



No less than 13,024 Barrel Bombs have been Dropped since the Beginning of the Russian Military Campaign in Syria 658 Barrel Bombs Dropped in September 2016 Killing 71 Civilians including 15 Children and Nine Women

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I. Introduction

Vitaly Churkin, the Russian representative to the United Nations, said that the Syrian regime has stopped using barrel bombs. However, the daily monitoring and documentation conducted by SNHR prove, beyond any doubt, otherwise as the Syrian regime continues to kill and destroy Syria by dropping hundreds of barrel bombs. In this report, we are going to highlight the incidents in which we documented the use of barrel bombs particularly with place, date, and pictures. This report is a monthly report by SNHR

Being a distinctively indiscriminate weapon with huge destructive impact, the barrel bomb doesn't only kill civilians but also terrorizes and displaces residents in light of the destruction it creates. Dropping barrel bombs from warplanes in this savage and primitive manner amount to a war crime. Every barrel bomb dropped is considered a war crime.

According to SNHR's violations archive, the first notable use of barrel bombs by government forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias) was on Monday 1 October 2012 against the resident of Salqein city in Idlib governorate. Barrel bombs is a locally-made weapon which is used by government forces due to the fact that it costs notably less than missiles and it has a huge destructive impact. The use of barrel bombs is based on the principle of free fall and it weighs sometimes more than





one-fourth ton and it is a distinctively indiscriminate weapon. even if barrel bombs killed an armed man, this would be an accident as 99% of the victims killed by barrel bombs are civilians and the percentage of women and children victims varies between 12% to 35% in some cases.

Security Council adopted Resolution 2139 on 22 February 2016 which specifically condemns the use of barrel bombs: “cease all attacks against civilians, as well as the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas, including shelling and aerial bombardment, such as the use of barrel bombs.” Nonetheless, government forces are still dropping tens of barrel bombs on armed-opposition-held areas.

In some cases, we documented the use of barrel bombs that is loaded with poison gases by government forces which is a violation of Security Council Resolutions 2118, adopted on 27 September 2013, and Resolution 2209, adopted on 6 March 2015.

This report monitors the number of barrel bombs that were dropped across Syria, its death toll, and the destruction of most notable vital facilities caused by barrel bombs. In light of the difficulties our teams encounter, it should be noted that this is the bare minimum of the actual magnitude of crimes.

The only party that possesses warplanes and helicopters is the ruling regime. However, the regime denies that it is using barrel bombs the same way it denies perpetrating other violations such as murder, arrest, enforced-disappearance, and torture among others. In contrast, the regime denies the International Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic an access to Syria, and bans local and international human rights organizations and independent media. Therefore, this report doesn't include the remaining three parties (Self-management forces, extremist Islamic groups, and armed opposition factions) as none of them has an air force.

All the reports and studies done by SNHR show that most of the attacks were deliberately against residential areas and vital centers in order to demolish any chances to establish an alternative state and an alternative authority in the areas that are not controlled by government forces and if that is not why then what is the point of targeting areas that are tens of kilometers away from the frontlines?





II. Executive Summary

A. Use of barrel bombs

Through daily monitoring and documenting, SNHR team was able to record that 658 barrel bombs at least were dropped in September 2016 by the regime helicopters. Those barrel bombs are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:

Aleppo: 308

Damascus suburbs: 152

Homs: 68

Hama: 63

Daraa: 51

Idlib: 12

Qunietra: 2

Latakia: 2

B. Death toll caused by barrel bombs

According to SNHR victims documentation team, 71 civilians including 15 children, nine women, two civil defense members, and one media activist were killed in barrel bombs attacks. The death toll caused by barrel bombs in September is distributed as follows:

Aleppo: 43 civilians including 11 children, three women, two civil defense members, and one media activist.

Daraa: 10 civilians including one child.

Damascus suburbs: Nine civilians including two children and three women.

Homs: Six civilians including one child and two women.

Hama: Three civilians including one woman.

C. Incidents of attacks against vital facilities that involved the use of barrel bombs

Due to the widespread use of barrel bombs, it is impossible to record all forms of destruction caused by barrel bombs. Therefore, we are going to focus on protected facilities and vital facilities such as markets, hospitals, schools and places of worship....

The use of barrel bombs by the regime helicopters in the month of September caused damages to four vital facilities at least as follows:

Places of worship:

Mosques: 1





Communal facilities

Markets: 1

Infrastructures:

Civil defense centers: 2

III. Details

A. Death toll caused by barrel bombs

Aleppo governorate

Friday 2 September 2016, media activist Ahmad Mohammad Al Hmoud was died of injuries in his hand and chest sustained by shrapnel from a barrel bomb dropped by government forces helicopters near his car that he was riding along with his wife in Saif Al Dawla neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, on Tuesday 16 August 2016.

Tuesday 6 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Salihein neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of Hasan Hussein Hannan and Ihsan Dalati who are members of the rescue team at the civil defense center in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood in Aleppo city.

Tuesday 6 September 2016, government forces helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb](#) loaded with [poison gases](#) near “Wafaa Kharsa” pharmacy in [Al Sukkari](#) neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of one civilian](#). Additionally, about 80 others suffered [suffocation](#).

Tuesday 6 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Anis park in Al Sha’ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one child and two women.

Friday 9 September 2016 morning, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in the vicinity of the Sharia institute, in Salah Al Din neighborhood, located in Aleppo city within the parts controlled by armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of nine civilians at once including four children.





Monday 19 September 2016 evening, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Albesa street in Al Sukkari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Wednesday 21 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Sheikh Kheder neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one civilian.

Wednesday 21 September 2016 afternoon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the road between Al Zebdiyeh neighborhood and Al Mash-had neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Thursday 22 September 2016 noon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the road between Al Ferdous neighborhood and Al Sukkari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.





Sunday 25 September 2016 afternoon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Karm Al Tahhan area in Al Myassar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of seven individuals at once.

Sunday 25 September 2016 noon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential homes in [the vicinity of Salah Al Din mosque](#) in Bostan Al Basha neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in [the killing of seven individuals](#) at once including six children.

Sunday 25 September 2016 noon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Halwaniya circle in Al Qaterji neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Sunday 25 September 2016 noon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Masaken Al Baladiyea area in Qadi Askar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Friday 30 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Aryan neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one woman.

Daraa governorate

Sunday 18 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped [four barrel bombs on Dael city](#), located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians including one child.





Damascus suburbs

Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the farms surrounding Zakya town in Western Ghouta, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians including two women. Additionally, 10 others were wounded.

Wednesday 28 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Wadi neighborhood in Al Mqielbiya town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five individuals at once including two female children and one woman. Additionally, about eight others were wounded.

Homs governorate

Thursday 8 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Sa'n Al Asswad village, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians including one woman.

Thursday 8 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Der Fowl village, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one civilian.

Sunday 11 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al Halmouz village, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one woman.

Monday 12 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Farhaniya Al Gharbiya, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one child.





Tuesday 20 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on Al Farhaniya Al Sharqiya village, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one civilian.

Hama governorate

Sunday 25 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Souran city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians from the same family including one woman.

B. Incidents of attacks against vital centers that involved the use of barrel bombs

Places of worship

Mosques

Wednesday 28 September 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs near Al Huda mosque in Khan Al Sheih camp in Western Ghouta, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, the residential buildings and shops in the vicinity of the mosque were greatly damaged while the mosque wasn't damaged.

Communal facilities

Markets

Wednesday 28 September 2016, government forces helicopters [dropped barrel bombs](#) on the old market in Khan Al Sheih in Western Ghouta, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, a number of [shops](#) were [heavily damaged](#).

Infrastructures

Civil defense centers

Tuesday 6 September 2016 noon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near an ambulance for [the civil defense](#) in the vicinity of the old market in Hreitan city, located in northern Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which shattered the glass windows and moderately damaged the structure and the medical equipment. As a result, the [ambulance](#) was rendered [out of commission](#).





Sunday 25 September 2016 noon, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the yard of the civil defense member in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in moderate damages to the center building and its [cladding materials](#).



IV. Appendixes and Attachments

[Video](#) showing the remnants of a barrel bomb that was loaded with poison gas which was dropped by government forces helicopters on Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city, Tuesday 6 September 2016

[Video](#) showing the destruction that resulted from a number of barrel bombs that were dropped on Al Sa'n Al Asswad village in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate, Wednesday 8 September 2016

[Video](#) showing a barrel bomb being dropped by government forces helicopters and exploding in the agricultural lands between Khan Al Sheih and Zakya in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Sunday 25 September 2016

[Video](#) showing the destruction that resulted from a barrel bomb dropped by government forces helicopters on Bostan Al Basha neighborhood in Aleppo city which caused a massacre, Sunday 25 September 2016





[Video](#) showing the site where a barrel bomb was dropped by government forces helicopters in Kafr Zita city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, Friday 30 September 2016

[Pictures](#) showing the remnants of a barrel bomb that was loaded with poison gas which was dropped by government forces helicopters on [Al Sukkari neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city, Tuesday 6 September 2016

[Pictures](#) showing the remnants of a [barrel bomb](#) that was loaded with poison gas which was dropped by government forces helicopters on [Al Sukkari neighborhood](#) in Aleppo city, Tuesday 6 September 2016, Source of the picture: activist Obada Abuljoud

[Pictures](#) showing the destruction that resulted from four barrel bombs which were dropped on Al Qaterji neighborhood in Aleppo city by government forces helicopters on 12 September 2016

V. Legal Conclusions and Recommendations

Legal conclusions:

1- The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139, Security Council Resolution 2254, and the Cessation of Hostilities statement. Government forces used barrel bombs in a widespread and systematic manner and violated, through the crime of willful killing, Article 7 of the Rome Statute in a widespread and systematic manner as well which constitutes crimes against humanity. Additionally, the Syrian government violated many rules of the international humanitarian law by perpetrating tens of crimes that amount to war crimes which manifested in the indiscriminate and random bombardment that was also disproportionate due to the use of excessive force.

2- SNHR affirms that the bombardment using barrel bombs is an indiscriminate bombardment that targeted unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, considering that these crimes were perpetrated during an international non-armed conflict, these crimes amount to a war crime where all the elements of a war crimes were fulfilled.

3-the Indiscriminate attacks carried out by government forces is considered a viola-





tion of the customary humanitarian international law where government forces fired shells on residential areas and it wasn't directed against a specific military target.

4- These attacks, especially bombardment, have caused collateral damages that involved casualties, injuries, and great damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators that suggest that the damage was considerably excessive in relation to the estimated military benefit.

5- The magnitude of the widespread frequent bombardment, the excessive force, the indiscriminate manner, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders and a state policy.

6- Government forces, including all forms and leaders, are involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people in addition to those who provide government forces with financial, political, and military support -such as the Russian government, the Iranian government, and Hezbollah among others. Also, the companies that supply weapons are considered partners in these crimes and are subject to criminal prosecution.

Recommendations

To the Security Council:

The Security Council must insure the serious implementation of its Resolutions. These Resolutions have become merely words and, thus, the Security Council has lost all of its credibility and purpose.

An arms embargo must be imposed on the Syrian government and all those who supply it with weapons and funding must be prosecuted considering the risk that these weapons might be used to commit crimes and serious violations of human rights.

in the Syrian case, The Security Council is the one who is authorized to refer the case to the International Criminal Court. However, the Security Council has been obstructing this procedure instead of facilitating it and working on instilling peace and security in Syria. The prosecution of everyone involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes must start immediately.

Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt condolences for the families and friends of the victims, and our thanks go out to all local activists and families who contributed majorly to this study and the investigations.

