



974 Breaches of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement Through the use of Barrel Bombs

Only 996 Barrel Bombs in May 2016 and the use is still ongoing

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I. Introduction:

Despite the cessation of hostilities agreement, but the Syrian regime did not stop during the past month bombing of large areas using barrel bombs. Certainly, the frequency of use and the death toll has dropped its descendants, until 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 barrel bombs 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.

As the barrel bomb is a random weapon per excellence, it has the effect of massive destruction. This impact does not just stop at the killing of civilian casualties, but also affects the destruction, consequently displacement and terror of the people of the targeted area. The throwing of the barrel bombs from the airplane in this savage way, is considered as a war crime so it is possible to consider each barrel bomb a crime of war.

Unlike what was announced by the Russian ambassador Vitaly Churkin to the UN, that the Syrian regime stopped using barrel bombs. 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 barrel bombs opera-





tions. In this report, we review the accidents that we have been able to document the use of weapon barrel bombs exclusively, specifically in place, time and images, and this report is issued on a monthly basis from SNHR.

Through the SNHR archives that are specialized in documenting violations, it has been shown that the first prominent use of barrel bombs was by the government forces (Army and security, local militias and foreign forces and Shiite militias) on Monday 1 October 2012 against the people of the city of «Silqeen» in Idlib governorate. Barrel bombs are considered local and government forces used it 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 issued resolution no. 2139 on 22 February, 2014 which condemned the use of barrel bombs and mentioned it by name: “All parties should 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” however, government forces, till the moment of preparing this report, is still, daily, dropping tens of barrel bombs upon areas that are under its control.

We also documented, in some cases, the government forces usage of barrel bombs that hold poisonous gases, and this is considered as a breach for the Security Council resolution no. 2118 adopted on September 27th, 2013 and resolution no. 2209 adopted on March 6th, 2015.

This report depict the toll of barrel bombs dropped up on the governorate and all the outcomes of victims, in addition to the most significant facilities although we are assuring that all of this is the minimum comparing to 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 such as arrests, killing, forced abduction, torture, and





others. On the other hand, the current government prohibits the entrance of International Commission of Inquiry, all different kinds of media outlets, or independent and international organizations. Consequently, This report doesn't contain the three other parties (Kurdish Self Management Forces, Extremists Islamic Groups, and Armed opposition factions) since they do not possess airpower.

SNHR studies and reports prove that most of the attacks were deliberate and targeted crowded civilian areas as well as vital facilities for the sake of destroying any possibility to build a substitute government or power in the areas that are no longer under the control of government forces; or else, what is the aim of targeting areas that are tens kilometers away from front lines?

II. Executive Summary:

A. The Barrel Bombs' Toll in May:

Through daily checking and documentation, SNHR team was able to document not less than 996 barrel bombs that were dropped by government forces warplanes in May 2016. The 974 barrels amongst are considered as a breach for the statement of the cessation of hostilities which were dropped over areas under the control of armed opposition factions while the rest were shelled at areas under the control of both ISIS and Al Nusra Front who are not covered by statement of cessation of hostilities.

The barrel bombs shelled by the government warplanes distributed among governorates detailed as follows:

Aleppo: 419

Damascus suburbs: 355

Hama: 71

Daraa: 56

Idlib: 45

Homs: 36

Lattakia: 13

Al Suwayda: 1





These barrel bombs killed 57 civilians including 18 children and 10 women according to SNHR's documentation team detailed as follows:

- Aleppo: 40 civilians including 14 children and 6 women
- Homs: 11 civilians including 4 children and 3 women
- Daraa: 3 civilians including a woman
- Hama: 2 civilians
- Damascus Suburb: 1 civilian

C. Attacks on Vital Facilities:

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

Not less than six vital facilities were damaged out of the air system shellings:

1. Places of Worships

Mosques: 4

2. Medical facilities:

- Medical centers: 2

III. Report Details:

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

• Aleppo Governorate

Sunday 1/ May 2016 government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Owaihel town, Western Countryside of Aleppo, controlled by the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of two children.

Monday, 2 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 1 barrel bomb at Kafrnaha town, western countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

Thursday 5 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 6 barrel bombs on Om Caramel Town, southern countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 5 civilians, including a woman and a media activist.





Tuesday, 17 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Al Rashideen Neighborhood in Aleppo city, controlled by the armed opposition factions, what caused the death of a child.

Friday, 20 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 6 barrel bombs on Khan Al Asal Town, western countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 6 civilians, including a child and a woman.

Wednesday, 25 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 8 barrel bombs on Hraitan City, northern countryside of Aleppo, controlled by the armed opposition factions, what caused the killing of civilians.

Wednesday 25 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Kafr Hamra Town, countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of a child.

Thursday, 26 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 8 barrel bombs on Hraitan Town, Northern countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to the killing of two civilians.

Thursday, 26 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Anadan Town, northern countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, what caused the death of a woman.

Thursday, 26 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Castillo Road, Aleppo city, controlled by the armed opposition factions, which led to the killing of 2 civilians, one of them a woman.

Thursday, 26 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Baydeen Neighborhood, Aleppo city, controlled by the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

Thursday, 26 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Hayyan town, northern countryside of Aleppo, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of two children.





Friday 27 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Tareeq Al Bab Neighborhood, Aleppo city, controlled by the armed opposition factions, what caused the death of 5 civilians, including 4 children.

Sunday, 29 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Tareeq Al Bab Neighborhood, Aleppo City, controlled by the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 4 civilians from one family, including two children and a woman.

Monday 30 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 10 barrel bombs at Al Sak-hour Neighborhood, Aleppo City, controlled by the armed opposition factions, what caused the death of a child and a woman.

Monday, 30 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs Hayyan Town, northern countryside of Aleppo governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

Monday, 30 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Tareeq Al Bab Neighborhood, Aleppo City, which is under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

Monday 30 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Al Haydariya Neighborhood, Aleppo City, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

Monday, 30 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Al Ferdous Neighborhood, Aleppo City, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

- **Homs Governorate**

Thursday, 19 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Bourj Qaa'ee Village, countryside of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to the killing of two civilians.





Thursday, 19 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Taldaw Town, countryside of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions what caused the death of 6 civilians, including 4 children and a woman.

Thursday, 19 May 2016) government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Tal Al Dahab Town, countryside of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in the death of 3 civilians, including two women.

• **Daraa Governorate**

Sunday, 8 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs at Om Al Mayathen, countryside of Daraa governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which caused the death of a woman.

Saturday 14/ May 2016 government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs at Bosra Al Sham, countryside of Daraa governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which caused the killing of one civilian.

Wednesday 25 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Nawa, countryside of Daraa governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

• **Hama Governorate:**

Sunday, 8 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Braigheeth village, countryside of Hama governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

Thursday, 19 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Talf town, countryside of Hama governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.





- **Damascus Countryside Governorate:**

Wednesday, 18 May 2016 government helicopters dropped 25 barrel bombs at Khan Al Sheih Camp in Western Al Ghouta in the governorate of Damascus countryside, under the control of the armed opposition factions, killing one civilian.

incidents of attacks on the vital facilities using barrel bombs:

1. Places of Worships

- **Mosques:**

Friday, 20 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at [Ali Bin Abi Taleb Mosque in Bour Qaa'ee](#) in the countryside of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to [the partial damage](#) in the front wall of the mosque and severely [damaging](#) its sanctuary.



Thursday, 26 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at Al Baraa Bin Malik Mosque in Al Hamees, Hraytan city in the countryside of Aleppo governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to a huge damage in the building of the mosque, it is worth mentioning that the bombardment of the mosque is considered the third in May, and the mosque went out of service as a result of the bombing of allegedly Russian warplanes in 22 May 2016.

Sunday, 29 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at the residential houses in the surroundings of Jaafar Bin Abi Taleb Mosque in Al Haydareya Neighborhood, Aleppo City, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which led to the medium damages to the mosque and partial damages to its northern fence.

Monday 30 May 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs near Abu Baker Al-Sideek Mosque in the city of Hraytan, Countryside of Aleppo governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, which resulted in huge damages to [the building of the mosque](#).

1. Medical Vital Facilities





- **Medical facilities (hospitals, dispensaries, Medical points, field hospitals):**

Tuesday, 17 May 2016, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs near Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Bikaai Hospital in Khan Al Sheih Camp, the governorate of Damascus countryside, controlled by the armed opposition factions, led to medium [damages](#) to the building of the hospital and left out of service.

Friday, 20 May 2016, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs at [the medical point](#) related to «Physicians across Continent Organization» in Bourj Qaa'ee Village, countryside of Homs governorate, under the control of the armed opposition factions, [causing huge destruction](#) in the building of [the medical point](#).

IV- Accessories and Annexes:

A [video](#) showing the government Helicopters dropping 4 barrel bombs at Khan Al Sheih Camp, in the governorate of Damascus countryside, on Tuesday, 17 May 2016.

A [segment](#) that depict the government Helicopters dropping 4 barrel bombs at Khan Al Sheih Camp in Western Al Ghouta, in the governorate of Damascus countryside on Wednesday, 18 May 2016.

A [video](#) showing the destruction caused due to the government Helicopters dropping barrel bombs at Al Halak Neighborhood, in Aleppo City, on Saturday, 28 May 2016).

The [image](#) of the destruction due to the government Helicopters dropping a barrel bomb at Al Halak Neighborhood in Aleppo City, on Tuesday, 3 May 2016

The place of the barrel bomb dropped by the government Helicopters at Khan Al Sheih Camp, in the governorate of Damascus countryside on Wednesday, 11 May 2016).





An [image](#) monitors the destruction caused by the government Helicopters dropping several barrel bombs at Nawa City in the countryside of Daraa governorate, on Wednesday, 25 May 2016

Place of the barrel bomb dropped by government helicopters at Hraytan city, northern countryside of Aleppo governorate, on Thursday, 26 May 2016).





An [image](#) that monitors the destruction caused by the government Helicopters dropping several barrel bombs at Al Miassar Neighborhood, Aleppo city, on Friday, 27 May 2016

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Legal Conclusions

1. The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolution no. 2139, no. 2254 and Cessation of Hostilities statement 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 barrel bombs 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 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, the Lebanese Hezbollah and others, in addition to the weapon manufacturing companies. All of these parties must be prosecuted for the crimes they perpetrated, or contributed to, and shall be liable to criminal prosecution.





Recommendations

The Security Council

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.

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.

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 whose contributions have enriched this report.

