



No less than 16,098 Barrel Bombs since the Start of the Russian Intervention 1964 Barrel Bombs Resulted in the Killing of 102 Civilians including 18 Children and Five Women in November 2016

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I. Introduction

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

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 amounts to a war crime. Every barrel bomb dropped is considered a war crime.

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 November 2012 against the residents 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-fourth 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 Resolution 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, the death toll it causes, 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 access to Syria, and bans local and international human rights organizations and independent media. Therefore, this report doesn't include the remaining three parties (forces of what known as Self-management, 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. Otherwise, what is the point of targeting areas that are tens of kilometers away from the frontlines?

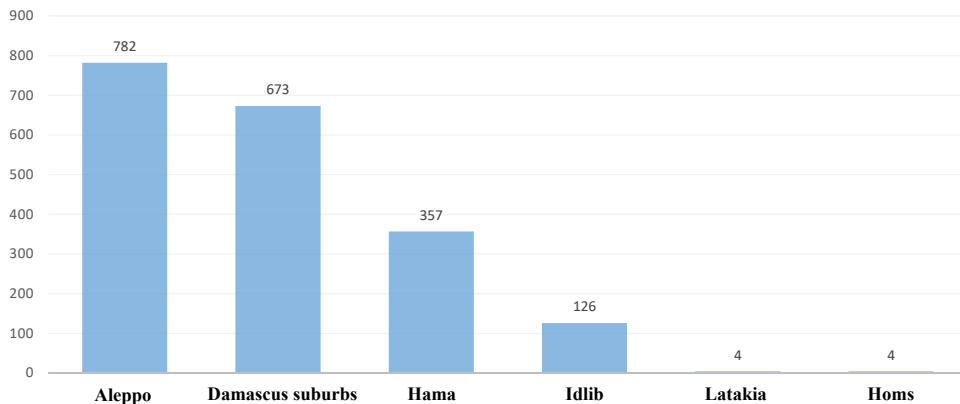




II. Executive Summary

A. Use of barrel bombs

Through daily monitoring and documenting, SNHR team was able to record that no less than 1946 barrel bombs at least were dropped in November 2016 by the regime helicopters. Those barrel bombs are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



According to SNHR's victim documentation team, 102 civilians, including 18 children, five women, and one medical personnel, were killed in barrel bombs attacks. The death toll caused by barrel bombs in November is distributed as follows:
Aleppo: 99 civilians including 18 children, five women and one medical personnel
Idlib: three civilians

B. Incidents of attacks against vital facilities that involved the use of barrel bombs

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 objects and vital facilities such as markets, hospitals, schools and places of worship.... The use of barrel bombs by the regime helicopters in the month of November caused damages to no less than 25 vital civil facilities:

Places of worship:

Mosques: 3

Vital educational facilities

Schools: 6

Vital Medical facilities

Medical centers: 6

Ambulances: 2

Infrastructures:

Power stations and energy sources 3

Civil defense centers: 3

Water Systems: 2





III. Details

Most notable deaths caused by barrel bombs

Aleppo governorate

Wednesday afternoon 2 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the western arts of Al Qasimiya village, affiliated to Einjara town in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of five civilians (Four children and one woman) where most of them were from the same family. It is worth noting that one of the four children died later of his wounds.

Tuesday morning 15 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the vicinity of the pedestrian bridge in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Tuesday evening 15 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Barbana circle in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Wednesday 16 November 2016, approximately at 9:00 Am, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the vicinity of Nour Al Shuhada mosque in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians.

Wednesday 16 November 2016, approximately at 10:00 AM, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs near Al Bayan hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Wednesday morning 16 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Karm Al Bik area in Tareeq Al Bab neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians; one of whom is a medic.





Thursday noon 17 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the road leading to Al Zebdiya neighborhood from Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Thursday morning 17 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Al Sheikh Fares area in Al Hollok neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians.

Friday noon 18 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Jesr Al Haj area in Al Ferdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians including one child.

Saturday noon 19 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings on the road leading to Salah Al Din neighborhood from Al Mash-had neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians.

Saturday morning 19 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Karm Al Bik area in Tareeq Al Bad neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians including two children and one woman.

Saturday morning 19 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Abu Ayoub Al Ansari school in Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians.

Saturday 19 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Al Mashatiya mosque in Old Halab area, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians.





Saturday morning 19 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the residential buildings near “Mhanna” restaurant in Al Sha’ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted on the killing of two civilians including one female child.

Sunday dawn 20 November 2016, [government forces helicopters](#) dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in [Aleppo city](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of six civilians from the same family including four children (The mother, the father, and their four children).

Sunday afternoon 20 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Jabal Badrou area in Tareeq Al Bab neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Monday morning 21 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Al Mo’assasa street in Al Sha’ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians.

Monday morning 21 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in eastern Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Monday 21 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Al Ferdous neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Tuesday evening 22 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Mashatiya mosque in Old Halab area, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians including one child.





Tuesday evening 22 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in southern Al Sukkari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Thursday morning 24 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the vicinity of Zain Al Abdein mosque in Al Myassar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Thursday morning 24 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings in the vicinity of Abdullah ben Mas'oud mosque in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one child and one woman.

Saturday noon 26 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the vicinity of the pedestrian bridge in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Sunday noon 27 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the vicinity of Al Halwaniya circle in Al Qaterji neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Monday morning 28 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the residential buildings in the vicinity of Ebad Al Rahman mosque, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of four civilians including two children and one woman.

Monday noon 28 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the residential buildings in the vicinity of Al Sha'ar bridge in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians including one child.





Monday evening 28 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Jazmati neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Tuesday noon 29 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in the vicinity of Al Zarzour hospital in Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

Idlib governorate

Friday 11 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the public square in the middle of Khan Shaikhoun city, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh Al Sham Front, which resulted in the killing of three civilians.

B. Incidents of attacks against vital facilities that involved the use of barrel bombs

Places of worship

- Mosques

Friday 11 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped [barrel bombs](#) near Abu Obayda ben Al Jarrah mosque in [Kafr Zita](#), located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque building and its cladding materials were heavily damaged.

Saturday morning 19 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb near Al Mashatiya mosque in Old Halab area, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque building and dome were partially destroyed and the furniture was moderately damaged. As a result, the mosque was rendered out of commission.

Monday morning 28 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb on Ebad Al Rahman mosque in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque minaret was partially destroyed and the dome and furniture were moderately damaged.





Vital educational facilities

- Schools

Friday 11 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) two barrel bombs on a school complex: Al Rifiya school, [Al Muhdatha school](#), and the northern neighborhood's school in [Kafr Zita city](#), located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction. The two barrel bombs fell in the school yard of Al Rifiya school and heavily destroyed the building and furniture which, consequently, rendered the school out of commission. In addition, the other two schools were moderately damaged.



Saturday morning 19 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb near Abu Ayoub Al Ansari school in Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The school fence was partially destroyed and the furniture and cladding materials were moderately damaged.

Sunday morning 20 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb on the eastern educational complex in [Al Sakhour neighborhood](#), located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The complex building was partially destroyed and the furniture and cladding materials were heavily damaged. As a result, the complex was rendered out of commission.





Sunday 27 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb in front of Al Tal high school for boys in Al Tal city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate. Some of the class rooms and the fence were partially destroyed and the cladding materials were heavily damaged. As a result, the school was rendered out of commission.

Medical facilities

- Medical centers

Friday 11 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a number of barrel bombs on [Kafr Zita](#) specialized hospitals in [Kafr Zita city](#), located in the northern suburbs of [Hama governorate](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building was partially destroyed. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission.



Wednesday 16 November 2016, around 10:00, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb near [Al Bayan surgical](#) hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The surgery room and its equipment and cladding materials were [heavily damaged](#).



Friday 18 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a number of barrel bombs on [Al Bayan surgical](#) hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The aid and surgery section as well as the hospital entrance were heavily damaged.

Monday morning 21 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb near Al Bayan surgical hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building and its cladding materials as well as the equipment were heavily damaged. As a result, the hospital was rendered out of commission. It should be noted that this was the third attack made on Al Bayan hospital in November.





Thursday 24 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs near the medical point in Al Taman'a town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The point building and equipment were moderately damaged.

Tuesday noon 29 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the vicinity of Al Zarzour surgical hospital in Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The hospital building was slightly damaged.

- Ambulances

Wednesday 16 November 2016, around 10:00 AM, government forces helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb](#) near Al Bayan surgical hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The ambulance structure and its equipment were moderately damaged.



Tuesday noon 29 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb](#) in the vicinity of [Al Zarzour surgical hospital](#) in Al Ansari neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The structure and equipment of an ambulance belonging to the hospital were moderately damaged.



Infrastructures

- Power station and energy sources

Wednesday noon 16 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) two barrel bombs on the power station of Old Halab in [Bab Al Nayrab](#) neighborhood, located in [Aleppo city](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The station fence was partially destroyed and the equipment and cladding materials were moderately damaged.





Friday 25 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the power station in Al Tal city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombing cut the power cables in the station which resulted in a power outage in the city and some of the nearby towns.

Monday 28 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb](#) on the power station in Al Tal city, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. A fire broke out in the station and the building and equipment were moderately damaged. Also, the bombing led to a power outage in the city. It should be noted that the station was targeted with a barrel bomb which was dropped by government forces helicopters on Friday 25 November 2016.

- Civil defense centers

Friday evening 18 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the civil defense center in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The structure of an ambulance belonging to the center was heavily damaged. As a result, it was rendered out of commission.



Sunday afternoon 20 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Hanano rescue center which is affiliated with the civil defense center in Al Sakhour neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The center building and furniture were heavily damaged. As a result, the center was rendered out of commission.

Thursday 24 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped [barrel bombs](#) near the medical point in Al Taman'a town, located in the southern suburbs of Idlib governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The structure of an ambulance belonging to the civil defense center of Al Taman'a town was moderately damaged.





- Water systems

Thursday morning 17 November 2016, government forces [helicopters dropped](#) a barrel bomb near [Bab Al Nayrab](#) water station in Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood, located in [Aleppo city](#) and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The station building and the equipment were heavily damaged. In addition, the fuel tanks inside were burned.



Friday 18 November 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a station for pumping water in Dahrat Awwad neighborhood, located in Aleppo city and is under the control of armed opposition factions.

The station building, electric boards, and a power generator for the station were moderately damaged. As a result, the station was temporarily rendered out of commission.

IV. Appendixes and Attachments

[Video showing](#) the destruction after a barrel bomb was dropped by government forces helicopters in Al Latamna city in the northern suburbs of Hama suburbs, Friday 4 November 2016

[Video showing](#) government forces helicopters dropping four barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Monday 7 November 2016

[Video showing](#) government forces helicopters dropping three barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Sunday 13 November 2016

[Video showing](#) government forces helicopters dropping two barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Monday 14 November 2016

[Video showing](#) government forces helicopters dropping four barrel bombs on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta, Thursday 17 November 2016

[Video showing](#) government forces helicopters dropping a barrel bomb in Al Haydariya neighborhood in Aleppo city, Saturday 19 November 2016





Pictures showing the site where a barrel bomb was dropped by government forces helicopters in Al Tal city in Damascus suburbs governorate, Sunday 27 November 2016



Picture showing the destruction that resulted from a barrel bomb dropped by government forces helicopters in Al Jaloum neighborhood in Aleppo city, Saturday 19 November 2016 – Picture by: Abu Al Iz Al Halabi

V. Conclusions and Recommendations

Legal conclusions

1- The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and Security Council Resolution 2254. Government forces used barrel bombs in a widespread and systematic manner and violated, through the crime of willful killing, 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 are 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 subject to criminal prosecution.

Recommendations

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 for five years 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 commence immediately.

Acknowledgment

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.

