

March 7, 2020



Northwestern Syria: Fresh Violent Airstrikes Target Jammed Marketplaces

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*No less than 5 new attacks were recoded that made a target of Idlib's
marketplaces in January 2020 alone*

Executive Summary:

In January 2020, the Syrian regular forces and their Russian allies carried out a fresh series of brutal attacks, which once again made a target of crowded marketplaces in the cities and towns of the province of Idlib, especially those seated near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway, which was taken over on February 11, 2020,¹ and others located near the Aleppo-Latakia/M4 International Highway. Covering the developments, Syrians for Truth and Justice/STJ recorded no less than 5 violent attacks that hit marketplaces in the cities and towns of Binnish, Ariha, Idlib City, Kafr Latah and Ma'arat al-Nu'man, taking a toll on dozens of civilians, including women and children.

Of the five attacks that targeted overcrowded marketplaces in January 2020, the following airstrikes were the most ferocious— **the first** hit the main marketplace in the city of Binnish, southern rural Idlib, on January 11, 2020, rendering eight civilians dead, including six children and a woman.

The second airstrike, however, took place on January 15, 2020, affecting the marketplace, called Souq al-Hal, in the city of Idlib and the close by Industrial City, al-Sinaia Neighborhood, causing the death of 22 civilians, among whom were women and children.

It was noted that these airstrikes were carried out just a few days after the Russian Ministry of Defense announced on January 9, 2020, a ceasefire in northwestern Syria,² in correspondence with an agreement sealed with Turkey, which was to be put into force on the same day. For her part, STJ's field researcher pointed out that, hearing about the ceasefire, many people loosened their guard and went out to the markets to buy their needs, where the airstrikes awaited them.

Most of the airstrikes, the filed researcher reported, have sent tens of thousands of people on a flight of displacement to the northern border areas, which again may indicate the Syrian regular forces' intention to evacuate these areas of their residents in a step to take them over, particularly those located near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 and Aleppo-Latakia/M4 international highways, especially since the air stricken areas lack in all sorts of militarization.

This fresh wave of airstrikes was introduced by the Syrian regular forces and their allies' tendency in December 2020 to focus their raids on overcrowded marketplaces in the cities and towns of southern rural Idlib, located near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway, where STJ managed to document four airstrikes that were all carried out over two

¹ On February 27, 2020, the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway was again blocked by the armed opposition groups, however supported by Turkey.

² "Russian-Turkish Ceasefire Deal in Idlib." Russia Today, January 9, 2020. Last visited: February 2, 2020. https://arabic.rt.com/middle_east/1075100-%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A-%D8%AD%D9%88%D9%84-%D9%88%D9%82%D9%81-%D8%A5%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A8/.

days of the named month before targeting similar markets and causing the death of numerous civilians,³ a thing that indicates that these attacks were not random by any means.

STJ had also monitored two separate airstrikes in the same month, one of which occurred on January 5, 2020, affecting two kindergartens—al-Muslim al-Sagheer and Baraem al-Islam, in addition to Khalid Basheer Halabiyeh School in the city of Ariha, southern rural Idlib. The two airstrikes rendered dead 13 civilians, including four children and a woman. The second attack, nonetheless, took place on January 11, 2020, destroying a home owned by a family displaced to the town of al-Nayrab, also in southern rural Idlib, taking a toll on six civilians, of whom two were children, and injuring others.

These airstrikes coincided with violent confrontations in the province of Idlib, involving the Syrian regular forces and armed organizations—including armed opposition groups, of which a number are on the world's lists of terrorism.⁴ Starting in early January 2020 up to February 21, 2020, the Syrian regular forces managed to take over the cities of Ma'arat al-Nu'man and Saraqib and the towns of Hish, al-Nayrab, Afss, Jarjanaz, Khan al-Subul, Ma'ar Shureen, Talmenes and Kafr Rouma, in addition to dozens of small villages to the east of the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway. Both the airstrikes and the confrontations took place in parallel with other battles between the two sides in the southern and western rural parts of Aleppo, where the Syrian regular forces managed to control the entire city of Aleppo and the entirety of its southern countryside and large parts of its western countryside on February 16, 2020, after they violently escalated military action in these areas and caused, as a result, the death or injury of many civilians.⁵

On February 6, 2020, during the special emergency session, which was held in response to a request by UK, USA and France and where the Security Council was briefed on the worsening conditions in Syria, the UN called for the cession of confrontations in Idlib and sparing the civilians further suffering. On his turn, Geir Pedersen, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, “appeal[ed] for an immediate end to hostilities, and for a serious international effort to cooperate on Idlib”, for he and Mark Lowcock, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, have briefed the Security Council meeting on the situation in Syria and warned of “a severe and deteriorating humanitarian situation” in Idlib, northwestern Syria.⁶

³ “The Bombing of Idlib’s Marketplaces by Syrian Regular Forces and Allies, a Repeated Pattern.” STJ, January 20, 2020. Last visited: February 29, 2020. <https://stj-sy.org/en/the-bombing-of-idlibs-marketplaces-by-syrian-regular-forces-and-allies-a-repeated-pattern/>.

⁴ On top of these armed groups are Hayat Tahrir al-Sham/HTS, the Turkey-backed Syrian National Army, Ansar al-Tawhid and the Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria.

⁵ “Syria: Violent Military Escalation Takes Toll on Civilians in Western Rural Aleppo.” STJ, February 15, 2020. Last visited: March 3, 2020. <https://stj-sy.org/en/syria-violent-military-escalation-takes-toll-on-civilians-in-western-rural-aleppo/>.

⁶ “Syria: ‘Massive waves of civilian displacement and loss of life must stop now’: UN Special Envoy.” UN, February 6, 2020. Last visited: February 29, 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056892>.

On February 14, 2020, STJ published a briefing on the key incidents that synced to the escalation which the Russian and Syrian regular forces embarked on at the onset of 2020.⁷

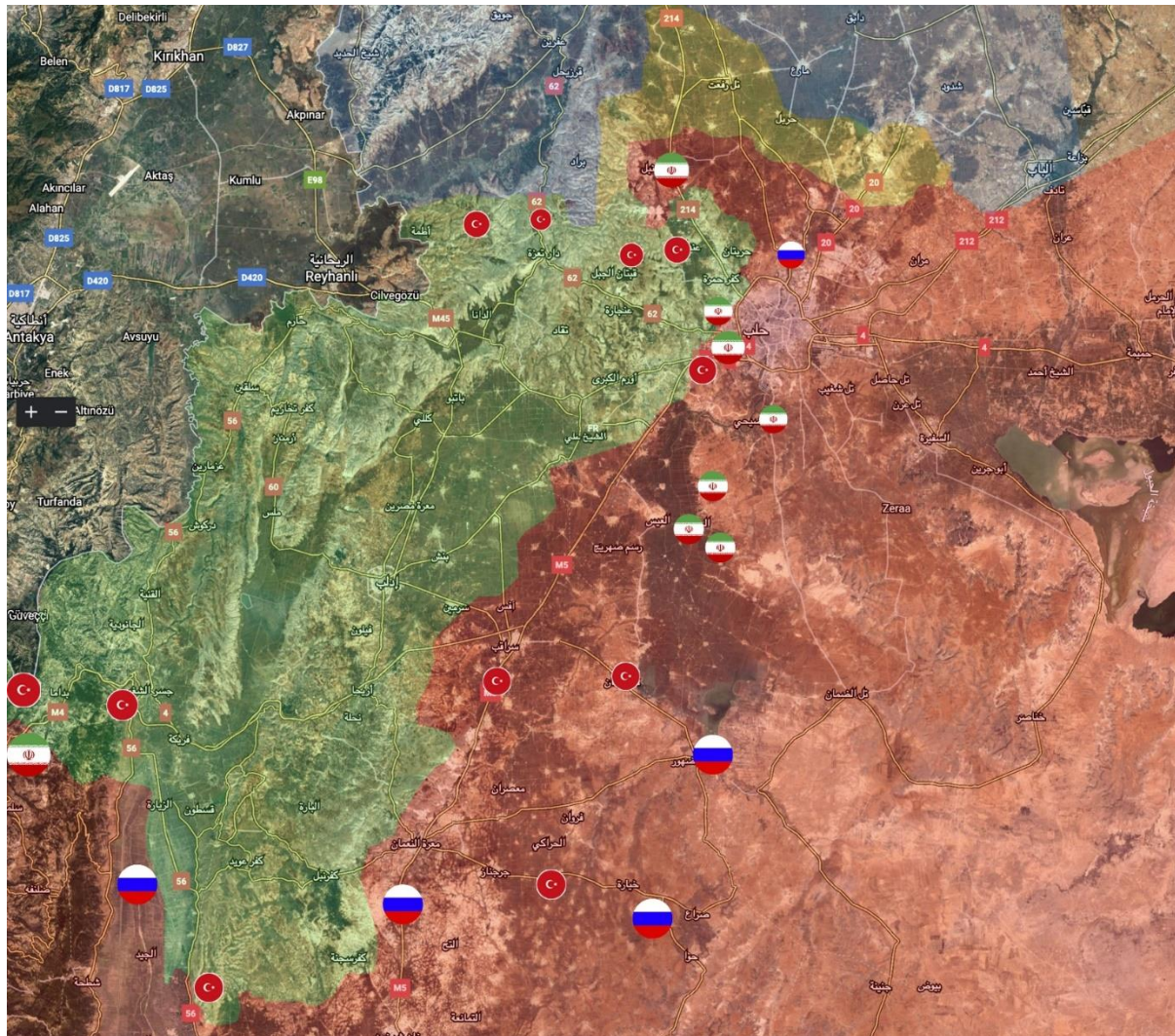


Photo no. (1) – Map showing the distribution of military powers in the province of Idlib up to February 21, 2020.

Report Methodology:

The report is based on a total of (15) testimonies and interviews, conducted with eyewitnesses either in person or online by STJ's female researcher in the province of Idlib throughout January 2020. Additionally, the report references several open sources that have documented the covered incidents.

⁷ "A Short Briefing on the Humanitarian and Military Situation in Idlib." STJ, February 14, 2020. Last visited: February 29, 2020. <https://stj-sy.org/en/a-short-briefing-on-the-humanitarian-and-military-situation-in-idlib/>.

1. Airstrikes on Overcrowded Marketplaces Renewed in Idlib Province:

STJ recorded five new air raids at least, which made a target of jammed marketplaces and houses surrounding them, particularly in the cities and towns of the province of Idlib—Binich, Ariha, Idlib City, Kafr Latah, and Ma'arat al-Nu'man, located near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 and the Aleppo-Latakia/M4 international highways in January 2020.

Of these airstrikes was the one that hit the main marketplace in the city of Binich, southern rural Idlib, on January 11, 2020, and the raid that targeted the marketplace, Souq al-Hal, in the city of Idlib on January 15, 2020, the city which incubates about one million people, including those displaced from different Syrian Provinces. These airstrikes resulted in the death and injury of dozens of civilians and caused the displacement of many others, who fled their homes towards the northern border areas.

STJ's female field researcher pointed out that the Syrian regular forces continuation of bombing marketplaces in the province of Idlib throughout January 2020 might be a repeated attempt to first impose economic restrictions on the province's residents, which in their impact resemble economic sanctions, and second to empty the areas of their residents and trigger them to escape, as to pave the way for taking control of these areas, especially those seated close to the international highway between Damascus and Aleppo/M5 and the one between Aleppo and Latakia/M4.

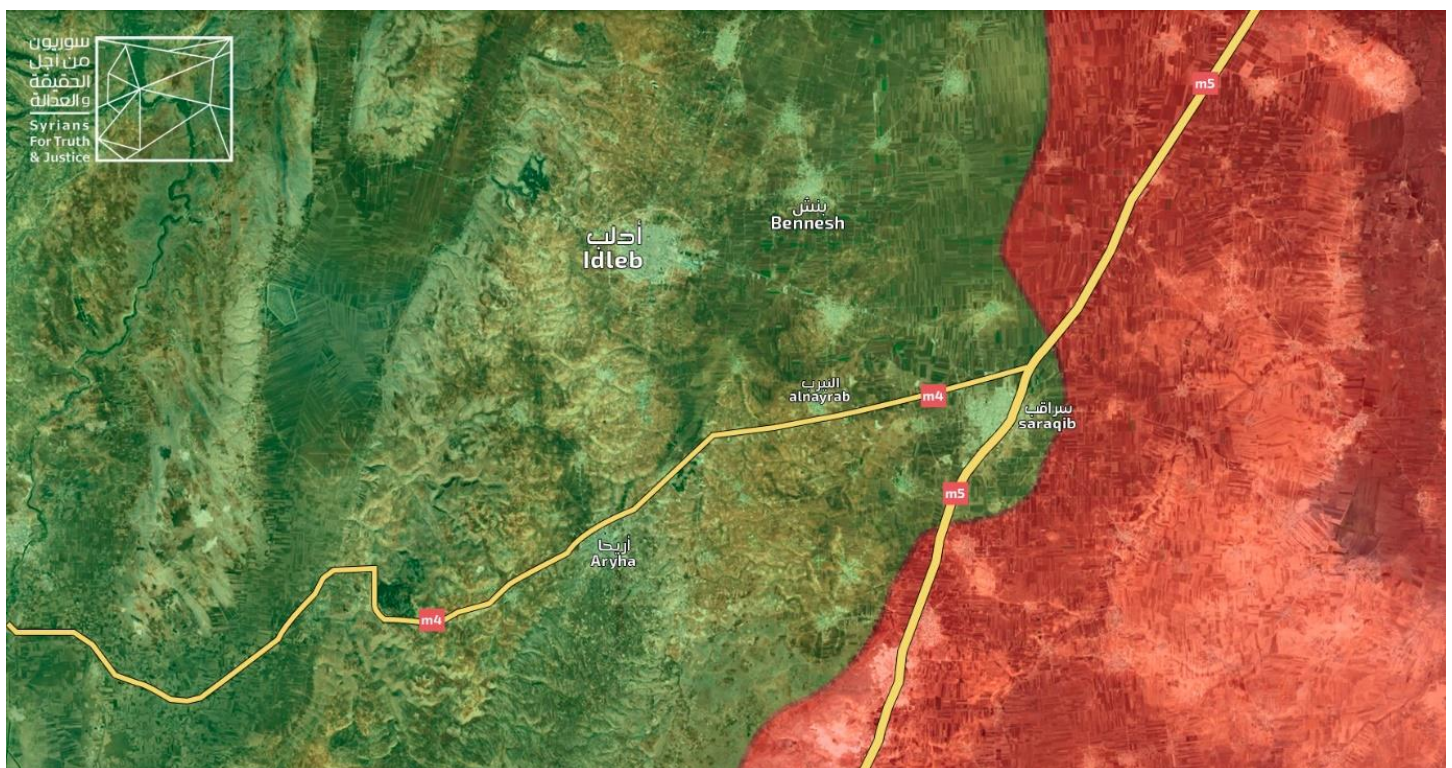


Photo no. (2) – Map showing the areas of Binnish, Idlib City, al-Nayrab and Ariha and their location to the international highways of Damascus-Aleppo/M5 and Aleppo-Latakia/M4.

a. Violent Airstrike Hits the Main Marketplace in Binnish City:

The city of Binnish⁸ is located in southern rural Idlib and is 15 km away from the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 International Highway while it lies at a 10 km distance from the Aleppo-Latakia/M4 International Highway. The city houses many families displaced to it from the southern and eastern rural parts of Idlib— it approximately incubates 4,500 displaced families while its local population consists of about 50,000 persons.

On January 11, 2020, at 1:20 pm, MiG-21 fighter jets, affiliated with the Syrian Air Force, dropped four missiles at once, hitting on of the city's main marketplaces, a vegetable and clothes market, and the houses surrounding it. As a result, eight people were killed and 27 others were wounded, including four women and 13 children.

Wissam al-Ahmad, a media activist based in the city of Binnish and one of the witnesses who were present near the attacked site, reported the following to STJ:

“On the afternoon that day, the Syrian warplanes launched a raid, deploying four missiles. The raid targeted the center of the city of Binnish. The rockets covered the space of the marketplace’s square, leaving behind nine dead and 27 wounded, including four women and 13 children. When I reached the attacked location, a hysterical fear had a grip on people, for the market was crowded with civilians, especially women and children, who came to buy their needs. All the Civil Defense teams sped to the raid’s site, where they worked on hospitalizing the injured and transporting the bodies of the dead to hospitals. They also searched for people who might have been stuck under the rubble. Among the difficulties they encountered were the enormous destruction and the large number of injured and dead, given that there are not enough hospitals to accommodate the massive number of injured people and since transferring the wounded to remote hospitals might risk their chances of survival.”

Another witness, a relative of one of the families rendered dead by the airstrike, said that six of his relatives, five children and their mother, were killed at once, following the assault on their house in the vicinity of the main marketplace in the city of Binnish. He narrated the following to STJ:

“We abandoned the town of Heesh to escape the bombing and death, hoping to find safety in the city of Binnish, but the warplanes did not let us be. On that day, the warplanes raided the main marketplace and the house of my relatives. The assault rendered six of the family’s members dead, including the mother and her five children. While the father was seriously injured, another little girl died. The Civil Defense teams rushed to the attacked location to transport and hospitalize the injured. The wounded were transferred to the nearest hospitals, but a section was

⁸ The city is controlled by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham/HTS.

transported to the Bab al-Hawa area. This air raid sent several of the area's people on a flight of displacement, as they sought more secure places. The city was almost empty for several hours, for the people were afraid of a fresh series of air raids."



Photo no. (3) – The five children and their mother before they died affected by the airstrike that hit the marketplace in the city of Binnish. They all belong to Al al-Shaikh family.



Photo no. (4) – the destruction that befell a displaced family's house, where six of the family's members died affected by the airstrike that targeted the marketplace in the city of Binnish on January 11, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

In turn, a member of the Binnish City Local Council told STJ that the city is a home to numerous families displaced from the southern and eastern rural parts of Idlib, as it includes approximately 4,500 displaced families, in addition to its local population, which amounts to 50,000 people. He added:

“As a ceasefire was being discussed on that day, the people headed to their jobs; others went to get their needs from the marketplace. And then, the warplanes, particularly after the noon prayer, dropped four rockets at once, hitting the marketplace’s center. The raid took a toll on six children, a woman and a man and rendered more than 24 persons injured. The raid also resulted in massive destruction, which was inflicted upon the homes within the marketplace’s vicinity and the shops, where fires broke out.”

A supervisor of one of the Warplanes Observatories in the province of Idlib told STJ that a MiG-21 warplane kicked off from the [Hama Airbase](#) at 1:15 pm on January 11, 2020. It then headed to Northern Syria, entering the airspace of Binnish City at 1:20 pm sharp. The warplane fired four missiles, which all hit the Binnish marketplace at the same moment.

A video, circulated by media activists, on January 11, 2020, showed the damage caused to the main marketplace in the city of Binnish, as a result of the aerial raid aimed at it on the same day.⁹

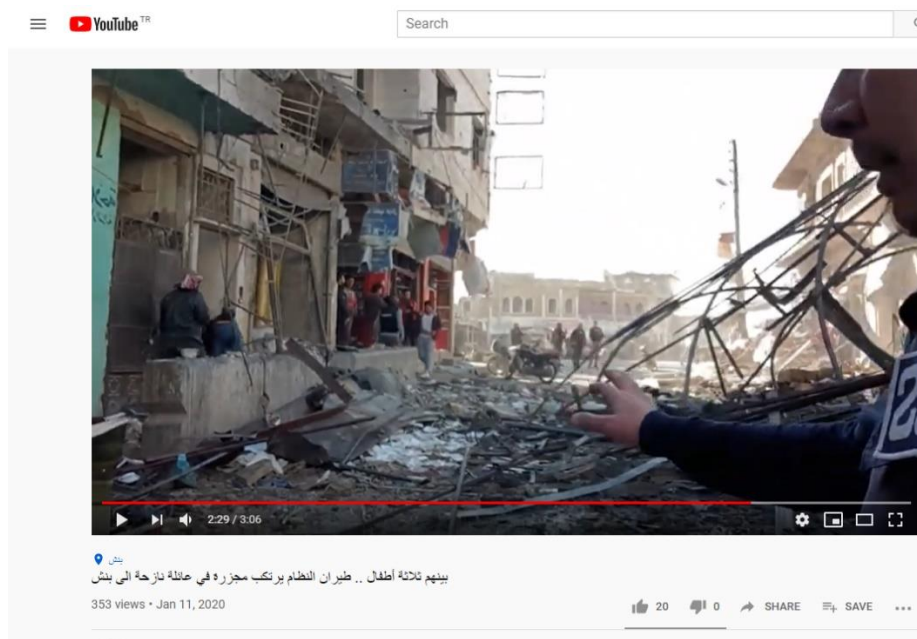


Photo no. (5) – Footage, taken from the [above-mentioned video](#), shows the destruction caused to the main marketplace in the city of Binnish, which resulted from the airstrike on January 11, 2020.

⁹ For further information, refer to the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tsj7rNe0Z10&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0wBu9PD5bUtO3Kkt83KvzBqlSibWI3qveejoQ9TqAGawlf81Twkf9TTs>.



Photo no. (6).



Photo no. (7).



Photo no. (8) – The three photos offer an analysis of the visual evidence concerning the airstrike aimed at the main marketplace in the city of Binnish.

STJ's female field researcher managed to document the names of the civilians who died affected by the airstrike. They are:

1. Maram Khalid al-Shaikh, 7 yrs. girl, from Heesh Town.
2. Khalid al-Shaikh, 4 yrs. boy, from Heesh Town.
3. Sham Khiled al-Shaikh, one year old girl, from Heesh Town.
4. Aseel Khalid al-Shaikh, 3 yrs. girl, from Heesh Town.
5. Maha Khalid al-Shaikh, 5 yrs. Girl, from Heesh Town.
6. Their mother, Rawda Taha al-Youssef, 40 yrs.
7. Huda al-Youssef, 10 yrs. girl, from Heesh Town.
8. Bakour Mustafa Qutub, 30 yrs., married and from Binnish City.

b. Another Airstrike Hits the Marketplace and the Industrial City in Idlib City:

The city of Idlib, controlled by the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham/HTS, is considered the center of the province and is located near the Aleppo-Latakia/M4 and the Aleppo-Damascus/M5 international highways. The city, as reported by STJ's female field researcher, is a home for about one million people, the majority of whom are internally displaced persons, who fled other areas throughout the country.

Details of the Airstrike:

On January 15, 2020, at 2:00 pm, a MiG-23 fighter jet, affiliated with the Syrian Air Force, carried out a raid targeting the marketplace—a market where vegetables, fruits, and clothes are sold, and the nearby al-Sinaia Neighborhood— known as the Industrial City, where vehicles are maintained, with two missiles, which rendered 22 civilians dead and dozen others injured.

In this regard, Jamil al-Hassan, a media activist and an eyewitness who was near the raid's location, narrated the following to STJ:

“On the afternoon of that day, warplanes targeted the al-Hal marketplace and the Industrial City in Idlib. I rushed to the site of the attack— the flames were everywhere. I arrived moments before the Civil Defense teams. I saw charred corpses and a large number of wounded persons. However, the harshest sight was a number of civilians on whose bodies the flames were feeding while they tried to get their cars maintained in the Industrial City. Of the difficulties that the Civil Defense teams encountered was that they were afraid of another airstrike on the same place, in addition to the large number of people rendered dead or wounded.”



Photo no. (9) – the fires that broke out in the marketplace and the Industrial City in the city of Idlib, which were targeted by an air raid on January 15, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

Another witness, from the city of Idlib, told STJ that the raid aimed at the al-Hal Marketplace and the Sinaia Neighborhood, dubbed Industrial City. The airstrike resulted with massive destruction of homes and shops. He added that the incident triggered a state of fear and panic among the locals, coercing many of them to flee to more secure areas.

For his part, Jihad Mohammad, the director of the Civil Defense Center in the city of Idlib, reported that the Syrian Air Force's warplanes had carried out a two-missile-raid against the al-Hal Marketplace and the Industrial City, killing 22 people, including two children, and wounding more than 45 people, 19 children included, who got transported to hospitals in the province of Idlib. Continuing his account, he added:

“The Civil Defense teams immediately sped to the attack’s location and were able to recover several of the victim’s bodies, assist the injured and extinguish the fires that broke out in cars, motorcycles and residential buildings. It is worth noting that the Industrial City and the al-Hal Marketplace are considered of the places that get the most crowded in the city of Idlib.”



Photo no. (10) - The Civil Defense teams recovering the body of one of the victims in the wake of the airstrike on the Industrial City and al-Hal Marketplace in the city of Idlib. Photo credit: STJ.



Photo no. (11) – the destruction caused to the al-Hal marketplace in the city of Idlib, which was targeted by an air raid on January 15, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

A supervisor of one of the Warplanes Observatories in the province of Idlib told STJ that a Syrian Air Force-affiliated MiG-23 fighter jet kicked off from the [T-4 Airbase](#), Homs Province, at about 1:55pm, to enter the airspace of Idlib Province at 2:00 pm. It then carried out a raid, throwing two missiles at once.

A video, broadcast by a television channel, on January 15, 2020, showed the destruction and fires that broke out in the Industrial Area and al-Hal Marketplace in the city of Idlib, after both sites were hit on the same day.¹⁰

¹⁰ For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mINxStR8tI&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2CoqWau8-QZYd4vSvUtX5ixfMVhuemSXNQOtMviXv2X0MZnFi2QTQDHF0>.

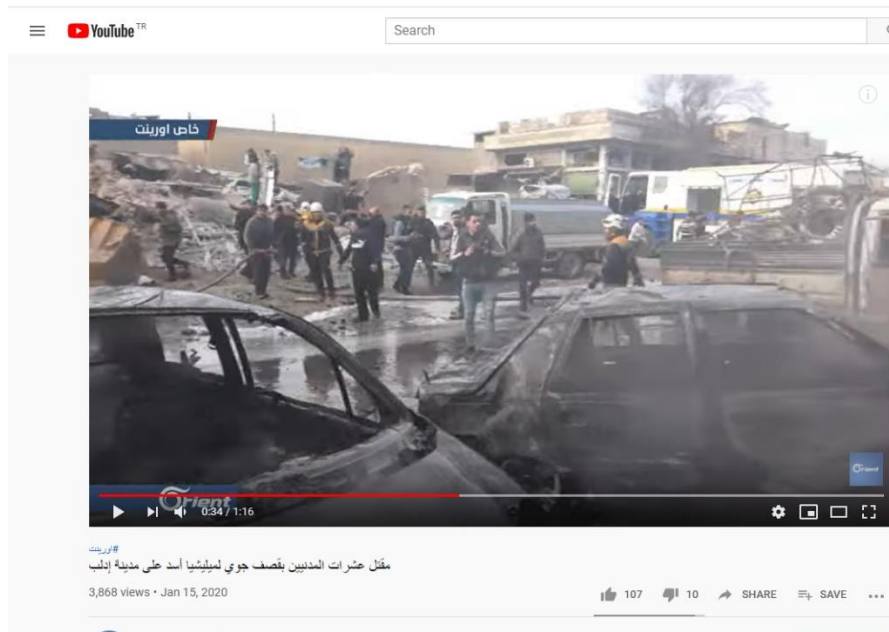


Photo No. (12) – Footage, taken from the [above-mentioned video](#), shows the destruction of the Industrial Area in Idlib City after it was air raided on January 15, 2020.

Another video, circulated by media activists on January 15, 2020, showed the onset of the airstrike on al-Hal Marketplace and the Industrial City in the city of Idlib on the same day.¹¹



Photo No. (13) – Footage- taken from the [above-mentioned video](#), showing the first moments of the airstrike on al-Hal Marketplace and the Industrial City in the city of Idlib on January 15, 2020.

¹¹ For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNbBYhIrAGA>.



Photo No. (14) - shows the extent of the destruction caused to the al-Hal Marketplace and the Industrial City in the city of Idlib, effected by the airstrike launched on January 15, 2020. Photo credit: Idlib Media Center.



Photo no. (15) – The two photos provide an analysis of the visual evidence of the airstrike that targeted the al-Hal Marketplace and the Industrial City in the city of Idlib.



Photo no. (16).



Photo no. (17).



Photo no. (18)- The three photos provide an analysis of the visual evidence of the airstrike that targeted the al-Hal Marketplace and the Industrial City in the city of Idlib.

STJ's female field researcher managed to document the names of the civilian casualties, rendered dead by the airstrike. They are:

1. Maher Shaikhouni, 23 yrs., from Idlib, married.
2. Iyad al-Shaikh Abdo, from rural Hama, married and has 3 children.
3. Samir Ahmad Sha'ar, 20 yrs., from Idlib City.
4. Abdul Karim Asa'ad Harmoush from Idlib City.
5. Mohammad Shadi al-Asa'ad, from Idlib City, is a civil defense volunteer.
6. Unidentified young man in his thirties.
7. Ali Mohammad al-Attrash.
8. Omar Na'aess from Idlib City.
9. Alaa el-Shaikh Hassan, 35 yrs., from Atarib City, married.
10. Omar Zaidan, 25 yrs., from Taftanaz Town.
11. Zakarya La'ala'a from Idlib City.
12. Ahmad al-Zain from Idlib City.
13. Farouk Afarah from Idlib City.
14. Abu al-Laith al-Halfawee, 45 yrs., displaced from Halfayah.
15. Aubida Ibrahim Qati.
16. Mohammad Shadi Nimeh from Idlib City.
17. Ahmad Mohammad Aswad from Idlib City.
18. Mustafa Ziad Hafssar Jawi from Idlib City.
19. Bakeer Jasim Bakeer, 36 yrs., from Idlib City.
20. Abdulqader Rajab from Idlib City.

2. Separate Airstrikes Take Toll on Civilians, Including Children, in Cities and Towns in Southern Rural Idlib:

In this section, STJ documents two separate attacks on the cities and towns of southern rural Idlib, those seated near the Damascus-Aleppo/M5 and Aleppo-Latakia/M4 international highways.

The first airstrike was launched on January 5, 2020, hitting two kindergartens and an elementary school in Ariha— the tow educational facilities are located within the borders of the marketplace of Ariha City. The second airstrike, however, took place on January 11, 2020, about 20 minute before an airstrike was aimed at a marketplace in the city of Binnish. The second airstrike affected the home of one of the displaced families in the town of al-Nayrab.

Both airstrikes rendered several civilians dead or wounded, including children and women, and have forced many families to seek safer areas.

a. Tow Kindergartens and a School Bombarded in Ariha City:

The city of Ariha is located in southern rural Idlib and is seated in a strategic location where the Aleppo-Latakia/M4 International Highway passes.¹² It is also the meeting point between Latakia, Aleppo, Idlib and Ma'arat al-Nu'man. The city is known for being a home for a large number of people displaced to it from the southern and eastern rural parts of Idlib.

Details of the Airstrike:

On January 5, 2020, at 1:00 pm, a (Sukhoi-Su 24), affiliated with the Syrian Air Force, launched an airstrike on Ariha, hitting it with six missiles at once. The attack affected two kindergartens and a school in the city's main marketplace. Due to this, 13 people, including four children and a woman, were killed, most of whom are displaced from the southern and eastern rural parts of Idlib.

Muhannad Imad al-Yamani, Ariha-based media activist, reported the following to STJ:

"On that afternoon, warplanes targeted the city of Ariha with a six-missile-raid, thrown at once. They hit Martyr Khalid Basheer Halabiya School and two kindergartens— al-Muslim al-Sagheer/Little Muslim and Baraem al-Islam/Buds of Islam, in addition to a mosque in the city's main marketplace. Having gone to the attack's site, I could see several dead and wounded people. There were fires as well, extending to many shops and cars. I remember seeing one mother looking for her child in a hysterical way, and imploring to the Civil Defense teams with eyes full of tears: 'Please, have you seen my son. He went to school in the morning and have

¹² The city is controlled by HTS.

not returned home yet.’ It is important to mention that the airstrike took place after the school-leaving hour, otherwise the number of victims would have been much greater.”



Photo no. (19).



Photo no. (20).



Photo no. (21)- The three photos show the destruction that befell the city of Ariha after it was targeted by an air raid on January 5, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

Providing STJ with an account of the incident, a relative of one of the victims rendered dead by the airstrike and who are originally displaced from the town of Ma'ar Shamareen said:

“We have escaped to the city of Ariha about a month ago, fleeing the bombing that targeted our area. We did not know that the bombing would chase us here. At noon that day, while we were sitting at home, the Warplane Observatory made an announcement that a fighter jet was hovering. Only a few moments later, we heard the sound of a deafening explosion. I ran out quickly to check on my uncle's house and was shocked when I saw his house turned into rubble. Omar passed away directly, so did my grandfather Mohammad Abdelmu'in al-Mustafa, my cousin Abdulmu'in Abdulrahman al-Mustafa and my cousin Ahmed Abdulmu'in al-Mustafa.”





Photos no. (22), (23) and (24) - show the bodies of the people rendered dead by the airstrike in Ariha City on January 5, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

The wife of Hamdo Abdulwahab al-Mustafa, one of the people who died on the airstrike's day, recounted the following to STJ:

"My husband was sitting outside with his uncle's family when the warplanes suddenly bombarded the city. I remember that I heard a fierce blast, so I rushed to check on my children, and then I went to the house of my husband's uncle. I was shocked, as his cousins gathered around him crying. I got closer and found that my husband had died after being hit by shrapnel that tore his body. None of his cousins were hurt, however. With my husband's death, my children and I are left no breadwinner or any source of support. We were thus forced to live in a very small room, insufficient to be called a house, on the outskirts of Sheikh Abdulrahman Village, southern rural Idlib."

For his part, a supervisor at one of the Warplane Observatories in the province of Idlib said that a (Sukhoi-Su 24) had taken off from the T-4 Airbase, Homs Province, at 12:45 pm sharp, after which it entered the airspace of the city of Ariha at 12:55 pm, where it carried out a six-missile-raid at 1:00 pm, hitting two kindergartens and an elementary school, located within the city's marketplace.

A video, circulated by media activists on January 5, 2020, showed the onset of the bombing of Ariha on the same day.¹³

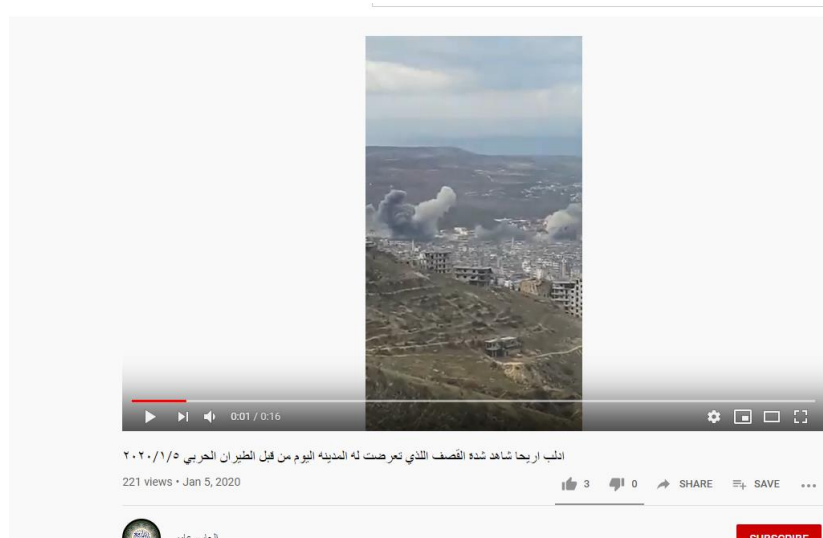


Photo no. (25) – Footage, taken from the [above-mentioned video](#), shows the first moments of the airstrike on the city of Ariha on January 5, 2020.

Another video, broadcasted by a television channel, showed the destruction that befell Ariha after it was targeted by an airstrike on January 5, 2020.¹⁴

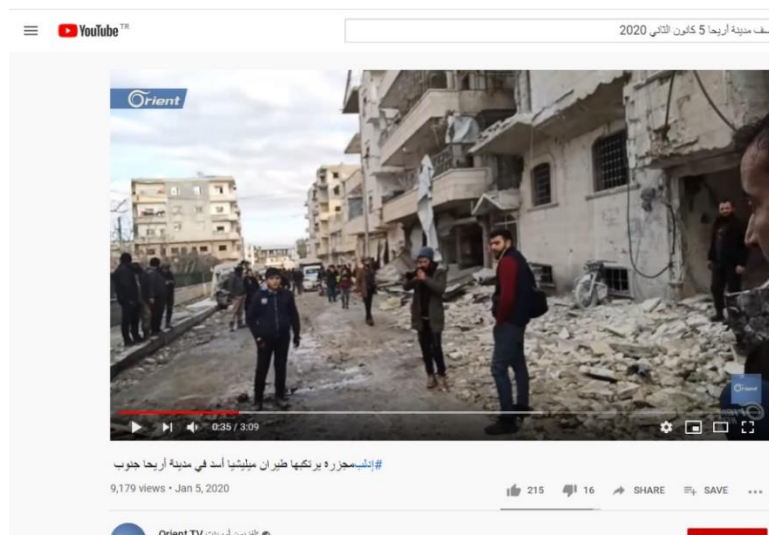


Photo no. (26) – Footage, taken from the [above-mentioned video](#), shows the destruction in the city of Ariha in the aftermath of the airstrike on January 5, 2020.

¹³ For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx8gO8egHoA>.

¹⁴ For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4xJZL1Q70>.



Photo no. (27).



Photo no. (28).



Photo no. (29).



Photo no. (30) – The four photos offer an analysis of the visual evidence of the airstrike on the city of Ariha on January 5, 2020.

STJ's female field researcher managed to document the names of the civilian casualties, rendered dead by the airstrike. They are:

1. Ahmad Mohamed Abdelmu'in al-Mustafa, 10 yrs. boy, from the town of Ma'ar Shamareen.



Photo no. (31) – The dead boy Ahmad Abdelmu'in Mustafa. Photo credit: A relative of the child.

2. Little boy Abdulah Yasser al-Bayour from Ma'arat al-Nu'man.
3. Najeeb Samer Bizmawi, 17 yrs., from Ariha.
4. Adnan Ahmad Ajan, 12 yrs., from Ariha.
5. Lina Mustafa al-Mustafa, 18 yrs., from Ariha.
6. Hamoud Abdulwahab al-Mustafa, 54 yrs., from Ma'ar Shamareen, married and a father of five.



Photo no. (32) – The victim AbdelMu'in al-Mustafa before his death – Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

7. Mohammad Abdelmu'in al-Mustafa, 41 yrs., from the town of Ma'ar Shamareen, married and a father of ten.



Photo no. (33) – The victim Mohammad Abdelmu'in al-Mustafa before his death. Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

8. Ahmad Adnan Ajan, 30 yrs., from Ariha, married and a father.
9. Mohammad Malik Maddi, 22 yrs., from Ariha.
10. Mustafa Abdo Karoum, 45 yrs., from Ariha, married.
11. Abduljabar al-Othman, 19 yrs., from the Dar al-Kabirah Town-Ma'arat al-Nu'man.
12. Mustafa Ahmad al-Mustafa, 41 yrs., from Ariha, married and a father of six.

b. Airstrike Renders Displaced Family Dead in al-Nayrab Town:

The town of al-Nayrab is located in southern rural Idlib, near the Latakia-Aleppo/M4 International Highway and has a population of about 17,000 people,¹⁵ including those displaced from northwestern rural Hama and the southern and eastern rural parts of Idlib.

¹⁵ The Syrian regular army took over the town on February 4, 2020.

Details of the Airstrike:

On January 11, 2020, at 12:00 pm, the residential neighborhoods in the town of al-Nayrab were subjected to bombing by the Syrian Air Force-affiliated (MiG-21) warplanes. The raid targeted the home of a family displaced from northern rural Hama, which put to death six civilians and wounded nine others. The raid also terrorized the civilians, coercing them to abandon the town towards the northern borders.

A relative of one of the victims, recounted the following to STJ:

“On the afternoon that day, while my family and I were about to have breakfast, the sound of a massive explosion reached our ears. We rushed inside the house to hide and stayed there for about a quarter of an hour. I then learned that the bombing hit my cousin’s house, so I run there and saw the Civil Defense teams trying to pull out those trapped under the rubble. The injured were taken to hospitals in Bab al-Hawa area, while every member of my uncle’s family was dead, including, Abdullah al-Yassin, 35, a pistachio trader, Mohammad Mustafa al-Yassin, 3, Adnan al-Yassin, 60, and Ahmad al-Yassin, 24.”



Photo no. (34) - the onset of the bombing on the town of al-Nayrab on January 11, 2020. Photo credit: STJ.

In turn, a volunteer of the Civil Defense in the town of al-Nayrab said that the warplanes of the Syrian Air Force targeted the town with three airstrikes, which hit three neighborhoods causing great material damage and casualties, in addition to the displacement of many residents to safer area. He added:

“We headed to the attack’s site as soon as it occurred. There, a state of fear and panic have taken hold of people. The Civil Defense teams continued to work for about five hours, as they inspected the location. Six civilians, including two children, were dead while nine others were injured. At 2:00 pm on the same day, warplanes targeted the town with a new raid, which resulted in the injury of three other civilians, a man, a woman, and a child. The day bore witness to violent airstrikes in the towns of Sarmin, Idlib, Binnish and Taftanaz.”

A supervisors of a Warplane Observatory in the province of Idlib told STJ that MiG-21 fighter jets had taken off from the Hama Airbase at 11:53 am. They then entered the airspace of the province and carried out a raid which targeted the town of al-Nayrab at 11:58 am sharp. He added that three raids were aimed at the town’s residential neighborhoods, which affected the home of one of the displaced families residing in the town.

A video, published by the Syrian Civil Defense on January 11, 2020, showed some of the damage inflicted upon a displaced family’s house in the town of al-Nayrab, caused by the airstrike on the same day.¹⁶

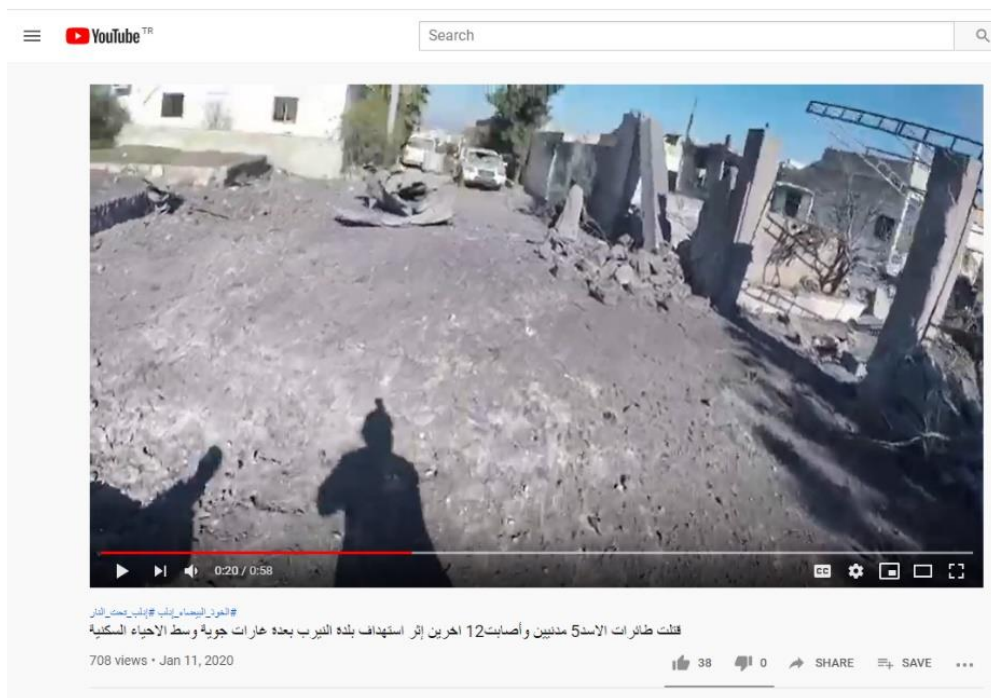


Photo no. (35) – Footage, taken from the [above-mentioned video](#), shows the destruction caused by an airstrike to a displaced family’s house in the town of al-Nayrab on January 11, 2020.

¹⁶ For further details, refer to the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxWE5dIoPsl>.



Photo no. (36).



Photo no. (37).



Photo no. (38) – The photos offer an analysis of the visual evidence of the airstrike that targeted the town of al-Nayrab on January 11, 2020.

STJ's female researcher managed to document the names of civilians who died on the airstrike's day. They are:

1. Little boy Mohammad Mustafa al-Yassin, 3 yrs., displaced from Attshan Village.



Photo no. (39) – The little boy Mohammad Mustafa al-Yassin before his death. Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

2. The little girl Aya al-Khalil, displaced from Qminass Village.
3. Abdullah al-Yassin, 35 yrs., displaced from Attshan Village, northern rural Hama. He used to work as a pistachio merchant, married and a father of a 6-year-old girl.



Photo no. (40) – The victim Adnan al-Yassin before his death. Photo credit: A relative of the victim.



Photo no. (41) – the victim Adnan al-Yassin. Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

4. Ahmad al-Yassin, 24 yrs., displaced from Attshan Village.

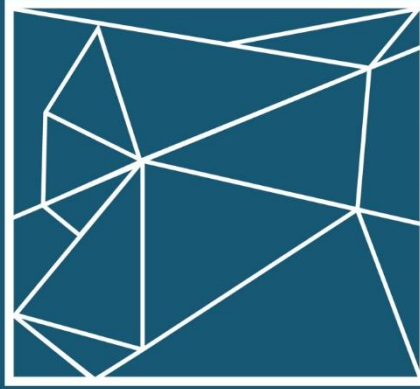


Photo no. (42) – The victim Ahmad al-Yassin before his death. Photo credit: A relative of the victim.

5. A women belonging to al-Sayah family, 40 yrs., married and displaced from the area of Abu al-Duhur Area.

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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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