



A Report on the Massacre of Mills' Battle

Bread Immersed in Blood

**Dozens of civilians and rebels fell martyrs for their
daily bread**

Damascus Suburbs, Eastern Gota

Violation Documentation Centre in Syria

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Introduction:

The towns and districts of The Eastern Gota have been under a strongly imposed siege for over a year, which led to greatly deteriorated humanitarian conditions, especially those concerning procuring and providing relief supplies. The regime- through this siege- aimed at punishing the locals collectively by depriving them from all the simple means of living.

This siege has prevented any foodstuffs, especially flour, been taken in for more than four months now, added to that the pre-existing shortage of other foodstuffs and the absence of many basic requirements such as water, electricity or fuels.

The Mills' Battle, Airport Highway, Damascus Suburbs:

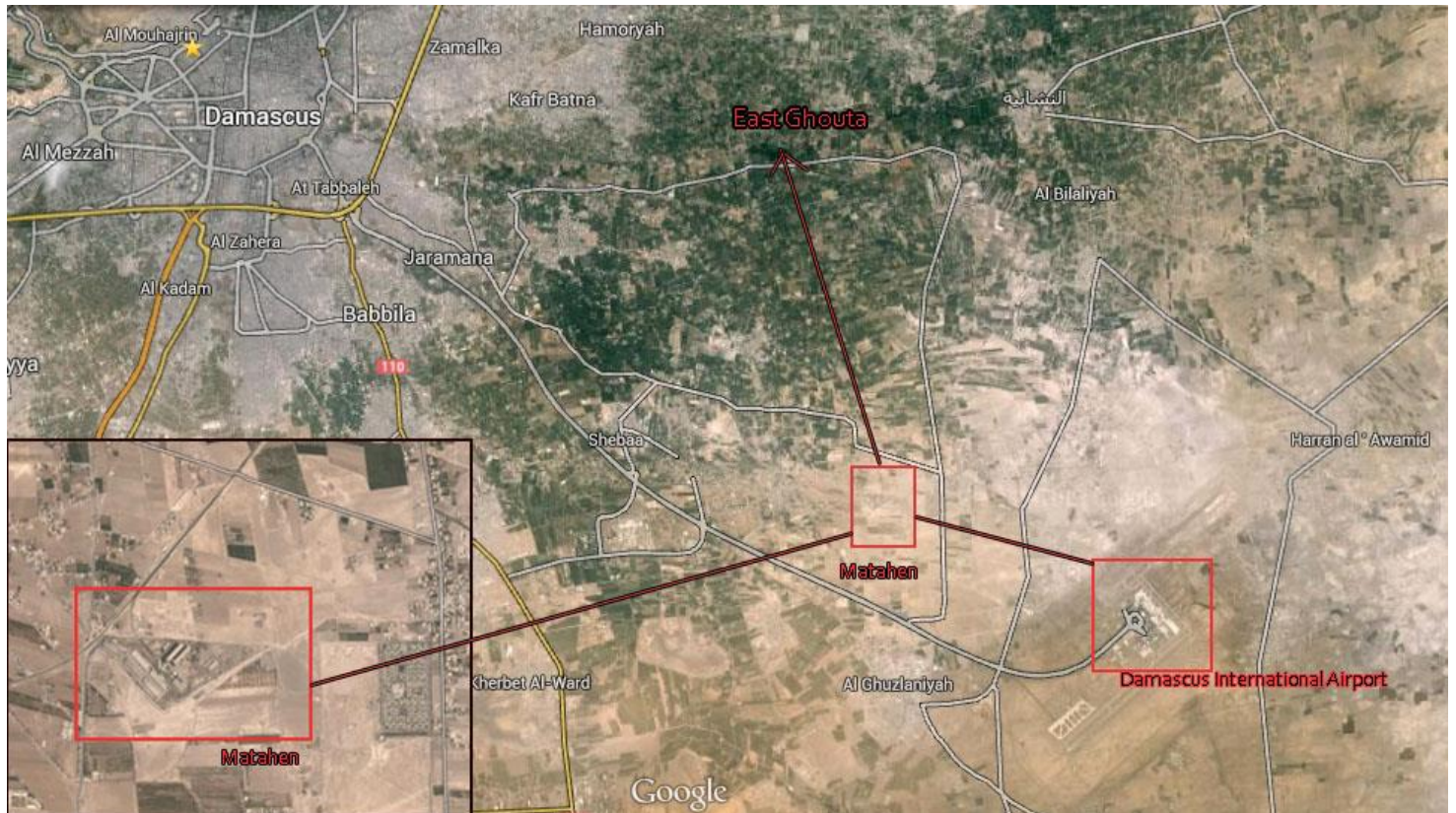
The Mills' area, near (Al Gezlaneah District) on Damascus International Airport Highway, has been the target of hundreds of **FSA** members who started, on the **28th of July 2013**, a qualitative military operation that aimed at: liberating the area firstly, and having a free access to the flour stock secondly , in an endeavor to provide flour for hundreds of thousands of civilians of the liberated Gota.

The **FSA** has, indeed, reigned over and liberated the whole area after the regime forces withdrew from the aforementioned place. Few hours later, tens of Al Gota civilians headed towards the place after hearing of the possession of the mills that contain tons of flour, which they were deprived of for months, which consequently deprived them of bread, the most essential food for the Syrians.

Then some news came about the Syrian regime committing a horrific massacre that claimed the lives of dozens, mostly of the civilians who had come by their cars to take their need of flour. Moreover, tens of the **FSA's** armed men were killed following the bombardment of the area by the regime forces that opened fire at the locals. One day later, in the early morning of the **30th July 2013**, the same area was shelled by five highly destructive Surface-to-Surface missiles, which forced the **FSA** to withdraw from the area of mills and hide in the surroundings. However, the area is still one of an ongoing fighting and the battles are the severest there.



A photo taken by satellites showing the important geo-military location of the Mills area that has been targeted by the members of the **FSA**:



The **Violation Documentation Center in Syria** has interviewed one of the eyewitnesses. He is the activist **Majd Al Deik**, an inhabitant of Eastern Gota, who witnessed the massacre carried out by the regime.

Following is his testimony:

On the 29th July 2013, about 5:30 pm, we were at the Mills area to help transferring flour to the civilians of Eastern Gota, which has been besieged for months, as the FSA could have access to the mills, and we started moving the flour while the battles were still going on.



At the main entrance of the mills, on the railway road, which is a small narrow bypath where no more than a small car can pass, almost **17** private "Suzuki" cars, each carrying two or three men, arrived to move the flour. Things couldn't stay under control, and none could stop the civilians enter the area due to their dire need for flour, which they had been deprived of for months. Suddenly, the regime forces, situated only a few meters away, opened fire at the entrance. I was right there and witnessed how the 17 cars caught fire and how all the civilians, estimated by more than **50**, died, burned out or got injured. As the area there is still surrounded by the regime forces, many of the martyrs and injured couldn't be brought out or even identified. I also saw a young man from (Saqba) who was hit by a shell and thus was beheaded in front of us.

Till now, neither the death toll nor the total casualties of both civilians and **FSA** members inside and outside the mills could be known, as those who sustained injury were sometimes being put aside on the flour sacks, waiting for any small ambulance to come and carry them together with the martyrs and the flour. Besides, remains of martyrs are still lying on the floor there till now.

It has been said that the rebels and the civilians could only move out **5%** of the flour and that a huge part of their load was interrupted-while taking it to Al Gota- by civilians who had been in the streets asking the rebels for it.

End of testimony.

The Martyrs

28 martyrs of the massacre have been documented by names, while the rest of the bodies couldn't be identified or numbered exactly because many of them have either been fully burned or have become scattered pieces. Additionally, the area where the bodies are is still being targeted by the regime's snipers and machineguns. To view lists of martyrs, please visit the following link:

<http://goo.gl/x4XT3S>



Following are the names of some martyrs who have been identified:

Zebdein Town

1–Haitham Al Hashash, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89289>

2-Khaled Joma'a, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89290>

3–Muhammad Al Haffar, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89291>

4–Mustafa Karam, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89292>

Deir Al Asafeer Town

1–Adham Khattab, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89335>

2–Muhammad Kheir Sameer, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89336>

3–Solomon Solomon, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89337>

Hateetet Al terkman

1–Salah Batieh, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89338>

2-Haitham Nasr, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89343>



4–Saed Al Khateeb, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89341>

5–Khaled Yaseen, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89339>

6–Ra'ed Tayjon, martyr

<http://www.vdc-sy.info/index.php/ar/details/martyrs/89340>

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