



## Unlike the Russian Ambassador's Announcement, Syrian Government's Barrels Did not Stop for a Day in October 2015 1438 Barrel Bombs Killed 69 Individuals, including 9 Children and 8 Women

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### I. Introduction:

Unlike the Russian ambassador's announcement in the United Nations, that the Syrian regime stopped using barrel bombs, however SNHR's daily documentation proved the contrary. In this monthly report we present documented cases by time, place, and images of the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs.

By daily observing and recording 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 Shi-ite 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. Barrel bombs sometimes weigh quarter of ton and rely on the free fall principle. These barrels are random weapons and locally made, since it is less expensive, causes massive destruction, and causes a great loss of lives. 99% of the casualties are civilians, where the percentage of targeted women and children ranges between 12 and 35%.





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 non-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.

Additionally, in some cases we documented the use of barrel bombs that contained toxic gases by government forces which violates UN Security Council resolution 2118 and 2209. 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.

SNHR studies and reports prove that most of the attacks were deliberate and targeted crowded civilian areas. The government's aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction it causes are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the Assad government.





## II. Executive Summary:

### A. Barrel Bombs Used in October 2015:

Through our daily documentation, SNHR team was able to document the use of not less than 1438 barrel bombs in October 2015, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

- Damascus suburbs: 947
- Daraa: 196
- Hama: 62
- Al Qunaitera: 61
- Idlib: 54
- Aleppo: 49
- Homs: 39
- Damascus: 26
- Lattakia: 4

The use of barrel bombs as a random weapon killed 69 individuals, including 9 children and 8 women, according to the documentation team in SNHR.

### The classification of the victims' death toll due to the use of barrel bombs according to the Syrian governorates:

- Daraa: 30 individuals were killed, including 6 children and 5 women.
- Damascus suburbs: 12 individuals, including a child and two women.
- Idlib: 12 individuals, including a child.
- Aleppo: 5 individuals
- Homs: 4 individuals including a child
- Hama: 3 individuals, including a woman
- Damascus: 3 individuals.

### A. Targeting Vital Facilities:

We could not document all destructions caused by barrel bombs, since it is enormous therefore we recorded the number of vital facilities targeted by government military aviation, i.e. markets, schools, hospitals and houses of worship.





During October 2015, not less than 3 vital facilities were targeted by barrel bombs:

a. Places of Worship:

- Mosques: 2

a. Educational Facilities:

- Schools: 1

### III. Report Details:

A. Victim's death toll due to the use of barrel bombs, distributed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

#### **Daraa Governorate:**

1. On 6 October 2015, a woman died of her wounds since government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Khrab Al Shehem town in Daraa suburbs.
2. On 14 October 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Dael town in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 3 individuals (a pregnant woman and her child).
3. On 14 October 2015, government helicopters dropped two explosive barrels on Al Ghar-eya western town in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 4 individuals including two children.
4. On 20 October 2015, government helicopters dropped 11 barrel bombs on Al Shiekh Mekeen in Daraa suburbs which killed one individual from Al Harak town.
5. On 21 October 2015, government helicopters dropped 3 barrel bombs on Busra Al Sham in Daraa suburbs which killed 4 individuals including two children and a woman.
6. On 21 October 2015, government helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Al Ghreya town in Daraa suburbs which killed two individuals.
7. On 31 October 2015, government helicopters dropped four explosive barrels on Jasem city in Daraa suburbs which killed 4 individuals including two women.

#### **Damascus Suburbs:**

On 9 October 2015, a man died of his wounds since government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition.

On 11 October 2015, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheieh camp in Damascus suburbs which killed one individual.





On 25 October 2015, government helicopters dropped 16 barrel bombs on Daraya city which killed a woman.

On 28 October 2015, government helicopters dropped 12 barrel bombs on Daraya city which killed three individuals including a woman and her child.

On 29 October 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Mo'adameyat Al Sham city which killed an individual.

#### **Idlib Governorate:**

On 1 October 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on the vicinity of Abo Al Dhour Airport in southern Idlib suburbs which killed two individuals.

On 3 October 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Tal Marak town in Idlib suburbs which killed 2 individuals.

On 5 October 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Khan Shaykhoun city in Idlib suburbs which killed an individual from Tamane'at Al Ghab town.

#### **Aleppo Governorate:**

On 2 October 2015, government aviation dropped three barrel bombs on Tal Sabe'en town in eastern Aleppo suburbs which killed two individuals.

#### **Hama Governorate:**

On 30 October 2015, government barrel bombs dropped several barrel bombs on Al Latamna city in Hama suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed a woman.

#### **Homs Governorate:**

On 13 October 2015, a child from Tasneen town in Homs died of his wounds since government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Granada town that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs on 5 October 2015.

#### **Damascus Governorate:**

On 6 October 2015, government aviation dropped 5 barrel bombs on Al Yarmouk camp in Damascus which killed one individual.





## **A. Targeting Vital Facilities with Barrel Bombs:**

### **i. Places of Worship:**

- Mosques:

1. On 27 October 2015, [government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs](#) next to one of the mosques in Al Halmouz town that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs which damaged the mosque.

On 30 October 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb on the Great Mosque in Daraya city](#) in Damascus suburbs which caused great material damages to it. It is worth noting that the mosque is out of service because it was previously shelled a number of times.

### **i. Educational Facilities:**

- Schools:

1. On 5 October 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Qudus School in Al Yarmouk camp in Damascus that belongs to the UNRWA which caused material damages to the school.

## **III. Attachments:**

1. A video that depicts [shelling with barrel bombs on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs on 27 October 2015](#).

2. A video that depicts [shelling with barrel bombs on Talbesa city in Homs](#) on 20 October 2015.

3. A [video](#) that depicts the shelling aftermath after government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheeh Camp in Damascus suburbs on 8 October 2015.

4. A [video](#) that depicts government helicopters while it is dropping explosive barrels on the neighborhoods of Daraa Al Balad in Daraa city on 17 October 2015.

5. A [video](#) that depicts the location of a shelled barrel bomb on Dael town in Daraa that was dropped by government helicopters on 14 October 2015





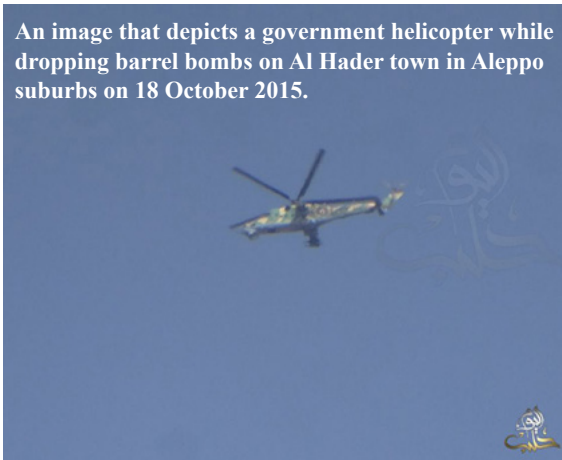
6. A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with 4 barrel bombs on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs on 8 October 2015

7. A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with explosive barrels on Tier Ma'ale town in Homs on 27 October 2015

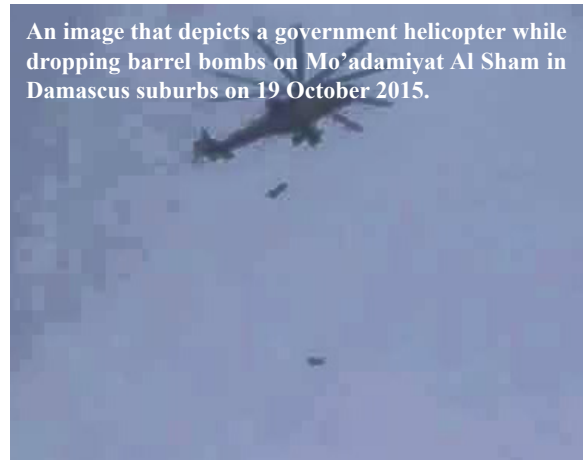
8. A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with explosive barrels on Daraya city on 18 October 2015.

9. An [image](#) that depicts a government helicopter while dropping barrel bombs on Al Hader town in Aleppo suburbs on 18 October 2015.

An image that depicts a government helicopter while dropping barrel bombs on Al Hader town in Aleppo suburbs on 18 October 2015.



An image that depicts a government helicopter while dropping barrel bombs on Mo'adamiyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs on 19 October 2015.



An image of an exploded barrel bomb before it hit Al Harrak town in Daraa on 23 October 2015.



The location of an exploded barrel bomb in Al Bab City in Aleppo on 2 October 2015.

The location of an exploded barrel bomb on Al Ghareya town in Daraa that was dropped by government helicopters on 14 October 2015.





The location of an exploded barrel bomb on Busra Al Sham city in Daraa that was dropped by government helicopters on 21 October 2015.



The [location](#) of an exploded barrel bomb on Mo'adameyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs on 17 October 2015.







## Conclusions and Recommendations:

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

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 who contributed majorly to this report.

