



## At Least 30 Attacks on Vital Facilities in February 2014

Contents of the report:

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Details of Incidents
  - 1) Places of worship
  - 2) Schools
  - 3) Medical facilities
  - 4) Ambulances
  - 5) Markets
  - 6) Red Crescent vital facilities
  - 7) Power stations and energy sources
  - 8) Refugee camps
- III. Conclusions and Recommendations

### I. Executive Summary:

In February 2014, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) documented at least 30 attacks on vital facilities, distributed according to the perpetrator party as follows:

A. Government forces: 26

B. Parties that SNHR was unable to identify: Four

The most notable vital facilities targeted in February:

13 places of worship, Six school, three medical facilities, one ambulance, two markets, one power station/energy source, and one refugee camp.

In this report, the SNHR sheds light on the attacks on vital facilities that the network was able to document for this period. We emphasize that the attacks documented account for the bare minimum of attacks actually carried out due to the many practical obstacles encountered in our documentation process.

As a result of its investigations, SNHR confirms that there were no military headquarters in the facilities included in this report, either before or during the attacks. Government forces and other perpetrators must justify their attacks to the United Nations and the Security Council.





## II. Details of incidents:

### A. Government forces:

#### - Places of worship:

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb that landed near Abdullah Bin Masoud Mosque in Tareeq al Bab neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant material damage to the mosque's western façade and cladding, as well as inflicting partial destruction of the mosque perimeter fence on the west side. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Monday, February 3, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on [al Shamali Mosque](#) in Morek town in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, causing partial destruction to the mosque building and the perimeter fence, as well as inflicting significant material damage on the furniture and external cladding, putting it out of service. The town was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, February 4, 2014, government warplanes fired a missile that landed near [Othman Bin Affan Mosque](#) in the Masaken Hanano neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant material damage to the mosque building, putting it out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, February 9, 2014, government artillery fired a mortar at [Ali Bin Abi Taleb Mosque](#) in Kafr Batna town in the Eastern Ghouta east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, causing moderate material damage to the mosque's minaret. The town was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, February 9, 2014, government artillery fired two shells at [al Kabir Mosque](#) in Keyseen village in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate, causing partial destruction to the mosque building, as well as inflicting significant material damage to the mosque's furniture and external cladding, putting it out of service. The village was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.





On Monday, February 10, 2014, government warplanes fired two missiles at [al Ghazali Mosque](#) in al Sena'a neighborhood southeast of Deir Ez-Zour city, causing extensive destruction to the ablution place in the mosque, as well as causing significant material damage to its furniture and external cladding, in addition to inflicting several holes in the mosque's dome, putting the mosque out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Friday, February 14, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb that landed near Omar Bin al Khattab Mosque in Masaken Hanano neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant material damage to the mosque building and external cladding. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb that landed near al Fateh Mosque in al Enzarat neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant destruction to the mosque building, putting it out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Thursday, February 20, 2014, government artillery fired shells targeting [Abu Huraira Mosque](#) in Tareek [al Sadd neighborhood](#) in the [Daraa al Mahatta](#) area east of Daraa city, causing significant destruction to the mosque building, as well as inflicting significant [material damage](#) to the mosque's furniture and external cladding, putting it out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Friday, February 21, 2014, government artillery fired a number of shells at al Sadd al Jadeed Mosque in the Tareek al Sadd neighborhood in Daraa al Mahatta area east of Daraa city, partially destroying the mosque building. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Monday, February 24, 2014, government artillery fired a shell that landed near [al Farooq Mosque](#) in al Hola city in the northwestern suburbs of Homs governorate, with the explosion leaving several holes in the mosque's eastern façade, as well as inflicting moderate material damage to the mosque external cladding. The city was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.





On Wednesday, February 26, 2014, government artillery fired a shell at a mosque in [al Rami village](#) in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, causing significant destruction to the mosque building. The village was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

- Schools:

On Friday, February 7, 2014, a government warplane fired a missile at al Thawra School in al Sukkari neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant destruction to the school building, putting it out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Saturday, February 8, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on Saif al Dawla al Hamadani School in Masaken Hanano neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant destruction to the school building and perimeter fence. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Sunday, February 9, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb that landed near Ter'an School in al Mzayreeb town in the northwestern suburbs of Daraa governorate, causing moderate material damage to the school building. The town was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Monday, February 10, 2014, a government warplane fired a missile at [Ein al Zaytoun School](#), run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in al Mzayreeb town in the northwestern suburbs of Daraa governorate, partially destroying the school's perimeter fence, as well as causing moderate material damage to the school building, and leaving several craters in the schoolyard. The town was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, February 11, 2014, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs that landed near Saif al Dawla al Hamadani School in Masaken Hanano neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant destruction to the school building, putting it out of service. We further note that the school had been targeted with barrel bombs by the same helicopters three days earlier on Saturday, February 8, 2014. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.





On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, a government helicopter dropped [a barrel bomb](#) that landed near Ein al Zaytoun School, run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in al Mzayreeb town in the northwestern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The bomb fell on a residential building near the school, inflicting a massacre, in addition to causing significant material damage to the school building. We note that the school had previously been materially damaged by a missile fired by the Syrian regime warplanes eight days earlier on Monday, February 10, 2014. The town was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

- Medical facilities:

On Saturday, February 1, 2014, government helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs that landed near al Zarzour Hospital in al Ansari neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing extensive destruction to the hospital building, putting it out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb that landed near the medical dispensary in al Mzayreeb town in the northwestern suburbs of Daraa governorate, causing extensive material damage to the dispensary building, putting it out of service. The town was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

- Markets:

On Saturday, February 1, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on a vegetable market in Tareeq al Bab neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing significant material damage to a number of shops. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

On Monday, February 24, 2014, government warplanes fired [two missiles](#) at the main market in Yabroud city north of Damascus Suburbs governorate, causing significant destruction to a number of shops, in addition to causing less severe material damage to other shops. The city was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.





- Red Crescent Organization:

On Friday, February 7, 2014, government helicopters dropped a number of barrels bombs on the [Red Crescent's field hospital](#) in al Sakhour neighborhood east of Aleppo city, causing casualties, in addition to causing extensive destruction to the building, and inflicting significant material damage to the hospital equipment and two ambulances belonging to the hospital, putting it out of service. The neighborhood was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

- Power stations and energy sources:

On Tuesday, February 4, 2014, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on [the Noon Aleppo electricity generation](#) plant in al Hawwaz area east of Aleppo city. As a result, a fire broke out at the station, inflicting significant destruction on the equipment, and putting it out of service. The area was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

**B. Parties we were unable to identify:**

- Mosques:

On Friday, February 14, 2014, a car bomb exploded near Ammar Bun Yaser Mosque, known as [al Shamali Mosque](#), in al Yadoda town in the western suburbs of Daraa governorate, perpetrating a massacre, as well as causing significant destruction in the mosque building, and inflicting extensive material damage to the mosque's furniture and external cladding. We were unable to determine the perpetrator party responsible for the attack up to the time of preparing this report. Al Yadoda village was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

<http://www.sn4hr.org/wp-video/watch.php?id=1455&token=C7MOqVIEO-HhYAFXd5A3UqRol9MTtlehN>

- Medical facilities:

On Sunday, February 23, 2014, a car bomb exploded near Orient Hospital in Atma village in the northern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which was under the control of Armed Opposition factions, causing extensive material damage to the hospital building and equipment. We were unable to determine the perpetrator party up to the time of preparing this report. Atma village was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.





#### - Ambulances:

On Sunday, February 16, 2014, unidentified armed elements opened fire on an ambulance, belonging to the Police governmental Hospital in Harašta city east of Damascus Suburbs governorate, on the Damascus-Homs International Road near Harašta city, causing minor material damage to the vehicle. We were unable to determine the perpetrator party responsible for the attack up to the time of preparing this report. The area was under the control of government forces at the time of the incident.

#### - Refugee camps:

On Thursday, February 20, 2014, a car bomb exploded near a camp for displaced people near Bab [al Salama border](#) crossing with Turkey in the northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, causing moderate material damage to a number of tents and camp facilities. We were unable to determine the perpetrator party responsible for the attack up to the time of preparing this report. The area was under the control of Armed Opposition groups at the time of the incident.

### **III. Conclusions and recommendations**

According to international humanitarian law, indiscriminate, deliberate or disproportionate attacks are unlawful, with the Syrian government forces' targeting of schools, hospitals, places of worship and furnaces demonstrating a blatant disregard for even the minimum standards of international humanitarian law and UN Security Council resolutions.

Extremist organizations and some other armed groups have also targeted some of these facilities. Indiscriminate bombing constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law and is tantamount to a war crime.

#### **Recommendations:**

##### **UN Security Council:**

- Compel all parties, in particular government forces as the greatest perpetrator of violations, to implement Resolution 2139, and at the very least condemn the targeting of indispensable and vital centers serving civilians.
- A comprehensive arms embargo should be imposed on the Syrian government, in view of its flagrant violations of international law and of UN Security Council resolutions.
- The countries that supply weapons to the Syrian regime and groups that have been proved to have committed crimes against civilians should be categorized as accomplices in these crimes, along with all suppliers and distributors involved in supplying and providing access to materials used to perpetrate them.

