

Government Forces' Use of Barrel Bombs a Year after Security Council Resolution 2139 was Adopted

When The Security Council is unable to implement its resolutions



**Government Forces' Use of Barrel Bombs
a Year after Security Council Resolution
2139 was Adopted**

Government forces used no less than

5150

barrel bombs



killed at least

12193

victims

96% civilians

50% of the victims were children and women



The Security Council waited a year and a half before adopting resolution 2139 on 22 February, 2014 which condemned the use of barrel bombs

Before Security Council resolution 2139 was adopted

After Security Council resolution 2139 was adopted

More than **3200**



→ Killed more than **5714** Victims

5543



171



779



347



97% Civilians

3% Rebels

21% the percentage of children and women victims

More than **1950**



→ Killed more than **6479** Victims

6177



302



1720



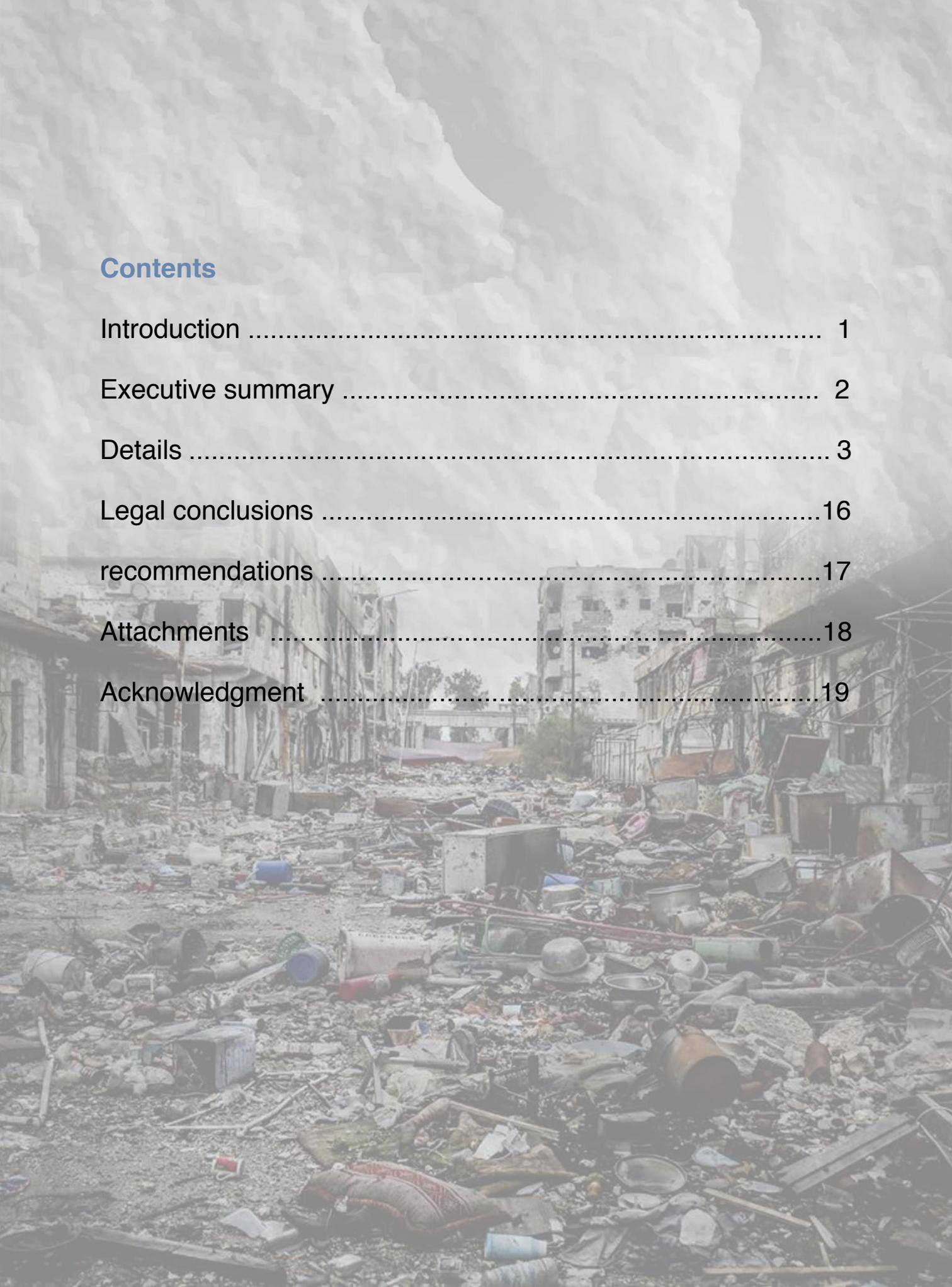
1892



95% Civilians

5% Rebels

50% the percentage of children and women victims



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Introduction

By daily observing and recording the violations after the beginning of the popular protests in March 2011, we found out that first significant use of barrel bombs by government forces (Military forces, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias) was on Monday 1 October, 2012 in Idlib – Silqean town where a helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on a two-floor residential building which collapsed completely and 32 civilians, including seven women and seven children, were killed in addition to 120 others who were injured as shrapnel scattered everywhere. It is worth noting that this might not be the first time barrel bombs were used but it was the first time it was used in such a notable manner. The international community was not familiar with that kind of weapon yet.

The same as with any new weapon, government forces cautiously waited for the international community's respond as the Syrian government deems the international community's silence or condemnation a red light to use and employ this weapon on a larger scale which was the case when it started using aerial weapon, poison gases, cluster munitions, and Scud missiles.

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. The Syrian government fully realizes that there are no serious consequences of its action where its forces are openly and proudly violating the Security Council resolutions and international laws (A pro-government politician said on TV that the Syrian government should use nuclear weapons to attack the areas outside its control). Our daily documentation of violations shows that there is no notable difference before 22 February, 2014 (resolution 2139) and after.

Fadel Abdulghani, head of SNHR, says

"The world can't exist without law, yes, government forces' use of barrel bombs is a shameful act that is happening before the whole world's eyes. The international community's and the Security Council's silence is even more despicable because the international community is supposed to represent the values of justice and human dignity. The Security Council should work on restoring peace and safety and the civilians who are living in the areas that are not being controlled by the Syrian government have the right to be protected by the international community"

Executive Summary

From 1 October, 2012 until 20 February, 2015, government forces used no less than 5150 barrel bombs (or explosive cylinders) to bomb the various Syrian governorates. These bombs killed at least 12194 victims; more of 96% of those were civilians while more than 50% of the victims were children and women. The percentages before and after the Security Council resolutions as follows:

A. Before Security Council resolution 2139 was adopted

Between 1 October, 2012 and 22 February, 2014, government forces killed, using barrel bombs, no less than 5714 victims as follows:

5543 civilians including 347 children and 779 women.

171 rebels.

97% civilians and 3% rebels, who probably were killed incidentally. Among those who were killed were 347 children at least. Also, approximately, more than 3200 barrel bombs were used. SNHR published about 12 reports (Please see the appendix) documenting the use of barrel bombs in Aleppo, Darayya in Damascus suburbs, Daraa, and other areas.

B. After Security Council resolution 2139 was adopted

Between 22 February, 2014, when the Resolution was adopted, and 20 February, 2014, a year after the Resolution was adopted, government forces used no less than 1950 barrel bombs in the various Syrian governorates. These barrel bombs caused tens of massacre and murders and destroyed hundreds of buildings and vital facilities. Additionally, 6480 at least were killed by these attacks as follows: 6178 civilians including 1892 children and 1720 women.

302 rebels.

The methodology of using barrel bombs didn't differ before and after the Resolution was adopted. Civilians that were killed by barrel bombs are more than 95%, the percentage of children and women victims is 58% which is a significantly high percentage (more than half of the victims) that indicates a systematic and deliberate policy to kill civilians and target residential areas indiscriminately.

The victims who were killed by government forces' use are distributed by governorate as follows:

1. Aleppo: 4105 victims: 102 rebels and 4003 civilians including 1208 children and 1123 women.
2. Idlib: 622 victims: 27 rebels and 595 civilians including 190 children and 112 women.
3. Daraa: 606 victims: 15 rebels and 591 civilians including 209 children and 222 women.
4. Damascus suburbs: 334 victims: 56 rebels and 278 civilians including 106 children and 80 women.
5. Hama: 309 victims: 26 rebels and 283 civilians including 88 children and 73 women.
6. Homs: 281 victims: 28 rebels and 253 civilians including 61 children and 71 women.
7. Ar-Raqqa: 81 victims: 11 rebels and 70 civilians including 16 children and 23 women.
8. Der Ezzor: 39 victims: 15 rebels and 24 civilians including three children and one woman.
9. Latakia: 33 victims: nine rebels and 24 civilians including three children and five women.
10. Al-Hassaka: 36 victims: three rebels and 33 civilians including four children and six women.
11. Qunietra: 20 victims: three rebels and 17 civilians including six women and four children.
12. Tartus: 13 victims: seven rebels and six civilians.
13. As-Suwyida: one victim.

The report contains 21 testimonies from victims' relatives, eyewitnesses, and activists. Additionally, we verified 26 video footages at least and many photos that confirm the testimonies. We changed the names of the people who gave us their testimonies for their safety. The details included in this report are from incidents that occurred after the Resolution was adopted whereas we covered the incidents that happened before the Resolution was adopted in several previous reports.

Details

A. Most notable incidents in Aleppo

1- As-Sukkari neighborhood on Friday 7 March, 2014

Around 12:00 PM, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the train railroad in Al-Manasher area near Khabbab Mosque in As-Sukkari neighborhood, where there weren't rebels or military points. The bombing killed six civilians including two children while 20 others were injured. Additionally, more than six shops were destroyed according to SNHR's documentation.



2- Hrietan city on Monday 24 March, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the southern neighborhood in Hrietan city, which is a residential neighborhood. We didn't find any rebels' presence or military points in that area. The bombing killed five victims and injured more than seven. Also, a number of cars were burned.

Mr. Yaman Hasnatou witnessed the bombing and offered us his testimony

“Around 1:00 PM, I heard a the sound of an explosion, a barrel bomb was dropped in the southern part of the city. I headed to the targeted location and saw the civil defense teams collecting the dead bodies and helping the wounded. More than five were killed while I couldn't know how many were wounded.”

“The bombing was indiscriminate and didn't target any rebels, the targeted neighborhood was civil and all the victims and wounded were civilians”

3- As-Sakhour neighborhood on Wednesday 2 April, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the pedestrians overpass on As-Sakhour highway. A small bus was hit which resulted in eight civilians being killed including one child and one woman.

SNHR spoke with the eyewitness Ramez Hallaq:

“Around 12:30 PM I was by As-Sakhour clinic, I heard the sound of an explosion from the highway area. I headed there and found a big hole in the ground that had a diameter of more than 3 meters and a depth of more than 1.5 meters. A bus was hit, all the wounded were wounded in addition to some of the pedestrians.”

“The explosion was caused by a barrel bomb that was dropped by a helicopter on the pedestrians overpass, the area was civil. Most of who are heading to Aleppo suburbs passes it. There aren't any rebels' checkpoints in the area. There was a displaced family that was heading to the suburbs from the city in addition to other people. We started helping the wounded and extracted three dead bodies from the bus and two were critically wounded; one of them was a female child.”

Mr. Ibrahim Al-Masri was near the targeted area, he told SNHR what he saw:

“I was near As-Sakhour neighborhood when a barrel bomb was dropped on a pedestrians overpass. I headed there; people were all in panic because of the horrible injuries and the scattered body parts. Civil defense teams arrived later and started helping the wounded.”

“One of the wounded was a 40-year-old; he was injured in his head and died instantly. Also, there was a female child that was critically wounded”

“I helped a man who was injured in his hand and chest to get to the ambulance. While I was there, some of the rebels came and told people to not gather as they feared that the bombing will occur again.”

4-B'iedien neighborhood on Sunday 20 April, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on the market street in Bi'edien neighborhood in northern Aleppo. We recorded the killing of 14 civilians were including five children and two women.

5- Al-Firdous neighborhood on Sunday 20 April, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped five barrel bombs on Khayyata Mosque street in Al-Firdous neighborhood in eastern Aleppo. We recorded the killing of 61 civilians including 16 children and 11 women. Also, the bombing destroyed more than five residential buildings.



Al-Halk neighborhood / Pictures of the destruction in the market

6- Al-Halk neighborhood in Aleppo city on Thursday 1 May, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped six barrel bombs on two markets in Al-Halk neighborhood, four of the barrel bombs were dropped on the vegetables market while the other two targeted a clothes market in Al-Halk Al-Fouqani neighborhood.

Salah Ash-Shawwak, a resident from Al-Halk neighborhood, told SNHR:

“About 4:00 PM, I was at my home in Al-Halk neighborhood when a strong explosion occurred, the whole building shook. In less than a minute a strong explosion happened, the windows and doors shattered. We found out that the two explosions were caused by two barrel bombs that were dropped on “Ar-Ra’ie wal Al-Ghandoura garages” area. I headed there, I watched more than ten cars burning and a small bus, with whoever was inside, was also burning. Body parts were everywhere and there were fires in the shops. I helped the medical team transfer about 20 dead bodies and 50 wounded. While he helping the wounded, we heard two other explosions in Al-Halk Al-Fouqani area which is near the clothes market. I didn’t go there but I heard that two barrel bombs were dropped and caused a bigger massacre than the vegetables market massacre.”

SNHR contacted Mr. Abdurrazzaq Abdulqader, a resident from Al-Halk neighborhood, who told us:

“Two barrel bombs were dropped on the clothes market in Al-Halk Al-Fouqani area near Omar bin Al-Khattab Mosque about 4:15 PM. The first one was dropped on a residential building around the corner and the other was dropped in the middle of the market, exactly on a gas station which caused a huge fire in the area.”

“Civil defense teams arrived and started transferring wounded and victims. About 50 shops were destroyed. Also, some pre-built rooms that were used as shops were destroyed.”

“We saw burned and disfigured dead bodies everywhere. Additionally, 70 were wounded including critical injuries mostly.”



Tal Ref't city / Pictures of the destruction caused by the bombing in the field-hospital

7- Tal Ref't on Monday 20 May, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Tal Ref't field-hospital. The explosion destroyed the hospital front completely and destroyed also a medical warehouse and all of the hospital equipment. The hospital administration declared that the hospital is out of commission although it was one of the most important medical points in Aleppo and its suburbs.

The bombing killed a medic and wounded more than 15 people; most of whom were wounded and patients according to SNHR documentation team.

It should be noted that the hospital was located in an isolated area where there were no military or rebels' presence according to activists who confirmed this. Therefore, the hospital was the target of this savage attack.

SNHR contacted Mr. Abdulghani Rajab, a resident from Tal Ref't city:

"About 5:00 PM I was in the northern parts of Tal Ref't city. A big explosion occurred and the sky was filled with smoke and dust. I headed there and found a barrel bomb that was dropped by a helicopter that we used to hear its sound in front of the field-hospital in the city which is located in the old train station. The explosion destroyed the front of the hospital completely and destroyed a medical warehouse. Also, the explosion killed the nurse Radwan Shoubak who was specialized in treating burns. Radwan was standing by the hospital when he was hit in his head by shrapnel which killed him immediately."

"Furthermore, the explosion wounded 15 people at least including four members of the medical staff and the rest were patients. Most of the injuries weren't critical because the bomb was dropped near the hospital and on it directly. Also, the bombing damaged heavily the hospital furniture and bedrooms. The hospital is now unfit to house patients."

"five cases mediocre cases were transferred to Turkish hospitals while the rest of the injuries were treated in Tal Ref't central hospital, Al-Hurriya hospital in Marea', Kafr Ghan field-hospital."

"The barbarian regime targeted the most important hospital in Aleppo suburbs although it is located in a remote civil area where there aren't any rebels."

8- As-Sakhour hospital on Tuesday 1 July, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a field-hospital in As-Sakhour neighborhood which resulted in three civilians being killed and seven members of the medical staff injured. The residents confirmed to SNHR that there weren't any rebels' presence in the targeted location.



SNHR contacted Mr. Saleh Mahmoud As-Saleh who is an eyewitness:

“On Tuesday at afternoon I was at Khaled ben Al-Walid Mosque, which is located by As-Sakhour field-hospital inside SARC building, when a big explosion happened. I heard glass shattering and saw the smoke rising. The explosion was caused by a barrel bombs that was dropped by a helicopter near SARC. I headed there and found out that the hospitals and its contents were all damaged and the glass was shattered. Some members of the medical and managerial staff were wounded in addition to civilians who were at the hospital. Outside the hospital, I saw two ambulances that were destroyed completely and by them there were body parts and a burned body. It is a civil area, there are no rebels here.”

9- Sad Al-Lauz market on Sunday 27 July, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on a market in Ash-Sha'ar on an urban market which a civil market where no military presence can be found according to the residents' testimonies that were collected by SNHR. The bombing killed 10 civilians including a woman.

Mr. Hamma Rasoul, a resident from Ash-Sha'ar neighborhood, told SNHR of what he saw:

“Around 3:00 PM, I was at Ash-Sha'ar neighborhood near Al-Mwaslat circle when government forces helicopters dropped death bombs where three barrel bombs were dropped on Sad Al-Lauz Street which is an urban market.”

10- Al-Ma'adi neighborhood on Saturday 9 August, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an urban market in Al-Ma'adi neighborhood which killed 17 victims including one child and two women. Also, many shops and residential buildings were destroyed.

11- Tal Qrah town on 23 October, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped [three barrel bombs on Tal Qrah](#) town which targeted a wedding hall that was housing displaced families. SNHR documentation team documented the killing of 19 civilians: 15 children and four women. Also, the wedding hall, the village bakery, and many homes were damaged.

Mr. Nader Abdulhalim, a resident from Tal Qrah, talked to SNHR about what he saw:

"I was at home around 4:00 when a warplane was soaring. A few minutes after, I saw three barrel bombs being dropped on the southern part of the town. I immediately headed there; the bombing targeted a wedding venue that was housing a number of displaced people from Handrat town, which was taken over by government forces recently. Also, a fire started in the bakery which is by the hall as a barrel bomb heavily destroyed the bakery and caused an explosion in a nearby gas tank. Afterwards, civil defense teams arrived. I saw more than six dead bodies and more than 10 wounded."

B. Most notable incidents in Idlib

1- An-Najiya village on Saturday 2 August, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Idlib – An-Najiya village. SNHR documented the killing of seven victims including four women.

2- Saraqeb city on Saturday and Sunday 4-5 October, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped more than 10 barrel bombs on the first and second days of Eid Al-Adha. The bombing targeted vital facilities including the main mosque and the northern mosque in the city in addition to the market, Al-Ihsan Hospital, the city clinic, and a school in the northwestern neighborhood. All of these centers are civil centers. Investigation, conducted by SNHR, proved that there were no military targets inside or near these centers before or during the attack.



The airstrikes targeted also a school in the northern neighborhood which was a military center for the rebels before it was evacuated a month before the attack.

The media activist Laith told SNHR about the airstrikes:

"The first airstrike targeted the city market and the city mosque which is next to the market. The market was immensely destroyed while the mosque doors and windows were destroyed. After two hours, government forces helicopters dropped another barrel bomb and a big explosive container, which was used for the first time, on the northern neighborhood and targeted a school that was used as a military center. However, the rebels evacuated the school a month before this attack."

"The bombing targeted also a school in the southern neighborhood. Thank God there weren't many injuries because many of the residents displaced while others hid in shelters."

"On the next day, more than four barrel bombs were dropped on Al-Ihsan Hospital and the city clinic. The hospital is now out of commission."

"The destruction was great and covered an area larger than 500 m2 in addition to various damages that reached an area of 2 km2."

The local media activist “Jamal” told SNHR:

“The first airstrike was at 9:30 PM when two barrel bombs were dropped. The first one fell on the market that is in the middle of the city and destroyed about 30 shops in addition to the vegetable market which was affected too. The magnitude of the explosion affected also the mosque near the market and destroyed the windows and doors. The second bomb fell on the western neighborhood.”

“The second airstrike was about after two hours. It targeted the northern neighborhood. A big explosive container was used instead of barrel bomb, I have never seen anything like that before. The container heavily damaged the northern mosque and the northern school which was used formerly as a military center for the rebels. Afterwards, the southern areas was bombed with a barrel bomb and the southern school was damaged.”

“About 8:00 PM government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al-Ihsa hospital in the southwestern neighborhood.”

“On the second day of Eid Al-Adha, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs; the first was dropped at 9:00 PM and targeted Al-Ihsan hospital for a second time which became out of commission. At 11:00 AM the eastern industrial neighborhood and the clinic in the northwestern neighborhood were both targeted. We saw the smoke and the aftermath of the bombing.”

“As a result, one man and two children died from the same family.”

3- Ma’r Shmarien town on Tuesday 18 October, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Ma’r Shmarien town in Idlib suburbs. The bombing resulted in the killing of six civilians: four children and two women.

4- Ma’sran town on Wednesday 24 December, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Ma’sran town which killed six victims including a child according to SNHR documentation team.

5- Jesr Ash-Shoghour on Friday 6 February, 2015

Government forces helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Bdama village in Ash-Shoghour which injured four people including a child and two women.



Nawa / Picture of the destruction in the kindergarten that is affiliated to the countryside development centre

1- Nawa city on Friday 7 March, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a residential building in Nawa city to kill seven civilians including four children and two women.

2- A clinic in Daraa – Kahil village on Monday 14 April, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs on a clinic in Kahil village](#) which destroyed the front building and killed three victims: a nurse, a child, and a woman. Also, more than 10 people were wounded including the doctor that manages the clinic.

Although the village is under the control of the rebels, the areas surrounding the clinic are completely civil and there aren't any military aspects in it.

Mr, Abunnour Al-Hourani, local activist, from Kahil village, talked to SNHR about the bombing in the village:

“Around 11:30 AM, helicopters were soaring in the sky. The helicopter was flying at a low height which was unusual. It then dropped two barrel bombs that fell on the front building and destroyed it completely. There weren't any medics or patients there as all of them were in the back building. Otherwise, a horrible massacre would have occurred. Three killed in the bombing: a nurse, a child, and a woman. The doctor who manages the clinic was also wounded in addition to 110 others.”

“The village clinic is the only medical facility that provides medical service for wounded, injured, and sick people in the village where 15,000 residing now after some of the displaced people came here.”

“There weren't any rebels' presence or military aspects. All the victims and wounded were children or women who were being treated at the clinic.”

3- A displaced camp in Ash-Shajara town on Wednesday 18 June, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a displaced camp in Ash-Shajara town which killed 18 victims including 15 children.

4- A kindergarten in Nawa city on Tuesday 12 August, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a kindergarten that is affiliated to the countryside development center in Nawa city. The building was heavily damaged while no victims were recorded.

SNHR contacted the local activist Samy from Nawa city who told us the following

“On that day, government forces dropped more than six barrel bombs on us; two of which were dropped on a kindergarten, which is affiliated to the countryside development center, near An-Nawawi Mosque. This was around 10:30 AM. The bombing damaged the building heavily and it is impossible to use it again. No was one injured because most of the resident won't send their kids to schools because of the ceaseless shelling that the city has been subjected to recently. The targeted area is the middle of the city and it is a civil area with no rebels' presence”

5- A clinic in Inkhil city on Tuesday 2 September, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a clinic in Inkhil city which destroyed it almost completely while no victims were recorded.

SNHR contacted Mr. Abulmajd who is an eyewitness

“Around 9:30 AM, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on an empty area. No one was injured. Around 10:30 AM government forces renewed its bombing by targeting the city with another barrel bomb that fell on the clinic of Inkhil city. The clinic is in the middle of the city and to the west of the bakery which was destroyed previously by another bombing.”

“The bombing destroyed the clinic completely while no injuries were recorded because we evacuated the clinic after the vicious bombing in the past few days.”

“Around 1:15 PM, government forces dropped other two barrel bombs in the northern neighborhood.”

6- Nasib town on Tuesday 21 October, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Daraa – Nasib town which killed 23 victims including 12 children and two women according to SNHR documentation team.



Darayya city / Picture of the destruction in Omar ben Al-Khattab Mosque

D. Most notable incidents in Damascus suburbs

1- Ras Al-Ma'ra town on Sunday 16 March, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on the market in Ras Al-Ma'ra town in Damascus suburbs. We documented the killing of 14 civilians including four children.

2- Darayya city on Friday 4 April, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Omar ben Al-Khattab Mosque in Darayya city which destroyed the Mosque heavily.

SNHR spoke to the local activist Mohannad from Darayya about the incident:

“Between 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM, I heard the sound of a helicopter followed by the sound of a big explosion. The explosion was caused by a barrel bomb that was dropped on Omar ben Al-Khattab. The Mosque was destroyed completely despite the fact that the Mosque in an area where there were no rebels and all the clashes are taking place in remote areas. This is the second time this Mosque was targeted but it was the most violent one. The first time the mosque was destroyed partially. Thank God, no one was injured or wounded.”

3- Khan Ash-Shaikh town on Saturday 21 June, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs on residential neighborhoods in Mafrag Nastla area](#) which is located in Khan Ash-Shaikh. We documented the killing of 11 civilians from the same family including seven children and two women. Also, more than three houses were destroyed.



Kafr Zeta / Picture of the aftermath of the bombing in the mosque

E. Most notable incidents in Hama

1- Kafrzya city on Thursday 15 May, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Kafrzyta city. We recorded the killing of five victims including two children.

2- Aqrab town on Monday 4 August, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped [one barrel bomb on Aqrab town](#) which killed five victims including two children and a woman according to SNHR documentation team.

3- A mosque in Kafrzyta city on Friday 8 August, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bomb on Abu-Bakr As-Siddeaq Mosque in Kafrzyta city. Five people were wounded and the Mosque was heavily damaged. It should be noted that the targeted area was a civil area where there are no any rebels.

SNHR contacted Mr. Mohammad Rajeh Al-Abudllah, from Kafrzyta, who was at the Mosque at the time of the shelling:

“I was praying Jumaa Prayer in Abu-Bakr As-Siddeaq Mosque which is located in the main street and the main square of the city. After the prayer, around 2:00 PM, while we were leaving the Mosque I heard the sound of a helicopter in the sky and then it dropped two barrel bombs. One of the barrel bombs fell in front of the Mosque and the other not too far from the western side of the Mosque. Five people were wounded in the bombing and the Mosque front was destroyed as well as three houses next to the Mosque. This was an attempt to terrorize the people who use the Mosque basement as a shelter when there is a bombing.”

4- Al-Latamna city on Saturday 6 September, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a residential neighborhood in Al-Latamna city which killed none people including three children and two women. Also, a number of houses were destroyed as well as the local media office.

F. Most notable incidents in Homs:

1- Ar-Rastan city on Saturday 30 August, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on a residential neighborhood in Ar-Rastan city which resulted in nine people being dead including one child and three women; one of whom died along with her fetus according to what was documented by SNHR.

2- Talbiesa city on Monday and Tuesday 15-16 September, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped in those two days about 12 barrel bombs on Talbiesa city and especially on Al-Karama neighborhood which consists of an urban market and a center where there is several vital facilities. The bombing targeted civilians where there are no rebels' centers in the area. SNHR documentation team documented the killing of 47 civilians including two children and nine women in addition to 350 wounded.

Mr. Mohammad Mustafa is a media activist from Homs. He told SNHR the details of the bombing:

"Government forces helicopters targeted us in the middle of September with more than 13 barrel bombs that targeted Al-Karama neighborhood which is a street with many shops, gas stations, and restaurants. Therefore, it is crowded with civilians and there aren't any rebels."

"On 15 and 16 September government forces helicopters targeted us twice every day. The first time at 10:00 AM and the second at 6:00 approximately."

"Due to the bombing, more than 50 victims were killed while 500 were wounded including four amputation cases. Also, more than 15 houses were destroyed. Among the victims were "Ta'oumi" family where the mom and her five sons, the oldest is 12-year-old, were all killed. We are being killed in silence."

3- Al-Wa'r neighborhood on Wednesday 8 October, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a residential neighborhood which killed seven victims including four children and two women according to SNHR documentation team.

4- Talbiesa city on Saturday 25 October, 2014

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on "Al-Ashqar" family's home in Al-Qalaa neighborhood. The bombing resulted in 23 victims being killed including 13 children and three women.

5- Al-Houla city on Wednesday 21 January, 2015

Government forces helicopters dropped five barrel bombs; four were dropped on Tal Thahab village in Al-Houla city and one on Kafrlaha village. We recorded the killing of 14 civilians including two children and two women.

Mr. Omar is a media activist from Al-Houla city; he told SNHR about the bombing:

"Around 10:30 AM, government forces helicopters were soaring in the sky of the city before it went to Kafrlaha village to drop one barrel bomb then it came back to Tal Thahab village and dropped four barrel bombs. One of the barrel bombs was dropped on the village school while the others were dropped on residential neighborhoods."

"Tal Thahab is usually is safe village and many refugees came here from other villages. We weren't used to this kind of thing because our village is very far from the battlefronts."

"The bombing caused a massive massacre and the number of wounded exceeded 60 amid a severe shortage of medical capabilities"

G. Most notable incidents in Al-Hassaka

1- Al-Khansaa village on Tuesday 20 December, 2015

Government forces helicopters dropped on Taymaa' market which is a livestock market in Al-Khansaa village which is located in Tal Hmies area. The village is under Daesh's control but it doesn't have any military checkpoints or centers for Daesh. The bombing caused the death of 30 victims including three children and one woman in addition to about 100 wounded according to SNHR documentation team. Mr. Ahmad, 26-year-old, was an eyewitness to the incident:

"Around 12:00 AM, I was sitting in front of my shop which is 700 meters away from Taymaa market. The helicopters were soaring in the sky and then I heard the sound of a big explosion coming from the market and I saw the smoke in the sky. I headed there and found tens of burned bodies and scattered body parts in addition to many people who were wounded. We started taking the wounded to Al-Haoul field-hospital and Ash-Shdadi hospital."

Dr. Khaled, is a doctor at Al-Houl field-hospital in Al-Hassaka. He told SNHR about the wounded he treated

"It was my shift at the hospital and the time was 1:30 PM when more than 35 victims and wounded arrived at the hospital. Some volunteer nurses and I tried to provide first-aid in light of the poor medical capabilities we have. However, most of the cases we received needed amputation, we couldn't give them anything except for painkillers then we transferred them to Ash-Shdadi Hospital and Al-Qameshli Hospital which are more equipped medically and technically. Most of the victims were elders and we counted more than 19 dead bodies most of them were burned and disfigured."

2- Al-Hamad village and An-Na'san intersection on Thursday 5 February, 2015

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Hamad and An-Na'san intersection in the suburbs of Tal Brak town which is located in southern Al-Hassaka. Three civilians were killed and 13 others were wounded. Also, six shops were completely destroyed and a fire broke out in a gas station.

SNHR contacted the merchant Abu-Ali who is an eyewitness:

"Helicopters have been soaring since the morning. However, everything was normal because we were used to that. Around 4:30 PM I headed home and five minutes before I arrived I heard the sound of a big explosion coming from the shops and the gas station (An-Na'san intersection). The smoke started rising, I immediately went there and found dead bodies and wounded on the ground on the street and in front of the shops. There were also scattered body parts, four cars that were destroyed, and six shops that were completely destroyed in addition to the gas station as the barrel bomb fell near it."

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

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.

Attachments

Reports published by SNHR on the use of barrel bombs by government forces

On Friday 7 February, 2014, SNHR published a report entitled: “[Barrel Bombs in Aleppo](#)” which documents the targeting of Aleppo city between Sunday 15 December, 2013 and Saturday 28 December, 2013 where Aleppo was targeted with more than 168 barrel bombs.

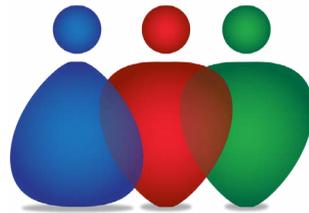
On Friday 7 March, 2014, SNHR published a report entitled: “[Barrel Bombs is Targeting Northern and Southern Syria](#)” which documents the targeting of Tafas city in Daraa with a barrel bomb that killed 13 victims.

On Thursday 20 March, 2014, SNHR published a report entitled: “[Limitless Shelling](#)” which documents that Aleppo city was targeted by more than 508 barrel bombs between Tuesday 28 January, 2014 and Friday 14 February, 2014.

SNHR published on Friday 28 March, 2014 a report entitled: “[Barrel Bombs is Targeting Darayya](#)” which documents the targeting of Darayya by more than 330 barrel bombs between 31 December, 2013 and 20 February, 2014.

Acknowledgment

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.



Syrian Network For Human Rights
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