

When the sky rains barrel bombs Victims of the barrel bombs airstrikes

Scope of the report:

documenting the victims killed by the government barrel bombs airstrikes on the different Syrian governorates.

Period of time that this report covers:

22 Feb, 2014 until 16 Apr, 2014.

[For more information on the SNHR methodology in documenting victims.](#)

Details

Barrel bombs airstrikes have killed about a thousand Syrian citizens; 97% approximately of them are civilians. We believe that these numbers are reasonable considering the indiscriminate dropping of these barrel bombs from five thousands meter high. This happens on a daily basis despite the UN Security Council Resolution 2139 which was adopted unanimously on Feb 22th to “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”. We, in [SNHR](#), affirm that nothing has changed after the resolution was adopted, this was the case always with similar previous noncommittal Resolutions. This clearly indicates that there are guarantees from within the Security Council granted by the Syrian regime’s allies.

[SNHR](#)’s documenting team has documented the killing of 949 people at least by barrel bombs airstrikes; more than half of them were killed in Aleppo.

1st: Civilians:

920 civilians have been killed to a percentage of 96% of the total victims including 252 children and 137 women to a total percentage of 42% of the total victims which is a very high percent.

Among the civilian victims were three doctors, two medical orderlies, four civil defense members, and two media activists,

2nd: Rebels:

29 Rebels have been killed to a percentage of 4% of the total victims of the airstrikes. We believe that they were killed accidentally.

Furthermore, these airstrikes caused large numbers of wounded and amputation cases.

We were told by a field-hospital in Aleppo city that they receive averagely 12 wounded per day due to the indiscriminate airstrikes, these cases include usually one or two amputation cases. This just in one hospital

The indiscriminate shelling causes also wide destruction and displacing movement. The governmental forces don't distinguish between civil or military premises in its barbarian-like attacks.

If we supposed controversially that there are military targets, we couldn't find any indicator that suggests the presence of rebels inside the neighbourhoods of Aleppo as we were told constantly by the residents. Moreover, the percentage of the civil, women, and children victims suggests otherwise. Despite all of the above, the magnitude of the force is considered very excessive and not appropriate.

Evidences and attachments:

The following URLs contain [all the details and information about the victims](#)

The following link contains [all the details and information about the civilian victims in the different Syrian governorates except Aleppo](#)

The following link contains [all the details and information about the civilian victims in Aleppo and its countryside](#)

The following link contains [all the details and information about the rebel victims in the different Syrian governorates](#)

Conclusions:

1- **SNHR** affirms that the shelling using explosive barrels is an indiscriminate shelling that targeted armless civilians, thus the government forces and militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live, furthermore these violation were pretreated during a non-international armed conflict which can be classified as war crimes.

2- The random attacks committed by the government forces are considered violations of the norms of the international humanitarian law given that the government forces attacked residential areas rather than a specific military target.

3- These attacks, especially air strikes, have caused casual losses whether it was killing civilian victims, wounding them, or causing severe damage to civilian properties. There are strong indicators shows that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage.

4- The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent shelling, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of the attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.

Recommendations:

The Security Council

- To protect the civilians in Syria from killing and shoulder its moral and historical responsibility.

- Take further action because the Syrian government, as usual, didn't commit to the last resolution 2193 and undermined it.

