

## The Syrian Regime's Cluster Munitions Attacks in 2014

The Syrian regime used cluster munition 83 times at least in 2014

Period of time covered by the report:  
from 25 January 2014 to 21 September 2014





## This report includes

First: Executive Summary

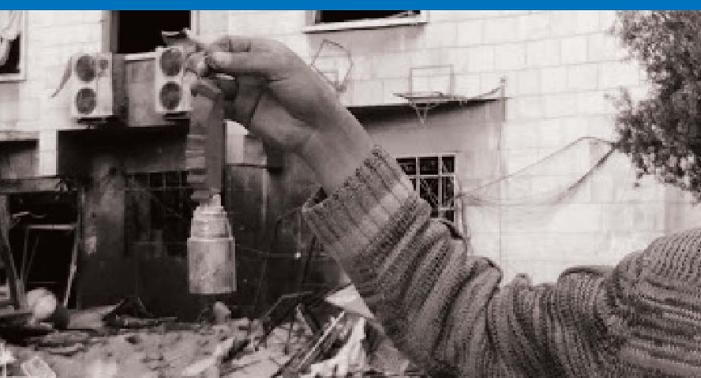
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## Executive Summary

On Saturday, 16 August 2014, the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor for 2014 published a report about the use of cluster munitions in the world. In regard to Syria, The report relied mainly on coordinating and cooperating between the Monitor and the reports published by SNHR. The .period covered by that report was from the beginning of 2014 until 4 April 2014

The [report](#) of our dear fellows in the Monitor showed that the number of victims killed by the Syrian regime is much more than the number of victims killed by Israel's heavy use of cluster munition in 2006.t

SNHR documents and updates periodically the Syrian regime's use of cluster munitions across Syria. The Syrian regime have used cluster munition in 2014 far more times than the previous years. 2014 is the worst year concerning the use of cluster munition since 2009.

We have documented in previous reports the Syrian regime's use of cluster munitions in each of:

[Yabrud in Damascus countryside on 13 March 2014](#)

Then we published another report about [the extensive use of cluster munitions in the northern countryside of Hama on 26 March 2014](#)

And a third report about [the use of cluster munition in Aleppo city on 4 April 2014](#). SNHR affirmed the necessity to destroy the Syrian regime's cluster munitions as well as destroying its internationally-prohibited chemical weapons.

In 2014, SNHR documented no less than 83 attacks that were carried out using cluster munitions from the day of the first attack was on 25 January 2014 to 21 September 2014. Those attacks killed directly no less than 49 people, including only one rebel only, 47 civilians, 16 children and four women. Also, 250 injuries were caused by cluster munitions. While the remnants of those munitions caused the death of 15 people, half of them were children (seven children in addition to three women). In total, 64 people, including 30 children and women; thus 50% of the victims, who were killed by cluster munitions, are women and children and 98% are civilians.

## Distribution of attacks by governorates

### *Aleppo governorate:*

the Syrian regime used cluster munitions in no less than 34 attacks to target about 23 points. On one day, Tuesday 18 March, the Syrian regime used cluster munitions against four civilian neighborhoods: Sheikh Fares, Sheikh Khader, Boa'ydeen, and Bustan al-Basha. Those attacks killed 22 people including 21 civilians, six children, and a rebel.

### *Hama governorate:*

the Syrian regime used cluster munitions no less than 18 times, most of which targeted Kafarzita city (11 attacks). 16 people including eight children and two women were killed in these attacks.

### *Idlib governorate:*

the Syrian regime used cluster munitions no less than 11 times to kill seven victims including one child and woman.

### *Daraa governorate:*

the Syrian regime used cluster munitions no less than nine times to kill two victims including one girl.

### *Damascus countryside:*

the Syrian regime used cluster munitions no less than five times, three of those attack were against Yabroud. One victims were killed.

### *Homs governorate:*

the Syrian regime used cluster munitions no less than three times, two in Rasatn city and the third in al-Wazaye'ah village.

### *Qunaytrah governorate:*

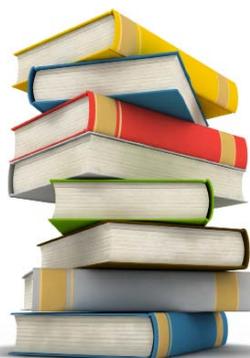
the Syrian regime used cluster munitions once in Swaysa village.

*Fadel Abdulghany, head of SNHR, says:*

*“Cluster munitions are considered as indiscriminate weapon. The Syrian regime continues to violate the international law relying on the semi-nonexistent reaction of the international community. However, it is increasingly targeting residential neighborhood using cluster munitions which represents a threat to the community that will last for years.”*

## Methodology

The security situation and the huge difficulties that face SNHR team make documenting all the attacks a very hard objective. Thus, the number of attacks that is mentioned in this report is the minimum. We are sure that there are many undocumented cases as we excluded many cases where we failed to obtain credible informations and we mentioned some alleged incidents for which we were not able to collect enough evidences. Investigations are still ongoing regarding those incidents.



This report includes 32 testimonies of victims’ parents, eyewitnesses, and activists. Also, we have verified no less than 20 video footages that we obtained from residents, local activists and cooperating cameramen, who, thankfully, were a great help to us. These videos confirms the stories of witnesses whose were changed for security reasons.

## Details

### Aleppo governorate

SNHR documented that the Syrian regime targeted Aleppo governorate no less than 34 times. The Syrian regime targeted about 23 points and killed 20 people including 19 civilian and one rebel, six children. In addition, we documented no less than 135 injuries.

#### First incident: shelling Atareb city and Masqan village in Aleppo countryside on Sunday, 13 April

Atareb city is located to the west of Aleppo city. Warplanes affiliated to the Syrian regime shelled the vegetables market in Atareb and parts of Masqan village in Aleppo countryside with three rockets carrying cluster munitions.

Thafer Halaby, resident of Atareb, talked to SNHR about the incident:

“At about 5 am I heard an explosion coming from the vegetables market in the middle of Atareb. I went there. There were tens of small bombs left. Thanks Allah there were no victims or injuries directly after the airstrikes. Remnants spread across the market area. Then, a squad from FSA brigades came and started dismantling the remnants”.

SNHR contacted Mr. Abd al-Ilah Barade', resident of Masqan village:

"At about 2 pm on Sunday, I was in of Masqan village, which is close to Aleppo-Turkey international road in the northern countryside of Aleppo. I heard a plane voice followed by an explosion. The bomb dropped by the plane exploded in the sky and left tens of small bombs in the surrounding farms. Shelling didn't cause any deaths or injuries".

### **Second incident: shelling Kafarhamra village on Saturday, Sunday, and then Saturday, 12, 20, and 26 April:**

Kafarhamra village is a village in Sama'an mount in the Northern West of Aleppo governorate. Warplanes shelled Kafarhamra with a rocket carrying cluster munitions on Saturday, 12 April. On Sunday, 20 April. Syrian regime forces targeted the village school again with average-range mortar carrying more than 30 cluster bombs. After six days, on 26 April, warplanes dropped a container carrying cluster munitions as told by residents. No victims were recorded.

### **Third incident: shelling Darat Izze city in Aleppo on Tuesday, 22 April:**

Darat Izze city is located in the western countryside of Aleppo city. Warplanes shelled Darat Izze city in the western countryside by cluster munitions twice repeatedly targeting the streets of the western neighborhood and the middle of the city. The shelling caused one death and no less than 30 injuries.

Mr. Ibrahim H. gave SNHR his testimony:

"At about 3 pm I was in the middle of the town when the warplanes began shelling the streets of the western countryside and middle of the city.

We were hearing the cluster remnants exploding as small sequent explosions, and about ten minutes after, warplanes came back and dropped tens of cluster bombs.

A person died immediately by one of the cluster bombs in front of his house and more than 30 people were injured, including 15 children, we began helping them when the warplanes left."

A video footage shows [the death of a person by cluster munitions and other injuries including a child](#)

### **Fourth incident: shelling Mare' city in Aleppo countryside on Friday and Sunday, 2 and 11 May 2014, and on Sunday, 13 April 2014:**

Mare' city is located 35 km at the north of Aleppo city. On Sunday, 13 April, warplanes dropped a container carrying cluster munitions spread in farms east of Mare'. No victims or injuries were recorded until now.

SNHR talked to Mr. Marwan, resident of Mare', about the incident:

"Sunday at noon, I heard sequent explosions after cluster munitions were dropped by a warplane near the road connecting Mare' with Howar an-Nahr village. I went there and saw the holes caused by the shelling. Remnants scattered everywhere in the surrounding farms. No victims or injuries were recorded but the remnants terrify us. Some of the rebels brigades came to the shelling place to collect the remnants and disarm it."

On Friday, 2 May 2014, warplanes targeted the northern farms of Mare' and the road going to Tlaleen town at the northern entrance of Mare' with two cluster bombs/

We documented five deaths and no less than 23 injuries.

SNHR talked to Mr. Nasser. H., resident of Mare' and an eyewitness to the shelling, about the incident: "At about 5 pm, a warplane dropped a cluster bomb on the farms north of Mare' city. The cluster bomb exploded 300 M before it reached the ground and spread tens of small cluster bombs in the farms, causing three injuries at least. After about quarter an hour, the warplane dropped another cluster bomb near the first place on the general road at the northern entrance of Mare' "the road going to Tlaleen town". We saw the explosion of the bomb in the air and the spreading of the small munitions which tens of ex-

ploded upon touching the ground to kill one man immediately ,Ahmad Al-Hamada from Tal Jibreen in addition to other 20 injuries which have been taken to Mare' field-hospital. Three of them died on the next day due to their injuries."

After nine days, on Sunday, 11 May, Syrian regime warplanes came back and shelled Mare' with a rocket carrying cluster munitions.

Video footage documenting the shelling and the remnants and an interview with a farmer who witnessed the incident

Video footage documents [the injury of children because of cluster munitions explosion](#)



### Fifth incident: shelling Tal Refa'at city on Monday, 19 May 2014, and Thursday, 3 June 2014:

Tal Refa'at is located 35 km north of Aleppo city.

Warplanes dropped on Monday, 19 May, a rocket carrying cluster munitions on the eastern neighborhood of Tal Refa'at near Mare' road.

Two of the remnants exploded in al-Hakeem Library Street, causing four injuries including a 14-year-old child.

Mr. Ahmad. A., resident of the neighborhood, gave SNHR his testimony about the incident:

“On Monday at noon, 19 May, and about 11:30 am, I was in front of Haj Hreetany Auto Show in the eastern neighborhood of Tal Refa'at near Mare' road. Warplanes were hovering in the northern countryside all morning and passed above us twice before without dropping any bombs. At 11:30, a Sukhoi warplane dropped a bomb that fell vertically downward. The bomb exploded in the air 500-1000 before reaching the ground and dropped dozens of small bombs. There were about 50 small bombs, half of which exploded in the air leaving a small black cloud of smoke.

Then, the small bombs that didn't explode fell on the houses and streets of the eastern neighborhood. Most of them fell on the roofs. The residents were terrified.

Ahmad adds:

“Not a long time passed until I heard two sequent explosions that I knew later that they were resulted by remnants exploding causing the injury of four children “

Security brigade, affiliated to FSA in Tal Refa'at, came and were able to collect 17 small bomb and disarm them.”

Photo shows the carrier of the cluster rocket that fell on Tal Refa'at in Aleppo countryside on 19 May 2014



Video footage shows the attempt of treating one of the children injured by a cluster munition dropped on the city.

Residents told us about an alleged incident on Thursday, 3 July, when warplanes dropped a container carrying cluster munitions on the town. No victims or injuries were recorded and investigations are still going about this incident in order to collect more information and details.

### Sixth incident: shelling Bustan al-Basha neighborhood on Sunday, 1 June:

Bustan al-Basha neighborhood is located in the northern part of Aleppo city.

Syrian regime forces targeted rebel-held Bustan al-Basha neighborhood with a rocket carrying cluster munitions that fell in al-Hameyat Hospital Street. No injuries were recorded by the shelling.

SNHR affirms that this is the second time the Syrian regime targets Bustan al-Basha as we have recorded its targeting on Tuesday 18 March.

Mr. Ibrahim al-Halaq, resident of Bustan al-Basha, gave SNHR his testimony:

“At noon of Sunday, and in al-Hameyat Hospital Street, I heard an explosion followed by spreading of small smoke clouds at a height of about 500 m. Small bombs fell in the nearby area of the frontline between the regime-held Meidan neighborhood and rebel-held Bustan al-Basha neighborhood. This is in no-resident area so no injuries were recorded but tens of huge buildings, which some of were destroyed by barrel bombs, were hit.”

### Seventh incident: shelling of Boayeedeen neighborhood on Tuesday, 3 June:

Warplanes targeted Boayeedeen neighborhood in the northern part of Aleppo city with cluster munitions that fell specifically in the road to Hollok neighborhood near the end of Boayeedeen neighborhood. We documented one death and other three injuries.

SNHR monitored the shelling of this neighborhood by cluster munitions on Tuesday, 18 March, by warplanes. No victims or injuries were recorded in that shelling.

SNHR talked to Mr. Abd al-Ilah al-Hamawy, resident of Boayeedeen neighborhood, and gave us his testimony:

“At about 1 pm, I was in the Al-Maghsala Street in Boayeedeen neighborhood which located in the north of Aleppo. I heard the sound warplanes hovering followed by an explosion. I looked up to see many small white smoke clouds. In seconds, I started hearing small explosions in the area near the street going to Hollok neighborhood in the end of Boayeedeen neighborhood.

I went there. Residents and children were in panic.

There were no destruction in the street but I saw fire flames on one of the roofs. It was found later that it was because of diesel tank that was burning after a cluster bomb exploded nearby. After about ten minutes, Civil defense, firefighting squads, and ambulances arrived and started doing their job. When ambulances started looking for injuries, I saw them taking three. Civil Defense squads took a body of a dead man from the roof he was on after he was hit by remnants in his chest and head. The area targeted is a residential area where is no military presence.”

**Eighth incident: shelling the road between al-Jandool circle in the northern Aleppo entrance and al-Kindi Hospital on Friday, 27 June:**

Syrian regime forces targeted the road between al-Jandool circle and al-Kindi Hospital with nine rockets carrying cluster munitions, all of them fell in farms.

Mr. Yaseen Abo al-Nasr, rebel located in al-Oayjah area near al-Kindi Hospital, gave SNHR his testimony: “Shelling began with Friday afternoon, when regime forces fired nine cluster rockets targeting the road between al-Kindi Hospital and al-Jandool circle in the northern entrance of Aleppo. I was in my car near the shelling place. I heard a bang and sequent explosions and tens of smoke clouds, resulted by remnants explosion, spread.

No injuries or victims were recorded but the remnants scattered across the farms at a scope of about 3 km.”

**Ninth incident: shelling Hollok neighborhood on Tuesday, 3 June 2014, and Thursday, 17 July:**

Hollok neighborhood is located in the Northern East of Aleppo city.

On Thursday, 17 July, warplanes dropped a rocket carrying cluster munitions targeting the South of Hollok neighborhood near Bustan al-Basha neighborhood. Shelling caused more than ten injuries including two children.

Mr. Bara’ Hamada, resident of Hollok neighborhood, gave SNHR his testimony:

“At about 12 pm, a warplane was hovering above ar-Ra’ai triangle, which is an area we call Parks Yard, in the middle of Hollok neighborhood. Then, it fired a rocket fell south of the neighborhood but before it reached the ground, it exploded and a big number of small cluster bombs scattered. Some exploded in the air and the others fell on residential buildings and streets. Sequent explosions happened resulting of these cluster bombs exploding, what caused tens of injuries, including a boy and a seven-year-old girl. The residents took them to hospitals.”

Some residents from Hollok neighborhood told us about targeting the neighborhood with rocket carrying cluster munitions from a multiple-rocket-launcher on Tuesday, 3 June. SNHR, until the moment, has not been able to investigate the alleged incident.

**Tenth incident: shelling Manbij city on Monday, 14 June, and Thursday, 21 August:**

Manbij city is located in the eastern countryside of Aleppo city.

On the first time of targeting Manbij, on Monday 14 June, with a container carrying cluster munitions, no victims or injuries were recorded according to the residents.

The second incident repeated on Thursday, 21 August, when the city was targeted by cluster munitions what caused spreading of remnants on a huge area between Sabe’ Bahrat (the Seven Lakes) Yard to Aleppo Garage. SNHR documented four deaths, including three children, and no less than 10 injuries.

Mr. Jameel Khalaf, resident of al-Hawarneh neighborhood in Manbij city, gave SNHR his testimony: “I was in the Bakery Street in al-Hawarneh neighborhood at about 4 pm on Thursday. Warplanes were hovering in the city sky followed by an explosion resulted of shelling a container carrying small bombs. Some exploded in the sky and some spread over an area of more than 2 square km. the explosion happened again, when I heard an explosion in the sky followed by small explosions, there were a white small smoke cloud coming from the residential building where the bombs, that were found to be cluster, fell. Ambulances and Civil Defense squads started treating injuries. There were more than ten injuries in addition to four victims.”

**We recorded the Syrian regime’s targeting of many areas in Aleppo governorate, which is the most affected in Syria in size and intensity by the use of cluster munitions:**

- Two rockets carrying cluster munitions on al-Wdeehy area in the southern Aleppo countryside, on Sunday, 13 April 2014.
- One rocket carrying cluster munitions on Ein al-Tal area in the North of Aleppo city near Bustan al-Basha neighborhood, on Saturday, 5 July 2014.
- Three rockets carrying cluster munitions in Sad as-Shahba’a area, on Sunday, 6 April, and Friday, 4 July.
- One rocket carrying cluster munitions on Layramon neighborhood near Air-Intelligence building on Wednesday, 16 July.
- One rocket carrying cluster munitions on al-Maysar neighborhood, on Tuesday, 5 August 2014.

## Hama governorate

Hama governorate was shelled with cluster munitions no less than 17 times; most of them were on Kafarzita city; which was targeted no less than 11 times, while we recorded the targeting of Oqayrbat area three times. Those attacks, according to SNHR documenting team, caused the death of 16 people, including eight children and two women, and about 35 injury.

### First incident: Shelling Kafarzita city:

Kafarzita city is located 35 km to the Northern West of Hama and it is a rebel held city since the beginning of 2013.

Syrian regime forces shelled Kafarzita city with no less than eight cluster rockets:

Two cluster rockets on Tuesday, 25 March, targeted residential areas in Kafarzita.

One cluster rocket on Friday, 28 March, targeted residential areas in Kafarzita.

One cluster rocket on Saturday, 29 April, targeted residential areas in Kafarzita.

Two rocket clusters on Tuesday, 1 April, targeted the farms between Kafarzita and Morak cities in Hama countryside.

One cluster rocket on Thursday, 10 April, targeted the farms of the eastern side of Kafarzita.

One cluster rocket on Friday, 11 April, targeted the middle of Kafarzita.

Three cluster rockets on Saturday, 12 April, targeted the middle of Kafarzita.

The rockets are being launched from the Military Airport of Hama according to many of the residents, civil activists, and rebels in the city. These attacks caused, according to the documenting team of SNHR,

the death of no less than five people including two children and a disabled in addition to other ten injuries. The intense shelling of cluster munitions and poison gases caused the displacement of 85% of its residents.

SNHR contacted with Ameer, one of the local activist in the city, and he gave us his testimony about shelling the city with cluster munitions:

“On Tuesday, 1 April, at about 8 am, I saw two cluster rockets. Shelling targeted the center of the city. Shelling caused the death of an insane person and injured five people.

Shelling the city with cluster munitions became a semi-daily experience recently; during about a week, we were shelled more than four times and in every time shelling targets the neighborhoods that does not have FSA rebels as most of them is on the borders of the city. We are really afraid to walk in the streets because of the huge numbers of cluster remnants.”

Hasan, resident of Kafarzita, gave SNHR his testimony:

“Regime forces shelled us with more than six cluster rockets during a period less than a week. All of them targeted residential areas in the middle of the city. Rockets are being launched from the Military Airport of Hama and its remnants are spread along the whole neighborhood. The experts of the engineering brigade in FSA take the responsibility of getting rid of these remnants. Two of them died during their work because the lack of experience and more than three were injured since the beginning of their work on dismantling them. All of them are from Kafarzita.”

On Wednesday, 30 June 2014, Kafarzita was shelled also with cluster munitions, but this time by warplanes that dropped incubators containing cluster munitions targeting the eastern neighborhood of the city. We recorded no less than 10 injuries, all civilians.

Mohamad al-Abdallah, resident of Kafarzita, gave us his testimony about this incident:

“At about 2 pm of Wednesday, warplanes raided on Kafarzita. Shelling with cluster munitions concentrated on the eastern neighborhood of the city. Warplanes were dropping incubators containing dozens of small bombs, some we were watching exploding in the air, while some was breaking through houses roofs. Cluster shelling was accompanied with interstitial rockets.”

On Thursday, 18 September 2014, warplanes dropped cluster rocket on the city that fell on the farms northern and western of the city. No victims or injuries were recorded.

Video footage shows the incubator that shelled the city:

Video footage shows [many remnants left by cluster munitions inside the city](#)

Photos show remnants of cluster munitions inside Kafarzita city





### Second incident: shelling ad-Dahsh village on Thursday, 10 June:

Ad-Dahsh village follows as-Sa'an district in Hama eastern countryside.

Syrian regime forces targeted rebel-held ad-Dahsh village with two rockets carrying cluster munitions those fell on the eastern sides of the village on Thursday, 10 July.

Mr. Waleed, resident of as-Sa'an area in the eastern countywide of Hama, gave us his testimony about the shelling details of the town:

“In the evening of Thursday, 10 July, the district witnessed the battle of liberating Ar-Rahjan between FSA rebels and regime forces. That was approximately at 11 pm. Then, that was followed with launching two rockets carrying cluster munitions as result of the regime fear of FSA attack on as-Sa'an area also.

The rockets that fell on the borders of the village had different shapes. We believe that they were launched from a multiple-rocket-launcher. When I went to the shelled location on the next day, it was shown that they exploded in the air before falling because the bodies of the rockets were found east of the town while the remnants are in the west. Most of these remnants exploded and distributed over a widespread area.

Ad-Dahsh village is completely empty of residents and armed opposition resorts to it temporarily during clashes, so shelling did not cause any direct injuries.”

Video footages show the remnants of cluster munitions found by residents of ad-Dahsh village:

<http://youtu.be/YSv9udDJ6gg>

[http://youtu.be/x-exD\\_NPaR4](http://youtu.be/x-exD_NPaR4)

### **Third incident: shelling Ma'arzaf village in the western countryside of Hama on Friday, 1 August:**

Ma'arzaf village is located in the west of Hama city.

Syrian regime warplanes dropped a rocket carrying cluster munitions on one of the western gardens of Ma'arzaf. Rockets remnants spread widely in the town. Children playing with these remnants caused the death of no less than 11 people, including six children and two women from one family. This incident was the most terrible because of the huge number of people who were killed by the cluster munitions remnants.

Abo Wisam al-Hamawi, resident of Ma'arzaf, gave SNHR his testimony about the incident:

Ma'arzaf town is an agricultural town surrounded by checkpoints and military headquarters and doesn't have any existence of FSA rebels. On Friday, at about 7 am, a rocket fell on the western farms of the town. The rockets were carrying small bombs that did not explode. Then many children brought three small bombs of it to the eastern neighborhood of Ma'arzaf where they live to play with. These children didn't realize the type of these bombs and its danger. After about three hours, one of the bombs exploded in the neighborhood while the children were playing with and killed immediately seven civilians. After about an hour other four were killed of their injuries to amount to a total of 11 civilian.

On the same day, regime forces raided the town with their media team and made an interview with a child of the town. They forced him to say that that the explosion was a result of a bomb planted by one of the terrorist armed groups.

Many residents of the town saw the warplanes when they shelled the town and all of them can talk to you."

### **Fourth incident: shelling Oqayrbat town, on Wednesday, 6 September:**

Oqayrbat is located in the eastern countryside of Hama governorate.

Regime forces warplanes targeted ISIS-held Oqayrbat town with a rocket carrying cluster munitions.

Ahmad, local activist in the town witnessed the incident and gave SNHR his testimony:

"The rocket dropped by the warplane exploded in the middle of the town and some small cluster bombs exploded and caused small damages to some houses. Thanks Allah nobody was injured, especially that the town is empty of residents after displacing most of the civilians. I tried to reach the shelled place to take photos and send them but I couldn't until now because of ISIS prohibiting anyone of taking photos." SNHR published a report documenting similar targeting attacks on the city on Monday 17 February and Friday 14 March.

### **Fifth incident: targeting Arza town on Friday, 15 August:**

After the armed opposition managed to control Arza town, located in the northern countryside of Hama, warplanes targeted the city on Friday, 15 August, with a rocket carrying cluster munitions.

### Sixth incident: targeting Aqrab town on Friday, 22 August:

Syrian regime artillery, located at the Water Establishment checkpoint, shelled Aqrab town with bombs carrying cluster munitions. Shelling targeted many neighborhoods of the town, especially al-Khazannat neighborhood. We recorded one injury as many of the residents had displaced.

SNHR contacted Mr. Hakam Abu Rayan, local media activist in Aqrab town:

“In the morning of Friday, Water Establishment checkpoint, affiliated to regime forces and located at the sides of al-Hoola city, began shelling the city using cluster munitions.

We’ve seen the bombs exploding in the sky and smaller bombs coming out of it and spreading over a wide area. Shelling targeted many neighborhoods in the town, including al-Khazannat neighborhood. I was not able to count the cluster bombs accurately. Shelling was sequent and the time interval between a shell and the other was about quarter an hour.”

### Ongoing investigations in Hama

There were allegations about the use of cluster bombs in az-Zawwar villages and Zawr an-Nasseryea in the northern countryside of Hama, On Thursday, 14 August. In Addition, Qastal village in the eastern countryside was targeted with weapons including cluster munitions, on Saturday, 9 August. SNHR was not able to verify that and did not receive photos or video footages affirming the shelling as the previously mentioned areas are clashes areas and there is no local activists or media activists in it. The city was abandoned by most of its residents, and we were not able to reach it.

## Idlib governorate

SNHR recorded the use of of cluster munitions by the Syrian regime in Idlib no less than 11 times. Khan Sheekhoh was shelled the most with four times while each of Saraqeb and Ma’aret an-No’mān were shelled twice.

These attacks, according to SNHR documenting team, caused seven deaths including a child and a women and injured no less than 55 others.

### First incident: Shelling Khan Sheekhoh in Idlib countryside

Khan Sheekhoh is located 35 km of Hama and 70 km of Idlib. Khan Sheekhoh was shelled with cluster munitions four times since the beginning of 2014.

Helicopters dropped containers carrying cluster munitions on Wednesday, 19 February 2014, Sunday, and Tuesday, 23 and 25 March, continuously.

In addition, Syrian regime forces targeted Khan Sheekhoh on Thursday, 15 May, with a surface-to-surface rocket carrying cluster munitions. It was launched from the Hama military airbase.

SNHR was documented the death of four people including a woman and the injury of no less than 20 others.

Mr. Othman., local activist in Khan Sheekhoh, gave SNHR his testimony:

“Shelling frequency increased since the beginning of the battle of liberating Khan Sheekhoh in the middle of February 2014. More than 90% of shelling incidents target residential areas without any existence of FSA at all. Living here has become dangerous for children and everyone.”

Mohamad Sallom, media activist in Khan Sheekhoh, gave SNHR his testimony:

“On 19 February, shelling was done by helicopters before the Syrian regime began shelling us with surface-to-surface rockets carrying cluster munitions. On 25 March, regime targeted a house with a cluster rocket causing the death of four people and more than 20 injuries. I saw the shelling myself.”

Photo shows the rocket targeting the city, which is a ground-ground rocket carrying cluster munitions:



#### **Second incident: Shelling Saraqeb in Idlib countryside on Sunday and Friday, 13 and 18 April:**

Saraqeb city is located in the Southern East of Idlib city.

Warplanes affiliated to the Syrian regime shelled, on Sunday, 13 April, one of Saraqeb neighborhoods located in its Western North with a cluster bomb. We recorded one death and no less than seven injuries.

Warplanes came back after five days and shelled the city again on 18 April. Shelling targeted farms. We recorded the injury of two women were working in the farms.

#### **Third incident: Shelling Ma'aret an-No'man on Thursday, 22 May 2014, and Friday, 12 September:**

Ma'aret an-No'man (AKA al-Ma'arah) is located in the south of Idlib governorate.

On Thursday, 22 May, warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled using a rocket carrying cluster munitions the western neighborhood of the city. We recorded the death of a child and more than 10 injuries by shelling.

Hani, a media activist in al-Ma'arah, told SNHR:

“At about 1 pm, on 22 May, warplanes hovered in the city sky before dropping a rocket carrying cluster munitions, targeting a residential neighborhood located in the west of the city.

The rocket did not cause a huge destruction in the area, but its remnants spread over a huge area of the neighborhood and caused deaths and injuries.”

Photos showing cluster munitions remnants on al-Ma'arah:



Many residents of the city told SNHR that warplanes came back on Friday, 12 September, and shelled the west of the town with a rocket carrying cluster munitions. No victims were recorded.

#### Fourth incident: shelling Kafarroma village on Saturday, 28 June:

Kafarroma village follows Ma'aret an-No'man area in Idlib governorate.

Warplanes of Sukhoi type, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled Kafarroma village with two cluster rockets. The first targeted the south and the other targeted the middle. We were able to record no less than 15 injury caused by that shelling.

SNHR contacted Fadi Yasin, media activist in Kafarroma:

“The Syrian regime started, On Saturday, targeting the village with barrel bombs. It was followed by shelling with cluster munitions, where the first rocket targeted a front line between the regime and FSA from the side of al-Hamdeya Barracks, while the other fell in the middle of the town. Cluster munitions spread over a huge area and caused many injuries among civilians.”

#### Fifth incident: shelling Kafarsijna on Monday, 7 July:

Kafarsijna follows the city of Ma'aret an-No'man and is located to the Western South of it.

On Monday, 7 July, warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled the town with cluster munitions. No victims or injuries were recorded.

Video footage shows some remnants of cluster munitions dropped by warplanes on Kafarsijna:

Video footage shows [shelling warplanes with cluster munitions on Kafarsijna](#)

### Sixth incident: Shelling Sarmada on Friday, 1 August:

Sarmada is located in the northern part of Idlib governorate

Warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled Sarmada town with a rocket carrying cluster munitions resulting in spreading the remnants over a huge area on Sarmada – ad-Dana road. We recorded one death and other five injuries.

Photos showing cluster munitions' remnants inside Sarmada



Mr. Shareef Abd ar-Rahman as-Sheikh, resident in Sarmada, gave SNHR his testimony:

“At about 4 pm, a warplane dropped a rocket carrying cluster munitions. It exploded in the sky and the small bombs spread out of it and began falling on the residents. More than 30 small bomb exploded over the area opposite of Qaddor gas station on Sarmada – ad-Dana road where the small bombs fell on the farms, the residential buildings, and on the highway. We were able to count about 20 bombs remaining. Burnings began flaming and we started helping injured. Then, medics and civil defense came and treated the injured. Shelling caused the death of person called “Tameem Habl” from Hzanoo town beside five injuries including critical cases.”

## Daraa governorate

Syrian regime forces targeted Daraa governorate with cluster munitions nine times since the beginning of 2014. Daraa al-Balad was targeted the most as it was targeted four times at least, while each of Jasem and Dae’l were targeted twice. Those attacks caused, according to SNHR documenting team, the death of two people, including a girl, and injured no less than 40 others.

### First incident: Shelling Daraa al-Balad

Daraa al-Balad was targeted with cluster munitions no less than 4 times since the beginning of 2014. We recorded no less than 10 injuries by those attacks.

**First shelling:** in February, during the clashes between Syrian regime forces and armed opposition brigades near A’arz prison and granaries, Syrian regime forces shelled the clashes area with a bomb carrying cluster munitions. No injuries were recorded.

**Second shelling:** On Thursday, 15 May, Syrian regime forces shelled al-Manshey neighborhood with a rocket carrying cluster munitions after withdrawing from it because of the battles between them and armed opposition brigades. Regime forces shelled the aforementioned neighborhoods in addition to the nearby residential neighborhoods like al-Abassyeh neighborhood and the surroundings of the old customs.

**Third shelling:** On Monday, 2 June, regime forces shelled al-Bahhar neighborhood near the south of Daraa al-Balad with a bomb carrying cluster munitions. No victims or injuries recorded.

**Fourth shelling:** On Tuesday, 3 June, Syrian regime forces shelled al-Araba’een neighborhood with a bomb carrying cluster munitions. That was synchronizing with the Presidential Elections.

Mohammad F., local media activist from Daraa, gave us his testimony about one of the incidents he lived himself:

“On 1 June, and at about 1 pm, al-Bahhar neighborhood was targeted with cluster munitions from a bomb carrying cluster munitions that spread its remnants over a huge area of the neighborhood. I saw it myself and was able to record it.”

On the next day, 2 June, during the so-called elections, the Syrian regime targeted al-Araba’een neighborhood with cluster munitions too. What are these elections?”

Mr. Mohammad, local activist from Daraa, gave us his testimony:

“The regime shelled al-Mansheya and al-Abbasyea and the surrounding of Old Customs of Daraa, on 15 May, during the battle of liberating al-Mansheya by FSA brigades. It seems that the shelling was by artillery. The remnants of the bombs spread in these neighborhoods intensely, especially the farms surrounding al-Mansheya and Sajna neighborhoods.

Shelling using cluster munitions occurred again in June against al-Arba’een which caused more than five injuries.”

Video footage shows the cluster remnants caused by cluster shelling

Photos showing remnants clusters in Daraa



#### Second incident: shelling Jasem city on Wednesday, 7 May, and Friday, 16 May:

Jasem is located in the Northern West of Daraa.

Jasem city was targeted on Wednesday, 7 May, with a cluster rocket by Syrian regime forces. We recorded the death of a girl and eight injuries including a critical case.

Mr. Maher Saeed, resident from Jasem, told us his testimony:

“At about 5 pm, I was in my home yard when I heard explosions like fire bangs. It was getting louder and louder. I knew later it was cluster bombs because my city was shelled with this kind of bombs more than once. It fell very close from my home. I ran toward the shelled place. I saw a boy, a girl, and an elder on the sidewalk injured in most of their body and blood covered their face. I knew from those who were there previously that six people were taken to the hospital from the same neighborhood.

Blood, shreds, injured children, and dead people. It was painful. Residents said that the girl died in the hospital by her injury.”

Video footage shows some cluster munitions dropped on Jasem on 17 May 2014



**Second shelling:** On Friday, 16 May, warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled the city with a rocket carrying cluster munitions while the residents were treating injured who were wounded by barrel bombs before being followed with a rocket carrying cluster munitions to result in more victims and injuries. We recorded one death and six injuries that were caused only by the cluster munitions.

Mr. Abu Mahjar, resident of Jasem, gave us his testimony:

“At about 11 am, on Friday, I was in the big yard of the city when I heard a warplane, then intense explosions with remnants or metal pieces crashing. I saw the remnants of the shelled rocket; it was full of small bombs.

Cars started picking up the injured, including my friend whom was taken to one of the field hospitals, and then we took him to Jordan. My friend died on the next day by his injuries. We won't forget what they did to us.”

### Third incident: Shelling Inkhil city on Thursday, 7 May:

Inkhil city is located in the Western North of Daraa.

Syrian regime forces targeted the southern neighborhood in Inkhil city in Daraa countryside with more than ten rockets carrying cluster munitions, using multiple-rocket-launchers located in the Fourth Squad headquarters in as-Sanamayn city. We recorded no less than 10 injuries.

SNHR contacted Abu al-Majd al-Hoorany, an eyewitness, who gave us his testimony about the shelling: “At about 4 pm, warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled Inkhil city with barrel bombs, which synchronized with the dropping of about ten cluster rockets from multiple-rocket-launchers, where some of them fell on the southern neighborhood and the other on the middle of the town. Tens of small bombs that spread in different places started to explode causing fear between residents and injured ten people at least. They were taken to the field hospital in Inkhil. Many buildings were damaged. Thanks Allah, shelling did not cause deaths because most of its residents displaced of it because it is facing daily continuous shelling and streets were almost empty of pedestrians. This is the fifth or the sixth time Inkhil has been shelled with cluster rockets. We believe that the shelling comes from the Fourth Squad headquarters in as-Sanamayn and from as-Sheleya brigade south of the city”.

Photo of a rocket cluster did not explode on Inkhil city





#### Fourth incident: Shelling Dael city on Saturday, 23 August, and on Friday, 12 September:

Dael is located in the northern part of Daraa governorate.

We recorded the first shelling incident on the city on Saturday, 23 August, when Syrian regime forces shelled with cluster munitions from the artillery located near the city, from Tal Hamad area, and from the Syrian regime forces in Kharbet Gazale town. No victims or injuries were recorded because most of the city residents had displaced. The shelling caused material damages only.

**Second incident:** On Friday, 12 September, we recorded the city shelling with a cluster bomb fell near the High School of Dael. No victims or injuries were recorded.

Deia'a al-Hareery, an eyewitness from Dael, gave us his testimony:

“At about 9 am, Syrian regime forces shelled the city with cluster munitions from the located artillery around the city. Shelling targeted the market yard in the city.

We can distinguish cluster munitions by the sequent explosions voice that they made when they hit the ground. These cluster munitions hit many houses and caused damaged and some among them fell in the streets of city.

Regime forces repeated shelling with cluster munitions in the night of 12 September, when a cluster munition fell near the High School of Dael, and thanks Allah no injuries were recorded.”

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#### Damascus countryside governorate

Regime forces used cluster munitions in shelling Damascus countryside five times during 2014; three times against Yabrud city, which we've documented in a previous report, one time on Douma, and one time on al-Mleeha town.

#### First incident: Shelling al-Mleeha town on Friday, 4 April:

Al-Mleeha town is located to the East of Damascus. Warplanes shelled al-Mleeha with a rocket carrying cluster munitions that fell in the center yard of the town.

Mr. Abdo as-Sabbagh, media activist in al-Mleeha, gave us his testimony:

“Cluster shelling concentrated at the beginning on our town in April 2014, when we were shelled with cluster bombs many times.

I can't tell you precisely the numbers of injuries or victims caused by cluster munitions only, because the regime shells the city using different weapons at the same time, like barrel bombs and interstitial rockets, in addition to cluster munitions.

Engineering brigade in FSA disarmed many cluster munitions remnants.”

Photo shows cluster munitions remnants in al-Mleeha town



#### Second incident: shelling Douma on Friday, 2 May:

Douma is located 14 km to the Western North of Damascus.

Syrian regime forces shelled Douma with a rocket carrying cluster munitions that fell on one of the buildings in al-Masaken neighborhood near al-Jala'a Park. We recorded material damages only.

Mr. Abo Majed, eyewitness living in al-Masaken neighborhood, told SNHR his testimony:

“At about 1 am, three sequent explosions shocked the city. Their source was a rocket that targeted one of the building in al-Masaken neighborhood.

This shelling made very intense smoke which covered the shelled area for about 15 minutes. Thanks Allah, the shelling did not cause deaths or injuries but only damages of the building.

Near the shelled place, I saw small bombs resulted by the rocket. And then, FSA personnel gathered and told us that this is cluster remnants that could explode if someone got near it.”

Mr. Abu Mohammad, another witness to the shelling, told SNHR:

“At about 12:30 am, I heard a very loud voice. Shortly after, I went to the neighborhood and saw the remnants where there was a huge hole in the basement of the near building of my house. I knew that a rocket fell in this area. After the first explosion, we heard many sequent explosions near the area. At about 250 m of the area, I saw many small bombs left by the shelling.”



## Homs governorate

Syrian regime forces targeted Homs governorate twice with cluster munitions during 2014. We recorded the injury of three women by this shelling.

### First incident: Shelling ar-Rastan city in Homs on Thursday, 29 May, and on Sunday, 1 June

**First shelling:** on Thursday, 29 May, warplanes, affiliated to the Syrian regime, shelled the southern areas of ar-Rastan city near Om Sharshooh village. Shelling targeted gathering of the displaced civilians.

**Second shelling:** on Sunday, 1 June, warplanes targeted the southern western side of ar-Rastan, specifically between the villages of Om Sharshooh and Granada, with many rockets carrying cluster munitions. Shelling targeted clashes areas between. We were able to document the injury of three women, two of them immediately and the third was injured by exploding of one of the remnants.



### Second incident: shelling al-Wazzayea village on Monday, 21 June:

Syrian regime forces, located in the engineering brigade north of ar-Rastan city, shelled al-Wazzayea village, located in the northern countryside of Homs, with a rocket carrying cluster munitions that fell on the farms surrounding the town and harms were only material. Small cluster bombs spread widely in the area.

Mr. Ashraf Daghashany, an eyewitness to the shelling, gave SNHR his testimony:

“While being in my home, the town was targeted with a rocket carrying cluster munitions. It was about 1 pm. The shelling caused no victims or injuries because bombs fell in the farms. I assure you, this is not the first time our town is being targeted with such kind of bombs.

The source of these bombs is the government forces artillery located in the engineering brigade north of ar-Rastan and is used to shell many places in the northern countryside of Homs.”



## Al-Qunaytra governorate

Shelling as-Swaysa village with cluster munitions on Wednesday, 23 April:

As-Swaysa village is one of the villages of al-Qunaytra countryside south of Syria. Syrian regime forces shelled as-Swaysa village with a cluster rocket from a rockets launching station in the area of Tal al-Jabyea. Shelling targeted a gathering of the armed opposition brigades.

Video footage shows the cluster munitions remnants in as-Swaysa village:

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### Fourth: ISIS

Our friends at Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report about ISIS's use of cluster munitions in the Kurdish areas. SNHR investigations showed the impossibility of that, as the used weapons were of a cluster nature. A copy of the investigation was sent to HRW and we are still waiting their reply.

### Fifth: appendixes and attachments

Photos, names, and videos of cluster munition shelling victims whom were killed directly:

SNHR documented [the death of 49 people, including only one rebel and 47 civilians; among them 16 children and four women, and no less than 250 injuries.](#)

Photos, names, and videos of cluster munition victims whom were killed by the remnants of these cluster munitions:

SNHR documented [the death of 15 people, including seven children and three omen by the exploding of the cluster munitions' remnants.](#)

### Conclusions and Recommendations

The use of cluster bombs by the Syrian regime is a violation of both the principle of distinction and the principle of proportionality, and is considered a war crime. All evidences show that it was used against civil targets rather than specific military ends.

Although more than 140 states around the world condemned the use of cluster munitions by the Syrian regime through the General Assembly. This shows how the Syrian regime's disregard to those states despite the unanimity.

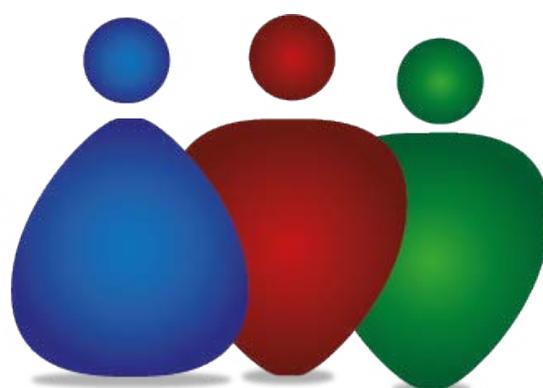
The Security Council should pass a resolution to destroy all of the Syrian regime's cluster bombs arsenal. The Russian government, particularly, and other governments should stop providing the Syrian regime with weapons as it was proven that the Syrian regime is using these weapons to perpetrate crimes against humanity and war crimes against civilians. On the other hand, Friends of Syria Group, press seriously on the, at the various economic and political levels, on the Russian government for that matter.

The European Union should press on on the Security Council in order to transfer the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court.

The United Nations should begin from now preparing comprehensive studies about the sites that were targeted by the Syrian regime using cluster bombs in order to warn the residents of these areas and work faster on disarming the bombs that didn't detonate yet. A great part of the Syrian land has been affected by the remnants of the cluster munitions.

## Acknowledgments

SNHR thanks the victims' families, eyewitnesses, journalists, and the activists that we would not have been able to finish this report at this level without their efforts.



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