

## “They killed My Teacher” Barrel Bombs Terrorize Different Syrian Governorates despite Recent Security Council Resolutions

A Report Prepared by: The Syrian Network for Human Rights ([SNHR](#))

**The Scope of the Report:** documenting the air strikes against Tsyl town in Northern Daraa with barrel bombs on Monday 10 February, 2014 and Al-Mziereb town in Daraa on Tuesday 18 February, 2014

### Introduction

Aleppo has been targeted for the last two months with barrel bombs. These attacks killed 2100 victims; 90% of them were civilians in light of a blatant international futility in stopping this destructive indiscriminate weapon, which has a low cost compared to missiles. This incited the government forces to expand the scope of the barrel bombs attacks to reach other governorates such as the attacks against Dariyya in Damascus suburb, which [SNHR](#) has issued a report about. Also the barrel bombs targeted other areas and towns in Daraa governorate as Tafas city was targeted on February, 12, 2014 with a barrel bomb that killed 13 victims; eight of them were from one family according to a previous report issued by [SNHR](#).

This report documents the attacks that targeted other towns in Daraa governorate; namely Tsyl and Al-Mzarieb.

The methodology of this report is based on the investigation conducted by the team of [SNHR](#) with activists and eyewitnesses from Daraa governorate. This report contains eyewitnesses and survivors' testimonies in addition to the news and pictures that we received through cooperating activists from Daraa as we couldn't visit and examine the sites that were targeted. Please note that the names of the activists and eyewitnesses were changed as upon their request.

### Details

#### First: Tsyl town

Tsyl town was targeted with a barrel bomb shelling by the Syrian regime warplanes where 2 barrel bombs were dropped on a market in the town.

Activists Aboud from Tsyl talked to [SNHR](#) about the incident as he was there when the incident took place:

(You can contact Aboud on his Skype account: abo.wael19)

“At around 10:00 in the morning I was in the market, which is near a primary and secondary schools area, when I heard the sound of helicopters followed by the sound of a huge explosion, I lied on the ground, after few minutes I heard the sound of another explosion that was greater than the one before, a part of the store roof where I was has fallen, people started screaming as they were trying to escape.

Body parts were everywhere, arms and legs scattered all over the place.

It's safe to say that there were more than 20 stores and 10 houses that were heavily damaged in the area where the shelling was”

**Fadel Abdul Ghani, head of SNHR, says:**

“The methodology of the Syrian regime shelling using indiscriminate shelling from high places proves that this shelling is a barbarian savage act that has no purpose but to kill and destroy. It definitely represents a violation of the most basic principles of the humanitarian international law”.

**Second: Al-Mziereb town**

Al-Mziereb is located on the northwest of Daraa near the Jordanian borders, administratively it is affiliated to Daraa governorate, the population of Al-Mziereb is 13500 people and it is considered one of the most displaced-crowded cities.

The following link shows the location of Al-Mziereb town:



On Wednesday February, 19, 2014 the Syrian regime warplanes has dropped a barrel bomb near an UNRWA school which destroyed a two-floor house on top of its residents, also six other houses were damaged and nineteen were killed at least in addition to 60 wounded at least including school students.

SNHR talked with Mr. Abu-Ammaer who told us:

“At around 11:00 AM we heard the sound of helicopters flying over the city, the helicopters targeted the surroundings of an UNRWA school and hit a house that was 10 Meters away from the school, the house was destroyed completely while the school was damaged. Four children were killed and others were wounded. The shelling also killed three people that were in a car near the school from Al-Ajami village, there was also a UN hospital near the school, overall 19 identified victims were killed under the shelling and a big number of people were wounded including children, women, and men”.

Abu-Laith, who is a media activist, offered us his testimony:

“Between 10:30 and 11:00 in the morning the warplanes targeted Al-Mziereb with a barrel bomb that was dropped on a house that was near a hospital and a school affiliated to the UNRWA. This area is a civil area; there is no FSA presence in it. The barrel bomb killed many residents; most of them were Palestinian children and women who were headed to the hospital to receive treatment, also 9 school students were killed and about 60 people were wounded; many of them have sustained permanent disability due to the shelling”.

## **Appendixes and Attachments**

### **First: Tsyl town**

The names and pictures of the victims

[SNHR team documented the killing of 12 people including two children details and information about the victims of Tsyl in Daraa countryside on 10/2/2014](#)

The impact of shelling and the destruction:

Videos show the impact of the shelling

[Video 1](#) - [Video 2](#) - [Video 3](#)

[Videos show the smoke of the barrel bombs shelling](#)

The Victims and Wounded

[A video shows number of victims and wounded](#)

[Videos show wounded being aided.](#)

### **Second: Al-Mziereb town**

The names of the victims

[SNHR team documented the killing of 19 victims including four children and five women all the details and information about Al-Mziereb massacre](#)

[A range of pictures and videos show the impact of the barrel bombs against Al-Mzereb town on 18/2/2014](#)

## **Conclusions:**

1-SNHR affirms that the shelling using explosive barrels is an act of indiscriminate shelling 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 violation were pretreated during a non-international armed conflict which can be classified as war crimes.

2- The random attacks committed by the government forces are considered violations of the norms of the international humanitarian law given that the government forces attacked residential areas rather than a specific military target.

3- These attacks, especially aerial shelling, have caused casual humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that show the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage.

4- The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, 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.

## **Reccomendations**

### **The United Nations and the Security Council**

1. Transferring the Syrian issue to the International Criminal Court and stopping the disrupting of the decisions that must be adopted by the Security Council against the Syrian government. This disruption is a wrong message to all dictatorships in the world and an enhancement to the culture of crime.

2. Posing urgent punishment on those who are involved in the violations of human rights.

3. Obliging the Syrian government to allow all relief and human rights organizations to enter Syria, in addition to the International Investigation Committee and allowing them to work freely.

4. Banning the Syrian government all weapons because they are used in comprehensive attacks against civilians.

5. Security Council must shoulder responsibility in preserving security and civil peace in Syria because the violations of the Syrian government are considered gross threat to international peace and security.

6. Listing the militias that fight with the Syrian government and which committed massacres, like Hezbollah and the other Shiite brigades, National defense Army and Shabiah militia, on the international list of terrorist organizations. Among these militias is the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria which committed lots of crimes in the areas that are not controlled by the Syrian government.

7. Implementing the principle of “protecting civilians” adopted by the General Assembly in Syria now, as the situation there is direly requiring such a principle now.

8. After the crimes against humanity committed by the Syrian government, stopping dealing with this government as an “official side” concerning the relief issues, and stopping supplying the Syrian government with the greatest amounts of financial and humanitarian aid that don't reach those who need them in most cases and go instead to those loyal to the Syrian government.

### **Human Rights Council**

1. Demanding the Security Council and the involved international institutions to shoulder responsibility concerning the sufferings of the Syrian people which include killing, arrest, rape and displacement.

2. Applying pressure on the Syrian government in order to stop the acts of killing and torture.

3. Holding the allies and supporters of the Syrian government - Russia, Iran and China –as materially and morally responsible for the killing that is happening in Syria.

4. Human Rights Council must be more interested and serious concerning the catastrophic situation of the children, families and relatives of the victims in Syria.

### **The Arab League**

1. Punishing all those who are involved in committing crimes in Syria and urging all the countries of the world to do the same thing.
2. Increasing humanitarian aid, especially on the levels of education and health care and taking care of the Syrian refugees in the Arab countries.
3. Requesting the Security Council to execute the above recommendations.
4. Asking the Human Rights Council and the United Nations to pay more interest to the case of daily killing in Syria.
5. Taking the Syrian issue very seriously and considering it as a priority, and trying to take care of the families of the victims psychologically, materially and educationally.
6. Applying political and diplomatic pressure on the main allies of the Syrian government; Russia, Iran and China in order to prevent them from continuing to provide international and political backing and protection for the crimes committed against the Syrian people, and holding them materially and morally responsible for all the violations of the Syrian government.

### **The Syrian Government**

1. Instantly stopping all kinds of human rights violations.
2. Respecting its international commitment to protect civilians in the time of war and respecting the articles of the International Human Law as it is one of the sides that endorsed Rome Convention, in addition to respecting the International Law for Human Rights.
3. Allowing instant access to the International Investigation Committee and facilitating its work and cooperating with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights and national human rights organizations.

### **The International Investigation Committee**

The International Investigation Committee must stop depicting the struggle in Syria as a struggle between two sides equal in crimes, power and the centralization of decisions. It must describe the crimes the same way they happen without belittling their extent for political reasons. The committee must also increase the number of its staff who works on the Syrian issue due to the amount of the crimes committed daily in Syria so that it can do more comprehensive documentation.

### **Acknowledgments**

Thanks for all the victims' families and activists whatever their specialty is who without their help we would never have finished this report in this level. We also thank the [SNHR](#)'s team who worked specifically on this report that took a considerable time and huge efforts to finish it on this level.