

There Is No Red Line
The Syrian Regime Violates UN Security
Council's Resolution 2118 More Than 27 Times



CHEMICAL MASSACRE
IN SYRIA

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First: Introduction:

The Syrian government has signed on 14 September, 2013 the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty. On 28 September, 2013 the Resolution 2118 was issued which included 21 articles that provided that the UN Security Council is to intervene in accordance with the 7th chapter if the Syrian government perpetuated any violations. We, In SNHR, affirm that the Syrian government had violated Resolution 2118 with no less than 27 times exploiting the weakness of the International Community reaction and relying on the Russian and Chinese support within the UN Security Council. The Syrian regime targeted with poison gases 11 areas in Syria within three governorates: Damascus Countryside, Hama, and Idlib.

Half of these attacks was in Hama countryside in which four areas has been targeted: Kafarzita city, Al-Latamneh city, Atshan village, and Qasr Ben Wardan village.

Kafarzita city, located in Hama countryside, was targeted the most with barrel bombs that carried poison gases as it was attacked 10 times from Friday 11 April, 2014 to 17 July, 2014.

These attacks, as documented by SNHR, caused the death of 35 people including eight children and four ladies and no less than 920 injuries.

Fadel Abdulghany, Head of SNHR, says:

“It’s true that most of the attacks that have been carried out after the issuance of UN Security Council Resolution 2118 involved the use of chlorine instead of sarin, which is less effective than sarin, but the main aim of using such weapons is to scare the people, which was achieved widely in all the attacks.”

SNHR had [published a report](#) about the Syrian Government’s use of poison gases from 2012 until Monday 30 April 2014, This report documents all the attacks from 22 April, 2014 until 17 July, 2014 which were 6 incidents.

Details:

SNHR team was not able to visit the incidents locations or take samples and conduct tests given the network’s limited financial resources, we’ve depended in this report, as all the previous report which were published by SNHR about the government forces’ use of chemical weapons, on the testimonies of survivors and eyewitnesses in addition to the verified pictures and video footages that were sent to us by cooperating activists from the targeted cities. This report includes ten documented testimonies in addition to the verified as no SNHR member was able to travel to the targeted locations. Nevertheless, the verified pictures and vide footages support the testimonies of the eyewitnesses. Please know that we changed the witnesses’ names according to their own will.

The First attack: Qasr Wardan village – Eastern Hama countryside

Qasr Ben Wardan village, located in the eastern countryside of Hama, was shelled on 28 April 2014. The village is administratively affiliated to Al-Hamra nahiyah in the eastern countryside of Hama.

Government forces helicopters had shelled Qasr Ben Wardan village with three barrel bombs that carried chlorine gas. The bombs fell on a residential neighborhood next to the main mosque and clinic in the village. Two of barrels exploded and the third did not. The shelling caused four injuries including three children and no deaths were documented.

Mr. Abo Odai, the medical point manager in Al-Hamra nahiyah, has talked to SNHR about the details of the village shelling:

“This is the first time we deal with such kinds of gases. At about 10 am, we’ve heard two consecutive explosions that were resulted by



Qasr Ben Wardan village, located in the eastern countryside of Hama

the two barrel bombs dropped by a helicopter from a 100 meter high. The shelling targeted the mosque and the clinic. A third barrel was dropped next to the cemetery but it hadn’t exploded. These barrels were carrying chlorine gas whose smell spread widely.”

“Four injuries had come to our medical point, including three children younger than 10 years old. All of whom had suffered suffocation, cough, and shortness of breath and we’ve treated them all using oxygen sprays.”

The Second Attack: Shelling At-Tman’a town in Idlib countryside:

At-Tman’a is located eight kilometers the east of Khan Shekhon city. The Syrian regime helicopters forces shelled the town with tow barrel bombs carrying chlorine on Saturday 29 April 2014 which caused more than 12 injuries.

The town was shelled again with barrel bombs carrying poison gases on Thursday 22 May, 2014 when the western neighborhood of the town was shelled with a barrel bomb carrying a gas we couldn’t identify. With this attack, the town has been attacked more than five times. The shelling caused the death of four people; three children and a lady, and more than seven injuries

SNHR was able to contact one of the town residents, Mr. Y. O., a media activist, and he offered us his testimony about the incident:

“On Saturday, 29 May 2014, at about 11:30 pm, we’ve heard a helicopter hovering in the sky, followed by the sound of two consecutive explosions resulted by two barrel bombs. After the shelling, the chlorine smell spread around. This is the third time Bashar Assad shells us with such barrels.”

Abo Fadi, a medic from At-Taman’a town, has offered us his testimony about the incident:

“I was in the town’s medical point when we’ve heard the explosions. It was about 10 am when a helicopter dropped a barrel on the western neighborhood next to the Western School and Abu Bakr As-Seddeeq mosque. A strange smell spread after the shelling. The doctors have told me that the used gas this time might be sarin or a combination between sarin and chlorine, depending on the syndromes which were: Pinpoint pupils, acute vomiting and dysentery, rhinorrhea; while chlorine syndromes are less and id doesn’t cause Pinpoint pupil. We’ve recieved more than seven injuries and four victims from one family: three children and a lady.”

The Third Attack:

Kafarzita city in Hama countryside:

SNHR has documented in the former report the shelling of Kafarzita five times in less than ten days. The government forces had shelled the city again in May, as the city was shelled with more than eight barrel bombs on: Thursday 8 May 2014 and Monday and Thursday in a row 19, 22 May 2014.

This shelling caused the death of two people; one of whom is a disabled child, and no less than 150 injuries raising the number of victims killed by poison gases in the city to four people; including three children, and no less than 300 injuries.

The government forces targeted the city again on Thursday 17 Jul 2014 at about 11:15 pm, specifically the northern neighborhood of the city, where two barrel bombs carrying chlorine were dropped. One of the bombs hit a residential basement which was apparently a shelter and was housing many residents of the city and refugees, which explain the high number of injuries that exceeded 50 people. Also, a sheep herd, which was there, was effected too.

Dr. Hasan, one of the doctors who works at Kafarzita hospital, has talked to SNHR about the city injuries:

“We’ve been hit with more than 10 times with poison gases. More than 350 injuries have been caused since the beginning of the attacks on 11 April.

The number of victims we’ve documented at the hospital is five, in addition to many cases of miscarriage after they inhaled liquid chlorine. The diagnosis of cough and shortness of breath is the same for all the patients to different degrees depending on the shelling location and its nearness from the civilians.”

Mr. Malek Mar’ai, an armed opposition activist, has offered SNHR his testimony about the attack with poison gases on 8 May:

“At about 9:30 pm, Kafarzita was shelled with two barrel bombs carrying poison chlorine. The shelling targeted specifically the north of the schools com-

plex near the water tank. The shelling was only 150 meters far away from from Al-Wesam hospital.”

The shelling resulted in 15 injuries, including six children and four women, all of whom had been taken to Al-Wesam and Kafarzita hospitals and most of whom was suffering from suffocation and shortness of breathing and we’ve treated them using oxygen sprays.”

Abo Obaydah, one of Kafarzita residents, went to the incident location and told SNHR about the shelling on Tuesday 19 May 2014;

“I’ve seen the helicopter flying in the city sky. It dropped two barrel bombs at about 7:30 pm. I’ve known they’ve fallen on the eastern neighborhood so I went there. I’ve seen a young guy suffering from suffocation and shortness of breath so I’ve taken him to the hospital. There were tens of injuries in the hospital including many children and women. One of the injuries died and I took his dead body to his house to the west of the vegetables market, next to the barrels falling location. Then, chlorine smell faded and it was less concentrating than the previous times we were shelled. This is the seventh time we have been shelled with chlorine.”

SNHR has talked with Mr. Mahmood Ad-Darwish about the shelling which against Kafarzita with barrel bombs carrying gases on Thursday 22 May 2014:

“At about 11 am, a barrel bomb fell on the eastern neighborhood of the city, which caused a huge explosion. The barrel was carrying poison chlorine gas. I’ve seen with my eyes more than 7 injuries; most of whom were medicore. The most notable symptoms were suffocation and shortness of breathing.”

This is the eighth time we have been shelled with poison chlorine. Also, the shelling destroyed some houses which, fortunately, was empty. Bashar Assad wants to suffocate and displace us.”

Mr. Aws Ma’yoof, a witness of Kafarzita shelling on 22 May, has told SNHR his story about the incident: “Every time the FSA advances in Hama city, the re-

gime responses with shelling our city with poison gases. On 22 May FSA had stopped an attack of Assad forces on Morak village, the Syrian regime responded with shelling the city with four barrel bombs carrying chlorine gas. Two of them fell on the eastern neighborhood, about 11 am which caused more than 15 injuries most of whom were displaced from Tal Meleh. The other two barrels fell on the northern part of the city about 8:30 pm and caused no less than 35 injury most of whom were children and women in addition to destroying a house completely and causing light damages to the near houses.”

Most of Kafarzita residents has displaced from the city after the frequent shelling by chlorine barrels, and only poor families stayed because they can't afford the displacing expenses.”

About the last shelling on Kafarzita on 17 Jul 2014, SNHR has contacted with Kafarzita hospital and with a numbers of the activists and the city residents.

Mr. Amir, a field activist in the city, has given us his testimony about the incident:

“At about 11:15 pm, I was home when I heard the helicopters hovering in the sky. After a few moments, I heard two consecutive explosions in the city. We've figured out that the warplanes had dropped two barrel bombs on the northern neighborhood of Kafarzita. The explosions were less loud than the usual because the barrels were carrying poison chlorine. I've known it by its sound because we were familiar with this kind of shelling. I contacted my mate activists by a walkie-talkie then I hurried to the northern neighborhood to help. The shelling targeted a residential area in the northern neighborhood. One of the barrel bombs fell near one of the basements which was housing dozens of civilians and residents who were hiding there from the continuous shelling on the city. We called the ambulances to go quickly there to aid the citizen.”

“We went to the field-hospital where the injuries were being taken. We counted no less than 50 injuries with suffocations; all of whom were civilians including many children. The injuries syndromes were shortness of breathing, cough, and secretion that looked like foam. The hospital has not documented any death case until the moment. A sheep herd was hit next to the barrel falling location which caused suffocations among them and a vet has treated them.”

The Fourth Incident: Atshan Village:

The village was shelled with a barrel bomb that carried chlorine where the northwestern side of the village was targeted near the main water tank on Thursday 22 May, 2014. This was the second time Atshan was shelled with poison gases as it was shelled previously on 13 April, 2014.

The shelling caused more than four injuries including two children and a child making the total number of injuries in both attacks more than 24 injured.

Mr. Abu Kamal, an eyewitness of the shelling who also helped with treating the injuries and one of the village residents, has given SNHR his testimony about the attack:

“Our village was witnessing clashes between FSA and Assad forces before we heard an explosion that was resulted by an explosive barrel dropped by a helicopter on the middle of the town, to the northwest of the water tank. The barrel was carrying chlorine gas. And this is the second time we face an attack of this kind. The resulting destruction o was not huge, but the remarkable was the quick widening of the fire flames, even most of the surrounding pomegranate and olive trees were burnt.”

The shelling caused four injuries of the residents whom we've taken them all to the medical point of the village. The injuries included two children: one is two years old and the other is 12, and a 35-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman were injured. It seems that they allowed the regime to use all the weapons against us.”

The Fifth Incident: Khan Sheekhoh:

Khan Sheekhoh city is 35 km far away from Hama and 70 km far away from Idlib and is located on the International Road between Aleppo and Damascus.

The helicopters affiliated to the Syrian government had dropped a barrel bomb carrying chlorine gas on the military checkpoint of Al-Salam in the west of the city two hours after it was taken by the armed opposition groups. The shelling caused no less than 25 injuries; most of them were rebels. Additionally, six civilians of the surrounding farms landowners were injured.

SNHR has talked to Mr. Mohammad Junaid who was a witness of the shelling:

“I've taken my car to Al-Salam checkpoint located between Khan Sheekhoh and Al-Hubayt after I've heard it was liberated by FSA. At about 2:15 pm I've seen a helicopter hovering above the checkpoint area followed by an explosion and a yellow gas spreading. It happened while I was less than 500 m far away from the shelling locations which targeted exactly the middle of the checkpoint.”

I've waited until the gas cloud faded and got closer there. The smell was similar to the smell of chlorine that we use to clean, but more concentrated.

Civil Defense teams had arrived and helped in taking the injured which were about 23 including six farmers who were near the area.

The syndromes of suffocation, shortness of breathing, and cough appeared on the injured, while two of them were injured by the explosive barrel fragments.”

You can contact with Mr. Mohammad via his Skype account: [mohammad-95love](#).

The Sixth Incident: Shelling Al-Latamneh city in Hama countryside

Al-Latamneh is located in northwestern Hama. The helicopters affiliated to the Syrian government had shelled the northern neighborhood, one of the most crowded neighborhoods of the city, with a barrel bomb carrying chlorine gas. The shelling caused more than 20 injuries; including a rebel and more than 15 among them were children and women.

Third: Attachments and Appendixes:

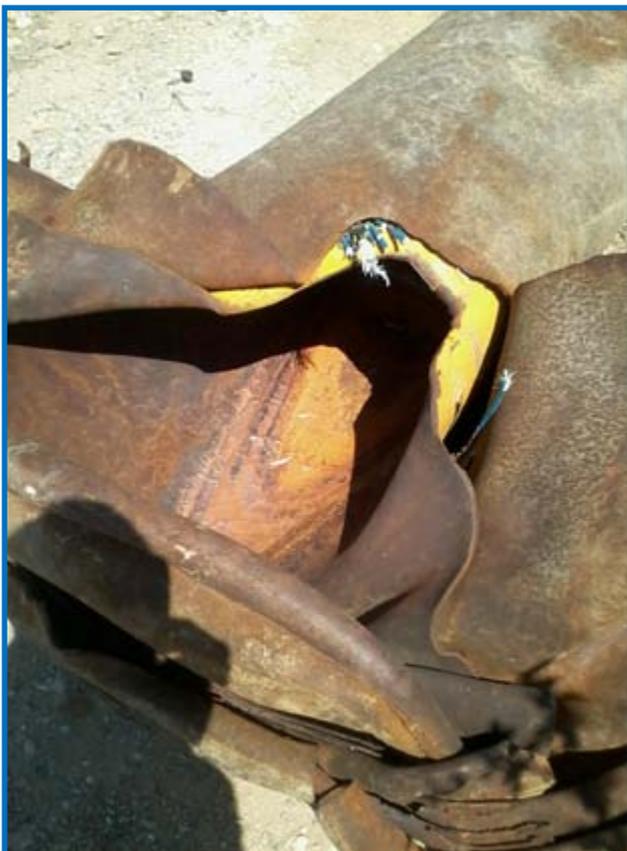
First: Victims' names:

SNHR team was able to [document](#) 35 victims; including eight children and four women and no less than 850 injury as a total of the poison gas shelling after UN Security Council Resolution 2118.

Second: Pictures and Video Footages:

1- Qasr Ben Wardan Village:

[URL showing](#) all the names of the injured in Qasr Ben Wardan village.



2- At-Taman'a town:

A [video footage](#) documents the treating of one of the female injured in At-Taman'a town

A [video footage](#) documents the destruction resulted by the barrel dropped on the town on 29 Apr

A [video footage](#) shows one of the injured children by gas in the town on 22 May

A [video footage](#) shows the attempts of treating one of the injured in the town on 22 May

A [video footage](#) shows the moment of the barrel shelling and the people attempts to get away



3- Kafarzeeta City:

Video [footages document](#) the injuries condition by chlorine and show syncope and shortage of breathing



A video [documents](#) the moment of the shelling by the barrel bomb and the attempt of treating a lady on 22 May



A video [footage shows](#) the treating of the injuries in the field-hospital and most of them are children on 22 May

A video [footage documents](#) the location of the dropped barrel on 19 May

[Pictures showing](#) the remnants of the dropped barrel bombs carrying gases



Kafarzeeta 17 Jul 2014

[Treating the injured](#) in the field-hospital; most of them are children and civilians due to the dropping of two barrel bombs carrying poison chlorine gas



[Pictures of children](#) injured by shelling of chlorine gas on the city

[Pictures of the injury](#) of a sheep herd due to shelling by chlorine gas on Kafarzeeta and it shows the foam on their mouths

4- A'atshan Village

A [video footage](#) documents the destruction resulted by shelling A'atshan village by barrel bombs carrying chlorine. The video shows the remnants of the barrels

5- Khan Sheekhoh City

A [video footage](#) shows a child suffering of shortness of breathing in addition to some injured rebels

6- Al-Latamneh City

A [video footage](#) shows the injured treating in the field-hospital
A [picture showing](#) two of the injured by barrel bombs carrying gases shelling



Pictures of the injury of a sheep herd due to shelling by chlorine gas on Kafarzeeta

Fourth: Recommendations:

The International Inquiry Commission:

The International Inquiry Commission should start investigating the incident immediately, and take serious steps to identify the responsible party that uses these kinds of weapons especially after the Syrian regime has signed the CWC.

The Special Investigation Committee on Chemical Weapons:

Since the committee is currently in Syria and can move easily, it should head to the incident location and take blood samples from the victims for analysis.

The Security Council:

To shoulder its responsibilities in maintaining safety and civil peace in Syria especially with the Syrian regime's violation that represents a blatant threat to the international security and peace, and to stop the political interests game on the account of the Syrian people. The regime undermining of UN Security Council Resolution 2118 represents a political disgrace and a terrible insult of the Security Council.

Human Rights Council:

Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to shoulder its responsibilities in regard to what happening to the Syrian people of killing, imprisoning, rape, and displacement and shoulder its responsibilities related to Resolution 2118 specifically.

The Friends of Syria Group:

Supply the shelled areas by poison gases (under the helpless of UN Security Council of stopping attacks) with chemical masks. SNHR estimates the needs of those areas of no less than 12000 protective masks, in addition to equipment to remove the chemical pollution remnants.