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Airstrikes on Al-Sharaf Fort Al- Mhabisha – Hajja Governorate

26 June 2015





Details :

Al- Mhabisha district located in the north of Hajja province. A direct attack was launched on multiple places in this district, causing many civilian deaths and injuries and widespread destruction of civilian properties and many protected objects.

On Friday 26 June 2015, the Saudi-led coalitions warplanes targeted Al-Mhabisha city as the civilians were getting out of mosques after performing Friday Prayer. The targeted places were a historical castle "Al- Sharaf Fort", a mosque " Abo Quba", Al-Ameen School, near the historical castle, and many civilians' houses.

The first attack was launched on a mosque known as "Abo Quba", about 50m away from "Al-Sharaf Fort ". This mosque was built before 800 years. Unfortunately, this historical value had been reduced to shattered pieces of stones.

Al-Ameen School, only a small area separates the school from AL-Sharaf Fort, consists of two wings, one to the east and the other to the north. The missile was dropped on the north wing of the school, resulted in destroying both wings.

Al-Sharaf Fort, a historical castle, a missile hit the middle of this historical castle, causing complete destruction to one of its sides. Some guards of this

historical castle were buried under the rubble. The Saudi warplanes targeted the rescuers too, resulting in civilian causalities.

Near Al- Sharaf Fort were many houses, among these houses was the house of hiaf Abd Allah Lutif Allah ,38, who said: "The first missile was dropped near our house. The explosion was





Al- Sharaf fort

strong enough to destroy our house on our heads. My son Mohamed ,7, was severely wounded in his head and suffered some fractions to several parts of his body. My wife Thabtah Ali ,33,suffered some injuries to her hands and head. Also, my sons Ahmed and Mohamed were taken to the hospital with injuries to several parts of their bodies. They are still receiving



medical treatment in the hospital ".

The Saudi warplanes targeted a farm to which many civilians had been fled their houses for fear of being targeted. Many of them were killed or injured, among the killed victims was a child "Osamh Zaid Al-Mhabshi".

Legal Center met Osamh's father Zaid Ahmed Al Mahbashi -35-year- old who told us how his son got injured.

" After performing the Friday prayer, we saw the Saudi warplanes as they were targeting Al-Jard Mosque "Abu Quba". Anthor attack was launched on Al-Ameen School and the historical castle "Al-Sharaf Fort". People rushed to the scene, searching for survivors. The Saudi warplanes targeted them as they were trying to rescue the survivors. I rushed to my house with Osamh to move my family to a farm which belongs to one of my relatives. Some

relatives were already there for the same purpose. We heard a sound of a terrifying explosion at the end of the farm. Osamh was wounded by flying shrapnel which took a big part of his skull, he swooned immediately. My wife was also hit by shrapnel in her brain which caused her the loss of the speech ability and a concussion. Many women and



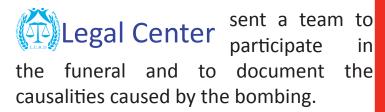
Osamh Zaid Al-Mahabshi receiving medical treatment in Al-Thawra Hospital

children were wounded. We rushed the injured to a hospital but my son was transferred to Al- Thawra Hospital due to his critical condition. In our way to Sana'a, the ambulance broke down because of an explosive thing which exploded at the rear of the car. I think it was an explosive device placed by a terrorist. One of the crew was injured. I took another car to get my son to Al-Thawra Hospital. Upon my arrival, my son was taken to Intensive Care Unit. After three days, he died, I took him back to our village " Al- Mhabisha" to be buried there"1.

Legal Center in Al-Thawra Hospital until he died. Legal Center interviewed a doctor in Al-Thawra Hospital who confirmed us that the patient's situation was hopeless from the beginning because he lost a big

⁽¹⁾ An interview with Zaid Ahmed Al-Mahbashi, 27 June 2015.

part of his brain.



Legal center's team had visited Al-Mhabisha Hospital and obtained the names list of the killed and injured victims.

- Through Legal Center's interviews with victims and witnesses besides the official testimonies, we confirms that this violation amounts to a war crime.
- All residents and relatives were wondering about the reason for targeting civilians and mosques and historical places by Saudi Arabia which had not been used for military purposes.

This bombing resulted in 4 civilian deaths including a child; 17 civilian injuries, among them 6 children and 5 women and caused damage to many houses near the targeted places.

This wasn't the first time that the Saudi-led coalition targets historical places. Legal Center documented many similar massacres in which many civilians were either killed or injured. A good example of this is the targeting of the old city of Sana'a on 12 June 2015. In this attack, an unexploded missile, launched by the Saudi warplanes, destroyed 4 houses and killed 5 civilians, including a woman and a child. On 5 /5/2015 just one month before the targeting of old Sana'a City, the Saudi warplanes targeted the historical city "Zbeed" resulting in civilian deaths and injuries and destroying a historical mosque and many historical houses. These violations is categorized as war crimes⁽²⁾.

^{(2) (}a) movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites; groups of buildings which, as a whole, are of historical or artistic interest; works of art; manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest; as well as scientific collections and important collections of books or archives or of reproductions of the property defined above; (b) buildings whose main and effective purpose is to preserve or exhibit the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a) such as museums, large libraries and depositories of archives, and refuges intended to shelter, in the event of armed conflict, the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a); (c) centers containing a large amount of cultural property as defined in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b), to be known as `centers containing monuments'.

Geneva convention Art 53. "Without prejudice to the provisions of the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 14 May 1954, and of other relevant international instruments, it is prohibited: (a) to commit any acts of hostility directed against the historic monuments, works of art or places of worship which constitute the cultural or spiritual heritage of peoples.

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- Annex(1) Names and Identifying Information of Killed Victims
- Annex(2) Names and Identifying Information of Injured Victims.
- Annex (3) List Contains the Destroyed and Damaged Houses and Facilities

Annex(1) Names and Identifying Information of Killed Victims

NO	Name	Gender	Age	District	Location
1	Osamh zaid Al Mahbashi	Male	4	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
2	Ali Yahiya Hussein Al Mamri	Male	40	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
3	Taha Mohamed Abdu Al Mohatori	Male	24	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
4	Mansour Mohamed Abdu Al Mohatori	Male	25	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort



Osamh Al-Mahbashi



Osamh Zaid Al-Mahbashi when he was in the intensive care unit in Al Thawra Hospital Sana'a.



Annex(2) Names and Identifying Information of Injured Victims.

	Name	Gender	age	Region	Location
1	Elham Hussein Al Mahbashi	Female	30	ahsibahM -lA	Al-Sharaf Fort
2	Nasim Ahmed Mohamed Al Mhbashi	Female	12(child)	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
3	Mohamed Ibrahim Ali Al Mahbashi	Mal	20	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
4	Ahmed Zagir Al Mahbashi	Male	60	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
5	Bushra Yahiya Ahmed Al Mahbashi	Female	30	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
6	Abdelmalik Sharaf Ahmed Al Mahbashi	Male	9	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
7	Hamid Mansour Ahmed Al Mahbashi	Male	25	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
8	Bushra Abdulrahman Al-Hadi	Female	17	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
9	Abdulbaqi Ismail Al-Hadi	Male	25	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
10	Amt Alrahman Ismail Al-Hadi	Female	20	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
11	Thabtah Ali Hussein Haba	Female	33	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
12	Mohamed Haiaf Latuf Allah Haba	Male	7	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
13	Ahmed Haiaf Latuf Allah haba	Male	3	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
14	Ali Yahiya Alkhalid	Male	30	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
15	Amira Abas Alkhalid	Female	35	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
16	Ali Hussin Almohatori	Male	7	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort
17	Mohamed Hussein Alshmiri	Mal	20	Al- Mhabisha	Al-Sharaf Fort







Annex (3) List Contains the Destroyed and Damaged Houses and Facilities

	Owner/ Facility	Туре	Level of Destruction	
1	AL Sharaf Fort	Historical castle	Completely destroyed	
2	Al-Ameen School	Educational facility	Almost completely destroyed	
3	Abo Quba	Mosque	Completely destroyed	
4	School for learning Quran	Educational Facility	Almost completely destroyed	
5	Farm	Farm	Partially destroyed	
6	Hiaf Abd Allah Lutif Allah	House	Severely damaged	
7	Seven houses of civilians	Houses		









Done By: Legal Center for Rights and Development 2015