



## No less than 12366 Barrel Bombs since the Russian Intervention 1379 barrel bombs that Resulted in the Death of 111 Civilians including 35 children and 16 women in August 2016

### Report Contents:

- I. Introduction
- II. Executive Summary
- III. Details
- IV. Appendixes and Attachments
- V. Legal Conclusions and Recommendations
- Acknowledgment and Condolences

### 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, and Shiite foreign militias) was on Monday 1 October 2012 against the resident of Salqin 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-quarter 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 2014 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 front lines?





In August 2016, SNHR team observed the use of barrel bombs with explosive hoses by the Syrian regime in Darat Ezza city in Aleppo governorate. Furthermore, the Syrian regime dropped barrels loaded with poison gases in Aleppo city and other with incendiary substances on Darayya city in Damascus suburbs governorate.

## II. Executive Summary

### A. Barrel bombs toll:

Through daily monitoring and documentation, SNHR recorded that no less than 1379 barrel bombs were dropped by government forces helicopters in August 2016 which are distributed across Syria as follows:

Damascus suburbs: 692

Aleppo: 605

Hama: 28

Idlib: 25

Daraa: 18

Homs: 11

### B. Death toll caused by barrel bombs

111 civilians were killed in barrel bombs attacks including 35 children and 16 women according to the victim documentation team at SNHR as follows:

Aleppo: 106 civilians including 33 children and 15 women.

Idlib: three civilians (two children and one woman).

Damascus suburbs: two civilians.

### C. Attacks against vital facilities:

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 in August resulted in damages to no less than seven vital facilities:

Places of worship:

- Mosques: two

Educational Facilities:

- Schools: one

Vital medical facilities:

- Medical facilities: two

- Ambulances: one

Communal Facilities:

- Markets: one





### III. Details

#### A. Death toll caused by barrel bombs

##### **Aleppo governorate:**

Sunday 17 July 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Yaqed Al Adas town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one woman. On Monday 1 August 2016, we were able to contact activists from the area who confirmed the incident.

Monday 1 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of two civilians.

Tuesday 2 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs in Orm Al Kubra town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Thursday evening 4 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on residential buildings in Owayjeil village in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of five individuals including two children and one woman.

Thursday 4 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Orm Al Kubra town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one child.

Friday morning 5 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on residential buildings near the road to Al Marjeh neighborhood from Al Salehein neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of four civilians from the same family including two children.

Saturday 6 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Qebtan Al Jabal town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Saturday 6 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Shayar neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.





Saturday 6 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Mash-had neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one child.

Sunday 7 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Darat Ezza city in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of two civilians.

Sunday 7 August 2016, one civilian died of wounds sustained in a barrel bomb attack by government helicopters on Tadeff town in the western suburbs of Aleppo city that is under the control of ISIS on 22 July 2016.

Monday 8 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Ferdous neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Tuesday 9 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of four civilians including one child.

Wednesday 10 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with poison gases on [residential buildings](#) in [Al Zibdieya neighborhood in Aleppo](#) city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians (two children and one woman). Additionally, six others suffered suffocation.





Friday evening 12 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on the southern areas of Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of two civilians including one woman.

Friday evening 12 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on different areas of Al Ferdous neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of seven civilians including two children.

Saturday 13 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Salehein neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one woman.

Saturday 13 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Darat Ezza city in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including two children.

Sunday 14 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Yaqed Al Adas town in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Monday 15 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Sukkari neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one girl.

Monday 15 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Myassar neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Tuesday 16 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Mash-had neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Wednesday 17 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Kafr Da'el town in western Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one woman.





Thursday morning 18 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on residential building in the vicinity of Al Salehein mosque in Al Salehein neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of six civilians at once including one girl and one woman.

Thursday 18 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Dahr Awad neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Saturday dawn 20 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on residential building in Al Jaloum neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of seven civilians from the same family including four children and two women.

Sunday afternoon 21 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on vegetables market in Bustan Al Qaser neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of seven civilians at once.

Tuesday 23 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Ramousa neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one woman.

Wednesday morning 24 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Al Atasi pharmacy in Al Mash-had neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians.

Tuesday 25 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [residential buildings](#) in [the vicinity of Al Hawoth round](#) in [Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood](#) in [Aleppo city](#) that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in [the death of 14 civilians](#) most of them are from the same family (10 children and four women) in addition to the injury of 10 others.

Friday 26 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al Hraitan city in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.





Friday noon 26 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on the western areas of Hayyan town in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians.

Saturday noon 27 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [residential buildings on the road to Al Ma'adi neighborhood](#) from [Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood](#) in [Aleppo city](#) that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in [the death of 15 civilians](#) including four children in addition to [the injury of 15 others](#).

Tuesday 30 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Bab Al Hadeid neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one child.

#### **Idlib Governorate:**

Wednesday 24 August 2016, government helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on residential buildings on Al Janodiyeh town in the western suburbs of Idlib governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians from the same family (two children and one woman)

#### **Damascus suburbs governorate:**

Thursday 4 August 2016, government helicopters dropped 24 barrel bombs on Darayya city in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Sunday 14 August 2016, government helicopters dropped 38 barrel bombs on Darayya city in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

#### **B. Barrel bombs attacks against vital facilities:**

##### **Places of worship:**

##### **Mosques:**

Monday morning 15 August 2016, government forces dropped a barrel bomb on [the vicinity of Al Hasan mosque](#) in Al Myassar neighborhood in Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition faction. As a result, a wall of the mosque was partially destroyed and its cladding materials were moderately damaged







Friday morning 19 August 2016, government forces dropped a barrel bomb on the vicinity of Salah Al Din mosque in Salah Al Din neighborhood within the parts that are under the control of armed opposition faction. As a result, the western part of mosque building was partially destroyed.

### **Educational Facilities:**

#### **Schools:**

Tuesday 30 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [the vicinity of Jamil Qabani school](#) in Al Mash-had neighborhood Aleppo city that is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, a wall of school was partially destroyed.

### **Vital medical facilities**

#### **- Medical facilities: (Hospitals, dispensaries, medical regions, and makeshift hospitals**

Tuesday 16 August 2016, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on [the only makeshift hospital in Darayya city](#) in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate that is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, the cladding materials of the hospital were greatly damaged.

Friday 19 August 2016, government helicopters dropped four barrel bombs contain flammable substances which suspected to be Napalm on [the only makeshift hospital in Darayya city](#) in [Western Ghouta](#) in [Damascus suburbs governorate](#) that is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, a fire broke out in the upper floor and the hospital building was greatly destroyed and rendered out of commission. It should be noted that government helicopters' barrels bombs targeted it before on 16 August 2016





#### **- Ambulances**

Saturday 27 August 2016, government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb near an ambulance of emergency system in [Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood in Aleppo city](#) that is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, the driver was wounded and the ambulance was moderately damaged and rendered out of commission.

#### **Communal Facilities:**

##### **- Markets:**

Sunday afternoon 21 August 2016, government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on [vegetables market](#) on [Bustan Al Qaser neighborhood](#) in [Aleppo city](#) that is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, [market facilities](#) and its [neighboring buildings](#) were greatly damaged.





#### IV. Appendixes and Attachments

Video footage showing government helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on [Darayya city](#) in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Wednesday 3 August 2016.

Video footage showing government helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on [Darayya city in Western Ghouta](#) in Damascus suburbs governorate, Monday 8 August 2016.

Video footage showing government helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Darayya city in Western Ghouta in [Damascus suburbs governorate](#), Monday 15 August 2016

Video footage showing the moment of dropping two barrel bombs by government helicopters and their explosion on [Darayya city](#) in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Wednesday 17 August 2016

Video footage showing the moment of dropping two barrel bombs by government helicopters and their explosion on [Darayya city in Western Ghouta](#) in Damascus suburbs governorate, Saturday 20 August 2016

Video footage showing the moment of dropping four barrel bombs by government helicopters and their explosion on [Darayya city](#) in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Tuesday 23 August 2016

Picture of an unexploded barrel bomb that contains explosive hoses was dropped by government helicopter on [Darat Ezza city](#) in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate, Sunday 7 August 2016.





bombs on [Darat Ezza city in the suburbs of Aleppo governorate](#), Sunday 7 August 2016.

Picture shows the moment of evacuation one injured in barrel bombs were dropped by government helicopters on [Darayya city](#) in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Sunday 14 August 2016.

Picture shows the moment of dropping four barrel bombs by government helicopters on [Darayya city in Western Ghouta](#) in Damascus suburbs governorate, Saturday 20 August 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 murder, 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 violation 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 prone 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 and Condolences

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.

