

# The Explosive Hose, the Last Improvised Weapon to be Added to the Syrian Regime's Arsenal

Bombardment, Killing, and Destruction are The Main Reasons behind the Displacement of al Qaboun and Tishreen Neighborhoods

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



On February 18, 2017, the Syrian regime initiated an extensive military campaign against the opposition-held parts of Damascus's eastern neighborhoods (Mainly al Qaboun and Tishreen neighborhoods), in which “Pheel” rockets, mortar shells, and [chemical weapons](#) were used. The campaign's goal was to drain even more of these neighborhoods' capabilities by killing their residents, destroying their buildings, and shattering their resources in order to coerce these neighborhoods into agreeing to a settlement that would result in displacing the residents and making them IDPs in a scenario that we have seen time after time throughout the Syrian region. On Saturday, May 13, 2017, it was agreed that armed opposition fighters and their families are to flee to Idlib governorate. 4100 individuals fled in two groups on May 14 and May 15.

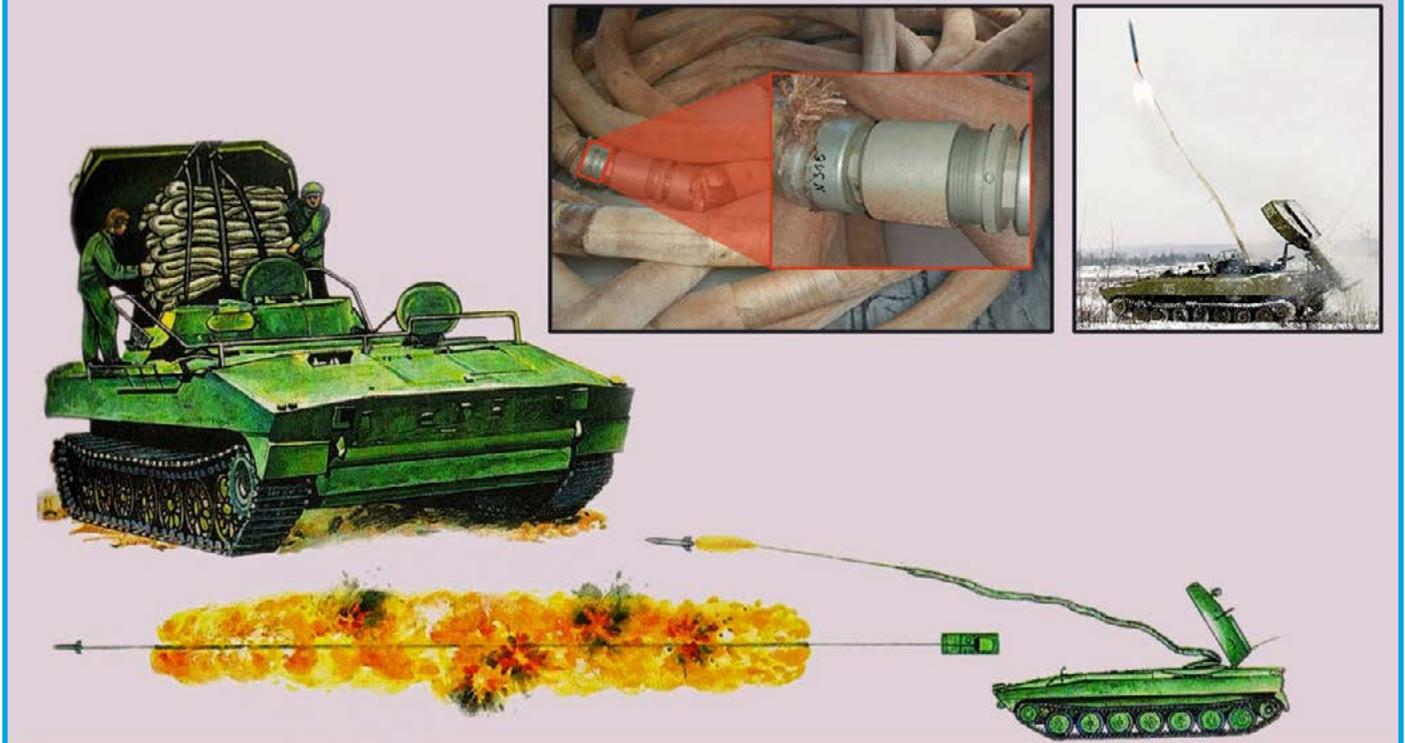
we noticed that Syrian regime forces incorporated an improvised mechanism to their indiscriminate weapon arsenal, which they have been using, as we noticed since early-April 2017, primarily in al Qaboun and Tishreen neighborhoods. These mechanisms came to be called by the local residents as “explosive hoses” which are:

Plastic hoses that are loaded with TNT or C-4, could be as long as 80m. These hoses are fired from military vehicles such as the Russian mine-clearing vehicle UR-77. The typical use of these hoses is to detonate mines, and they cause huge destruction, spanning areas of tens of meters. The Syrian regime uses these hoses to shell residential neighborhoods.



Plastic hoses loaded with explosive materials, e.g. TNT, C-4, could be as long as 80m and are fired from military vehicles such as the Russian mine-clearing vehicle UR-77

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As of this writing, SNHR team recorded 16 attacks that involved the use of explosive hoses by Syrian regime forces. Six individuals were killed and 30 others were injured in these attacks. Most of the victims were armed opposition fighters. Also, these attacks caused great destruction in the infrastructures, given the small areas armed opposition control which don't exceed 1.5 km<sup>2</sup>.

Aerial images showing the mass destruction that was caused by the heavy shelling on the area around al Hussein Mosque in Tishreen neighborhood. Picture (a) was taken on February 7, 2017, before the military campaign, and picture (b) was taken on April 18, 2017. Source: QALAAAT AL MUDIQA



Aerial images of the mass destruction caused by heavy shelling in the vicinity of al Hussein Mosque in Tishreen neighborhood in Damascus. Image "a" on February 7, 2017 before the military campaign, image "b" on April 18, 2017. Source: QALAAAT AL MUDIQ

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Aerial images showing the destruction in Tishreen neighborhood. Picture (a) was taken on February 7, 2017, before the military campaign, and picture (b) was taken on April 18, 2017. Source: QALAAAT AL MUDIQ



Aerial images of the destruction in Tishreen neighborhood in Damascus. Image "a" on February 7, 2017, before the military campaign, image "b" on April 18, 2017.  
Source: QALAAAT AL MUDIQ

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The first notable use of explosive hoses by Syrian regime forces, as we recorded, was in Joubar neighborhood in northeastern Damascus in October 2014. However, the use of this weapon remained limited in comparison with barrel bombs. In 2016, we recorded a number of attacks by Syrian regime forces using explosive hoses in Aleppo and [Daraa](#) governorates.



The Syrian regime uses improvised weapons such as barrel bombs, explosive hoses, and cluster munitions, which don't have a specific target, and result in human and material losses, as such weapons are incompatible with the principles of proportionality and distinction. The repeated use of these weapons by Syrian regime forces against residential neighborhoods and in areas laying beyond the clash lines prove that they were often used based on criminal intentions, which, accordingly, constitutes war crimes.

The pictures we acquired or received from local activists, and the ones that can be found on the internet, show the points of impact for these hoses, and the great destruction they caused. It is a given that the ongoing siege and the bombing of these neighborhoods made it more difficult to document more of these attacks, and restricted the access to evidences from one attack to another to various extents. SNHR have additional copies of all the pictures and videos in a secret database which are archived periodically.



Unexploded explosive hose that was found in al Qaboun neighborhood, Damascus – April 2017





Remnants of an explosive hose that was used by Syrian regime forces in al Qaboun neighborhood – April 2017

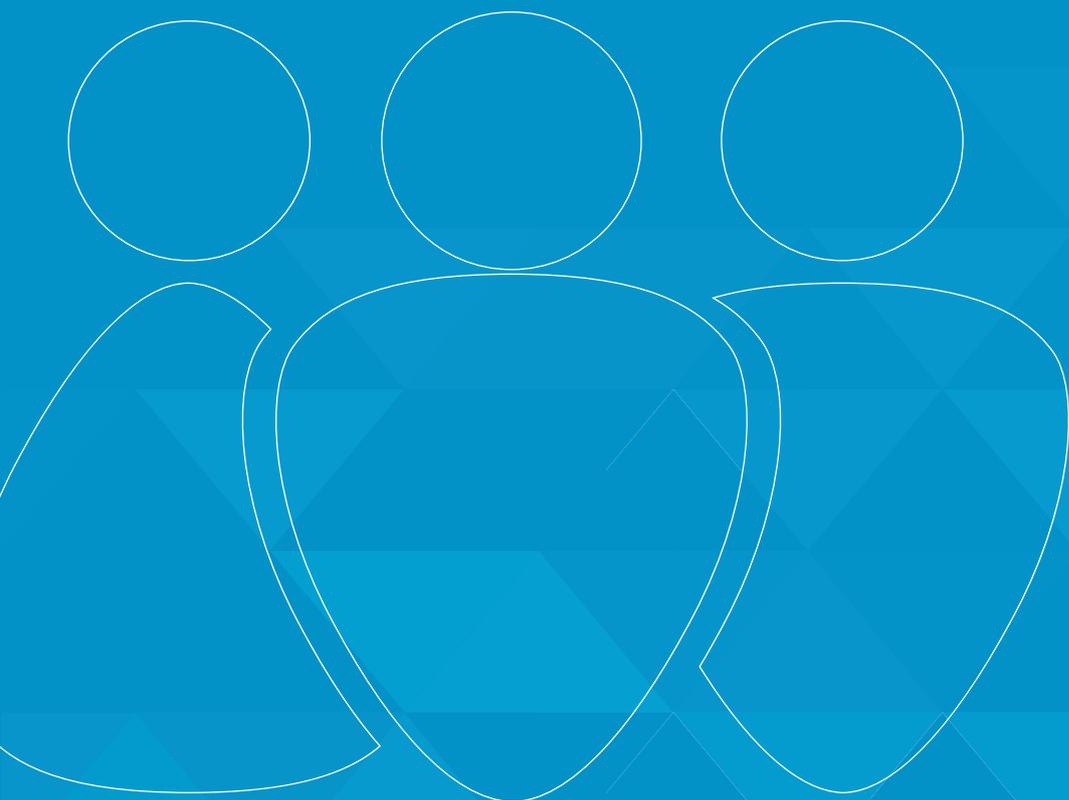
Video published by [Tishreen newspaper](#), a pro-regime newspaper, show a Russian mine-clearing vehicle targeting al Qaboun and Tishreen neighborhoods – April 23, 2017

Video published by [RUPTLY Agency](#) on Saturday, May 13, 2017 showing a mine-clearing vehicle targeting al Qaboun neighborhood with an explosive hose.



SNHR condemns the use of improvised weapons by Syrian regime, and calls on the Security Council and the international community to take immediate action to end this ridiculous chaotic weapons experimentation. The international community has to end this shameful passiveness with regard to these terrorist, unlawful attacks. And Russia and China should be ashamed of supporting a regime that uses rudimentary weapons against the Syrian people. Using Veto for eight times in Syria has stripped the Security Council of any purpose, and even legitimacy, in the eyes of the Syrian people, and most of the countries of this region and the world.





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