



No less than 14,152 Barrel Bombs since the Russian Intervention Started

1128 Barrel Bombs Resulted in the Killing of 14 Civilians including One Child and One Woman in October 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 amount 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 October 2012 against the residents of Salqein 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.

We have documented on the first of last October the use of poison gases in Kafr Zita in Hama governorate by the Syrian regime in a statement published by SNHR: “The Syrian Regime Uses Chemical Weapons again in Hama Governorate”

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 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. Otherwise, what is the point of targeting areas that are tens of kilometers away from the frontlines?

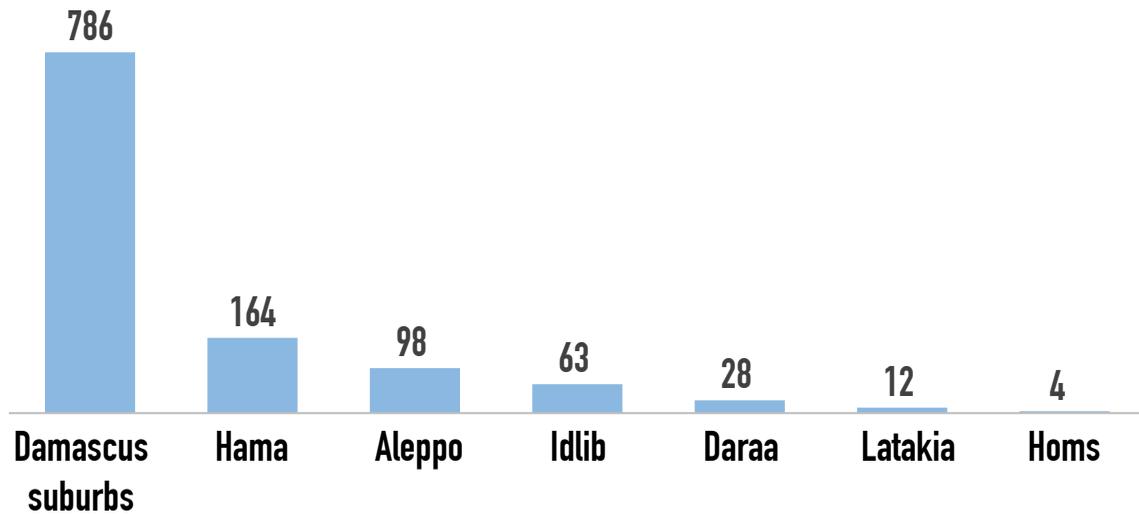




II. Executive Summary

A. Use of barrel bombs

Through daily monitoring and documenting, SNHR team was able to record that no less than 1128 barrel bombs at least were dropped in October 2016 by the regime helicopters. Those barrel bombs are distributed across Syrian governorates as follows:



According to SNHR victim documentation team, 14 civilians including one child, one woman, and two medical personnel, one of them is a doctor, were killed in barrel bombs attacks. The death toll caused by barrel bombs in October is distributed as follows:

Aleppo: Six civilians including one child and one woman.

Damascus suburbs: Four civilians including two medical personnel; one of them is a doctor

Idlib: Three civilians

Daraa: One civilian

B. In

cidents 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 October caused damages to no less than 14 vital civil facilities





Places of worship:

Mosques: 1

Vital educational facilities

Schools: 1

Vital Medical facilities

Medical centers: 3

Ambulances: 1

Infrastructures:

Civil defense centers: 6

Water Systems: 1

Official Headquarters: 1

III. Details

Death toll caused by barrel bombs

Aleppo governorate

Monday 3 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on Al Sakhour 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.

Thursday afternoon 6 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on the residential buildings in Jam'ieat Al Kahrbaa' in Khan Al Asal town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of three civilians including one woman.

Damascus suburbs governorate

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs, on conjunction with government artillery firing mortar shells, on the Martyr Dr. Eyad Qal'aji schools complex in Khan Al Sheih town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of two civilians.

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al Salam hospital, the only working hospital in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition





factions. The bombardment resulted in the killing of the doctor Eid Khalaf and the nurse Yousef Al Nader who are both members of the hospital's medical staff.

Idlib governorate

Thursday 6 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Kafr Ein town, 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 one civilian.

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on the northern outskirts of Saraqeb city, located in the 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 one civilian. Additionally, two others were wounded.

Thursday 13 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on the northern neighborhood of Jesr Al Shoghour city, located in the western 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 one civilian. Additionally, about 10 others were wounded.

Daraa governorate

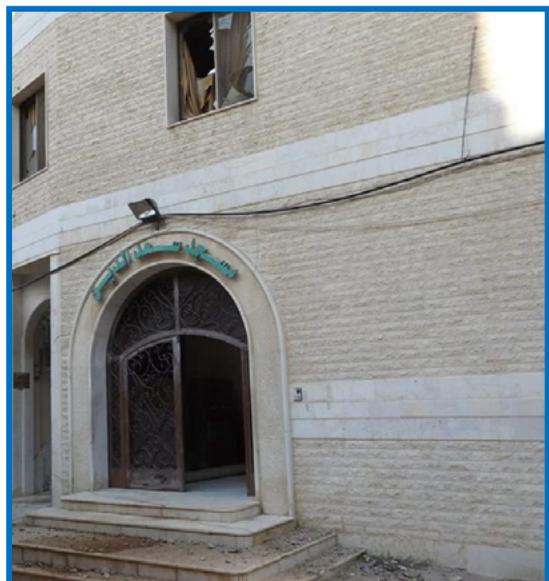
Wednesday 9 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped one barrel bomb on Ibta' town, located in the suburbs of Daraa governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which resulted in the killing of one civilian.

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

Places of worship

Mosques

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on [the vicinity of Sad Al Din mosque](#) in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The mosque building and cladding materials were moderately damaged.





Vital educational facilities

Schools

Sunday dawn 23 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [Kafr Dael elementary school](#) in Kafr Dael town, located in the western suburbs of Aleppo governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombing created a hole in front of [the school](#).

Vital medical facilities

Medical centers

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs in conjunction with government forces artillery firing mortar shells on the Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie makeshift hospital in Khan Al Sheih town, located in Western Ghouta and is under the control of armed opposition factions. A number of patients were killed in the bombing. In addition, the hospital building was heavily damaged and the hospital's power generators burned.

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al Salam hospital, the only [hospital](#) in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. Two medical personnel were killed, one of them was a doctor. In addition, the hospital building and its equipment were [moderately damaged](#). As a result, [the hospital](#) was rendered [out of commission](#).





Thursday 6 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped 16 barrel bombs, including four barrel bombs that were loaded with incendiary weapons, in conjunction with government forces artillery's mortar shelling on The Martyr Dr. [Ziad Al Beqaa'ie makeshift hospital](#) in [Khan Al Sheih town](#), located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The hospital building](#) and equipment were [heavily damaged](#). As a result, the [hospital](#) was rendered [out of commission](#).



Ambulances

Thursday 6 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs in conjunction with government forces artillery's shelling on the Martyr Dr. Ziad Al Beqaa'ie hospital in Khan Al Sheih town, located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. An ambulance and a service car were [heavily damaged](#) and rendered [out of commission](#).





Infrastructures

Civil defense centers (Facilities, vehicles)

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs near the civil defense center of Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The center building and furniture were [heavily destroyed](#). As a result, the center was rendered [out of commission](#).

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces barrel bombs dropped a number of barrel bombs near the civil defense center of Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions, which [heavily destroyed](#) a fire truck for the center and rendered it [out of commission](#).

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is affiliated to [the Syrian civil defense center](#) in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. [The center building was heavily destroyed](#).

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is affiliated to [the Syrian civil defense center](#) in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which heavily destroyed a vehicle used for removing rubble and rendered it out of commission.

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is affiliated to the Syrian civil defense center in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which heavily damaged a service vehicle and rendered it out of commission.

Friday 7 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on center 114 which is affiliated to [the Syrian civil defense center](#) in Al Latamna city, located in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition faction, which moderately damaged the structure of an ambulance that belongs to the center.





Water systems (Water Systems (water pipes, wells, water pump stations, irrigation canals, dams, water tanks, sewage treatment plants, sewage systems))

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs near the main water line that feeds the main tank in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The line was destroyed and rendered out of commission.

Official Headquarters (Institutions and ministries)

Wednesday 5 October 2016, government forces helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs near the building of the local council in Al Hama town, located in Damascus suburbs governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The building was heavily destroyed and was rendered out of commission.

IV. Appendixes and Attachments

[Video](#) showing the place where a barrel bomb was dropped by government forces helicopters in Al Latamna city in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, Thursday 6 October 2016

[Video](#) showing three barrel bombs being dropped by government forces helicopters and their explosion in Al Dwyer neighborhood in Al Mqielyba town located in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Saturday 8 October 2016

[Video](#) showing four barrel bombs being dropped in the agricultural lands of Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs, Friday 21 October 2016

[Video](#) showing a barrel bomb being dropped by government forces helicopters on Al Latamna city in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, Tuesday 25 October 2016

[Video](#) showing two barrel bombs being dropped by government forces helicopters on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Wednesday 26 October 2016

[Video](#) showing two barrel bombs being dropped by government forces helicopters on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Thursday 27 October 2016





[Video](#) showing one barrel bomb being dropped by government forces helicopters on Khan Al Sheih town in Western Ghouta in Damascus suburbs governorate, Friday 28 October 2016

[Picture of the remnants](#) of barrel bomb that was dropped by government forces helicopters near Kafr Dael Elementary school in Kafr Dael town in the western suburbs of Aleppo, Sunday 23 October 2016

[Pictures of an unexploded barrel bomb](#) that contains big hoses. [The barrel bombs](#) were [dropped](#) by government forces helicopters on [Kafr Zita city](#) in the northern suburbs of Hama governorate, Wednesday 26 October 2016

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 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 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 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.

