



## Awaiting for the Second Ghouta Attack 87 violations of UN Security Council Resolution 2118, including 15 Violations of Resolution 2209

### Report Components:

I-Introduction

II- Executive Summary

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### 1.Introduction:

Based on the many studies and reports issued by SNHR after Security Council resolutions 2218 and 2209, it seems that the Security Council will not intervene as long as the government forces are killing limited numbers of civilians in these attacks, and the Syrian community must wait for a shocking attack same as the attack on both Eastern and Western Ghouta that killed more than 1100 civilians in one day and then the Security Council will think if they want to intervene.

Although the Security Council resolution 2118 in section 21 clearly states:

“Decides, in the event of non-compliance with this resolution, including unauthorized transfer of chemical weapons, or any use of chemical weapons by anyone in the Syrian Arab Republic, to impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter”

Contrary to non-specialist believes; the use of any toxic chemical substance –including chlorine- as a chemical weapon is a violation of Security Council resolution 2118, and is absolutely a violation to the chemical weapons prohibition convention signed by the Syrian government.

Therefore, SNHR report has been recording the violations of the resolution 2118 gradually until it reached 87 violation distributed by date as follows:

The year 2014 SNHR documented in published and attached reports: 59 violations

The year 2015 SNHR documented in published and attached reports: 28 violations, including 15 violations of resolution 2209





issued on Friday, March 6, 2015, that also states “Decides, in the event of non-compliance with this resolution to impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter”

### **Fadel Abdul Ghany head of the Syrian Network for Human Rights:**

“We haven’t encountered a ruling regime in the modern era that affronted the Security Council and International Humanitarian Law as the Syrian regime has done with high levels of arrogance and impudence, specifically in the use of poisoned gas, as the colleagues in the OPCW fact-finding mission in Syria proved government forces’ use of poisoned chlorine gas, and this -to large extent- matches what we have pointed out, however the Security Council didn’t act”

## **II- Executive Summary:**

Government forces’ use of the different kinds of poisoned gases including Chlorine gas and other gases we couldn’t identify and that is after the Security Council resolution 2118 issued on April 27, 2013 up to the date of issuing this report caused the death of 59 individuals distributed as follows:

- 29 individuals of the armed opposition
- 23 civilians including 11 children and 6 women
- 7 of the government forces captives died in government forces shelling on an armed opposition headquarter

In addition to 1480 individuals injured according to SNHR victims’ documentation team.

In a previous report titled “Inhalation of Death” issued on March 22, 2015 we recorded 6 violations of Security Council resolution 2209 and in this report we add the 9 new violations of the government forces for the number of violations to reach 15, the attacks concentrated on the provinces of Idlib, Damascus suburbs, Aleppo, and Deir Az-Zour in all of them on areas controlled by the opposition.

Same as most of the previous studies, where in many cases we couldn’t visit all incidents sites and the current circumstance doesn’t allow taking samples and running tests, we’ve depended on the testimonies of survivors, eyewitnesses, and specially doctors who treated the injured, and civil defense members, in addition to reviewing Images and videos that sent to us from our certified local activist and we point out that the names of the witnesses has been changed per their requests.





### III- Report Details:

Documenting 9 additional poisoned gas attacks perpetrated by government forces since March 22, 2015.

#### Idlib Province:

##### A- Idlib Governorate:

1. Bnesh city shelling, Tuesday, March 24, 2015: Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with chlorine gas injuring at least 17 individuals, including women and children.

Images of some injured individuals in [Binnish](#)



Images of some injured individuals in Binnish

2. Srmin city shelling, Thursday, March 26, 2015:

Government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with chlorine gas injuring about 8 individuals.



Images of some injured individuals in Binnish

3. Idlib city shelling, Tuesday, March 31, 2015:

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with chlorine gas on the security block area injuring 13 individuals mostly light injuries.

Dr. Muhannad who supervised treating the injured in Idlib told SNHR:

“In that day the wind was strong and it was raining which limited the spread of chlorine gas. Government helicopters targeted us at around 3:00 p.m, as four barrel bombs were dropped on the security block near the Red Crescent Hospital. Two of the barrels were loaded with chlorine gas. As a result, 13 cases of suffocation were documented. Injured people presented symptoms of mucous membrane irritation, breathing difficulties, and dyspnea.”





#### **4. Tamana'a town shelling, Friday, April 10, 2015:**

Government forces dropped a barrel bomb loaded with a poisoned gas that SNHR couldn't identify, fell on an agricultural land no civilians' injuries were recorded

SNHR communicated with Mr. Ahmad Bkour head of the High School Office in the 'Free' Administration of Education who said:

“Around 12:00 p.m at noon on Friday, a government helicopter dropped a barrel bomb on an oat field in the town's periphery. No sound of explosion was heard from the barrel bomb; however it spread a green smoke and an unpleasant smell. Thank god there was no suffocation cases, as many of the residents left due to the repetitive shelling on the town by the government forces.”

[A Video](#) that depicts the location of the shelled barrel bomb

#### **5. Habait town shelling, Monday, April 13, 2015:**

Government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb that fell on an agricultural land and didn't explode, and has been dismantled by the bomb disposal battalion of the armed opposition were they've extracted 6 cylinders allegedly loaded with poisoned gases.

[A video](#) that shows the extracted cylinders from the barrel bomb

#### **6. Idlib city Shelling, Thursday, April 16, 2015:**

Government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with chlorine gas on buses gathering area in Idlib “Pullman Garage” which caused the injures of more than 20 individuals; the injuries varied between mild and moderate.

“Around 11:00pm, the regime helicopter shelled the garage area with two barrel bombs. The helicopter also targeted Koreen and Al Tamane'a towns, but the barrels dropped on Idlib were loaded with chlorine gas. The shelling injured about 15 individuals. The civil defense team transported most of them to Sirmeen makeshift hospital where they were given treated. The civil defense's bomb disposal team handled the remnants from the shelling.”

[Video showing](#) civil defense tending to the injured

[Video showing](#) suffocation cases

[Video showing](#) remnants of the barrel bombs





### **a. Damascus:**

- Bour Saeed in Qadm neighborhood shelling, Wednesday, March 25, 2015:

Government forces targeted a group of the opposition gunmen on a front in Bour Saeed with several hand grenades loaded with chlorine gas leading to the injury of 4 individuals of the armed opposition.

Dr. Abu Al-Yusser from Taqwa Surgical Hospital in south Damascus told his colleague Dr. Majd Dalati who is a member of SNHR in Damascus suburbs:

“We received 4 cases in the hospital; the symptoms were dyspnea, breathing difficulties, numbness, and nerve pain in the limbs. We provided first-aid, and we checked their situation until they stabilized, the shelling on the injured was through hand grenades thrown by the regime on a group of rebels around 9:00pm”

[Video shows](#) the symptoms of the injured in Qadm neighborhood

### **b. Damascus suburbs:**

- Darayya shelling, Thursday, March 26, 2015:

Government forces thrown a hand grenade loaded with gas on a group of rebels during a conflict near Shiite shrine, the shelling injured 5 individuals.

Dr. Hussam one of the doctors who supervised treating the injured told SNHR:

“It was around 5:00pm just before sunset, when the clash started near Sayyda Sakeine Shrine visited by the Shiite in the area

During the conflict the regime forces thrown a hand grenade loaded with poisoned gas that we couldn't identify, but caused symptoms of dyspnea, breathing difficulties, runny nose, conjunctiva redness, pinpoint pupil, which is the standard symptoms of a poisoned gas”

### **c. Hama:**

- The city of Kafr Zaita shelling, April 10, 2015:

Government forces helicopters dropped two containers loaded with poisoned gas, the first on the city center and the second on the west of the city, the two incidents injured 4 individuals.

SNHR communicated with Mr. Mohammad Al-Khabour, head of the media office of the civil defense center in Kafr Zaita who told us about what he witnessed in the incident:

“Around 4:00pm, I was at my house, as I saw a plane depart from Hama military airport and heading north towards Kafr Zaita, we were watching its movement in the sky and after it was above the city center it dropped the first container, which fell 500 meters from us with no explosion, but after less than a minute a green smoke ap-





peared from the container that was different to the chlorine gas that they've shelled at us before as it used to produce a yellow gas. After that the aircraft dropped the second container on the west of the city.

I headed with the search, the evacuation, and the medical teams to where the containers were dropped, the gas from the second container was thick and its color was red and we haven't seen it before, we contacted the bomb disposal team that headed to the site and dealt with the remnants and disposed it, no serious injuries were recorded thank God, but there was three senior men who suffered light suffocation and runny nose with hard coughing”.

Mr. 'Abu Miqdad' a victim poisoned by the poisoned gas shelling on Kafr Zaita and a local activist told us about the symptoms he suffered:

“We couldn't identify the gas that the regime shelled us with, but its smell was strong and stinging, I kept feeling the side effects hours after the injury, these effects get clearly worse at night as I feel my eyes burning and constant coughing”.

[Video](#) of the site of the bomb loaded with the gas

#### **IV- Conclusions and Recommendations:**

Government forces violated the International Humanitarian Law by using an internationally forbidden weapon and this is considered as a war crime, as government forces also violated the Security Council resolutions concerning this matter, also the killing crimes constitute crimes against humanity according to charter 7 of Rome Statute, as it is a part of a systematic and widespread policy that has been ongoing since March 2011

##### **To International Independent Investigation Commission**

The commission must start investigation in the incidents they can process at once, and take serious steps towards speeding the investigation of identifying the responsible behind the use of this kind of weaponry, especially after the Syrian government signed an agreement on prohibiting chemical weapons.

##### **To Security Council:**

The Security Council must shoulder its responsibilities in preserving the peace and security in Syria, as the violations committed by the Syrian government forms a grave threat to the peace and security of the world, and to stop playing the game of political interests on behalf of the Syrian people's blood.





And the Syrian regime obvious neglect of Security Council resolution 2118 and later resolution 2209 is a political disgrace and a terrible offence to the Security Council.

**To Human Rights Committee:**

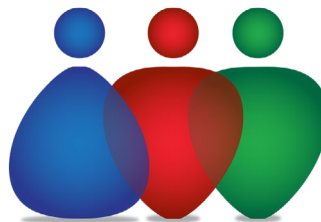
The committee must shed more light on the Syrian regime violations of the Security Council resolutions 2118 and 2209 in order to form a higher pressure on the Security Council to take serious and dissuasive measures.

**To Friends of Syria countries:**

Supply the areas suffering from the poisoned gas shelling with protective masks (as the Security Council is unable to stop these attacks); SNHR estimates the need of these areas with at least 14,500 protective masks, plus equipment to remove the chemical pollution effects.

**Acknowledgment:**

Our condolence to the victims' families, and we wish the injured a speedy recovery, and all the appreciation and gratitude to the victims' families, the injured, eyewitnesses, and local activists, whom their contribution have effectively enriched the report.



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