



139 Chemical attacks in Syria after Security Council Resolution 2118 139 Violations of the Security Council Resolution and the Criminal is still in Power

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I. Introduction

After the Syrian regime used chemical weapons in the Ghouta on 21 August 2013, Russia has pledged that the Syrian regime will surrender all of its chemical weapon arsenal and will never use it again which made the United States of America decide to not impose any further sanctions on the Syrian regime for crossing the red line drawn by Mr. Barack Obama. Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on 27 September 2013 and states that: “in the event of non-compliance with this resolution, including unauthorized transfer of chemical weapons, or any use of chemical weapons by anyone in the Syrian Arab Republic, to impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.” Nonetheless, all evidences suggest that the Syrian regime has repeatedly violated Security Council Resolution 2118, and then 2209, and then 2235, and Russia has failed to fulfill the commitments it made for the USA to deter the Syrian regime from using poison gases. In contrast, the USA didn't do anything regarding the use of chemical gases. Therefore, we can't possibly trust any Russian guarantee for a political solution or a ceasefire in Syria as Russia has utterly failed in a secondary matter such as the containment of the use of poison gases. Furthermore, the USA must uphold its promises as the red line have been violated 139 times after Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted; failing to do so has significantly undermined the USA's credibility.





SNHR has been documenting the use of chemical weapons through ongoing and daily monitoring since 2011. The Network publishes periodic reports documenting new and recent attacks. So far, 24 special report on the use of chemical weapons has been published before and after Resolution 2118 was adopted. In all of these reports, the Syrian regime was the only party using chemical weapons until ISIS joined the regime on Friday 21 August 2015 when ISIS used poison gases in Marea' city in Aleppo.

The Syrian regime used chemical weapons in 33 attacks before Security Council Resolution 2118 all of which have been documented in previous reports while chemical weapons have been used 139 times after Security Council resolution 2118 was adopted by the Syrian regime and ISIS. These attacks, before and after the Security Council Resolution, resulted in the killing of 1298 individuals including 244 children and 285 women who all were killed in attacks carried out by government forces.

After ISIS was formed on 9 April 2013, we noticed that the Syrian regime maintained its focus on targeting opposition-held areas. Moreover, 97% the Syrian regime's chemical weapons attacks were in opposition-held areas while only 3% were in ISIS-held areas.

Similar to previous studies, we haven't been able to visit every site or take and test samples in light of the present circumstances. This report draws upon accounts of survivors, eyewitnesses and particularly the doctors who treated the injured and civil defense personnel. This report includes four accounts, we have explained the purpose of these interviews for the witnesses, and they gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report. Additionally, we analyzed the pictures and videos we received from local activists we work with. We have copies of all the pictures and videos used in this report. We can confirm after analyzing the data at-hand that these attacks have been carried out using chemical weapons. However, we can't claim to know the substances used in these attacks due to the difficulty of this task.

This report only includes the bare minimum of the actual magnitude and severity of the violations that occurred. Also, this report doesn't cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications of these violations.



Toll of chemical weapons use before and after UN resolution 2118

Before UN resolution 2118

From 23 December 2012 to 27 September 2013

After UN resolution 2118

After 27 September 2013 to 20 August 2016

Government forces

33

attacks by chemical weapons

Killing

1210
individuals

including

224

children

279

women

Government forces

136

attacks by chemical weapons

Killing

88
individuals

including

20

children

6

women

ISIS

3

attacks by chemical weapons

According to SNHR documentation



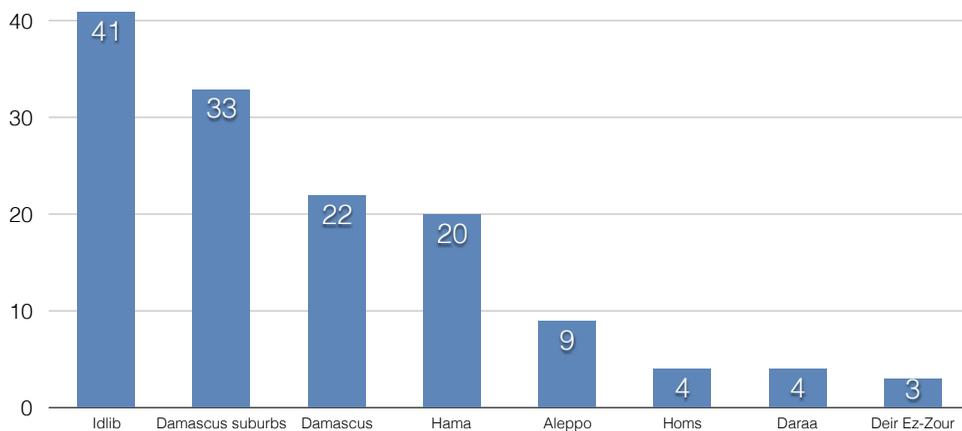
II. Executive Summary

We are shedding light on four new attacks that involved the use of chemical weapons. These attacks took place between 1 January 2016 and 20 August 2016.

With adding these four new incidents to the cumulative documentation done by SNHR, we can conclude that:

Security Council Resolution 2118, adopted on 27 September 2013, have been violated 139 times including 70 violations of Security Council Resolution 2209, adopted on 6 March 2015. These violations are distributed by the influential party as follows:

- **Government forces:** 136 violations of Resolution 2118 including 67 violations of the Resolution 2209. The incidents are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



- **ISIS:** three violations of both Security Council Resolutions 2118 and 2209 all of which took place in Aleppo governorate.

These attacks resulted in the killing of 88 individuals who all were killed at the hands of government forces as follows:

- 36 civilians including 20 children and six women.
- 45 opposition elements
- 7 captives from government forces.

Additionally, no less than 1922 individuals were injured in these attacks as follows:

Government forces: 1806 injured at least





ISIS: 116 injured at least

In this case, we have included military victims as chemical weapons are internationally-prohibited weapons that must not be used under any circumstances even in military offensives.

III. Details of the New Incidents

A. Government forces

Erbeen city – Damascus suburbs, Monday 29 February 2016

Government forces fired a number of bombs that targeted the contact line with armed opposition fighters in Erbeen city. One of the bombs was evidently loaded with a poison gas which led to two suffocation cases among armed opposition fighters.

Pictures showing two suffocation cases among armed opposition fighters after an attack on an area where factions were stationed at in the vicinities of Erbeen, 29 February 2016



Saraqeb city – Idlib, Monday 1 August 2016

Around 23:00, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs carrying cylinders that were loaded with a poison gas on a residential neighborhood in the middle of Saraqeb. The two barrel bombs were dropped 2-3 kilometers away from each other. The bombardment resulted in no less than 30 injuries who exhibited symptoms such as breathing difficulties and the destruction of a shop almost completely in addition to a partial destruction in a number of residential houses.





Mohammad Haj Qasem, member of Saraqeb Aid Institution and an owner of one of the damaged houses, told SNHR (We communicated with Mr., Mohammad via Whatsapp):

“I wasn’t home at the time of the bombardment, but my family members were injured. The barrel bomb fell near my father’s shop which is near our home. The house windows and doors were smashed and my family were rushed to the hospital.”

“On the day following the attack, we extracted from a hole that was created by the explosion a cylinder that seemingly was loaded with the gas where there was a smell similar to chlorine that we use in cleaning. I washed it immediately with water and the water color turned into yellow and I smelled a slight scent. Even three days after the attack I was still able to smell the chlorine smell every time the wind blows the trees surrounding our home. It seems that the trees absorbed some of the gas.”

“When I got home, I found that nine of my family including a child -my nephew- were injured. They displayed symptoms such as breathing difficulties, shiver, and cough. I went to the hospital to find out that they received first-aid and they are still undergoing treatment.”

SNHR contacted Mrs. B.Q, one of the injured: (We contacted Mrs. B.Q via Whatsapp):

“We were in the basement when the Free Army observatory said that helicopters attacked. The explosion wasn’t that loud so we thought that the barrel bomb fell away. A few seconds later, my eyes started burning and I couldn’t see anymore. There was dust everywhere. I started coughing and having breathing difficulties. We struggled to get out of the basement because it was hard to see, when we got to the street, the neighbors took us to the medical point where they gave us a spray and oxygen in addition to serum and injected us with an anti-allergy substance and washed our bodies with water. They advised us to change our clothes and all our stuff that were affected with gas.”

“On the next day, my sister started having speech difficulties and we could barely hear her. We are on the third day and her voice is still abnormal. We are eight in the house and we have a 12-year-old kid.”





Qamjoun, a civil defense member who aided the injured -We contacted him via Whatsapp- he told SNHR:

“I arrived at the place where the barrel bombs were dropped. I found a family that were showed suffocation symptoms in addition to breathing difficulties and teary eyes. The symptoms were more severe for the kids. We provided first-aid and struggled to evacuate the rest of the civilians because if the warplanes’ airstrikes that targeted the areas using machine guns and missiles. The injured number amounted to 30 including children and women.”

“We worked on collecting the remnants and the shrapnel of the barrel bomb that contained cylinders and metal balls that didn’t look similar to the cylinders that were loaded with chlorine. The cylinders didn’t have a colored like the times before and we only noticed the stingy smell while the substance didn’t have any color.”

Video showing [suffocation cases](#) after government forces helicopters dropped cylinders loaded with poison gases on Saraqeb in Idlib, 1 August 2016

Picture of a child suffocating after government forces helicopters dropped cylinders loaded with poison gases on Saraqeb in Idlib, 1 August 2016



Picture of an infant suffocating after government forces helicopters dropped cylinders loaded with poison gases on Sarqeb in Idlib, 1 August 2016





Pictures of cylinders that were founded inside barrel bombs dropped by government forces helicopters on Saraqeb city



Al Zibdiya neighborhood – Aleppo, Wednesday 10 August 2016

Around 20:30, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with a poison gas on Al Zibdiya neighborhood in Aleppo which resulted in the killing of one child and the injury of six others including children. The injured exhibited symptoms such as suffocation and coughing.





SNHR contacted Dr. Hamza via Facebook. Dr. Hamza was one of the doctors who attended to the injured that resulted from the poison gases attacks:

“The injured who arrived at the hospital were having breathing difficulties and coughing. We gave them high-pressurized oxygen and provided spraying sessions using salbutamol and injected them with Hydrocortisone. Their clothes were reeking of the smell of the gas. I heard that three individuals suffocated to death but they were taken to another hospital.”

Video showing the bombed area and the account of a civil defense member on the use of poison gases by government forces in [Al Zibdiya neighborhood](#)

B. ISIS

Marea’ city – Aleppo, Tuesday 16 August 2016

ISIS elements, stationed at Arshaf town, fired seven shells loaded with poison gases that fell in the vicinities of the mail building and the vicinities of the vegetables market which resulted in eight suffocation cases that included a woman and a female child.

Picture showing one of the shells that were loaded with poisons gases and was fired on Marea’ city



IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

Government forces have violated the international humanitarian law by using internationally-prohibited weapon which constitutes a war crime. Also, government forces violated Security Council Resolutions on this issue. Furthermore, the crime of willful killing amount to a crime against humanity according to Article 7 of Rome Statute as it has been carried out in a systematic and widespread manner since March 2011. The use of chlorine gas is a violation of Security Council Resolutions 2118 and 2209 and the agreement signed by the Syrian government on 14 September 2013 which states that the use of poison gases is prohibited and establishes for the destruction of chemical weapon.





To the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic:

The Commission must start immediately investigating the incidents within its reach and take serious steps to accelerate the investigation to determine the parties using these kind of weapons especially after the Syrian government has signed the Chemical Weapons Convention.

To the Security Council:

The Security Council must act upon its responsibilities in maintaining civil peace and security in Syria as the violations perpetrated by the Syrian government entail a blatant threat to international security and peace. Furthermore, the Security Council must stop putting political interests before the blood of the Syrian people. The Syrian regime's disregard for the Security Council Resolutions 2118 and later 2209 is a political disgrace and an utter insult to the Security Council.

To Human Rights Council:

The Human Rights Council must shed a wider light on the Syrian regime's violations of the Security Council Resolutions 2118 and 2209 in order to achieve greater pressure on the Security Council to take serious deterring action.

To the State Friends of the Syrian People:

To supply the areas that are prone to chemical attacks with protective masks (in light of the Security Council's inability to cease the attacks). SNHR estimates that these areas need no less than 18,700 in addition to equipment to dispose the effects of chemical pollution.

Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt condolences for the victims' families and our most sincere thanks to the residents and activists who majorly helped our investigations.

