



No less than 6016 Barrel Bombs in the First Half of 2016 Including 1506 barrel bombs in June

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I. Introduction

The Syrian regime hasn't stopped bombing wide areas using barrel bombs even though the regime agreed to sign the Cessation of Hostilities statement. Although the killing rates declined, it increased back to its former levels one day after the High Negotiation Committee decided to postpone its participation in Geneva talks on 19 April where government forces resumed dropping barrel bombs on areas outside of its control and the killing rates and attacks against vital civil facilities went back to its former levels before the Cessation of Hostilities statement.

Being a distinctively indiscriminate weapon with huge destructive impact, the barrel bomb doesn't only kill civilians but also terrorizes and displaces residents in light of the destruction it creates. Dropping barrel bombs from warplanes in this savage and primitive manner amount to a war crime. Every barrel bomb dropped is considered a war crime.

Vitaly Churkin, the Russian representative to the United Nations, said that the Syrian regime has stopped using barrel bombs. However, the daily monitoring and documentation conducted by SNHR prove, beyond any doubt, otherwise as the Syrian regime continues to kill and destroy Syria by dropping hundreds of barrel bombs. In this report, we are going to highlight the incidents in which we documented the use of barrel bombs particularly with place, date, and pictures. This report is a monthly report by SNHR





According to SNHR's violations archive, the first notable use of barrel bombs by government forces (Army, security, local militias, Shiite foreign militias) was on Monday 1 October 2012 against the resident of Salqin city in Idlib governorate. Barrel bombs is a locally-made weapon which is used by government forces due to the fact that it costs notably less than missiles and it has a huge destructive impact. The use of barrel bombs is based on the principle of free fall and it weighs sometimes more than one-quarter ton and it is a distinctively indiscriminate weapon. even if barrel bombs killed an armed man, this would be an accident as 99% of the victims killed by barrel bombs are civilians and the percentage of women and children victims varies between 12% to 35% in some cases.

Security Council adopted Resolution 2139 on 22 February 2016 which specifically condemns the use of barrel bombs: "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." Nonetheless, government forces are still dropping tens of barrel bombs on armed-opposition-held areas. In some cases, we documented the use of barrel bombs that is loaded with poison gases by government forces which is a violation of Security Council Resolutions 2118, adopted on 27 September 2013, and Resolution 2209, adopted on 6 March 2015.

This report monitors the number of barrel bombs that were dropped across Syria, its death toll, and the destruction of most notable vital facilities caused by barrel bombs. In light of the difficulties our teams encounter, it should be noted that this the bare minimum of the actual magnitude of crimes.

The only party that possesses warplanes and helicopters is the ruling regime. However, the regime denies that it is using barrel bombs the same way it denies perpetrating other violations such as murder, arrest, enforced-disappearance, and torture among others. In contrast, the regime denies the International Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic an access to Syria, and bans local and international human rights organizations and independent media. Therefore, this report doesn't include the remaining three parties (Self-management forces, extremist Islamic groups, and armed opposition factions) as none of them has as an air force.





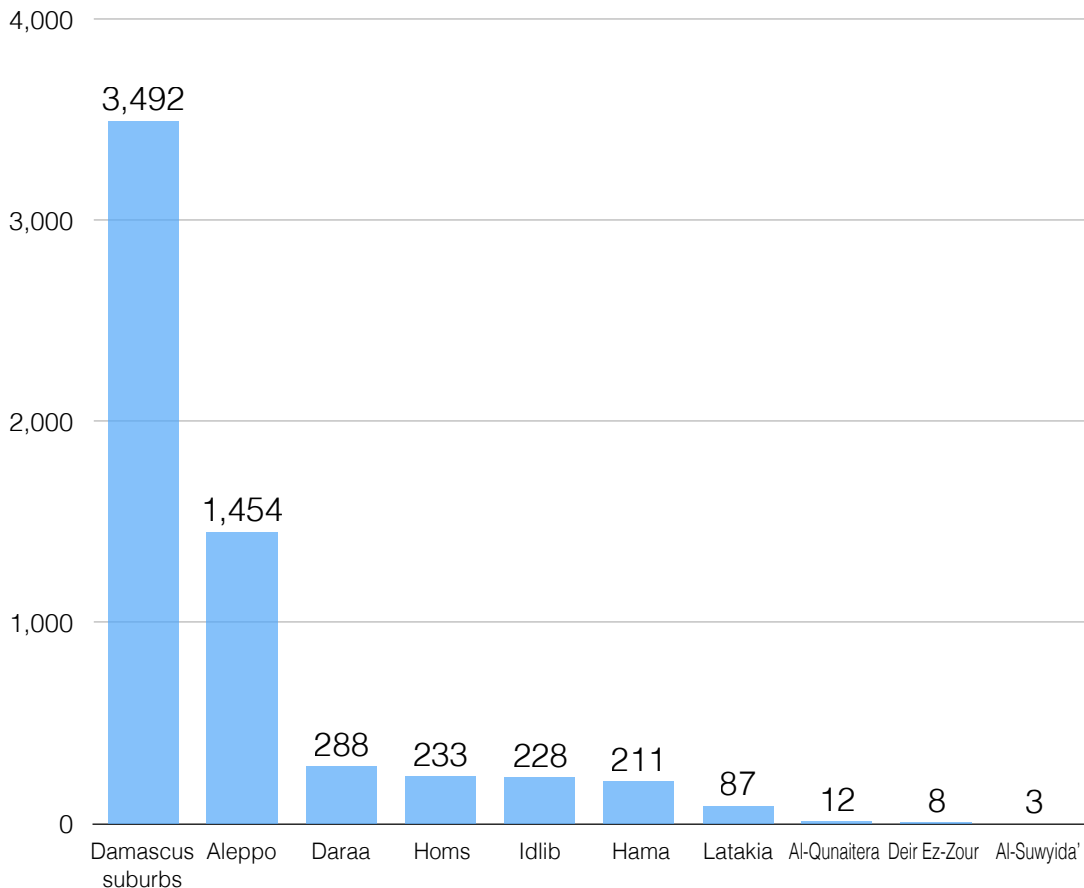
All the reports and studies done by SNHR show that most of the attacks were deliberately against residential areas and vital centers in order to demolish any chances to establish an alternative state and an alternative authority in the areas that are not controlled by government forces and if that is not why then what is the point of targeting areas that are tens of kilometers away from the front lines?

II. Executive Summary

• Use of barrel bombs by government forces in the first half of 2016

A. Barrel bombs in the first half of 2016:

Through daily monitoring and documentation, SNHR recorded that no less than 6016 barrel bombs were dropped by government forces helicopters in the first half of 2016 which are distributed across Syria as follows:



185 civilians were killed in barrel bombs attacks including 54 children and 26 women according to the victim documentation team at SNHR as follows:





Aleppo: 131 civilians including 41 children and 16 women.

Homs: 15 civilians including four children and three women.

Daraa: 12 civilians including three women.

Idlib: 11 civilians including eight children and one woman.

Damascus suburbs: 10 civilians including one woman.

Deir Ez-Zour: Four civilians including one child and two women.

Hama: Two civilians.

B. Attacks against vital facilities:

Due to the widespread use of barrel bombs, it is impossible to record all forms of destruction caused by barrel bombs. Therefore, we are going to focus on protected facilities and vital facilities such as markets, hospitals, schools and places of worship....

The use of barrel bombs in the first half of 2016 resulted in damages to no less than 24 vital facilities:

Places of worship:

- Mosques: 9

Vital educational facilities:

- Schools: 3

Vital medical facilities:

- Medical facilities: 5

- Ambulances: 1

Communal facilities:

- Markets: 1

Infrastructures:

- Civil defense facilities: 5

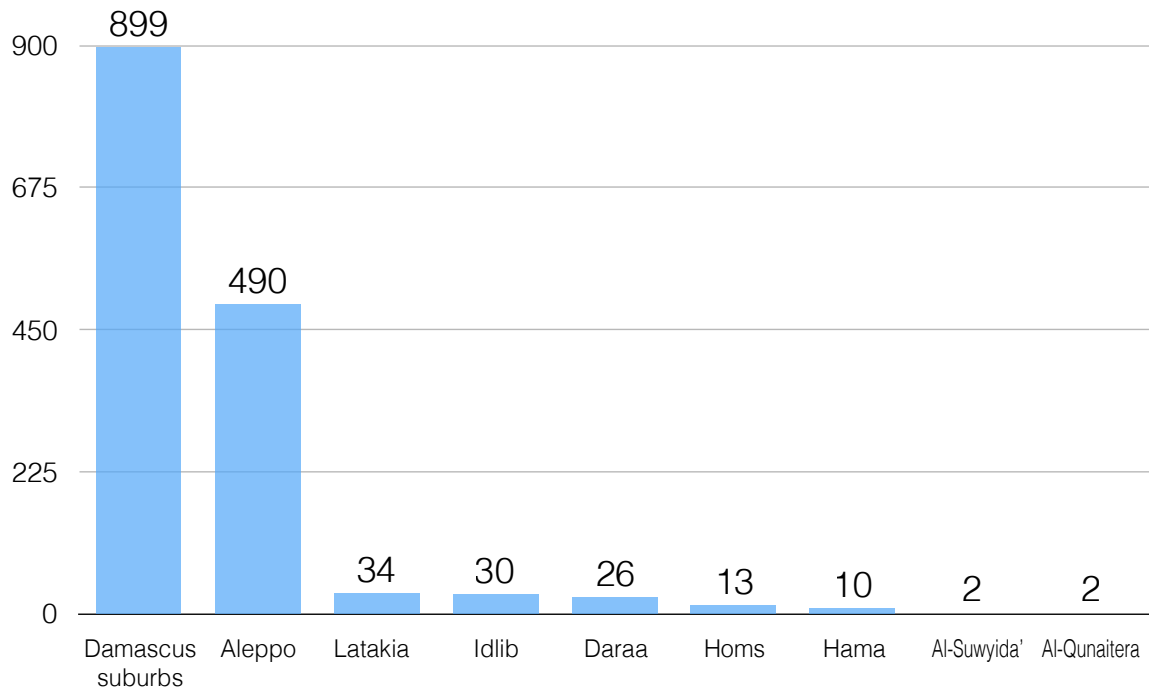




• Use of barrel bombs by government forces in June 2016

A. Barrel bombs in June 2016:

Through daily monitoring and documentation, SNHR recorded that no less than 1506 barrel bombs were dropped by government forces helicopters in June 2016 which are distributed across Syria as follows:



77 civilians were killed in barrel bombs attacks including 21 children and six women according to the victim documentation team at SNHR as follows:

Aleppo: 59 civilians including 13 children and four women.

Idlib: Eight children.

Damascus suburbs: Five civilians including one woman.

Daraa: Three civilians including one woman.

Homs: Two civilians

B. Attacks against vital facilities in June 2016:

Due to the widespread use of barrel bombs, it is impossible to record all forms of destruction caused by barrel bombs. Therefore, we are going to focus on protected facilities and vital facilities such as markets, hospitals, schools and places of worship....

Use of barrel bombs in the month of June resulted in damages to six vital facilities at least:





Places of worship:

- Mosques: 3

Vital medical facilities:

- Medical facilities: 1

- Ambulances: 1

Communal facilities:

- Markets: 1

II. Details

A. Barrel bombs in June 2016

Aleppo governorate:

Wednesday 1 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Qabr Al-Inglizi area, located in the suburbs of northern Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Thursday 2 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Masaken Hananou neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Thursday 2 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on various areas in Al-Hollok neighborhood, located in Aleppo and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting the death of nine civilians including three children and one woman.

Friday 3 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Kallase neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one child.

Saturday 4 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al-Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of four civilians including one child.

Saturday 4 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Myassar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one child and one woman.





Sunday 5 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Myassar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one child and one woman.

Sunday 5 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Zebdiya neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one child.

Monday 6 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Hollok neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Wednesday 8 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Myassar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including two women.

Wednesday 8 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped six barrel bombs near Al-Bayan Surgical Hospital in Al-Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of 13 civilians.

Saturday 11 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Urm Al-Kubra town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of a civil defense member.

Tuesday 14 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Jesr Al-Haj area, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians.

Tuesday 14 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Firdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one child.





Wednesday 15 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Salhein neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Friday 17 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al-Qaterji neighborhood, located in Aleppo city, and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of four civilians including one child.

Saturday 18 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Al-Mwasalat area, located in Al-Sha'ar area in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including two children.

Monday 20 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al-Mash-had neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of two civilians including one child.

Idlib governorate:

Tuesday 14 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped six barrel bomb on the gold market in Al-Bara town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of eight civilians.

Damascus suburbs governorate:

Thursday 2 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Beit Jin town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one woman.

Saturday 18 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Hazrama town, located in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.

Sunday 26 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped 28 barrel bombs on Darayya city, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of one civilian.





Daraa governorate:

Tuesday 14 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on Al-Harra city, located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of three civilians including one woman.

Homs governorate:

Thursday 24 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped three barrel bombs on Al-Rastan city, located in the northern suburbs of Homs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in the death of two civilians.

B. Barrel bombs attacks against vital facilities in June 2016

Places of worship:

Mosques:

Friday 3 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs near [Othman ben Math'oun mosque](#) in B'iedein neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, the mosque was greatly damaged.

Wednesday 8 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on [Al-Mustafa mosque](#) in Darayya city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombardment led to a fire breaking out inside the mosque. Also, the walls and contents of [the mosque were greatly damaged](#).

Thursday 16 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near [Al-Sabirein mosque](#) in Al-Firdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, a fire broke out inside the mosque and the furniture and building of [the mosque](#) was [greatly damaged](#) which rendered the mosque out of commission.





Vital medical facilities

Medical facilities:

Wednesday 8 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped [six barrel bombs](#) near [Al-Bayan Surgical Hospital](#) in Al-Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, resulting in a massacre in addition to great damages to the hospital equipment and its cladding materials which rendered [the hospital out of commission](#).

Ambulances:

Saturday 18 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near an [ambulance](#) belonging to the Charity Aid System in Dahrat Awwad neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, the vehicle glass was shattered and its body was [slightly damaged](#).

Communal facilities

Markets:

Tuesday 14 June 2016, government forces helicopters dropped six barrel bombs on the gold market in Al-Bara town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition, resulting in a massacre in addition to a number of shops being destroyed.

III. Appendixes and Attachments

[Video](#) footage showing four barrel bombs being dropped by government forces helicopters and its explosions in Darayya city in Damascus suburbs governorate, Friday 10 June 2016

[Video](#) footage showing four barrel bombs being dropped by government forces helicopters and its explosions in Darayya city in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Thursday 16 June 2016

[Video](#) footage showing the destruction caused by a number of barrel bombs dropped by government forces helicopters in Al-Shaikh Khadir neighborhood in Aleppo city, Sunday 19 June 2016





[Video](#) footage showing government forces helicopters dropping two barrel bombs on Darayya city in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Monday 20 June 2016.

[Video](#) footage showing government forces helicopters dropping four barrel bombs on Darayya city in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Thursday 30 June 2016.

[Picture](#) of the destruction caused by the two barrel bombs dropped by government forces helicopters in Al-Hollok neighborhood in Aleppo city, Monday 6 June 2016

Picture showing government forces helicopters dropping four barrel bombs on Darayya city in Eastern Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Sunday 19 June 2016.





IV. Legal Conclusions and Recommendations

Legal conclusions:

1- The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139, Security Council Resolution 2254, and the Cessation of Hostilities statement. Government forces used barrel bombs in a widespread and systematic manner and violated, through the crime of murder, Article 7 of the Rome Statute in a widespread and systematic manner as well which constitutes crimes against humanity. Additionally, the Syrian government violated many rules of the international humanitarian law by perpetrating tens of crimes that amount to war crimes which manifested in the indiscriminate and random bombardment that was also disproportionate due to the use of excessive force.

2- SNHR affirms that the bombardment using barrel bombs is an indiscriminate bombardment that targeted unarmed civilians. Thus, government forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law which guarantee the right to life. Additionally, considering that these crimes were perpetrated during an international non-armed conflict, these crimes amount to a war crime where all the elements of a war crimes were fulfilled.

3-the Indiscriminate attacks carried out by government forces is considered a violation of the customary humanitarian international law where government forces fired shells on residential areas and it wasn't directed against a specific military target.

4- These attacks, especially bombardment, have caused collateral damages that involved casualties, injuries, and great damages to civil facilities. There are strong indicators that suggest that the damage was considerably excessive in relation to the estimated military benefit.

5- The magnitude of the widespread frequent bombardment, the excessive force, the indiscriminate manner, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders and a state policy.

6- Government forces, including all forms and leaders, are involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people in addition to those who provide government forces with financial, political, and military support -such as the Russian government, the Iranian government, and Hezbollah among others. Also, the companies that supply weapons are considered partners in these crimes and are prone to criminal prosecution.





Recommendations

To the Security Council:

The Security Council must insure the serious implementation of its Resolutions. These Resolutions have become merely words and, thus, the Security Council has lost all of its credibility and purpose.

An arms embargo must be imposed on the Syrian government and all those who supply it with weapons and funding must be prosecuted considering the risk that these weapons might be used to commit crimes and serious violations of human rights.

in the Syrian case, The Security Council is the one who is authorized to refer the case to the International Criminal Court. However, the Security Council has been obstructing this procedure instead of facilitating it and working on instilling peace and security in Syria. The prosecution of everyone involved in crimes against humanity and war crimes must start immediately.

Acknowledgment and Condolences

Our most heartfelt condolences for the families and friends of the victims, and our thanks go out to all local activists and families who contributed majorly to this study and the investigations.

