

# The Forced Displacement of Civilians from Al-Wa'ar Neighborhood in Homs City

A special Bulletin

Issue No. 1 23/3/2017

2011 - 2012

Al-Wa'ar Neighborhood was one of the first neighborhoods in Homs city to revolted against the Syrian regime. It witnessed peaceful demonstrations and was one of the relatively safe neighborhoods. Therefore, a large number of civilians moved there from the other neighborhoods of Homs, which were suffering from precarious security conditions.

2013

The Syrian regime imposed a partial blockade on Al-Wa'ar Neighborhood and started to target the neighborhood with different types of weapons. Then, the regime began to tighten the blockade and prevent civilians, except for students, teachers, and government employees, from entering or leaving the city. Sometimes, the regime allowed the Red Crescent, or some traders, to get food and relief into the neighborhood. There were also some truces between the opposition forces in the neighborhood and the regime, but the regime used to breach the truces, which did not last long.

The End of 2015



A truce was signed, in which **750 civilians** and armed opposition members left the neighborhood.

9/10/2016

a total blockade was imposed on Al-Wa'ar neighborhood

7/2/2017 - 7/3/2017

the fiercest military campaign on Al-Wa'ar neighborhood was launched.

The regime launched a barbarous campaign on the besieged neighborhood, where the regime used warplanes, rockets, and tanks. The regime and loyalist militias robbed an aid convoy for the neighborhood and prevented it from entering the neighborhood.

13/3/2017

an agreement for leaving Al-Wa'ar neighborhood was reached.

Due to the fierce military campaign and the difficult humanitarian and medical situation of about thirty-five thousand besieged people, the negotiating committee was forced to sign an agreement with regime under the sponsorship of the Russians, represented by the commander of the Hmeimim military base. This agreement included a ceasefire and the departure of all civilians and members of the armed opposition who are unwilling to stay in the neighborhood. They will leave in weekly waves within two months. The number of individuals who want to leave the neighborhood is estimated at 25 thousand while 10 thousand inhabitants, most of whom are senior citizens, government employees, and students, would like to remain in the neighborhood. It is worth mentioning that civilians who stay run the risk of being arrested, drafted to the army, or subjected to retaliatory measures by the Syrian regime forces or loyalist militias.

## Displacement destinations

Three points were designated for the displaced citizens to choose from:

The northern countryside of Homs

Idleb Governorate

Jarablus in the northern countryside of Aleppo

14/3/2017

, preparations for the departure of the first wave of displaced citizens started.

A committee from the civil authority opened three centers in Al-Wa'ar neighborhood to register civilians wishing to leave the neighborhood. Armed factions also registered their members, estimated at three thousand fighters who will be allowed to take personal weapons with them.

16/3/2017

Five thousand families were registered before the registration was temporarily suspended.

17/3/2017

Civilians began preparations to leave the neighborhood. Lists of civilians and members of the armed opposition were put forward, giving priority to the wounded and the sick in the first wave. Special identification cards were handed to about **1500 people**, including about 400 fighters, who will leave on about forty buses.

18/3/2017

Details of The Displacement

Total Number of Displaced

1354



519 412 423

The first wave of Al-Wa'ar inhabitants left on Saturday 18-03-2017 and headed towards Jarablus, accompanied by Syrian Red Crescent staff. It consisted of 1354 individuals constituting **306 families**. Russian soldiers monitored the displacement process at the checkpoint. The convoy was forced to follow a long path as follows: Homs, As-Salamiyeh, Khanaser, As-Safira, Kara Kozak bridge (10 km to the east of Aleppo), and then Tadaf Granaries. It is worth mentioning that the convoys were forced to pass through this very dangerous path, which was not used after its liberation from ISIL forces, which are notorious for booby-trapping areas before withdrawing from them.

The displacement journey lasted **40 hours**, in which the IDPs, including the wounded, women, children, and patients suffered from exhaustion due to the long journey and the strenuous road. Many of the wounded and the sickly were transferred to hospitals in A'zaz.

19/3/2017

Arriving at Jarablus

After the arduous journey, the IDPs arrived at the camp that consisted of **230 tents** between the villages of Al-Amarnah and Ein Al-Bayda within the Jarablus power plant. The camp was furnished by the Turkish Red Crescent and AFAD. The wounded and the sickly were transferred to hospitals and the Syrian Immunization Group (SIG), in cooperation with the ACU vaccinated all the children arriving in Jarablus from Al-Wa'ar below the age of 5.

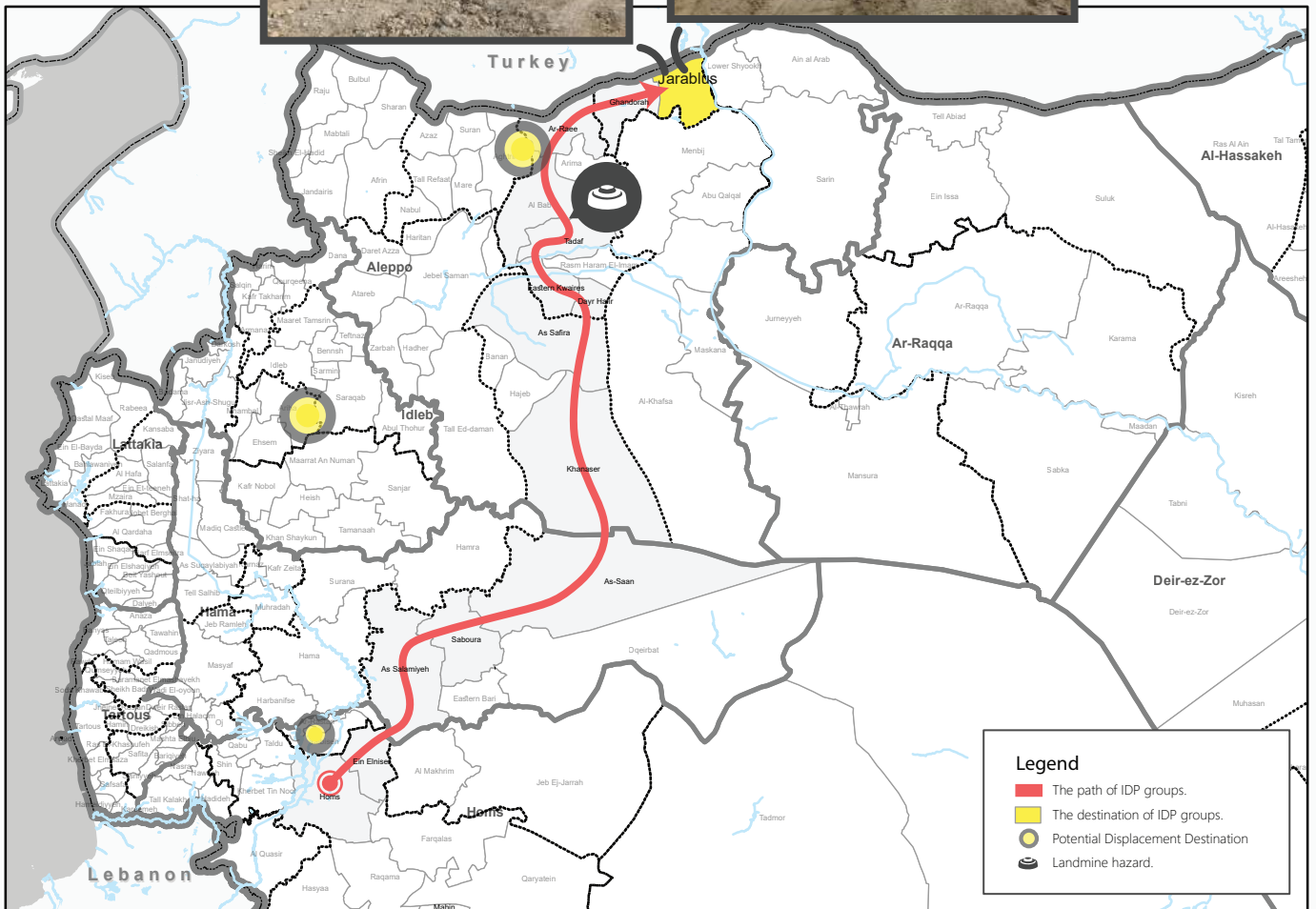
## The Upcoming Displacement Waves

The second wave of IDPs is expected to leave Al-Waer Neighborhood on **25-03-2017**. At the time of writing this report, their names and or destinations were not identified. They are to leave in weekly waves until everyone who refuses a settlement with the Regime will have left.



Map

The Path of the Displacement Convoys from Al-Wa'ar, Homs.



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