



More Than 3173 Barrel Bombs Dropped On Syria since the Russian Military Intervention Barrel Bombs Killed 51 Individuals, including 16 Children and 1083 7 Women in November 2015

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I. Introduction:

Unlike the Russian ambassador's announcement in the United Nations, that the Syrian regime stopped using barrel bombs, however SNHR's daily documentation proved the contrary. In this monthly report we present documented cases by time, place, and images of the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs.

Since the military intervention of the Russian government in September and up till the end of November, not less than 2521 barrel bombs have been used by the Syrian government which killed 120 individuals including 25 children and 15 women.

We have noticed that there were some sort of coordination between the Syrian government forces and the Russian forces whereas the Russian forces intensify its airstrikes on Syria's north. However, the Syrian government warplanes concentrate its airstrikes on the southern governorates and Damascus suburbs, in addition to the northern governorates.

By daily observing and recording violations, after the beginning of the popular protests in March 2011, we found out that first significant use of barrel bombs by government forces (Military forces, security forces, local militias, and foreign Shiite militias) was on Monday 1 October, 2012 in Idlib – Silqean town where a helicopter dropped a bar-





rel bomb on a two-floor residential building which collapsed completely and 32 civilians, including seven women and seven children, were killed in addition to 120 others who were injured as shrapnel scattered everywhere.

It is worth noting that this might not be the first time barrel bombs were used but it was the first time it was used in such a notable manner. The international community was not familiar with that kind of weapon yet. Barrel bombs sometimes weigh quarter of ton and rely on the free fall principle. These barrels are random weapons and locally made, since it is less expensive, causes massive destruction, and causes a great loss of lives. 99% of the casualties are civilians, where the percentage of targeted women and children ranges between 12 and 35%.

The same as with any new weapon, government forces cautiously waited for the international community's respond as the Syrian government deems the international community's silence or condemnation a red light to use and employ this weapon on a larger scale which was the case when it started using aerial weapon, poison gases, cluster munitions, and Scud missiles.

The Security Council waited a year and a half before adopting resolution 2139 on 22 February, 2014 which condemned the use of barrel bombs and mentioned it 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" The Syrians welcomed the resolution because it expressed an intention to take further action in the events of in compliance.

The Syrian government, through its allies at the Security Council first and the other states' failure to shoulder their legal and moral role, disregarded resolution 2139 the same way it disregarded resolution 2118, adopted on 27 September, 2013, resolution 2042 and 2043, adopted in April 2012.

Additionally, in some cases we documented the use of barrel bombs that contained toxic gases by government forces which violates UN Security Council resolution 2118 and 2209.

The Syrian government fully realizes that there are no serious consequences of its action where its forces are openly and proudly violating the Security Council reso-





lutions and international laws (A pro-government politician said on TV that the Syrian government should use nuclear weapons to attack the areas outside its control). Our daily documentation of violations shows that there is no notable difference before 22 February, 2014 (resolution 2139) and after.

SNHR studies and reports prove that most of the attacks were deliberate and targeted crowded civilian areas. The government's aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction it causes are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the Assad government.

I. Executive Summary:

A. Barrel Bombs Used in November 2015:

Through our daily documentation, SNHR team was able to document the use of not less than 1083 barrel bombs in November 2015, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

- Damascus suburbs: 757
- Aleppo: 138
- Daraa: 113
- Homs: 46
- Idlib: 13
- Hama: 12
- Al Qunaitera: 4
- Lattakia: 1

The use of barrel bombs as a random weapon killed 51 individuals, including 16 children and 7 women, according to the documentation team in SNHR.

The classification of the victims' death toll due to the use of barrel bombs according to the Syrian governorates:

- Daraa: 22 individuals were killed including 6 children and 3 women.
- Aleppo: 15 individuals were killed, including 8 children and a woman.
- Damascus suburbs: 8 individuals were killed including a child.
- Homs: 6 individuals were killed including one child and 3 women.





A. Targeting Vital Facilities:

We could not document all destructions caused by barrel bombs, since it is enormous therefore we recorded the number of vital facilities targeted by government military aviation, i.e. markets, schools, hospitals and houses of worship.

During November 2015, not less than 5 vital facilities were targeted by government barrel bombs:

a. Places of Worship:

- Mosques: 3

b. Educational Facilities:

- Schools: 1

c. Medical Centers:

- Medical Facilities: 1

II. Report Details:

A. Victim's death toll due to the use of barrel bombs, distributed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Daraa Governorate:

On 31 October 2015, government helicopters dropped explosive barrel bombs on Namer city in Daraa that is under the control of armed opposition which killed 9 individuals; most of them were from one family.

On 19 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 6 barrel bombs on Al Sheikh Msekeen city in Daraa suburbs. One of the barrels fell on a house which killed 7 individuals from one family (5 children and 2 women.)

On 23 November 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Namer city in Daraa which killed an individual.

On 24 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Al Sheikh Msekeen city in Daraa suburbs which killed 3 individuals including a child and a woman.





On 27 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Nawa city in Daraa suburbs which killed 3 individuals including a child and a woman.

Damascus Suburbs:

On 2 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 16 barrel bombs on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs which is under the control of armed opposition. As a result, one individual was killed.

On 7 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 28 barrel bombs on Daraya city which killed an individual.

On 9 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 12 barrel bombs on Daraya city which killed an individual.

On 21 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 20 barrel bombs on Daraya city which killed four individuals (a child and 3 women.)

On 23 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 12 barrel bombs on Moa'dameyat Al Sham which killed one individual.

Homs Governorate:

On 2 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 6 barrel bombs on Maheen town in Homs suburbs that is under the control of ISIL which killed 2 individuals.

On 5 November 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Halmouz town that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs suburbs which killed one individual.

On 11 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Teir Ma'alee town that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs suburbs which killed one individual.

On 28 November 2015, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Al Za'afarana town that is under the control of armed opposition which killed two individuals including a child.





Aleppo Governorate:

On 9 November 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Aisha town that belongs to Al Bab city that is under ISIK's control in Aleppo which killed 9 individuals (8 children and a woman). Also, more than 10 others were injured and 6 houses were destroyed.

On 21 November 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Kanater town that is under the control of armed opposition in Aleppo which killed two individuals.

B. Targeting Vital Facilities with Barrel Bombs:

Places of Worship:

- Mosques:

On 4 November 2015, government helicopters [dropped two barrel bombs](#) on a mosque in Al Rabea' town that is under the control of armed opposition in Lattakia governorate. [The mosque's building](#) was partially damaged the mosque's building and its minaret, thus causing it to go out of service.



On 23 November 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb next to a mosque in Kubayna town that is under the control of armed opposition in Lattakia which damaged the mosque's building.

On 23 November 2015, [government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs](#) on Al Mustafa mosque in Daraya city which greatly damaged the mosque's building. It is worth noting that the mosque was previously shelled and it has been out of service.

Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 23 November 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in a school that sheltered displaced people in Kabeena town that is under the control of armed opposition in Lattakia suburbs which greatly damaged the school's building and caused it to go out of service.





Medical Centers:

- Medical Facilities (Hospitals, Infirmaries, Medical Points, and Makeshift Hospitals):

On 19 November 2015, government helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on Martyr Waleed Khattab Hospital](#) in Nawa city in Daraa suburbs which caused great material damages to it and caused it to go out of service.

III. Attachments:

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with 4 barrel bombs on Daraya city on 2 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with a two barrel bombs on Mo'adamiyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs on 3 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with barrel bombs on Teir Ma'alee town in Homs suburbs on 11 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with 4 barrel bombs on Daraya city on 21 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the government barrel shelling on Al Na'ema town in Daraa suburbs on 21 November 2015:

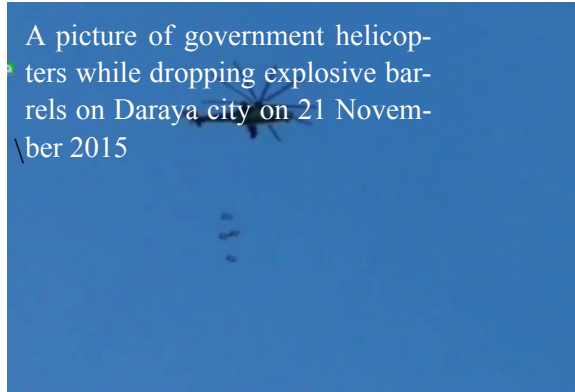
A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with two explosive barrels on Tafas city in Daraa suburbs on 23 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with barrel bombs on Mo'adameyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs on 23 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling location of a barrel bomb in Teir Ma'alee town in Homs suburbs on 29 November 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the alleged shelling with barrel bombs on Teir Ma'alee town in Homs suburbs on 30 November 2015





A picture of government helicopters while dropping explosive barrels on Daraya city on 21 November 2015



The location of a shelled barrel bomb on Al Karak town in Daraa on 23 November 2015

The [location](#) of a shelled barrel bomb [on Al Karak town in Daraa](#) on 23 November 2015

An [image](#) government helicopters while dropping barrel bombs on Daraya city on 29 November 2015.

VI. Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolution 2139 and used barrel bombs in a widespread and systematic manner. Furthermore, the Syrian government perpetrated the crime of murder in a widespread and systematic manner according to Article VII of The International Criminal Court Rome Statute. Additionally, it violated many principles of the international humanitarian law and perpetrated tens of crimes that can be classified openly as war crimes through its indiscriminate and proportionate bombing.
2. SNHR notes that the bombing using explosive barrels is an act of indiscriminate bombing that targeted armless civilians, thus the government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict and hence can be absolutely classified as war crimes.
3. The random attacks committed by the government forces are considered violations of the customary international law considering the fact that government forces have attacked residential areas rather than a specific military target.
4. These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage.





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

6. Government forces, and all of its leaderships and forms, are responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes as well as any parties that support the Syrian government politically, materially, and militarily – such as the Russian government, the Iranian government, and Hezbollah in addition to the weapon manufacturing companies. All of these parties must be prosecuted for the crimes they perpetrated, or contributed to, against the Syrian people.

Recommendations

The Security Council

1. The Security Council should take serious steps in order to implement its resolutions which have become ineffective and thus lost all of its credibility and purpose.
2. Also, it should impose an arms embargo on the Syrian government and prosecute anyone who supplies the Syrian government with money and weapon considering that those resources are being used to perpetrate crimes and serious human rights violations.
3. The Security Council is the party who has the authority to refer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court. Instead of preserving peace and security, the Security Council is hindering this step. Everyone responsible for war crimes and crimes against must be prosecuted.

Acknowledgments

Our most profound condolences go out to the victims' families and friends and our thanks to the local activists and families who contributed majorly to this report.

