



559 Breaches of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement Through the use of Explosive Barrels Only 559 explosive barrel in April 2016 and the use is still ongoing

Report Contents:

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

I. Introduction:

Despite the force of the cessation of hostilities agreement, but the Syrian regime did not stop during the past month bombing of large areas using explosive barrels. Certainly, the frequency of use and the death toll has dropped its descendants, one day after the declaration of the Supreme Commission for negotiations to postpone its participation in the Geneva talks on 19 / April, where government forces have resumed dumping the explosive barrels on the areas that are not controlled by the Syrian regime to return to the pace of killings and attacks on vital civilian centers to what it was before the statement of the cessation of hostilities.

But the explosive barrel, which is a random weapon, has the effect of massive destruction. This impact does not just stop at the killing of civilian casualties, but also affects the displacement and terror of the people of the target area. Thereby displacing and terrorizing the residents of the target area. The throwing of the explosive barrels from the airplane is considered as a savage way that leads to war. Thus, it is possible to consider each explosive barrel is a crime of war.

Unlike what was announced by the Russian ambassador Vitaly Churkin to the UN, that the Syrian regime stopped using explosive barrels. The daily monitoring of documentation carried out by the SNHR proves without a doubt that the Syrian regime continues to kill and destroy Syria through the dumping of hundreds of explosive barrels operations. In this report, we review the accidents that we have been able to document the





use of weapon explosive barrels exclusively, place, time and images, and this report is issued on a monthly basis from SNHR.

Through the SNHR archives that is specialized in documenting violations, it has been shown that the first prominent use of explosive drums forces, was on Monday 1 October 2012 against the people of the city of “Siqleen” in Idlib province by government forces (army, security and local militias and foreign Shiite militias). Explosive barrels are considered local which is used by government forces due to the fact that it costs much less than the cost of the rocket and it has a large-destructive impact and based on the principle of free fall weight sometimes exceeds quarter ton. It is a random weapon par excellence, and if it killed a gunman it would be a matter of coincidence. The index upon that is the fact that 99% of the victims are civilians, and the proportion of women and children ranging between 12% and up to 35% in some cases.

The Security Council waited a year and a half before adopting resolution 2139 on 22 February, 2014 which condemned the use of barrel bombs and mentioned it by name: “Demands that all parties immediately 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” The Syrians welcomed the resolution because it expressed an intention to take further action in the events of in compliance.

The Syrian government, through its allies at the Security Council first and the other states’ failure to shoulder their legal and moral role, disregarded resolution 2139 the same way it disregarded resolution 2118, adopted on 27 September, 2013, resolution 2042 and 2043, adopted in April 2012 and resolution 2209 that was issued on 6 March 2015.

This report depict the toll of barrel bombs used, the shelling outcomes and aftermath, in addition to the most significant facilities that were shelled with barrel bombs that fell on the Syrian governorates keeping in mind all the challenges and obstacles we face.

The only conflict party who possesses this kind of weapons is the ruling regime; however its officials deny the use of these barrel bombs as weapons just like they deny all their other crimes. Additionally, the current government prohibits all different kinds of media outlets or independent international organizations. This report depicts the use of barrel bombs by the Syrian government only, regardless of the other conflict parties like armed opposition, extremist Islamic groups and Kurdish Self Management Forces) since they do not possess airpower.





SNHR studies and reports prove that most of the attacks were deliberate and targeted crowded civilian areas. The government's aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction it causes are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the Assad government.

II. Executive Summary:

A. Government Barrel Bomb that were dropped in April 2016:

SNHR was able to document not less than 559 barrel bombs that were dropped by government forces in April 2016, detailed as follows:

Damascus suburbs: 116

Aleppo: 230

Homs: 51

Idlib: 93

Hama: 44

Lattakia: 20

Deir Al Zour: 5

These barrel bombs killed 24 civilians including 7 children and 3 women according to SNHR's documentation team detailed as follows:

- Aleppo: 15 civilians including 6 children and a woman
- Idlib: 3 civilians including a woman
- Deir Al Zour: 3 civilians including a child and a woman
- Homos: 2 civilians
- Damascus Suburb: 1 civilian

B. Attacks on Vital Facilities:

Will not be able to record all forms of destruction caused by explosive barrels because they are too many and difficult to be counted because of the huge volume in the use of explosive barrels, and that is to focus on objects unattended, and the vital centers, such as markets, schools, hospitals, places of worship ...

Behind shed Air System explosive barrels in April, at least six vital facilities were damaged:

1. Places of Worships

Mosques: 1

2. Educational Facilities

- Schools: 1





3. Infrastructure:
- Civil defense centers: 4

III. Report Details:

A. Death toll due to the use of explosive barrel bombs in April.

• **Aleppo:**

Sunday 10 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled several explosive barrels on the town Bazaa'a in the suburb of Aleppo Governorate under the control of ISIL , which led to the killing of two civilians.

Friday, 22 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled 12 explosive barrels on the city Andan Aleppo suburb under the control of the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 4 civilians, including two children.

Wednesday, 27 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled 2 explosive barrels on Bab Al Naireb neighborhood in Aleppo city, controlled by the opposition armed factions, what caused the death of a young girl.

Friday, 29 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled 4 explosive barrels on Bostan Al Kaser Neighborhood in Aleppo city, controlled by the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 3 civilians, including two children.

Friday, 29 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled several explosive barrels on Al Maghayer neighborhood in the city of Aleppo, controlled by the opposition armed factions which resulted in the death of 4 civilians, including a woman.

Friday, 29 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled 4 explosive barrels at Al Ferdaws Neighborhood in the city of Aleppo, controlled by the opposition armed factions, what caused the death of a child.

• **Idlib governorate:**

Sunday 10 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled several explosive barrels on the town of Safohon, suburb of Idlib governorate under the control of the opposition armed factions, which resulted in the death of 3 civilians, including a woman.





- **The governorate of Deir Al-Zour:**

Friday, 8 April 2016, government flight helicopters shelled several explosive barrels on Shiekh Yassine Neighborhood in Deir Al Zour city, under the control of the ISIL, what caused the death of 3 civilians, including a woman and her child.

- **The governorate of Homs:**

Monday, 11 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled 4 explosive barrels on the city of Talbisah, northern suburb of Homos governorate under the control of the opposition armed factions, which led to the killing of two civilians.

- **The governorate of Damascus Countryside:**

Tuesday, 5 April 2016, government flight helicopters shelled 3 explosive barrels on the city of Dhmier in the governorate of Damascus countryside, killing one civilian.

B: incidents of assaults on the vital facilities using explosive barrels:

A: Government Forces (army, security forces, local militias, and foreign militias)

1. Places of Worships

- **Mosques:**

On 19 April 2016 government warplanes shelled an explosive barrel at Al Nour mosque in “Tayr Ma’alla” city in the governorate of Homos countryside, under the control of the opposition armed factions, which led to the destruction of the southern wall of the building. It’s important to mention that this mosque was exposed to government warplanes missiles previously in the same month and left [out of service](#).

2. Educational Facilities

- **Schools:**

On 5 April 2016, government warplanes launched an explosive barrel at “The Secondary School” in Dhmier city in the suburb of Damascus what caused the destruction of the school building and left [out of service](#).





Infrastructure:

- **Civil Defense Center (the facilities - mechanisms).**

Sunday 10 April 2016 government flight helicopters shelled 4 explosive barrels near [extinguishing center](#) of Hananou related to the Syrian civil society in the district of the Haydareyya in the city of Aleppo, controlled by the opposition armed factions, responsible for extinguishing fires in the eastern region of Aleppo City, which led to medium construction material damages, damaged 3 of the mechanisms of the Center (firefighter's car , a car related to the firefighters, a service vehicle), the center is [left out of service](#).

IV- Accessories and Annexes:

A video showing government flight helicopters shelled explosive barrels on the village of Teyr Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Monday, 11 April 2016)



A [video](#) showing the destruction caused government flight helicopters explosive barrels on Talbisah city in the north of Homs suburb, on Monday, 11 April 2016

A video showing government flight helicopters shelled 2 explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Friday, 15 April 2016





A video showing government flight helicopters shelled 2 explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Sunday 17 April 2016



A [video](#) showing government flight helicopters shelled 2 explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Tuesday, 19 April 2016)

A [video](#) showing the destruction caused by government flight helicopters who shelled 2 explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Wednesday, 20 April 2016)

The image of an explosive barrel but did not explode on Old Airport Neighborhood the city of Deir Al-Zour on Friday, 8 April 2016)



[Images](#) depicting the destruction caused by government flight helicopters shelling explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Monday, 11 April 2016)





The [image](#) of government flight helicopters shelling an explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Sunday, 10 April 2016

[The place of shelling explosive barrels](#) in the city of Talbisah suburb of Homos governorate by the government flight helicopters. Monday, 11 April 2016)

The image of the destruction caused by government flight helicopters shelling explosive barrels in [the village of Teir Moa'lla](#) in the suburb of Homos governorate on Thursday, 14 April 2016)

[Pictures](#) of the monitor the [destruction](#) caused by government flight helicopters shelling explosive barrels on Jisir Alshoughor suburb of Idlib Governorate on Thursday, 14 April 2016)

[Image](#) depicting the destruction caused by government flight helicopters shelling 2 explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Sunday 17 April 2016

[Image](#) depicting the destruction caused by government flight helicopters shelling explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Sunday 17 April 2016

[Image](#) depicting the destruction caused by government flight helicopters shelling explosive barrels in the village of Teir Moa'lla in the suburb of Homos governorate on Tuesday, 19 April 2016

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Legal Conclusions

1. The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolution 2139 and used barrel bombs in a widespread and systematic manner. Furthermore, the Syrian government perpetrated the crime of murder in a widespread and systematic manner according to Article VII of The International Criminal Court Rome Statute. Additionally, it violated many principles of the international humanitarian law and perpetrated tens of crimes that can be classified openly as war crimes through its indiscriminate and proportionate bombing.





2. SNHR notes that the bombing using explosive barrels is an act of indiscriminate bombing that targeted armless civilians, thus the government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict and hence can be absolutely classified as war crimes.
3. The random attacks committed by the government forces are considered violations of the customary international law considering the fact that government forces have attacked residential areas rather than a specific military target.
4. These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage.
5. The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent bombing, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.
6. Government forces, and all of its leaderships and forms, are responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes as well as any parties that support the Syrian government politically, materially, and militarily – such as the Russian government, the Iranian government, and Hezbollah in addition to the weapon manufacturing companies. All of these parties must be prosecuted for the crimes they perpetrated, or contributed to, against the Syrian people.

Recommendations

The Security Council

1. The Security Council should take serious steps in order to implement its resolutions which have become ineffective and thus lost all of its credibility and purpose.
2. Also, it should impose an arms embargo on the Syrian government and prosecute anyone who supplies the Syrian government with money and weapon considering that those resources are being used to perpetrate crimes and serious human rights violations.
3. The Security Council is the party who has the authority to refer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court. Instead of preserving peace and security, the Security Council is hindering this step. Everyone responsible for war crimes and crimes against must be prosecuted.

Acknowledgments

Our most profound condolences go out to the victims' families and friends and our thanks to the local activists and families who contributed majorly to this report.

