

## The Syrian Regime Dropped About **11,000** Barrel Bombs on Daraa Governorate Killing **1,177** Civilians,

Forty Percent of Whom Were Women and Children

The Use of Barrel Bombs Has Contributed to the Displacement of Hundreds of Thousands, Paving the Way for Seizing Their Lands And Properties

Thursday 12 September 2024

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyzes in Syria.



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## I. Introduction

In its ruthless crackdown on the popular uprising, which began in March 2011 and turned into an internal armed conflict in 2012, the Syrian regime has used a wide range of weapons, including rifles, mortar shells, tanks, artillery, chemical weapons, cluster munitions, and all kinds of missiles. In other words, the regime military harnessed its entire arsenal of conventional weapons to crush its political opponents.

As the Syrian regime came to realize that its bloodthirsty policies of killing the Syrian people through indiscriminate bombardment with conventional weapons, involving the use of tanks and missiles, was insufficient to break the people's indomitable spirit, it shifted to use of a more indiscriminate and barbaric weapon, namely barrel bombs. The regime used barrel bombs on a massive scale, partly due to their low manufacturing costs compared, for example, to that of missiles. Even though it was widely known that barrel bombs are more indiscriminate, so much so that it is almost impossible to steer them towards a specific target, the regime showed no reservations about the use of these cheaper, more lethally indiscriminate weapons, having by that point already killed tens of thousands of civilians while the international community stood idly by showing no concern with the regime using cheaper and more indiscriminate. Even more, not only were barrel bombs cheaper; they also proved to have horrendous destructive capabilities, being as many as seven times as destructive as mortar shells.

As confirmed by the Syrian Network for Human Rights' (SNHR) database, which contains details of hundreds of thousands of daily violation incidents documented since 2011, the Syrian regime began using barrel bombs as a weapon in July 2012, or one-and-a-half years after the start of the popular uprising for democracy in Syria. The regime manufactured barrel bombs in designated workshops, using them to target areas that had broken free of its control.

In the broadest sense, barrel bombs are domestically produced, cylindrical bombs which are filled with explosives, fuel, and metal scraps forming irregularly shaped shrapnel. These devastating cylinders are manually dropped by soldiers from aircraft, usually the regime's Russian-made HLP helicopters.

In this report, we will be summarizing SNHR's intensive work on documenting the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs. On this issue, SNHR has released hundreds of news items and dozens of reports that have been used as sources by various international bodies and governments worldwide, especially following the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 2139, which explicitly condemned the regime's use of barrel bombs, and requested that the UN Secretary-General submit periodic reports assessing whether or not the regime had stopped using these weapons. In this context, this special report focuses particularly on the regime's use of barrel bombs in Daraa governorate, where the regime dropped thousands of barrel bombs that killed and displaced massive numbers of people and destroyed innumerable homes and vital facilities. The report also briefly goes over the use of barrel bombs as a chemical and incendiary weapon in the governorate of Daraa.

This report forms part of SNHR's work on documenting violations related to housing, land, and property (HLP) rights. It is our belief that nobody can work on this issue without taking into consideration the violations that civilians have suffered and are still suffering which are organically related to HLP rights, such as killing, enforced disappearance, forced displacement, and destruction. This report serves as a foundation for our upcoming report on HLP rights violation in Daraa governorate.

Notably, the Syrian regime denied its use of barrel bombs in 2015<sup>1</sup>, despite the abundant availability of photos showing the sites hit by barrel bombs and barrel bomb shrapnel which conclusively confirm the Syrian regime's guilt. These and other details and articles of evidence have been thoroughly elaborated in numerous reports by SNHR, as well as by other human rights groups such as [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch \(HRW\)](#). Added to this is the fact that the regime is the only Syrian entity which possesses an air force and the only one whose helicopters and warplanes have been used to drop barrel bombs, since the other parties with an air force, i.e., Russian forces and the US-led International Coalition, would reject the use of such a primitive weapon.

The report contains a number of findings, such as proving that the Syrian regime's objective in using barrel bombs has been to inflict as much human and material loss and devastation as possible in the areas inhabited by dissident populations, where the regime had lost control. That is to say that inflicting destruction is a goal in and of itself for the regime (again, this report focuses on attacks on populated residential areas, rather than clash zones). Given the inevitable results of this destruction, the regime set out to deliberately displace as many residents as possible, specifically from those areas whose populations which had expressed opposition to its rule, and then to exploit their absence in any future reconstruction process, in which the regime would have the upper hand, thanks to an arsenal of quasi-legal laws and legislative articles passed specifically to allow it to seize control of the properties of missing and displaced persons.

As Fadel Abdulghany, SNHR Executive Director, says:

**“ We have been working on documenting the use of barrel bombs by the Syrian regime since 2012, releasing dozens of reports. We have also built a database containing thousands of incidents that have been cited in reports by international organizations. In this report, we are focusing on the use of barrel bombs by the regime in Daraa governorate, which opposed the regime's rule since the very first days of the Syrian popular uprising, which the regime seemingly rewarded by dropping about 11,000 barrel bombs on the governorate, destroying entire neighborhood in retaliation. ”**

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1. On February 10, 2015, the head of the Syrian regime Bashar Assad [denied](#) in a BBC interview that his forces were using barrel bombs.

## II. Report Methodology

This report endeavors to highlight the impact of the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs in Daraa governorate in the period between its first documented use of barrel bombs in July 2012, as detailed on our database, and August 2018, the last month in which the regime was documented as using barrel bombs in Daraa governorate. To this end, the report outlines the effects of the use of barrel bombs on the region's residents, and on residential buildings and vital facilities, as well as citing a number of barrel bomb attacks as examples. It is important to note that these incidents are intended to serve as a qualitative sample, with SNHR retaining the full details of all the barrel bomb attacks that took place in Daraa governorate and elsewhere across Syria on our database.

The report primarily draws upon the evidence stored on SNHR's database, which has been built up over the years through daily monitoring by our team. Moreover, the report incorporates a statistical approach which we have used to illustrate a number of charts that show the running count of barrel bombs that were dropped by the regime air force on Daraa governorate, and the distribution of these barrel bombs by year. The same approach is used to provide details of the civilian deaths from the use of barrel bombs in Daraa governorate, and also in cataloguing the attacks on vital civilian facilities using barrel bombs. The report then proceeds to analyze this data based on a statistical analysis approach in order to quantify the magnitude of human and material losses caused by the use of barrel bombs in Daraa governorate.

This report was completed through working collaboratively with field researchers, who gathered direct accounts from survivors, victims' families, humanitarian workers, and media workers. These researchers are part of an extensive network of contacts fostered by SNHR over the course of our continuous work for over 13 years to date. This report contains six first-hand accounts that we obtained by directly speaking with eyewitnesses or survivors, rather than from second-hand sources. The eyewitnesses received no financial compensation or promises of any such remuneration in exchange for agreeing to those interviews. We also informed all the eyewitnesses of the purpose of this report beforehand, and they gave us permission to use the information they provided in the service of this report and our documentation efforts. SNHR has also tried insofar as possible to spare the eyewitnesses from any further agony in recalling such traumatic incidents. Additionally, we have also given assurances to protect the identity of any eyewitnesses who opted to use an alias. All of these procedures are part of our internal protocols, with which we have complied for years, and which we ensure are regularly updated in order to guarantee the optimal levels of psychological care for the victims.

In compiling this report, SNHR's team has also analyzed videos and photos posted online, or those sent to us by local activists via e-mail or social media. The footage published by activists shows the sites of the attacks, the victims' bodies, the injured, and the massive destruction caused by those attacks.

We retain copies of all the video clips and photos included in this report in a secret online database, and backup copies on hard drives. Despite our exhaustive documentation, however, we do not claim to have documented all cases, given the ban and prosecution imposed against us by regime forces. For more details, please read [our methodology](#).

All the attacks included in this report were committed by the Syrian regime, and targeted civilian areas. We have found no military presence of weapon caches in these areas before or during these attacks. The Syrian regime also failed to alert civilians prior to any of these attacks as compelled by international humanitarian law.

This report only reflects the bare minimum of the magnitude and gravity of the violations that took place. It also does not cover their social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

### III. What Has SNHR Done About the Syrian Regime's Use of Barrel Bombs?

Over the course of our 13-plus years of work to date, SNHR has built up an extensive database on the use of barrel bombs across Syria. Monitoring the use of these lethal, highly indiscriminate weapons in particular required greater than usual efforts and accuracy, considering the regime's heavy reliance on barrel bombs. Whenever regime air forces dropped one or more barrel bombs, our team would follow up on the attack, pinpointing the site, and recording the resultant human and material losses suffered in civilian areas from every such attack. Through this meticulous process, we gradually built an extensive database that has continued to grow as time passes. We have also ensured to always report on barrel bomb-related incidents, particularly when these attacks have caused casualties or material losses. Moreover, from 2014 to March 2020, [we released a monthly report](#) specifically on barrel bombs and the resulting human and material losses. In addition to this, we've used the extensive data we collected on barrel bombs to compile two extensive reports on the regime's use of these weapons; [the first of these reports was released on December 27, 2017](#), and the second, which served as an update on the first report, [on April 15, 2021](#). We have also provided details, including the ranks and official titles, of the most prominent regime figures involved in the use of barrel bombs; most prominent among these are Bashar Assad, the President of the Syrian Arab Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Armed Forces; [Ali Abdullah Ayyoub](#), a former Minister of Defense in the regime's government; [Jamil Hassan](#)<sup>2</sup>, the former head of the Air Force Intelligence Directorate, and other high-ranking security and army officials who were involved in the process of using barrel bombs.

We have also shed light on the dangers of using barrel bombs as a horrendously indiscriminate and destructive weapon in numerous reports and studies, including an article, [The danger from the sky](#), by SNHR's Executive Director Fadel Abdulghany.

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2. Was relieved from his duties as Minister of Defense in April 2022 in accordance with a Presidential Decree issued by Bashar Assad. He was succeeded by Lieutenant General Ali Mahmoud Abbas.

## IV. The Syrian Regime's Barrel Bombs Manufacturing Process

The process of manufacturing barrel bombs is conducted over several stages. To gain a comprehensive understanding of this process, we have analyzed numerous photos and videos of the remnants of barrel bombs after their explosion, and consulted numerous experts, as well as analyzing information from open sources. We discovered that barrel bombs are manufactured using a rudimentary process, which begins with collecting empty cylindrical metal containers of various forms, such as [cylinders](#) similar to those used to purify drinking water, or [kazans](#) (large, upright, copper-metal, mazut-<sup>3</sup>powered, cylindrical water heaters), water tanks, [or locally manufactured containers](#) of various sizes (cylindrical or even [four-sided](#) in some cases) which can hold different amounts (the weight of loaded barrel bombs ranges from 50 kilograms to one tonne). These containers are then packed with explosives and metal pieces (nails/bolts, bars, fragments, etc....) with the specific intention of inflicting as much harm as possible on detonation when these razor-sharp metal pieces fly in every direction. In some cases, barrel bombs are loaded with explosive hoses. The manufacturing process can be broken into three stages:

- 1.** Manufacturing the outer layer. This involves some metalwork to prepare the outer casing of the barrel bomb.
- 2.** Loading the explosives. This involves packing the prepared metal containers with explosives, which primarily consist of ammonium nitrate (NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>). More particularly, manufacturing the explosive content of the barrel bomb is done in two ways:
  - A. Mixing 50 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, also known as ammonium fertilizer, with 15 kilograms of TNT. Two liters of mazut are then added to the mix to accelerate combustion on detonation, with 0.5 kilograms of pure powdered sulfur acting as moisture-protection, and 0.5 kilograms of powdered aluminum to increase pressure capacity within the bomb.
  - B. Mixing 33 kilograms of ammonium nitrate with 20 kilograms of sugar. This mixture is then melted with fire until it becomes putty-like, before being dried, then reduced to powder. Once this is done, it's mixed with 0.5 kilograms of pure powdered sulfur and 0.5 kilograms of powdered aluminum.

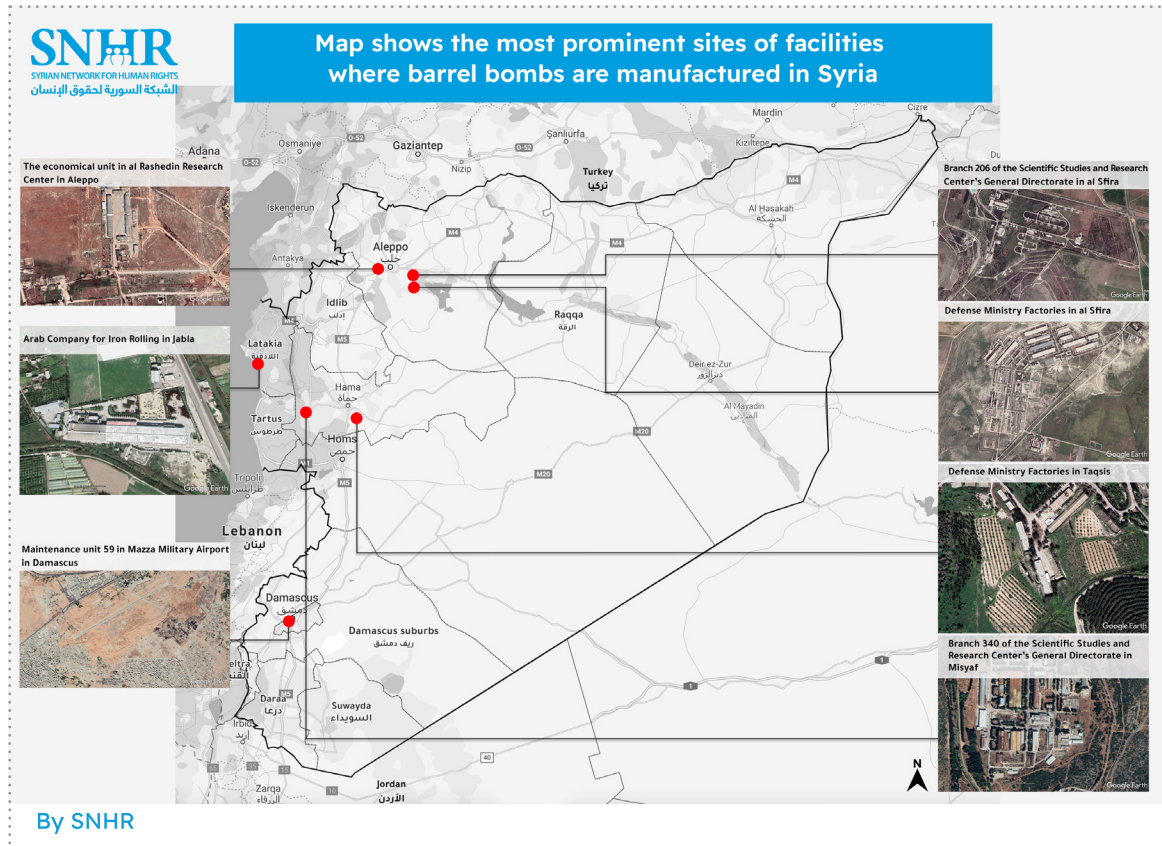
Whichever of these methods is used, a mixture of metal shrapnel, nails/bolts, screws, and similar metal objects are added to the mix, which fly and scatter upon detonation, maximizing the human and material damage inflicted. SNHR has recorded hundreds of incidents where the regime packed the bombs with unusual loads, such as [metal ball bearings](#) and even [anti-personnel landmines](#).

- 3.** Detonator installation. This stage is usually performed in the military airbases from which the helicopters or warplanes would take off to carry out attacks.

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3. Mazut is a low-viscosity, combustible liquid fuel oil used as a household heating fuel. It also has industrial uses, such as powering machinery.

Below is a map designed by SNHR that shows the most prominent barrel bombs manufacturing sites used by the Syrian regime up until the last documented date on which regime forces used this weapon according to our database.



1. The Ministry of Defense Factories located in Taqsis town in southern rural Hama governorate. Those factories were specifically designated for manufacturing the outer layer.
2. Ministry of Defense Factories located in al-Sfeira district in southeastern rural Aleppo governorate. Those factories were designated for manufacturing the outer layer.
3. Branch 602, affiliated with Sector Four of the General Directorate of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center (CERS)<sup>4</sup>, located in al-Sfiira district in southeastern rural Aleppo governorate. This site was designated for filling barrel bombs.
4. Branch 340, affiliated with Sector Four of the General Directorate of the CERS, located in northern Misyaf district in northern rural Hama governorate. This site was also designated for filling barrel bombs.
5. Arabian Steel Company, formerly owned by Ayman Jaber, located in Jabla city in Latakia governorate. This facility was designated for manufacturing the outer layers of barrel bombs and filling them.
6. Maintenance Unit 59 at al-Mazza Military Airbase near Damascus city.
7. Economic Unit in al-Rashdin Research Center, located in western Aleppo city. This facility was designated for manufacturing the outer layers of barrel bombs and filling them.

4. The Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center, better known by its French name variation Centre D'Etudes et de Recherches Scientifiques (CERS), is affiliated with the Syrian regime's Ministry of Defense.



Barrel bombs were assembled (before the detonators were installed) at Hama Military Airbase and al-Nayrab Military Airbase in Aleppo governorate. From those airbases helicopters or warplanes would take off to drop these barrel bombs.



↑ A Syrian regime forces helicopter dropping two barrel bombs on Inkhil city in Daraa - December 8, 2015

## V. The Syrian Regime Has Dropped About 82,000 Barrel Bombs on Syria, including 93 Carrying Toxic Substances and Four Carrying Incendiary Substances

Through our daily and continued monitoring of the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs, we have noticed that the regime initially used [barrel bombs](#) with [a fuse-based detonation mechanism](#). Later, however, the regime began incorporating a mechanical detonator mechanism, while also adding fins to the body of the barrel bombs, to ensure that the detonator would be facing the ground on impact, in order to increase the pressure and trigger the explosion of the barrel bomb.

In practice, the closer to the ground the aircraft being used flies, the more likely the barrel bomb is to hit its target. However, Syrian regime helicopters usually avoid flying at low altitudes for fear of being struck by man-portable air defense systems (MANPADs) or other weapons such as machine guns used by armed opposition factions. For this reason, regime aircraft usually dropped barrel bombs from altitudes of over 5,000 meters, which made the barrel bomb attacks even more indiscriminate.

Where a barrel bomb lands depends on a number of factors, such as altitude, windspeed, aircraft speed, barrel bomb mass, barrel bomb weight, the ratio of the barrel bomb's height to its circumference, the detonator fuse length, and the dimensions of the guiding fins. With so many factors to take into consideration, it is virtually impossible for this crude weapon to hit a precise target. Therefore, using barrel bombs is a blatant violation of international humanitarian law.



↑ A barrel bomb being dropped from a Syrian regime forces helicopter on the Daraa al-Balad area of Daraa city, and its explosion - April 5, 2014

We believe that the people against whom the regime used these crude devices coined the term 'explosive barrels', instead of 'barrel bombs', the commonly used English name for these weapons. In this sense, the term 'explosive barrels' is a more accurate description than barrel bombs, since the word 'bomb' implies some sort of device capable of being accurately guided to its target. As explained above, however, these weapons are simply explosive-laden barrels. The residents to which we spoke told us they used the word 'barrel' because of these weapons' similar shape to the traditional industrial barrels used in Syria. This is corroborated by what we were told by Alaa al-Faqir,<sup>5</sup> a former media worker from Dael city in rural Daraa, in his account of the first barrel bomb attack in the governorate in 2012:

**"I was on the roof of my house in Dael city filming a bombing by a regime helicopter, when it unusually dropped two objects with a shape similar to that of the steel barrels we know. At first, I thought those were two ordinary objects that simply fell off the helicopter, but a few moments later a strong explosion occurred, which was shocking to me. When we gathered information about that attack and were ready to publish the news, we did not know how to report what happened, because barrel bombs were unknown at that point. This was the first time we had seen those barrels in a heavy air attack. On that day, I wrote that Dael city had been targeted using barrel bombs, a term that was used also by other reporters, while others used the term, 'shell dropped by a helicopter'."**

As SNHR's database shows, we documented that Syrian regime helicopters and fixed-wing warplanes dropped no fewer than 81,916 barrel bombs between July 2012 and March 2020<sup>6</sup> across Syria. These barrel bomb attacks killed no fewer than 11,087 civilians, including 1,821 children and 1,780 women (adult female). In addition, barrel bombs were used in at least 728 attacks on vital civilian facilities, including 104 attacks on medical facilities, 188 attacks on schools, 205 attacks on mosques, and 57 attacks on markets.

5. Via WhatsApp on March 21, 2021.

6. According to SNHR's database, the last date on which barrel bombs were documented as being used in Syria was on February 22, 2020, which coincided with the conclusion of the last offensive during which barrel bombs were used by regime forces. That offensive, against opposition areas in northwestern Syria, was carried out by regime forces backed by Russia and pro-regime militias. It was launched on April 26, 2019, lasting until early-March 2020. The regime successfully took over wide areas in the governorates of Hama, Idlib, and Aleppo in that offensive, most prominently the cities of Kafr Zita, Khan Sheikhoun, Ma'aret al-Nu'man and Kafranbel.

## Barrel bombs dropped by the Syrian regime air forces across Syria between July 2012 and March 2020

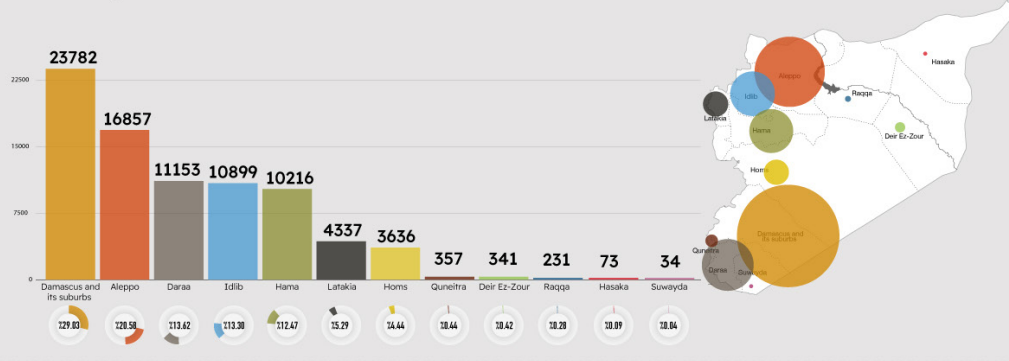


At least **81,916 barrel bombs** have been dropped by the Syrian regime air force

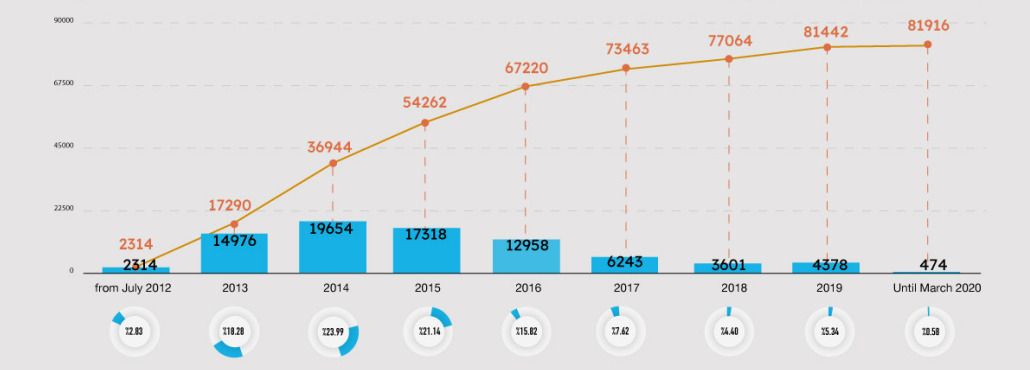
Before	After
21013	60903
barrel bombs	barrel bombs

*Note: the Security Council Resolution 2139 was issued on February 22, 2014*

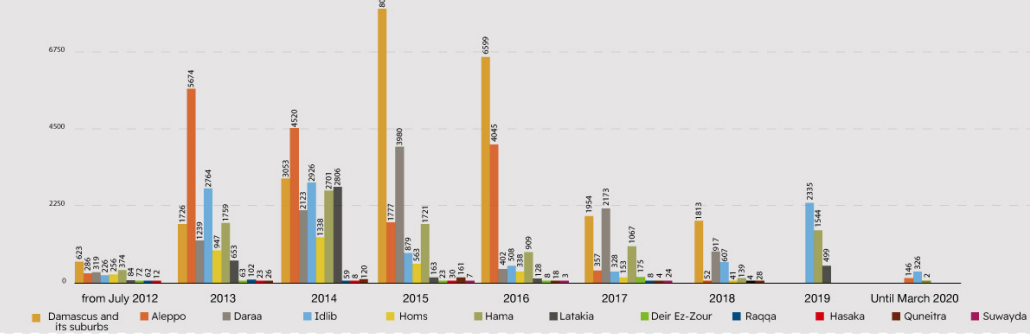
Distributed across governorates:



Distributed by years:



Record of barrel bombs distributed by year across governorates:



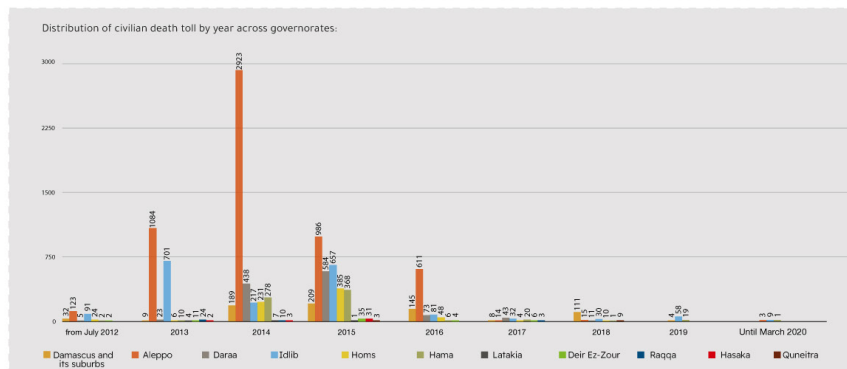
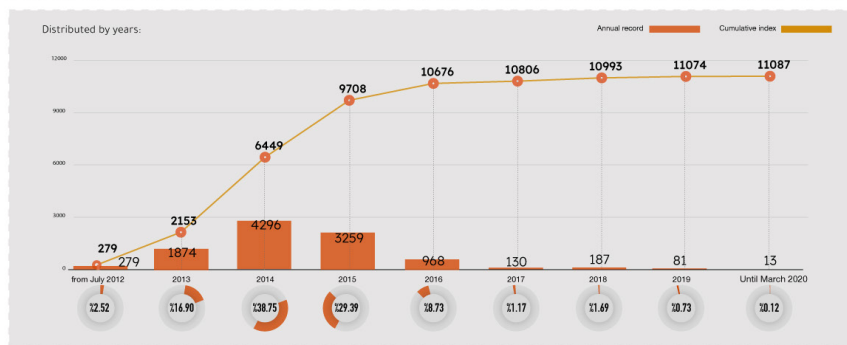
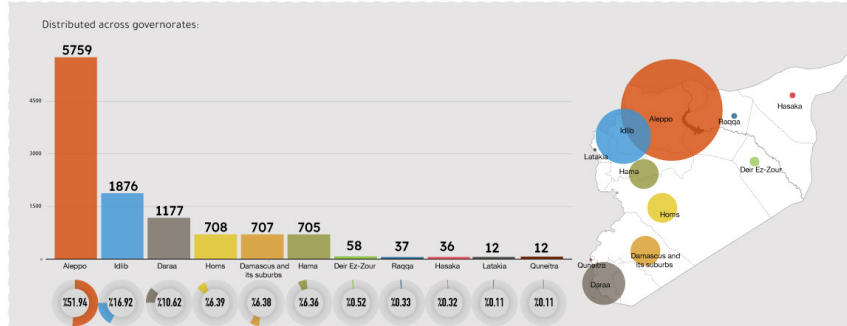
As documented by SNHR

September 2024

**Death toll from the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs in Syria between July 2012 and March 2020**



Deaths of **11,087** civilians, including 1,821 children and 1,780 women (adult female)



As documented by SNHR

September 2024

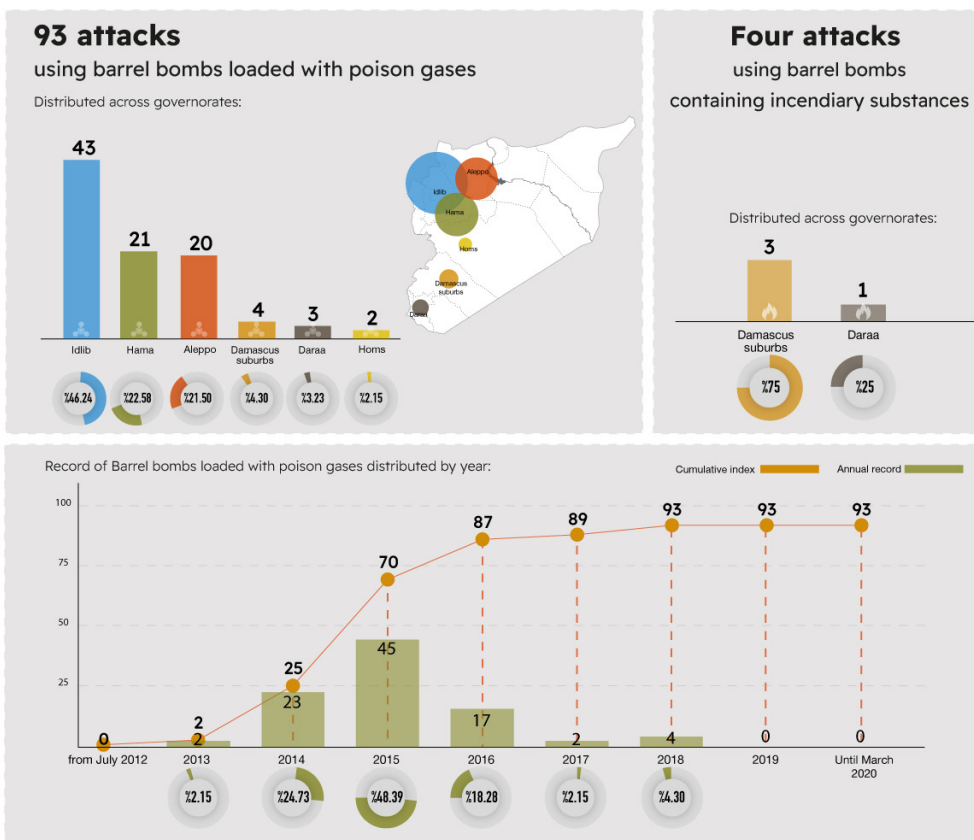
Moreover, we have documented a number of cases where barrel bombs exploded before hitting the ground. There were also other cases in which barrel bombs did not explode after hitting the ground. This inconsistency signals the sheer barbarism and randomness of this weapon, which can only be used by a regime that has no regard for civilians' lives. Even more shameful is the way in which the international community has allowed the regime to continuously use this type of weapon in this day and age with impunity, in front of the whole world, which further emboldened the regime to use barrel bombs in even more reprehensible ways, with SNHR documenting 93 attacks by regime forces using barrel bombs loaded with toxic gases, and four attacks, again on civilian areas, in which the barrel bombs were packed with incendiary substances. Those attacks took place between July 2012 and March 2020. The continued use of barrel bombs has caused systematic destruction and forced displacement in a manner that cannot be described as anything but barbaric and primitive.

11 | The Syrian Regime Dropped About 11,000 Barrel Bombs on Daraa Governorate, Killing 1,177 Civilians, Forty Percent of Whom Were Women and Children



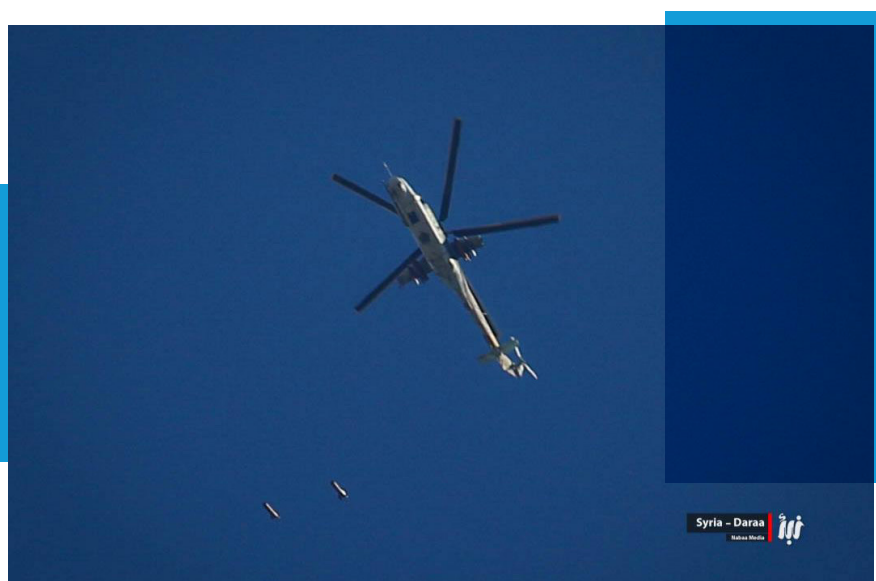
↑ Unexploded barrel bomb which was dropped by Syrian regime forces helicopters on Dael city in Daraa - June 26, 2014

Attacks by the Syrian regime that involved the use of barrel bombs carrying toxic gases and incendiary materials in Syria between July 2012 and March 2020



## VI. The Syrian Regime Has Dropped About 11,000 Barrel Bombs on Daraa Governorate, 9,428 of Them After the Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2139

[Daraa](#) governorate, located in southwestern Syria on the Syrian-Jordanian border, is bounded by Jordan to the south, by Quneitra governorate to the west, by Rural Damascus governorate to the north, and by Suwayda governorate to the East. It has an area of 3,730 square kilometers. At the start of 2011, it had a population of 998,000.



↑ A Syrian regime forces helicopter dropping two barrel bombs on Daraa al-Balad area in Daraa city - April 20, 2017

Syrian regime forces began using barrel bombs in Daraa governorate in July 2012. In fact, Daraa was among the first areas where we documented the use of barrel bombs to target civilian populations, vital civilian facilities, and the areas furthest from the battlefronts in the areas of the governorate that broke free of the regime's control. The use of barrel bombs in the governorate resulted in dozens of massacres of civilians, as well as widespread destruction, in addition to causing mass panic among civilian residents terrified at the potential consequences of the explosion of those barrel bombs.

The regime used barrel bombs as part of its systematic and indiscriminate heavy bombardment, which saw it deploy the most devastating heavy weapons, throughout its military advance in Daraa governorate. One notably savage regime offensive that saw heavy use of barrel bombs was the one launched on June 1, 2017, with the aim of re-taking neighborhoods in Daraa city (parts of the Daraa al-Balad area, Tareeq al-Sad neighborhood, and Daraa Camp in the Daraa al-Mahata area), which were at that point under the control of armed opposition factions. The regime offensive, which lasted for 35 days, saw bombardment using all kinds of weapons, lasting until the announcement of a bilateral agreement between the United States and Russia to establish a ceasefire in southern Syria on July 7, 2017. In that five-week offensive alone, we documented 1,248 barrel bombs being dropped by the regime on the area.

13 | The Syrian Regime Dropped About 11,000 Barrel Bombs on Daraa Governorate, Killing 1,177 Civilians, Forty Percent of Whom Were Women and Children



↑ A Syrian regime forces helicopter flying in the skies over Daraa city while dropping two barrel bombs on neighborhoods below - June 6, 2017

We spoke with M.A.,<sup>7</sup> a former media worker in Daraa city. He told us:

**“Daraa city saw a heavy barrel bomb offensive in 2014, and another one during the ‘Operation Southern Storm’ in 2015. However, the most intensive offensive that involved the use of barrel bombs was the 2017 battle. The helicopters that dropped barrel bombs on us would take off from Balli Military Airbase near the northern outskirts of Suwayda governorate.”**

We noted a pattern wherein regime forces used barrel bombs in every offensive it launched in Daraa governorate prior to August 2018. According to our database, since the regime announced it had established full administrative control over the entirety of Daraa governorate in August 2018, [at the conclusion of the offensive then taking place](#), the regime has, as of this writing, completely stopped using barrel bombs in Daraa.



↑ Victims' bodies being pulled from the rubble of a destroyed building following a barrel bomb attack by Syrian regime forces helicopters on al-Yadoda town in Daraa - May 4, 2015

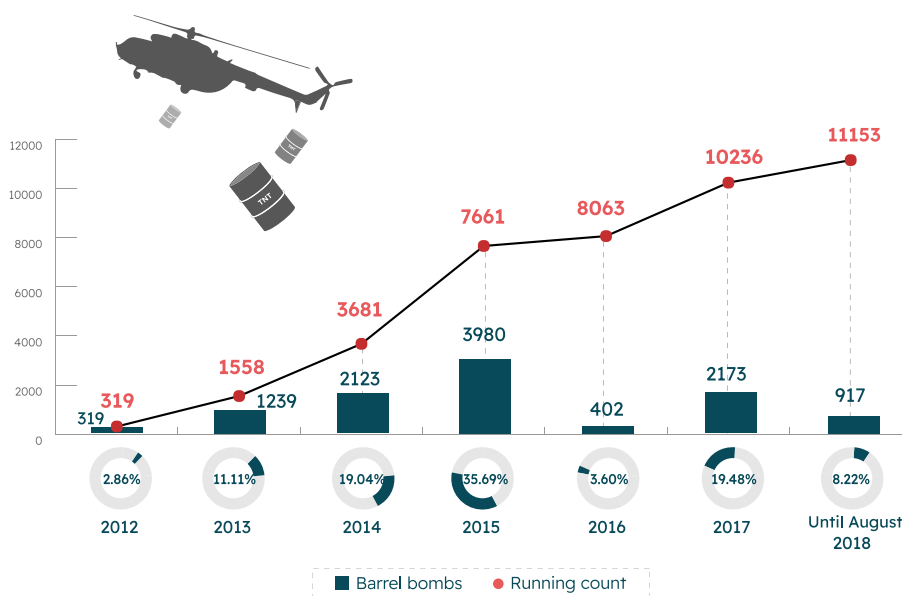
7. Via Microsoft Teams on April 29, 2024.

## The Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs in Daraa governorate as documented on SNHR's database

SNHR's database contains thousands of incidents of barrel bombs use by regime forces on the cities, towns, and neighborhoods of Daraa governorate. To avoid unnecessary intricacy by posting dozens of insights, we will limit ourselves to the most prominent findings from our analysis of the data mentioned above.

### 1. Barrel bombs in Daraa governorate

SNHR documented that about 11,153 barrel bombs were dropped by Syrian regime military aircraft and warplanes on Daraa governorate in southern Syria between July 2012 and August 2018. These are distributed by year as follows:

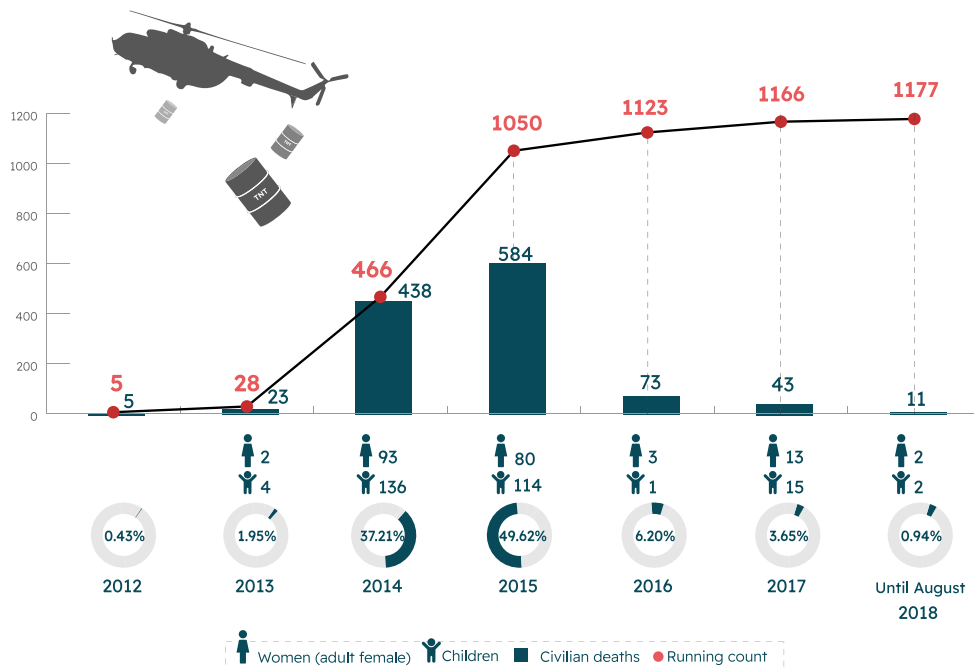


As the numbers above show, the year 2015 saw the highest number of barrel bombs dropped on the governorate in any one-year period, followed by 2017, and then 2014. At least 8,276 barrel bombs were dropped on Daraa governorate in those three years combined, accounting for 75 percent of the total.



## 2. Civilian deaths from barrel bomb attacks in Daraa governorate

SNHR documented 1,177 civilian deaths, including of 272 children and 193 women (adult female), as a result of the Syrian regime’s use of barrel bombs in Daraa governorate between July 2012 and August 2018. These are distributed by year as follows:



Women and child victims make up about 40 percent of all civilian deaths from barrel bomb attacks by regime forces in Daraa governorate. This incredibly high percentage confirms that those attacks specifically targeted civilians. From another standpoint, the year 2015 saw the most civilian deaths in one year, accounting for nearly 50 percent of the total, followed by 2014 with about 38 percent.

### 3. The Syrian regime breached UN Security Council resolution 2139 about 9,428 times in Daraa governorate

About one-and-a-half year after the regime had started using barrel bombs, the UN Security Council adopted [resolution 2139](#) on February 22, 2014, condemning the use of barrel bombs, and even mentioning them by name, stating that the resolution: “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...”<sup>8</sup> Nonetheless, the Syrian regime was unconcerned by this resolution, with SNHR documenting the continuing and heavy use of barrel bombs in the regime’s offensives against Daraa governorate following its issuance. The regime’s use of barrel bombs in the governorate did not stop until August 2018 when the regime reestablished full control there, as mentioned above.

According to SNHR’s database on barrel bombs, the Syrian regime’s use of these bombs can be divided in terms of how many barrel bombs were dropped prior to and after the resolution was adopted, as follows:

- Before the resolution was adopted (between July 2012 and February 22, 2014): The Syrian regime air force dropped no fewer than **1,725 barrel bombs** on Daraa governorate, killing **85 civilians**, including 19 children and 13 women.
- After the resolution was adopted (between February 22, 2014, and August 2018): The Syrian regime air force dropped no fewer than **9,428 barrel bombs** on Daraa governorate, killing **1,092 civilians**, including 253 children and 180 women.

### 4. The use of barrel bombs containing chemical weapons and incendiary weapons in Daraa governorate

SNHR documented at least three attacks by the Syrian regime air force in which three barrel bombs loaded with toxic gases were used between July 2012 and August 2018. We have also documented one attack involving the use of barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances in the same period.

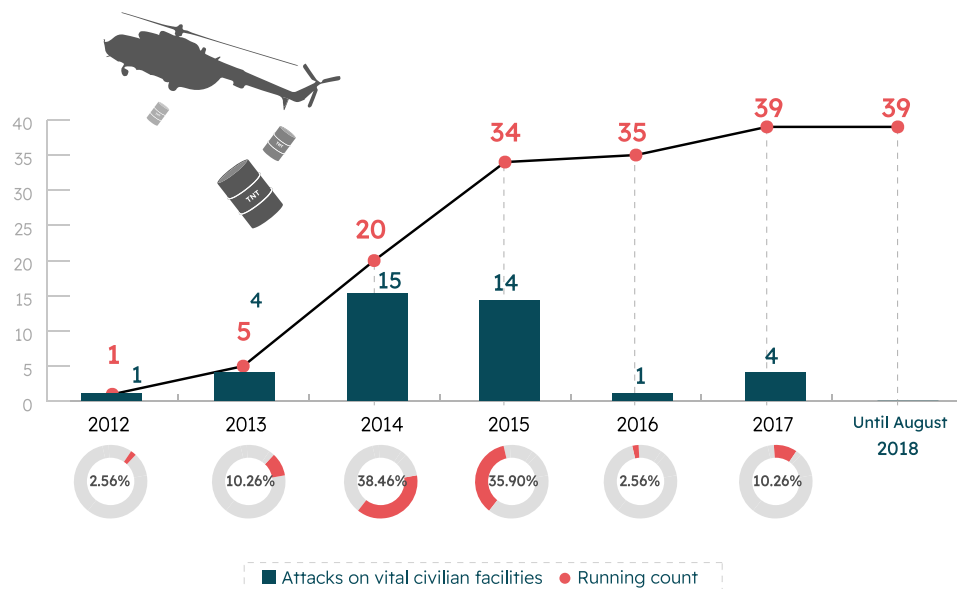
As SNHR’s database shows, all of the attacks involving the use of barrel bombs loaded with toxic gases took place in 2015.

Meanwhile, the attack that saw the use of barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances took place in 2017, when the barrel bombs in question were dropped on an area with no military presence, located far from the dividing lines between regime forces and armed opposition factions. This attack took place in the course of an offensive by regime forces to advance through areas of Daraa city under the armed opposition factions’ control in June 2017.

8. UN Security Council. (2014, February 22). Resolution 2139 (2014), Paragraph 17. [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2139\(2014\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2139(2014))

## 5. Attacks on vital civilian facilities in Daraa governorate involving the use of barrel bombs

According to SNHR's database, barrel bombs were used in at least 39 attacks on vital civilian facilities in Daraa governorate between July 2012 and August 2018. These included 11 attacks on medical facilities, six on schools, six on places of worship, and four on markets.



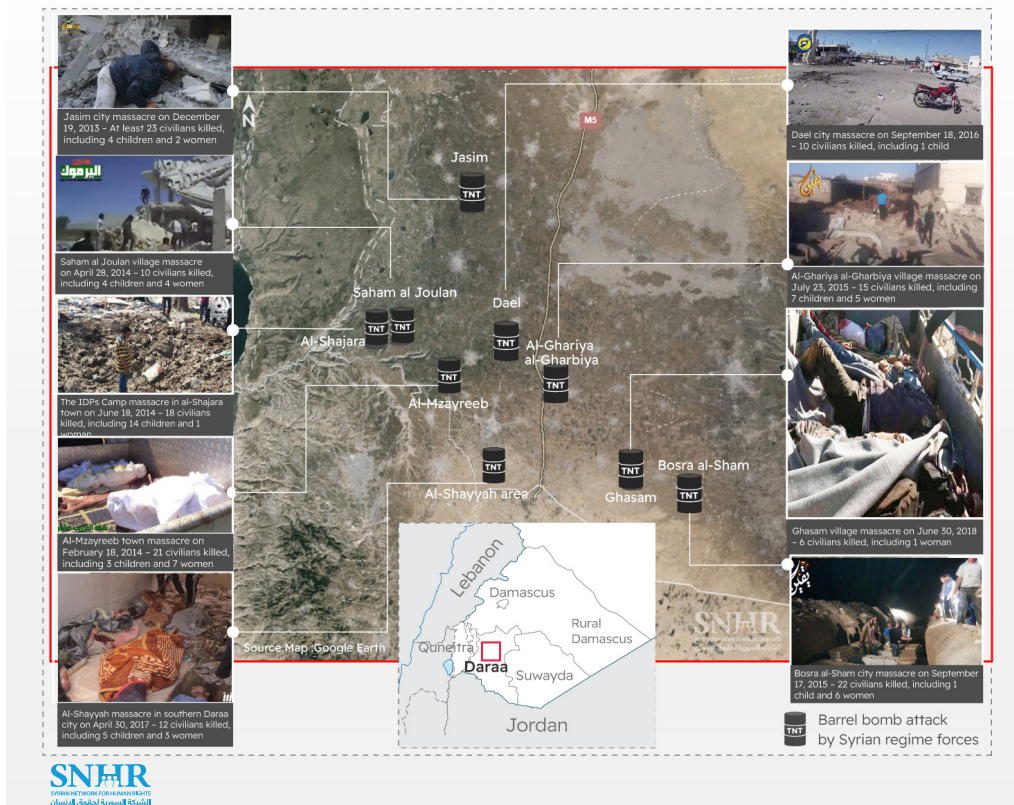
As the numbers above show, the year 2014 and 2015 respectively saw the highest number of regime attacks on vital civilian facilities involving the use of barrel bombs. The attacks that took place in those two years accounted for about 75 percent of the total.

As SNHR's database confirms, meanwhile, medical facilities in Daraa governorate were the vital facilities most heavily targeted by the regime using barrel bombs, with about 29 percent of the total number of all regime attacks on vital civilian facilities in Daraa governorate involving the use of barrel bombs.

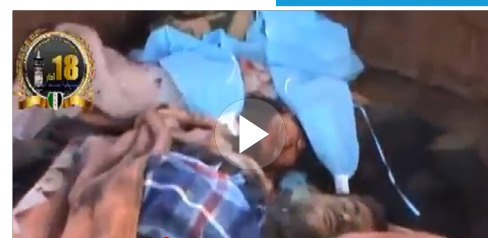
## VII. Some of the Incidents Involving the Use of Barrel Bombs in Daraa Governorate

### A. Barrel bomb attacks resulting in massacres and civilian casualties

Map showing the locations of the most prominent massacres caused by barrel bombs attacks by Syrian regime forces in Daraa governorate between July 2012 and August 2018



On Thursday, December 19, 2013, at around 15:00 local time, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs [on the public square](#) in the center of [Jasim city](#) in northwestern Daraa governorate, [killing at least 23 civilians, including four children and two women, and wounding dozens of others, as well as causing massive destruction to the area targeted.](#) Jasim city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ Victims killed in a Syrian regime massacre using barrel bombs in Jasim city, Daraa - December 19, 2013

SNHR spoke with Mr. Abu al-Hareth,<sup>9</sup> who witnessed the massacre committed by the regime air force's barrel bomb attack on Jasim city on December 19, 2013. He told us:

“I was about 1.5 kilometers away, when I heard a very strong explosion coming from the direction of the public square in the middle of Jasim. I headed there. The [regime] warplanes dropped two barrel bombs targeting a residential building. The destruction was massive. I saw entire buildings leveled to the ground, about five, while about four others were partially destroyed. I saw a fire in a house. We tried to put the fire out, but to no use. We used an ordinary water tank, different from those used in fire extinguishing, since the firefighting center was located in an area besieged by regime personnel.”



↑ 👁 Residential building destroyed following a barrel bomb attack by Syrian regime forces in Jasim city in Daraa, which resulted in a massacre - December 19, 2013

SNHR spoke to Mr. Abu Yasser<sup>10</sup> who witnessed the massacre caused by the barrel bomb attack by regime forces on Jasim city on December 19, 2013. He told us:

“Barrel bombs were suddenly dropped on us in a crowded place, with people trapped in the rubble. We started working on pulling the dead bodies out. The most heart-breaking thing was when we put a plastic bag aside to collect the body parts of children and people trapped under the rubble. There was a father screaming his four children's names as he was looking for them in the rubble of a house. Martyrs were in the dozens, and dead bodies were everywhere.”

On Tuesday, February 18, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters [dropped](#) a barrel bomb near Ein al-Zaitoun School, which is affiliated with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), in [al-Mzayreeb town](#) in northern rural Daraa governorate. The barrel bomb struck a residential building next to the school, [killing 21 civilians, including three children and seven women, almost completely destroying the residential building and severely damaging the school building](#). Al-Mzayreeb was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ 👁 Victims killed in a Syrian regime massacre using a barrel bomb in al-Mzayreeb town in Daraa - February 18, 2014

9. Via Skype in December 2013.

10. Via Skype in December 2013.

On Monday, April 28, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters [dropped](#) two barrel bombs on [Sahm al-Joulan village](#) in southwestern rural Daraa governorate, [killing 10 civilians](#), including four children and four women. Sahm al-Joulan village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.

SNHR spoke with Abu Mohammad al-Hourani,<sup>11</sup> a media worker who witnessed the massacre. He told us

**“On the morning of Monday, April 28, 2014, around 10:30 in the morning, a regime helicopter surprisingly entered the sky over the village and dropped two explosive containers in the middle of the village. The containers caused a strong explosion upon impact on the ground, followed by thick, scary smoke filling the air. One minute later, I headed for the targeted site which was around 100 meters away from the Old Mosque. The scene was horrifying. The two barrel bombs landed on a house inhabited by IDPs from Nawa city. The house completely collapsed on top of its inhabitants, with the destruction reaching three houses on the house’s perimeter. Two families who lived together in the house were martyred, most of them were children and women. The two barrel bombs themselves disappeared, so much so that I did not even see any shrapnel or remnants to either of them. All that was left was the great destruction that shut off the road, and the martyrs’ dead bodies, which were clearly thrown outside from the pressure caused by the explosion. This was the third time the village was targeted with barrel bombs, as it was targeted twice in 2013, since the village is close to regime-held areas. Usually, the village is targeted in artillery attacks, and rarely is it targeted in airstrikes. I believe this surprising attack was because the regime feared an imminent attack by the Free Syrian Army factions on regime areas, as a number of factions were gathering in the village.”**

On Wednesday, June 18, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on al-Falouja Elementary School [in al-Shajara town](#) in western rural Daraa governorate. [The barrel bomb landed on an IDP camp located in the schoolyard, killing 18 civilians, including four children and one woman.](#) Additionally, the school’s perimeter fence was heavily destroyed, and the building and cladding materials were heavily damaged. As a result, the school was put out of commission. Dozens of IDPs’ tents were also completely destroyed. Al-Shajara town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ Victims from a massacre by the Syrian regime air force which carried out a barrel bomb attack on al-Shajara town in Daraa - June 18, 2014

11. Via WhatsApp in 2017.

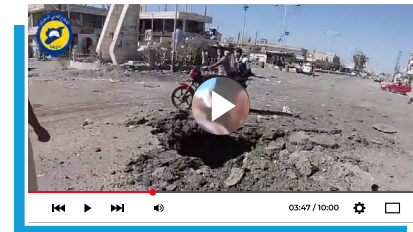
On Thursday, July 23, 2015, Syrian regime helicopters consecutively dropped a number of barrel bombs, most likely four, [on al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya village](#) in northeastern Daraa governorate, [killing 15 civilians, including seven children](#) and five women, and wounding a dozen others to varying degrees, as well as [causing massive destruction to the site where the barrel bomb was dropped](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ *Victims of a massacre by a Syrian regime air force barrel bomb attack on al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya village in Daraa - July 23, 2015*

On the night of Thursday, September 17, 2015, Syrian regime helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on [Bosra al-Sham](#) city in eastern rural Daraa governorate, [killing 22 civilians, including one child and six women](#). Bosra al-Sham city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.

On Sunday, September 18, 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on [Dael city](#) in northern rural Daraa governorate, killing 10 civilians, including one child, [and wounding others](#). Dael city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ *Dead and wounded victims of a Syrian regime barrel bomb attack on Dael city in Daraa - September 18, 2016*

On Sunday, April 30, 2017, at around 11:00, two Syrian regime helicopters dropped eight barrel bombs on al-Shayyah sub-district in southern Daraa city. Some of the barrel bombs struck a number of [buildings under construction](#) which were inhabited by IDPs, [killing 12 civilians, including five children and three women](#). Al-Shayyah subdistrict was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ *Victims killed in a massacre caused by a Syrian regime barrel bomb attack on al-Shayyah sub-district in southern Daraa city - April 30, 2017*

SNHR spoke to Ismail Msalma,<sup>12</sup> a former media worker in Daraa city who witnessed the massacre. Ismail told us the incident took place at noon on Sunday, April 30, 2017. He was in Daraa al-Balad area when he was told that a massacre had taken place when the Mazarea al-Shayyah subdistrict, south of the city, was targeted with barrel bombs. He added:

12. Via WhatsApp on April 30, 2024.

“I saw a squadron of three regime helicopters dropping barrel bombs. The helicopters took turns dropping the barrel bombs in quick succession. Every helicopter would drop its load and leave the skies, quickly followed by the other. As many as nine barrel bombs were dropped throughout the al-Shayyah subdistrict. All the barrel bombs exploded. I immediately headed for the site, where the barrel bombs had struck houses in a group of buildings under construction. I learned that barrel bombs landed in the building site. The martyrs were under the rubble when we arrived, and the destruction to the building was quite massive. The metal shrapnel from the barrel bomb remnants were scattered at the site. The barrel bombs also created a number of craters in the site that were the size of a small room or 3-4 meters deep. The number of martyrs reached as high as approximately 12 individuals, and they were all pulled out dead on the spot. Some of the dead bodies were reduced to body parts. I remember 10 names since most of them were from [my family] al-Msalma. Among the victims were four children and an unborn fetus. The barrel bombs also wounded a number of people. Al-Shayyah subdistrict is a plain area adjacent to Daraa city, where families from Daraa al-Balad neighborhoods took shelter as they fled the military operations and bombardment there. They lived in a number of buildings under construction, where there was no military presence, no fighters or outposts. Al-Shayyah subdistrict is far from the dividing lines with regime forces, at least five kilometers away.”

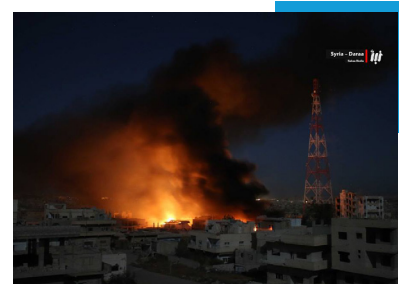
On Saturday, June 30, 2018, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on [Ghasam village](#) in eastern Daraa governorate, [killing six civilians, including one woman](#), at once. Ghasm village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ Victims killed in a massacre caused by a Syrian regime barrel bomb attack on Ghasm village in Daraa - June 30, 2018

## B. Barrel bomb attacks, in which barrel bombs were used as chemical or incendiary weapons

On Friday, June 9, 2017, at around 00:10, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped at least four barrel bombs containing incendiary substances, believed to be napalm, on the Daraa al-Balad area of Daraa city. The barrel bombs landed on a number of locations close to one another in the centre of Daraa al-Balad, with al-Omari Mosque, the popular market, al-Hassan Bakery, and civilian houses being targeted. The barrel bombs [burned the northern part of al-Omari Mosque](#), while the bakery and the equipment inside it were completely destroyed in the resulting fire. A number of shops and about five houses were also damaged in the attack. The Daraa al-Balad area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ A Syrian regime barrel bomb attack using barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances believed to be Napalm on Daraa al-Balad area in Daraa city - June 9, 2017



SNHR spoke with M.A.,<sup>13</sup> a former media worker in Daraa city. He told us that, on June 9, 2017, when he was in Daraa al-Balad, Syrian regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances on the area. He added:

**“I went up to the roof of my house, which is about 500 meters away from al-Omari Mosque, at a late hour of the night, after I heard through a wireless communication device that warplanes coming from Balli Military Airbase had entered the skies over Daraa city. I then saw a regime helicopter dropping four barrel bomb all at once on the area where al-Omari Mosque is located. I immediately rushed there and I saw parts of the mosque on fire, as well as a bakery known as the Hassan Krad Bakery near the mosque. I saw objects in flames scattered in the street. When the barrel bombs were dropped, they did not make a strong sound as is the norm with ordinary barrel bombs. Instead, it was a light sound with the barrel bombs emitting balls of fire. In addition, the barrel bomb caused partial destruction where they landed, and only created very small craters, unlike those created by ordinary barrel bombs on impact. As far as I know, no one was killed or wounded in the attack.”**

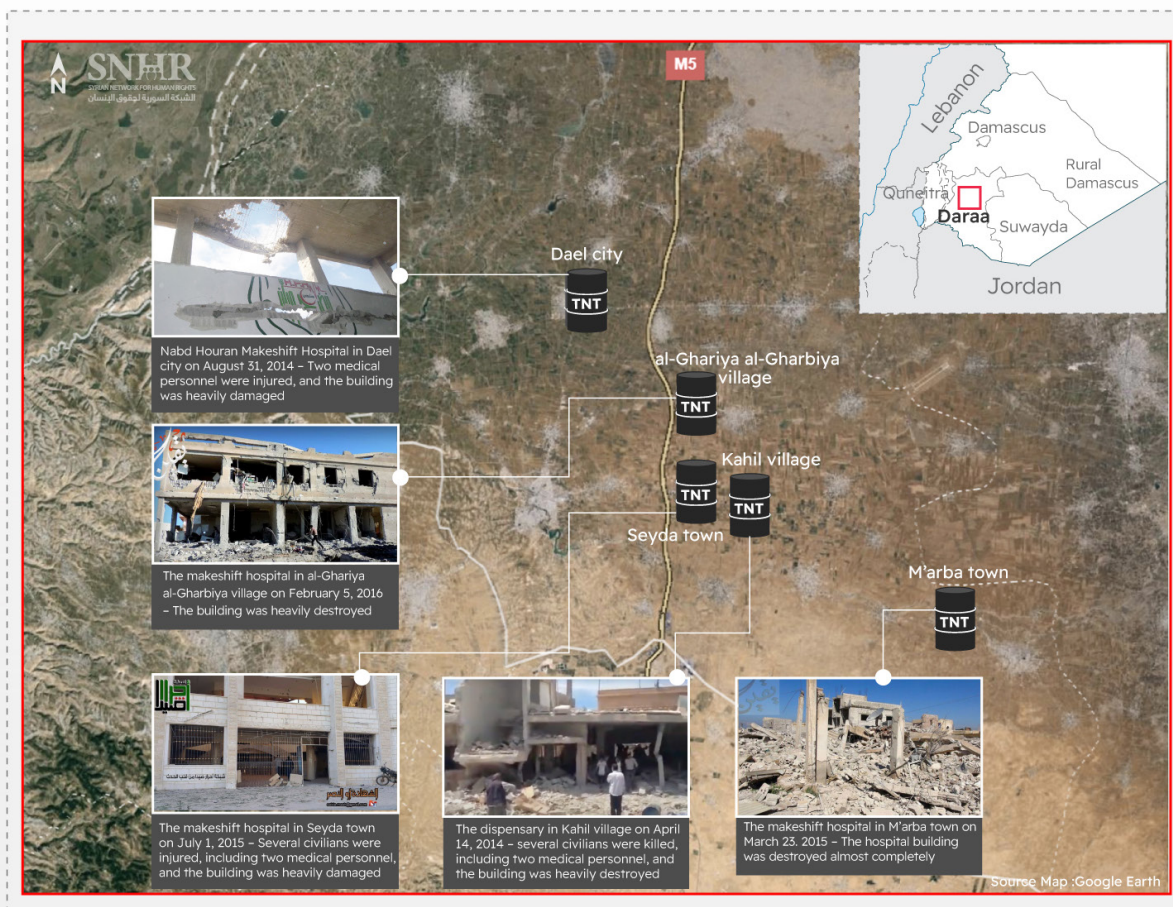
M.A. also pinpointed the site where the barrel bombs were dropped. He recalled: **“One of the barrel bombs fell on the roof of the Hassan KRad Bakery. When it exploded, the objects in flames were scattered around, and destroyed the bakery’s fuel tank which was located on the building’s second floor, which further agitated the flames. The bakery building and equipment were almost completely destroyed in the blaze. Two other barrel bombs fell on al-Omari Mosque – one in the southern section, and the other in the northern section. They left a large fire and partially destroyed the site where they fell. A fourth barrel bomb landed in the public square in front of the al-Omari Mosque, where the residents of Daraa al-Balad usually hold their demonstrations – in the al-Omari Mosque area and the surrounding areas. There were no military outposts in the areas where the barrel bombs fell. The closest armed opposition military outpost was about 500-600 meters away from that place.”**


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13. Via Microsoft Teams on April 29, 2024.

### C. Attacks on vital civilian facilities

#### Map showing the locations of the most prominent attacks on medical facilities using barrel bombs in Daraa governorate between July 2012 and August 2018



 Barrel bomb attack by Syrian regime forces

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On Monday, April 14, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the dispensary in [Kahil](#) village in eastern rural Daraa governorate, killing four civilians, including one child and two women. Two of the victims were part of the dispensary's medical staff (a male and a female nurse). [The dispensary's building and equipment were also heavily damaged](#) in the attack, and as such were put out of commission. Kahil village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.

On Sunday, August 17, 2014, Syrian regime helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on the [Third School for Elementary Education](#) in Inkhil city in northwestern Daraa governorate. [The school building was heavily destroyed](#). Inkhil city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.

On Sunday, August 31, 2014, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Nabd Houran Makeshift Hospital in Dael city in northern rural Daraa governorate, [injuring two members of the hospital's medical staff](#). Additionally, [the hospital's building was completely destroyed and the equipment severely damaged](#), and as such the hospital was put out of commission. Dael city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑ 👁 Destruction caused by a Syrian regime barrel bomb attack on Nabd Houran Hospital in Dael city in Daraa - August 31, 2014

On Saturday, March 21, 2015, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque in [Jamrin](#) village in eastern rural Daraa governorate. The mosque building was almost completely destroyed, and as such the mosque was put out of commission. Jamrin village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.

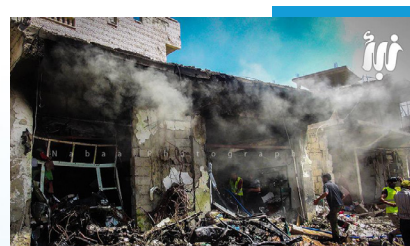



↑ 👁 Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque was almost completely destroyed in a Syrian regime airstrike in which a barrel bomb was dropped on Jamrin village in Daraa - March 21, 2015

On Monday, March 23, 2015, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the makeshift hospital in [M'arba](#) town in eastern rural Daraa governorate. [The hospital building was completely destroyed](#), and as such the hospital was put out of commission. M'arba town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.

On Wednesday, July 1, 2015, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb which landed behind Seyda Makeshift Hospital in [Seyda](#) town in eastern rural Daraa governorate, injuring five individuals, including two medical personnel. [The attack also caused massive damage to the hospital building and equipment, effectively putting the hospital out of commission.](#) It should be noted that the regime air force had committed a separate massacre in the town the same day before carrying out the barrel bomb attack, in which fixed-wing regime warplanes fired missiles at a gathering of civilians. Seyda town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.


On Sunday, August 16, 2015, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the popular market in the Daraa al-Balad area of Daraa city, [killing eight civilians, and injuring multiple others, as well causing varying degrees of destruction to the shops in the market.](#) The Daraa al-Balad area was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑  Destruction caused by a Syrian regime barrel bomb attack on the popular market in Daraa al-Balad area in Daraa city - August 16, 2015

On Friday, February 5, 2016, Syrian regime helicopters dropped multiple barrel bombs on the makeshift hospital in al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya village in northeastern Daraa governorate. [Large parts of the hospital building were destroyed,](#) putting the hospital out of commission. Al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attack.



↑  Destruction caused by a barrel bomb attack on the makeshift hospital in al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya village in Daraa - February 5, 2016

## IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Conclusions

1. Daraa has seen multiple violent attacks using barrel bombs. The Syrian regime showed no concern for the innocent victims, even given the indiscriminate nature of this weapon, which does not differentiate between civilians or combatants. These attacks resulted in numerous civilian casualties, as well as causing massive destruction to residential areas and vital facilities, with these attacks leading to the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. SNHR stresses that targeting residential areas with such indiscriminate weapons amounts to a war crime, and that the widespread killing of civilians in this manner constitutes a crime against humanity.
2. The Syrian regime's extensive use of barrel bombs aimed deliberately to cause as much destruction and terror among civilians as possible. Many of these barrel bombs were dropped on vital facilities such as schools, bakeries, medical facilities, and markets.
3. The brutal barrel bomb attacks, the destruction of homes, the state of mass fear created by such attacks, and the damage to vital facilities forced hundreds of thousands of civilians in Daraa governorate to flee their original areas in search of safer ones, threatening their properties and lands.
4. The deliberate destruction of cities and towns was a deliberately targeted act of retaliation against civilians for demanding freedom and political change, aiming to force them into submission and displacement, resulting in severe suffering including pushing people to a point where they were forced to sell their homes and lands.
5. The Syrian regime, supported by Russia and Iran, followed a "scorched earth" policy against areas outside its control in Daraa governorate, carrying out military operations with intensive and brutal ground and air bombardment, which saw the use of barrel bombs, all in order to force the inhabitants of these areas to accept coerced settlement agreements on the regime's terms in exchange for the right to be free of the harrowing ordeal of bombardment and military operations.
6. The lack of a deterrent response from the UN Security Council and the international community has emboldened the Syrian regime to continue using this primitive and barbaric weapon.
7. The Syrian regime forces used barrel bombs loaded with incendiary substances against residential neighborhoods populated by civilians, without taking any significant precautions to reduce the harm to civilians and civilian facilities and buildings. This indicates that the Syrian regime does not care about the reputation of the army institution but uses it as a tool to cling to power, as the use of such a primitive and barbaric weapon is a disgrace even for the weakest army in the world.

8. Syrian regime forces have blatantly violated UN Security Council resolutions 2139 and 2254, which called for an end to indiscriminate attacks,<sup>14</sup> using barrel bombs in a systematic and widespread manner. They also violated Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute<sup>15</sup> through the deliberate killing of civilians, constituting war crimes and crimes against humanity.
9. SNHR stresses that bombardment involving the use of barrel bombs has been indiscriminate and has generally targeted unarmed civilians, causing collateral damage, including civilian deaths, civilian injuries, and significant damage to civilian objects.
10. Syrian regime forces have violated the rules of international human rights law that protect the right to life. Additionally, under the context of a non-international armed conflict, they committed war crimes with all the necessary elements to meet that definition present.
11. The Syrian regime's use of barrels filled with toxic gases has violated customary international humanitarian law that prohibits the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances. Moreover, it breached the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which the Syrian government ratified in September 2013, requiring the non-use and destruction of toxic gases, and violated all relevant Security Council resolutions, especially 2118 of 2013, 2209 of 2015, and 2235 of 2015. The use of chemical weapons constitutes a war crime according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
12. The systematic, widespread, and repeated bombardment, the excessive force used, the indiscriminate nature of the bombing, and the coordinated nature of the attacks can only be directed by high-level policies deliberately planned by the Syrian regime, involving multiple levels of military leadership.

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14. Paragraph 3 of UN Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) mentions barrel bombs 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..."

See: UN Security Council. (2014, February 22). Resolution 2139 (2014). [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2139\(2014\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2139(2014))

Also, Paragraph 13 of UN Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) reads: "Demands that all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilians and civilian objects as such, including attacks against medical facilities and personnel, and any indiscriminate use of weapons, including through shelling and aerial bombardment..."

See: UN Security Council. (2015, December 15). Resolution 2139 (2015). [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2254\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2254(2015))

15. See Article 7 (1-a) and Article 8 (2-a-i) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. <https://www.icc-cpi.int/sites/default/files/2024-05/Rome-Statute-eng.pdf>

## Recommendations

### UN Security Council

- Enforce an arms embargo on the Syrian government and prosecute any and all entities and individuals involved in providing the Syrian government with money and weaponry considering the risk of these weapons being used in serious human rights violations, some of which constitute crimes against humanity.
- Refer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and hold all involved accountable. Veto powers should be suspended in cases of crimes against humanity and war crimes.
- Ensure security and peace and implement the principle of Responsibility to Protect, in order to protect civilians, and to preserve the lives of Syrians and their heritage and arts from destruction, looting, and ruin.
- Condemn the Syrian regime's failure to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2139 and hold it fully responsible for the destruction, displacement, and subsequent land and property pillaging
- Provide genuine support for a serious peace process in Syria and achieve a just political transition that ensures security and stability.

### International community

- In light of the division and complete paralysis of the UN Security Council, it is imperative to act at the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people in various forms of assistance.
- No form of relations should be re-established with the Syrian regime, which has used primitive barrel bombs against its own people, killing, destroying, and displacing millions of Syrians.
- Expand the exercise of universal jurisdiction regarding crimes against humanity and war crimes before competent national courts and pursue all individuals involved.
- Support the political transition process and pressure the parties to implement a political transition within a timeframe not exceeding six months so that millions of displaced people can be ensured a safe and stable return to their homes.
- SNHR has repeatedly called in dozens of studies and reports, and as a member of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect principle. Political channels have been exhausted through the Arab League agreement, then Kofi Annan's plan, followed by statements to cease hostilities and the Astana path. Thus, after the failure of all these initiatives, it is imperative to take action under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations and to implement the Responsibility to Protect principle, which has been approved by the UN General Assembly. The UN Security Council continues to hinder the protection of civilians in Syria.

- Renew pressure on the UN Security Council to refer the Syrian file to the ICC.
- Work to uphold justice and accountability in Syria through the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, and utilize the principle of universal jurisdiction.

#### **UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR)**

- Document violations in Daraa governorate, particularly housing and property rights violations which were the result of the Syrian regime's destroying tens of thousands of buildings in the governorate.

#### **Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI)**

- Focus on the Syrian regime's use of barrel bomb and the subsequent destruction, displacement, and the pillaging of lands and properties.

#### **Russian government**

- End support for the Syrian regime which has been involved in widespread crimes against humanity and war crimes, seriously engage in a political transition process that ensures security and stability, and put an end to the conflict.

#### **Syrian regime**

- Hold those involved in the use of barrel bombs, including military leadership figures, accountable as barrel bombs have killed thousands of Syrian people and destroyed tens of thousands of homes in Daraa governorate alone.
- Compensate the victims and their families, which should include issuing public apologies to the victims and their families.

## **Acknowledgment**

SNHR wishes to sincerely thank the victims' families, eyewitnesses, survivors, and all local activists from all fields for their invaluable contributions to this report, and to extend our most heartfelt condolences to the victims' families.





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*No justice without accountability*

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