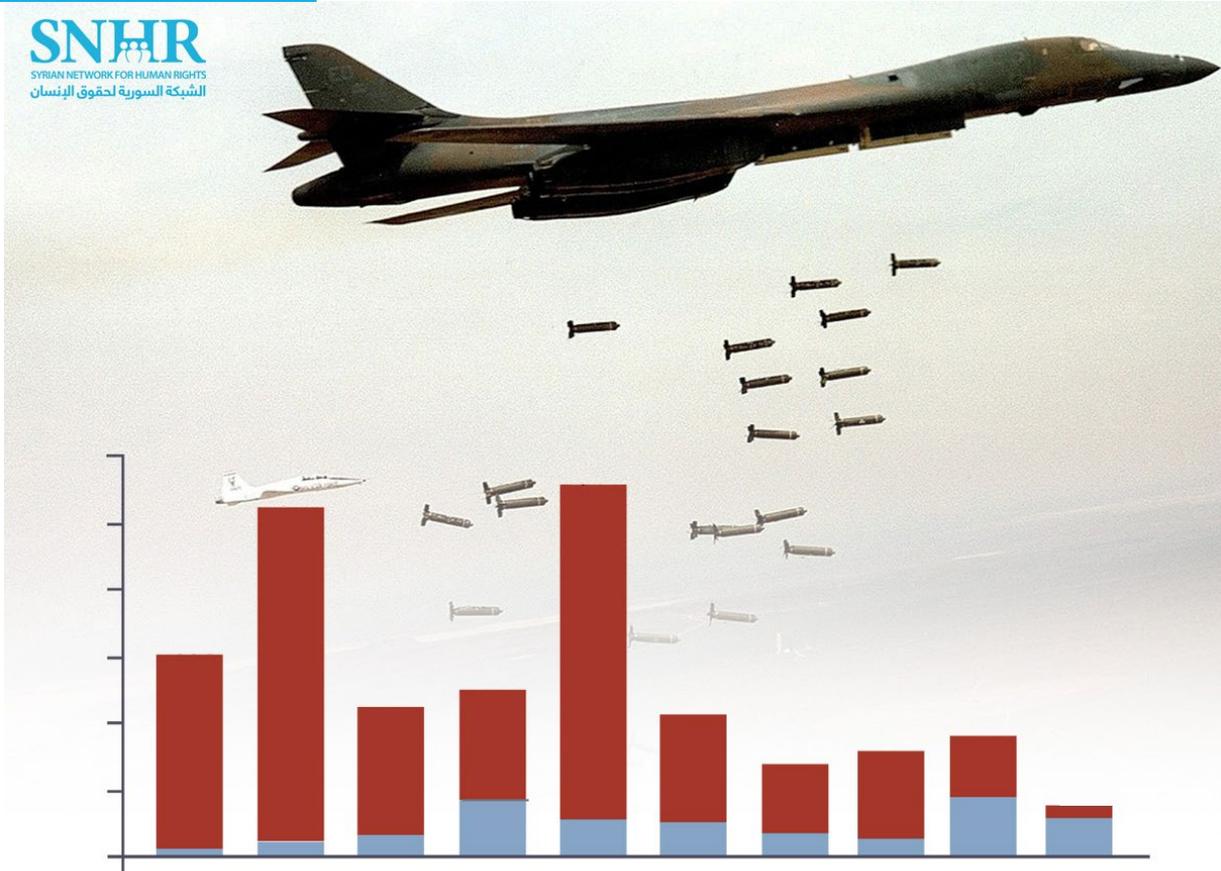


Statement



Cluster Munitions Monitor Thirteenth Annual Report: Quarter of All of the Victims of Cluster Munitions Globally are in Syria, Which Remains the Worst in the World

SNHR is a Member of the International Coalition for the Elimination of Cluster Munition and Its Main Source of Data for Syria

[The International Campaign to Ban Landmines - Cluster Munition Coalition \(ICBL-CMC\)](#)

recently released its thirteenth annual report on monitoring the use of cluster munitions worldwide. The CMC is a global civil society campaign working to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties from them, and put an end to the suffering caused by these weapons.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) as a member of this international coalition, has contributed periodic data documented by our working team on the ground in Syria. The data includes: information on the victims that have been killed or injured; the locations of these incidents, and the parties responsible for the use of cluster munition in each case, where possible. These parties are limited to either the Syrian regime or Russian forces, since we haven't documented any use of cluster munition by other parties to the conflict in Syria over the twelve years of the conflict.

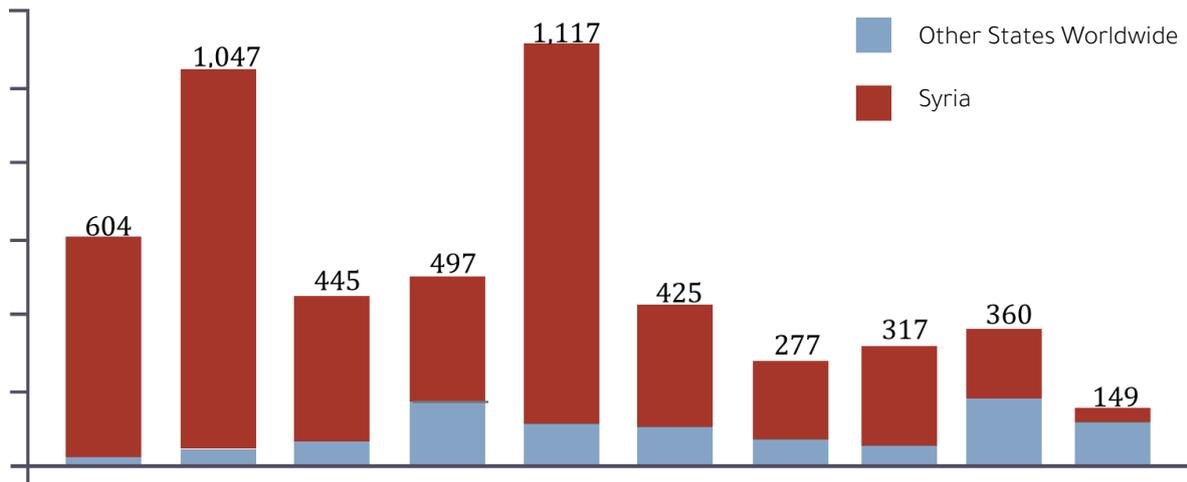
As we've done every year, the Syrian Network for Human Rights distributes reviews, and comments on the annual report. The following are the main findings of this year's report on Syria: as every year since 2012, Syria continues to be the worst country in the world in terms of the death toll from cluster munitions. The highest national death toll globally in 2021 was in Syria, where 37 victims were killed by cluster munitions, constituting nearly 25% of the total number of victims worldwide in 2021. The report indicated that two-thirds of these victims were children, adding that all the victims in 2021 were killed or injured by the explosion of remnants of cluster munitions that were used previously, making it the first year without casualties from new cluster munition attacks since the first documented use of these munitions in Syria in 2012.

The report stated that 13 of Syria's 14 governorates have been subjected to cluster munition attacks since 2012. The report further noted that while there has been a decrease in the number of cluster attacks since mid-2017, they continued throughout 2019 and 2020, citing two reports issued by the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the first on April 19, 2019, entitled "[Nearly 457 attacks by the Syrian and Russian Regimes Using Cluster Munitions were Documented, 24 of them since the Sochi Agreement](#)", and the second on February 27, 2020, entitled "[The Syrian Regime Repeatedly Uses Cluster Munitions Against Residential Neighborhoods in and Around Idlib Governorate, Constituting War Crimes](#)".

The report stated that the last documented attack was in March 2021, though it noted that there may have been attacks after this date that haven't yet been reported.

In a related context, the report included a chart showing a comparison between the percentage of the cluster munition victims' death toll in Syria and the rest of the world, distributed, since 2012:

Cluster Munition Victims in Syria and Other States Worldwide between 2012 and 2021:



When analyzing the data, we, at SNHR, noticed that over 50% of cluster munition-related deaths documented globally for most years since 2012 took place in Syria. While the year 2021 saw the lowest recorded death toll from this cause in Syria in the same period, this still accounted for a quarter of all victims worldwide.

The report indicated that Syria accounts for the second highest death toll in the world in terms of the total number of victims of cluster munitions recorded since data on this subject was first documented and preserved in the mid-1960s until the end of 2021, as it recorded 4,318 victims.

Thousands of Syrians, many of them children, have been forced to undergo amputations or been left permanently disabled as a result of Syrian regime and Russian forces' heavy use of cluster munitions over large areas. The still-live remnants of these lethal, internationally outlawed munitions, which are still heavily scattered across Syria, constitute a major obstacle to the safe return of the displaced and the movement of relief and civil defense workers and their vehicles, as well as posing a grave threat to the reconstruction and development process.

In our partnership with the ICBL-CMC, the Syrian Network for Human Rights works to achieve the strategic goals of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition, including:

- Ensuring no further use of cluster munitions and antipersonnel landmines.
- Ensuring a reduction in the area of land contaminated by cluster munitions or landmines.
- Ensuring measurable progress in the quality of life for victims of mines and cluster munitions.

The cluster munitions used over the past decade in Syria, will continue to pose a lethal threat to Syrians, especially children, and in order to alleviate this danger, we need more logistical support to document the locations where cluster munitions have been used. There's also a need for increased support for organizations working to remove these remnants, especially the Syrian Civil Defense, as well as more help for medical organizations providing treatment for those left as amputees or suffering disabilities as a result of these weapons' use.

To read the full report, issued on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, please visit this [link](#).