in the Aleppo battles are Hayat Tahrir al-Sham/HTS, the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army, Ansar al-Tawhid and the Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement, which was the last to join this operations room.

On February 14, 2020, STJ released a briefing that covers key events accompanying the escalation started by the Russian and Syrian forces at the onset of 2020.<sup>2</sup>

This violent escalation against western rural Aleppo, which is seated near the Damascus-Aleppo International Highway/M5 and is controlled by the armed opposition, was matched with missile attacks, where the bombs landed on several neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo, controlled by the Syrian Government. These missiles, eyewitnesses said, were launched from the western parts of the province of Aleppo, including al-Lairamoun Factories, al-Rashideen District, and western Aleppo countryside, held by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham/HTS and other opposition armed groups,<sup>3</sup> while news reported the latter's intention to embark on an attack against the neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo in retaliation to the military operations and the shelling conducted by the Syrian Government in the province of Idlib and rural Aleppo.

In the wake of the news, speculating military operations, a statement was issued by the armed opposition groups, joining forces under the al-Fath al-Mubeen Operations Room on January 20, 2020, in which the groups vowed to target the posts and barracks of the Syrian regular forces and the militias supporting them in the city of Aleppo and called the city's residents to clear from these sites.

**The missiles hit three neighborhoods in the control area of the Syrian regular forces in the city of Aleppo, drastically affecting the neighborhood of Jamiyat al-Zahra first, the neighborhood of New Aleppo next and then the neighborhood of al-Sukari. According to STJ's female field researcher, the missiles caused the death of 11 people, two children, four women, a university student and three men included, and the injury of nearly 29 others in January 2020.**

On the same note, rural Aleppo-based media activists reported that the missiles which landed on the neighborhoods of New Aleppo and Jamiyat al-Zahraa may have been launched by armed opposition groups, given that in both neighborhoods there are confrontation sites, especially since the Syrian regular forces had used their artillery to bombard civilian gathering points in these two neighborhoods, as they put it. The activists also affirmed that the neighborhood of al-Sukari is void of any military fronts, saying that the opposition is, thus, unlikely to have perpetuated the attacks aimed at the neighborhood.

In a former report, STJ documented four violent attacks which targeted crowded popular markets, especially in Jabal al-Zawiya near the M5 International Highway, as these attacks claimed the lives of many civilians, including women and children. The report covered the period from early December 2019 to early January 2020.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> "A Short Briefing on the Humanitarian and Military Situation in Idlib." STJ, February 14, 2020. Last visited: February 23, 2020. <https://stj-sy.org/en/a-short-briefing-on-the-humanitarian-and-military-situation-in-idlib/>.

<sup>3</sup> Such as the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army.

<sup>4</sup> "The Bombing of Idlib's Marketplaces by Syrian Regular Forces and Allies, a Repeated Pattern." STJ, January 14, 2020. Last visited: February 23, 2020. <https://stj-sy.org/en/the-bombing-of-idlibs-marketplaces-by-syrian-regular-forces-and-allies-a-repeated-pattern/>.

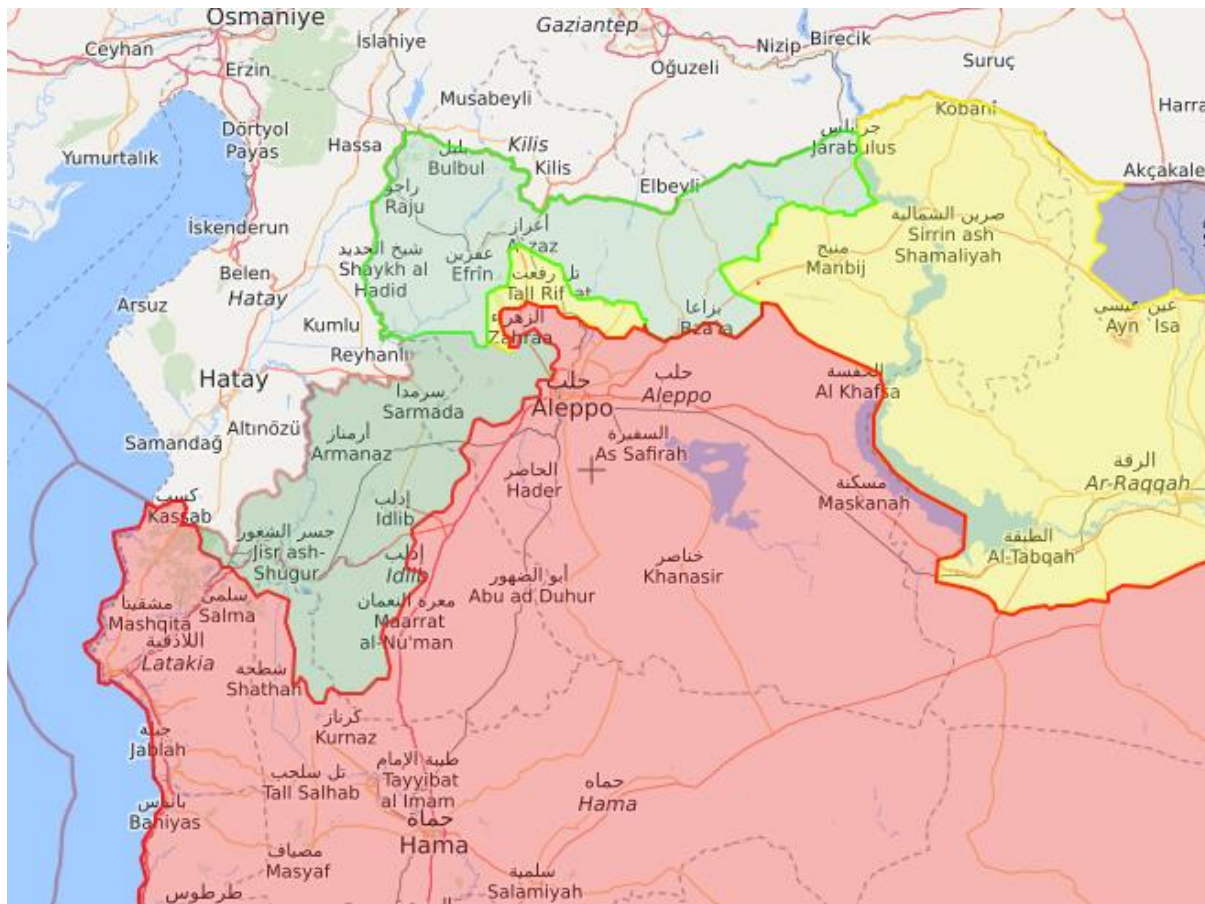


Photo no. (1) – Map showing the distribution of military powers in the provinces of Aleppo and Idlib up to February 14, 2020. Photo credit: Syrialivemap.

## Report Methodology:

In total, this report is based on (13) testimonies and interviews conducted with eyewitnesses, who have been contacted by phone/internet by STJ's female researchers in the province of Aleppo in January 2020. Additionally, it references numerous open sources that document the incidents mentioned here.



## 1. Two Violent Attacks on Residential Neighborhoods in Western Rural Aleppo:

On January 21, 2020 alone, STJ recorded two violent attacks on residential neighborhoods in the cities and towns of western rural Aleppo, located near Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway. The attacks catalyzed the displacement of many of these locations' residents towards the border areas, and it was noticed that there were no military combat activities in the vicinity of the target areas.

### a. House Shelling Kills Entire Family in Kafr Ta'al Town:

Located in western rural Aleppo, near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway, Kafr Ta'al is considered an agricultural area with a population that consists most prominently of farmers.<sup>5</sup> In addition to its local residents, the town is a home for many families displaced from the southern and eastern rural parts of Idlib, as it is seated about 10 km away from the city of Atarib. The town has become relatively calm, for the recent attack resulted in the displacement of many of its residents while only 25% of its total population remained there.

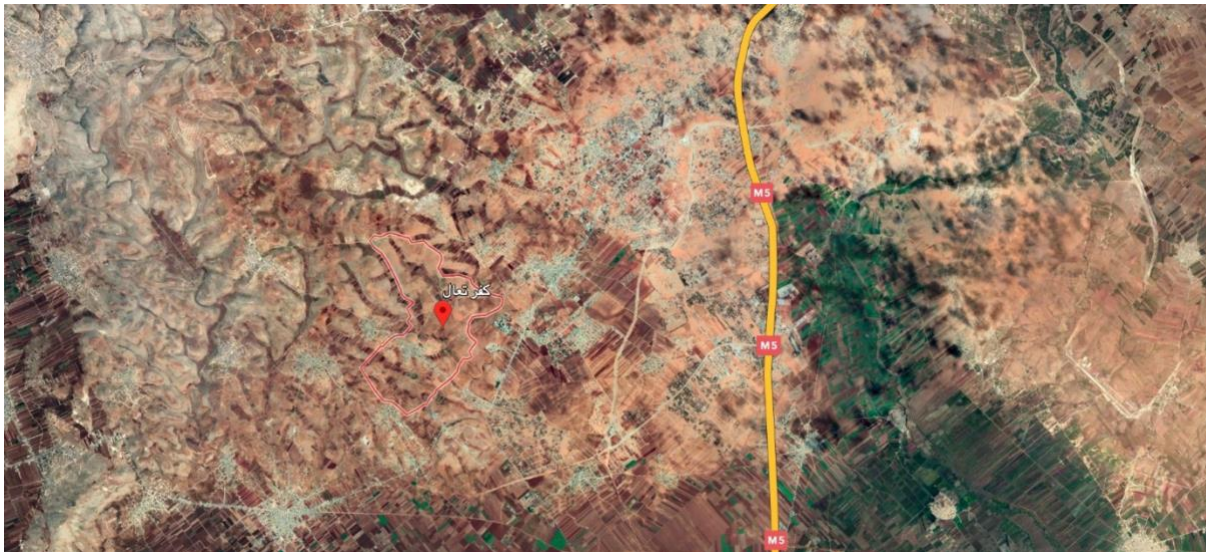


Photo no. (2) – Satellite image shows the location of the town of Kafr Ta'al near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway.

### Details of the Incident:

On January 21, 2020, at about 11:38 pm, a family home in the town was hit by warplanes, believed to be Russian, rendering all the family members dead, according to Mohammad Hudhud, a relative of the family. He narrated the following to STJ:

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<sup>5</sup> The town is controlled by HTS.

**“The first raid took place in the afternoon. The bombing targeted my cousin’s house, located on the village’s outskirts. The missile hit the center of the house and turned all the family members to shreds. The raid killed my cousin Abdulqadir, who was a farmer, his wife, Dalia Abdulhay and their five children— Manar al-Omar (16 yrs.), Marwa (14 yrs.), Fadwa (12 yrs.), Abdo (10 yrs.) and Aya (3 yrs.). The attack was sudden, especially since the area has not been bombarded for a long time. Triggered by the brutality of the massacre, the village’s residents fled, and only a few left to the border areas.”**



Photo no. (3) – The destruction that befell one of the civilians’ houses in the town of Kafr Ta’al, effected by the shelling that targeted it on January 21, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

Youssef Hamza, media activist from the town of Kafar Ta’al, western rural Aleppo, informed STJ that a warplane, believed to be Russian, carried out two airstrikes against the town’s residential neighborhoods, covering a 30 meters long and 15 meters wide area. The attacks caused the immediate death of nine persons, all belonging to the same family—five children and their parents— and the injury of two other people, who were in a nearby place. The raids also completely destroyed the family’s house and a wall of an adjacent one, in addition to rendering a tractor, a pickup vehicle, and a motorbike malfunctioned. The activist continued his account, adding the following:

**“When I reached the attacked site, the spectacle was very harsh. The body parts were everywhere around the house, given the severity of the attack. The Civil Defense teams**

encountered great difficulties while trying to recover the remains due to the massive destruction and the aircraft which continued hovering above the area, as they feared that it might be shelled again. This caused fear and panicking to rise among the people and resulted in the displacement of large numbers of them, who headed to the border areas.”

In turn, one of the supervisors at a warplane observatory in the province of Aleppo reported that a Sukhoi/Su-34 aircraft had taken off from [the Khmeimim Air Base](#), Latakia Province, at 11:28 am, and entered Aleppo’s airspace at about 11:36 am. It maneuvered for a while and launched two raids with four missiles on the town of Kfar Ta’al at 11:38 am sharp. The raids aimed at a residential area—30 meters long and 15 meters wide.



Photo no. (4).





Photo no. (5) – The two photos show the destruction that befell the town of Kafr Ta'al as a result of the shelling that targeted it on January 21, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

A television report had broadcast a video showing the damage caused to the home of a civilian in the town of Kafr Ta'al after it was bombarded on January 21, 2020.<sup>6</sup>

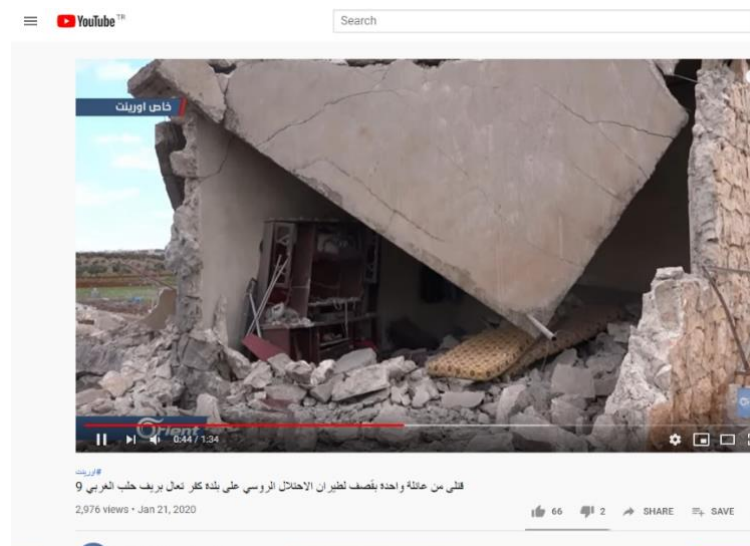


Photo no. (6) – Footage, taken from [the above-mentioned video](#), shows the destruction of a civilian house, effected by the attack on the town of Kafr Ta'al on January 21, 2020.

<sup>6</sup> For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G6Lo3jVMpII&t=4s>.



Photo no. (7).



Photo no. (8).





Photo no. (9) – The three photos are an analysis of the visual evidence of the attack that targeted a civilian house in the town of Kafr Ta'al on January 21, 2020.

STJ's female field researcher managed to document the names of the civilian casualties, who died due to the attack:

1. Omar Abdulqadir (40 yrs.), a farmer and a father of five from the town of Kafr Ta'al.



Photo no. (10) – the victim Omar Abdulqadir before his death. Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

2. Omar's wife, Dalia Abulhay (35 yrs.)
3. Little girl Manar Abdulqadir (16 yrs.)
4. Little girl Marwa Abdulqadir (14 yrs.)
5. Little girl Fadwa Abdulqadir (12 yrs.)
6. Little boy Abdo Abdulqadir (10 yrs.)
7. Little girl Aya Abdulqadir (3 yrs.)

8. Mohammad Mustafa Jada'an (22 yrs.), a farmer from the town of Kafr Ta'al and a relative of Omar Abdulqadir.



Photo no. (11) – Mohammad Mustafa Jada'an before his death.

Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

9. Abdo Mustafa (20 yrs.), a farmer from the town of Kafarta'al and a relative of Omar Abdulqadir.

### **b. Shelling Takes Toll on 10 Persons, Children and Women Included, in Kafr Nouran Town:**

Only a few hours after the attack on a civilian's home in the town of Kfar Ta'al, a second was launched on the town of Kafr Nouran, western rural Aleppo, also located near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway and 7.30 km far from the city of Atarib.<sup>7</sup> The warplanes, believed to be Russian, carried out three raids, throwing thermobaric missiles on the town's residential neighborhoods, rendering 10 people dead and 12 others wounded, not to mention the extensive destruction of residential houses and shops.

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<sup>7</sup> The town is controlled by HTS.





Photo no. (12) – Satellite image showing the location of the town of Kafr Nouran near the M5 International Highway.

## Details of the Incident:

On January 21, 2020, at 4:03 pm, a warplane, believed to be Russian, launched three raids on residential neighborhoods in the town of Kafr Nouran, deploying thermobaric missiles. Youssef Hamza, one of the town's media activists, who visited the attack's site, reported the following to STJ:

**"The first raid targeted a fuel store in the town, after which the same aircraft returned and embarked on two additional raids, aimed at the residential houses in the vicinity of the town. These raids took a toll on 10 civilians, including a woman and six children, and wounded 12 others— a woman and eight children. This attack caused damage to a number of civilian homes and the burning of the fuel shop. The Civil Defense teams had difficulties in dealing with the fires that broke out, which were intense, and due to the nature of location targeted by the first raid. Responding to the second and third raids, however, the difficulties were embodied by the inability to recover the people stuck under the rubble, for the building's roof had collapsed over the bodies of the dead. Still, in the first half an hour after the attack, the teams managed to pull out the dead body of the young woman Ahlam al-Qasir, which was stranded under the debris. Less than an hour later, the dead body of Alyaa al-Qasir, Ahlam's mother, was also recovered. Hassan al-Qasir, Aliaa's husband, however, was rescued while yet alive and was rushed to the hospital, where he died affected by his wounds. Later on, the dead bodies of two children, one nine and another five years old, were also pulled out."**



Photo no. (13) – The dead body of one of the attack’s victims stuck under the rubble. Photo credit: STJ.



Photo no. (14) – the dead little girl Sidra al-Hassan. Photo credit: STJ.





Photo no. (15) – the dead little boy Bilal al-Hassan. Photo credit: STJ.



Photo no. (16) – the dead body of one of the attack's victims after it was recovered from beneath the rubble. Photo credit: STJ.

Another witness from the town of Kfar Nouran, who suffered face burns due to the attack, told STJ that the first raid took place exactly at 4:22 pm that day, and only five minutes later the warplanes carried out the second and third raids, which caused the destruction of five houses and a fuel store, as they caused the explosion of 15 gas cylinders that were in the store. He also indicated that this attack had spurred fear among the residents, sending 50% of them on a flight of displacement to Afrin region and the northern border areas.



Photo no. (17) – The fires spreading at the attacked location in the town of Kafr Nouran. Photo credit: STJ.

One of the supervisors of a warplane observatory in the province of Aleppo reported to STJ that a Sukhoi/su-34 had taken off from the Khmeimim Air Base, Latakia Province, at exactly 3:53 pm. It headed towards rural Aleppo and entered its airspace, firing three missiles on the town of Kafr Nouran at 4:03 pm.

A video, circulated by media activists, shows the onset of the bombing aimed at the town of Kafr Nouran on January 21, 2020.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJMpDoYgC2g>.



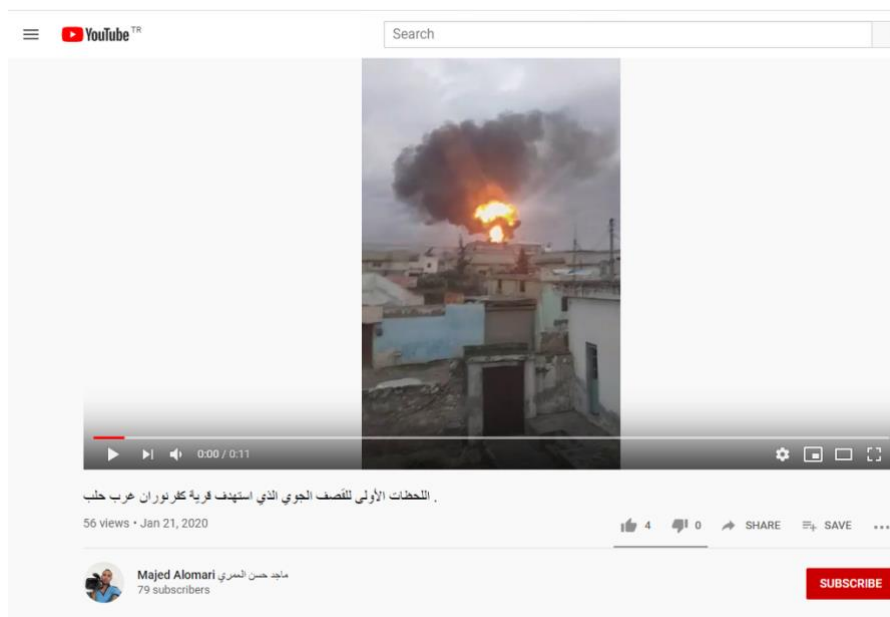


Photo no. (18) – Footage, taken from [the above-mentioned video](#), shows the first seconds of the shelling of the Kafr Nouran Town, western rural Aleppo, on January 21, 2020.

Another video, circulated by media activists, showed the destruction caused at the town of Kafr Nouran as a result of the air raids aimed at it on January 21, 2020.<sup>9</sup>

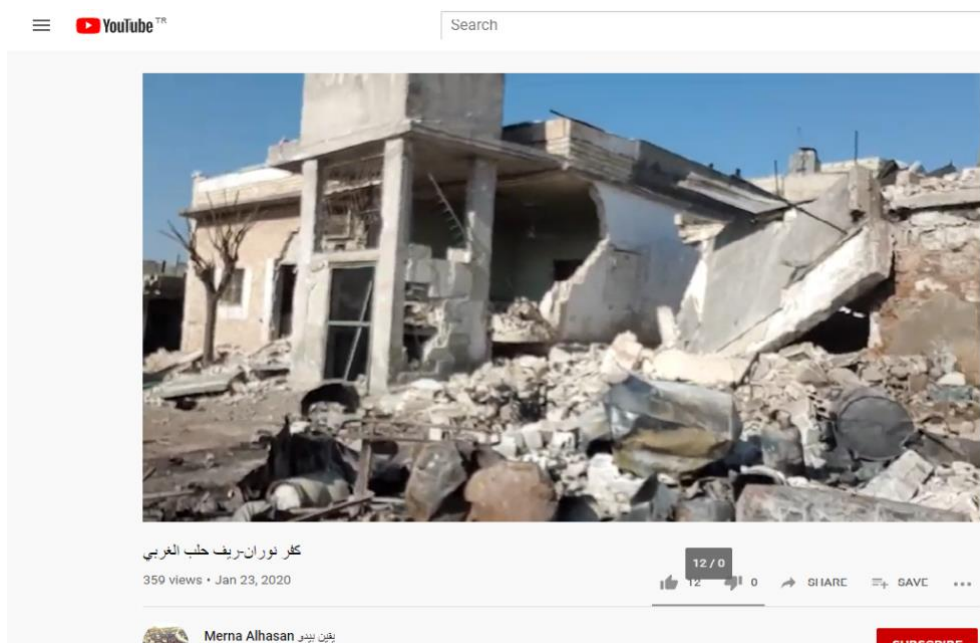


Photo no. (19) – Footage, taken from [the above-mentioned video](#), shows the onset of the bombardment of the town of Kafr Nouran, western rural Aleppo, on January 21, 2020.

<sup>9</sup> For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-eFw0uzqml>.



Photo no. (20).



Photo no. (21).



Photo no. (22).



Photo no. (23) – The four photos are an analysis of the visual evidence of the attack aimed at the town of Kafr Nouran on January 21, 2020.

STJ's female field researcher managed to document the names of the civilian casualties, dead as a result of the attack. They are:



1. Aliaa al-Qasir (40 yrs.), a mother of two from the town of Kafr Nouran.
2. Ahlam al-Qasir (20 yrs.), a woman from the town Kafr Nouran.
3. The little girl Sidra Bilal al-Hassan (6 yrs.) from the city of Jarjanaz.
4. The little boy Ahmad Bilal al-Hassan (9 yrs.) from the city of Jarjanaz.
5. Mohammad al-Aboud (35 yrs.) from the town of Kafr Nouran.
6. Hassan Wahideh (55 yrs.) from the town of Kafr Nouran.
7. Mohammad Omar Bakour Yahia (25 yrs.) from the town of Kafr Nouran.
8. Hassan al-Qasir (20 yrs.) from the town of Kafr Nouran.
9. Mahmoud Hassan Wahid from the town of Kafr Nouran.

## 2. Missile Attacks Take Toll on Civilians in Neighborhoods in Aleppo City:

In sync to the violent escalation in western rural Aleppo, which is under the control of the armed opposition groups and is located near the M5 International Highway, several neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo, held by the Syrian Government, have become, since the beginning of January 2020, a target for missiles, which eyewitnesses and media activists have said that they are likely launched from the western parts of the province of Aleppo—al-Lairamoun Factories, al-Rashideen Neighborhood and western Aleppo— where the reins to power are held by the HTS and other armed opposition groups. These missile attacks coincided to news about the latter's intention to embark on a military operation against the neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo in response to the shelling and military operations initiated by the Syrian Government in the province of Idlib.

The news was ascertained by the statement made by the armed opposition groups that joined forces under the General Command of the al-Fath al-Mubeen Operations Room on January 20, 2020, and published by *Ibaa News Network*.<sup>10</sup> In the statement, the involved armed groups pledged to target the locations and barracks of the Syrian regular forces and the militias supporting them in the city of Aleppo and demanded that city's locals keep a distance from those sites.

"We recommend our people in the city of Aleppo and its countryside, adjacent to the front lines, to stay away from the enemy's gathering points and barracks, as they are all legitimate targets for us," the armed groups said in the statement.

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<sup>10</sup> The al-Fath al-Mubeen Operations Room issues an important statement concerning the residents in the city of Aleppo. Ibaa News Network, January 20, 2020. Last visited: February 23, 2020. <https://ebaa.news/tr/haberler/haber-detaylari/2020/01/63201>.





Photo no. (24) – The statement made by the al-Fath al-Mubeen Operations Room on January 20, 2020. Photo credit: Ibaa News Network.

The missiles that landed on the neighborhoods of the city of Aleppo in January 2020, as recorded by STJ's female researcher, have caused the death of 11 people, including two children, four women, a university student and three men, and the injury of nearly 29 others. All the witnesses whom STJ spoke to have confirmed that the missile hit civilian areas far from any posts or checkpoints of the Syrian regular forces.

The neighborhoods which suffered the most due to the missile attack in the city of Aleppo were Jamiyat al-Zahra Neighborhood, followed by the New Aleppo Neighborhood and then the al-Sukari Neighborhood, which affected civilian gatherings in a vegetable market, one of the area's mosques and an educational facility.

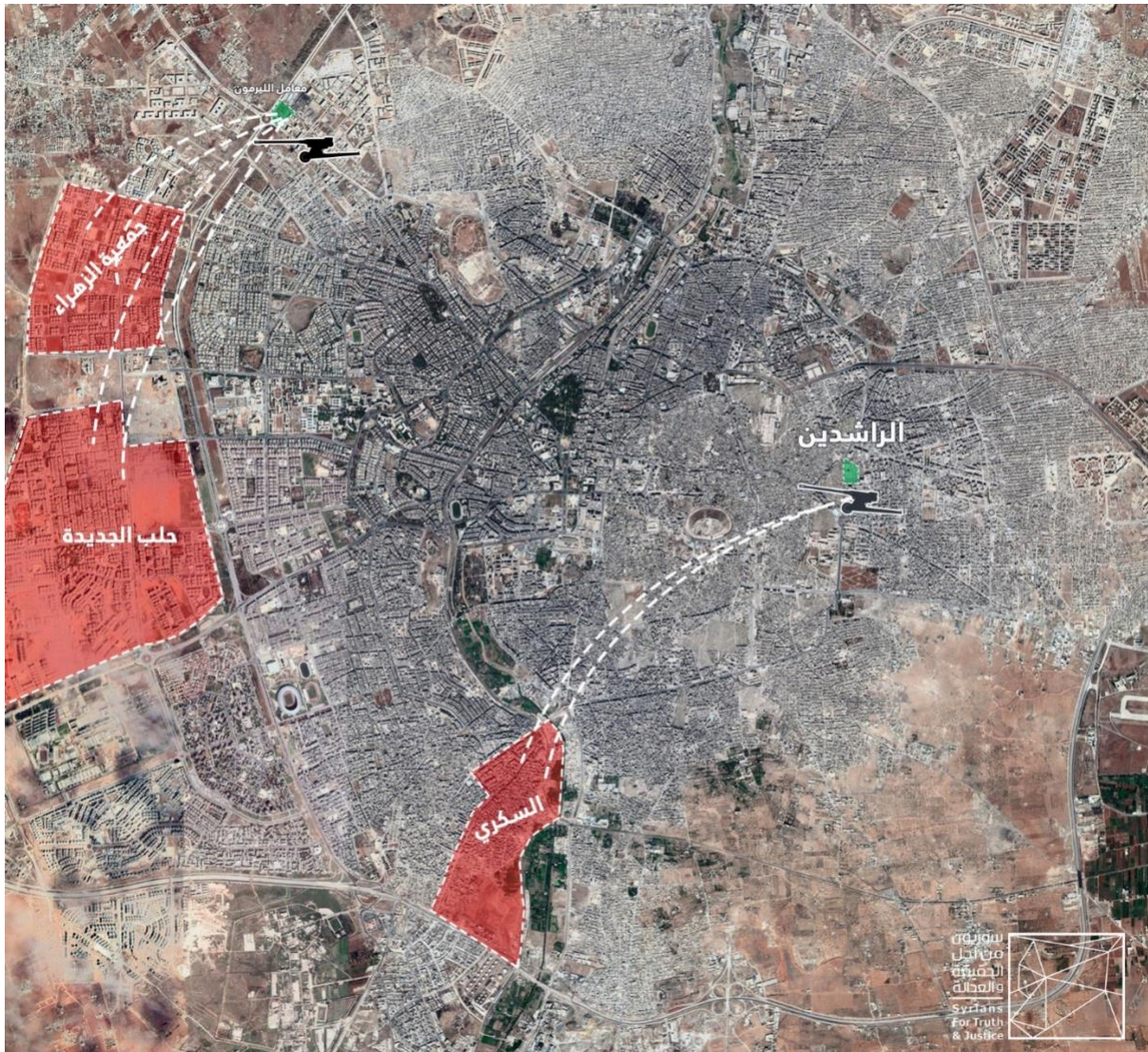


Photo no. (25) – Satellite image shows the neighborhoods targeted the most by the missiles in the city of Aleppo, aimed at al-Zahraa Neighborhood first, next the New Aleppo and finally al-Sukari, in January 2020.

For their part, rural Aleppo-based media activists told STJ that the missiles that hit the neighborhoods of Jamiyat al-Zahra and New Aleppo may have been launched by the armed opposition groups, for there are fronts in these two neighborhoods, especially since the Syrian regular forces have used their artillery to bombard civilian gatherings in these two neighborhoods. They stressed that there was no front in the al-Sukari Neighborhood and ruled out that the armed opposition might be responsible for the attacks that targeted it.



## a. Missiles Hitting al-Zahraa Neighborhood Render Women and Children Dead:

The Jamiyat al-Zahraa Neighborhood, known as Al-Zahraa, located in the western part of the city of Aleppo, had been subjected to missile attacks four times during the month of January 2020. Two of the assaults have resulted in casualties. On January 21, 2020, at about 3:30 pm, two missiles landed near the Hamza Mosque, to the west of al-Zahraa Neighborhood, killing the little boy Zain al-Abideen Doba (9 yrs.) and wounding a man and a woman. On January 23, 2020, three missiles hit the neighborhood and injured a 10-year-old girl. On January 17, 2020, another missile ended near the al-Sayyida Fatima Mosque, rendering dead the young man Mohammad Mohammad Ali Shwaihneh.

Fadi A., a resident of Jamiyat al-Zahraa Neighborhood, gave STJ further details on the missile attack that targeted the neighborhood, saying:

**“All the missiles that we are showered with almost every day since early January 2020 land exclusively near mosques or on the houses. One missile resulted in the death of the boy Zain while he was on his way back home from elementary school. He was injured and we hospitalized him. However, he died after arriving into the hospital affected by shrapnel.”**



Photo no. (26) – the little boy Zain al-Abideen Doba before his death. Photo credit: Media activists.

## b. New Aleppo Neighborhood Missile-Attacked:

The New Aleppo Neighborhood, located to the west of the city of Aleppo, also had its fair share of missile attacks. On January 21, 2020, five missiles hit the neighborhood, landing at al-Salam Roundabout and the Zain Al-Abideen Mosque. One of the missiles struck a house near the mosque at 3:00 pm, causing the death of the two women Budur Nuri Azmirli and Rawan Mohy ed-Deen Mohammad and the injury of the young woman Malakeh Laban (25yrs.), who died the next day.

On January 20, 2020, at about 1:00 pm, two missiles landed north of the New Aleppo Neighborhood, rendering dead the young man Mohammad Amin Hasso. In this regard, a resident of the New Aleppo Neighborhood told STJ the following:

**“Since the news was spread that the Free Army sought to liberate the city of Aleppo, the missiles started to hit us—we the civilians. Not a single militant was wounded by the regime forces while three of the neighborhood’s women were killed, not to mention the great damage that was caused to the homes and properties of the people. A state of fear has a grip on almost all of us, no one is gathering in front of shops, motion is slow and some residents have already left the neighborhood.”**



Photo no. (27) – the victim Mohammad Amin Hasso before his death. Photo credit: Media activists.





Photo no. (28) – shows the location where a missile landed at the New Aleppo Neighborhood in January 2020. Photo credit: Media activists.

### c. Missiles Hit a Gathering on a Vegetable Market in al-Sukari Neighborhood:

On January 16, 2020, at about 4:00 pm, three missiles, separated from each other by almost no time, landed on the al-Sukari Neighborhood, one of Aleppo City's eastern neighborhoods. The three missiles targeted a gathering at a vegetable market and shops, causing the death of the boy Mustafa Jamal Ramo and a woman, Hana Barakat Halawani. In addition to this, the shelling rendered 13 other civilians wounded, including seven children, who developed minor to moderate injuries. The wounded were transferred to the governmental al-Jamia and al-Razi hospitals. The bombing also effected the partial destruction of six shops and four houses.

Mohammad D., a resident of al-Sukari Neighborhood, witnessed the attack on that day. He narrated the following to STJ:

**"I was standing at the door to my house with my neighbors when I felt the passage of a missile. And then, there was a powerful explosion. Seconds later, there was the sound of two other missiles. I ran to the place where they fell, which is about three minutes away from my house. The destruction was great, as I helped transport the injured and put them in passing cars to be taken to the hospital. Then police patrols and ambulances came; they transported the rest, among the injured were women and children."**

Amjad L., another al-Sukari Neighborhood-based witness, told STJ what happened on the attack's day. He said:

**"I entered the neighborhood to deliver one of the customers' order. Shortly after passing the vegetable market area, the explosions occurred and my car crashed against the sidewalk as I panicked. I looked behind, the smoke was thick, and the people were screaming, shouting for the cars to stop and take the injured. I immediately transported a child and his mother to the al-Jamia Hospital and I do not know what happened to them after that."**



Photo no. (29) – the remnants of a missile that hit the al-Sukari Neighborhood in January 2020.

Photo credit: Media activists.

Al-Sukari Neighborhood was subject to the armed opposition groups at a certain point, but then they left it towards Northern Syria, after they sealed an agreement with the Syrian regular forces at the end of December 2016. The agreement stipulated that the opposition armed groups withdraw from the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo and the civilians leave. After nearly six months, the Syrian regular forces allowed the people to return to the neighborhood, provided that the returnees undergo a legalization of status. The services such as water, electricity, sewage systems, debris and weapons remnants removal are so far only scarcely provided to the neighborhood.

#### **d. Missiles Hit Educational Facility in Aleppo City and Renders Students Dead:**

On January 12, 2020, two missiles landed in the vicinity of the Al-Ittihad Private University campus in the city of Aleppo, killing Marwan Farouq Khallo, a fifth year student of the Faculty of Information Engineering, who is originally from the city of Kobani, rural Aleppo. The attack caused the injury of three other students and inflicted minor material damage upon the

university's headquarters. Jawad Kh., one of the bombarded university's students, narrated the following to STJ:

**"I was at the university cafeteria when two explosions occurred very close to the university. The blast shattered the windows and shrapnel flew into the university. Shrapnel rested in my hand and my forehead. When we left the cafeteria, I was informed that another student, who stood close to the university's headquarters preparing for the exam, was also hit by shrapnel and died shortly afterwards."**

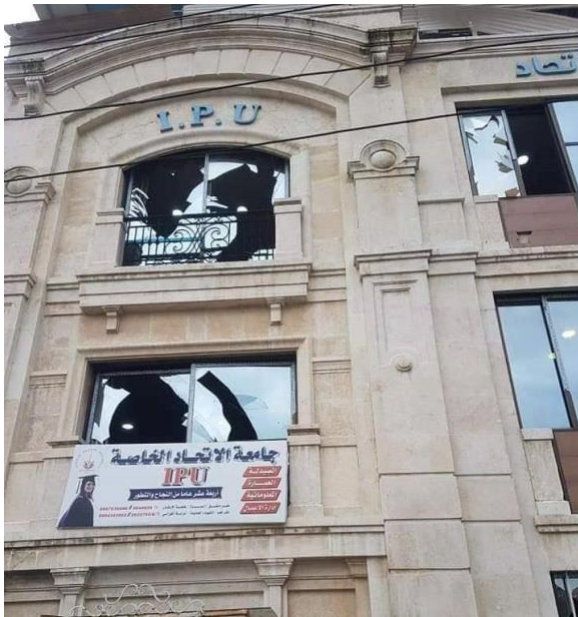


Photo no. (30).



Photo no. (31)

– The two photos show the destruction caused to the Ittihad University in the city of Aleppo, after two missiles landed in its vicinity. Photo credit: Social networking sites.

In another incident, particularly on January 12, 2020, a missile landed on Tishreen Street in the city of Aleppo, killing Ahmed Ibrahim Sukar (30 yrs.) and Ayman Jamal Sakhttah (34 yrs.) from the Khalidiya Neighborhood, who was a vendor and his family's only child.





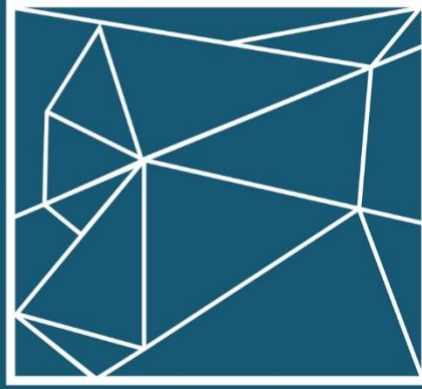
Photo no. (32) – the victim Ahmad Ibrahim Sukar before his death  
Photo credit: Social networking sites.



Photo no. (33) – the victim Ayman Jamal Sakhttah before his death.  
Photo credit: Social networking sites.

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سوريون  
من أجل  
الحقيقة  
والعدالة  
Syrians  
For Truth  
& Justice



## History

Syrians for Truth and Justice was conceived during the participation of its co-founder in the Middle-East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Leaders for Democracy Fellowship program, who was driven by a will to contribute to Syria's future. Starting as a humble project to tell the stories of Syrians experiencing enforced disappearances and torture, it grew into an established organisation committed to unveiling human rights violations of all sorts.

Convinced that the diversity that has historically defined Syria is a wealth, our team of researchers and volunteers works with dedication at uncovering human rights violations committed in Syria, in order to promote inclusiveness and ensure that all Syrians are represented, and their rights fulfilled.

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