



Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in June 2015 1848 Barrel Bombs Killed 324 Individuals, including 86 Children and 57 Women

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I- Introduction:

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 barrel 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 response 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 non-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.

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 resolutions 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.

II- Executive Summary:

A- Barrel Bombs Used in June 2015:

Through our daily documentation, SNHR team was able to document the use of not less than 1848 barrel bombs in June 2015, detailed as follows according to the Syria governorates:

Daraa: 796

Damascus suburbs: 570

Aleppo: 241

Hama: 96

Idlib: 68

Homs: 28

Lattakia: 27

Al Hassaka: 7

Deir Al Zour: 6

Al Qunaitra: 6

Damascus: 3

The use of barrel bombs as random weapons killed 324 individuals, including 86 children and 57 women, according to the documentation team in SNHR.

The classification of the victims' death toll according to the Syrian governorates:

Aleppo: 140 individuals were killed including 44 children and 18 women.

Homs: 48 individuals were killed including 8 children and 8 women.

Daraa: 48 individuals were killed including 18 children and 15 women.

Idlib: 41 individuals were killed including 8 children and 5 women.

Hama: 25 individuals were killed including 1 child and 7 women.

Damascus suburbs: 9 individuals were killed including 3 children and 3 women.

Al Hassaka: 9 individuals were killed including 4 children and one woman.

Deir Al Zour: 4 individuals were killed.





B- Targeting Vital Facilities:

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

During June 2015, not less than 29 vital facilities were targeted by barrel bombs:

Places of worship: 11

Medical Facilities: 6

Vital Centers: 4

Schools: 3

Markets: 2

Ambulances: 1

Bakeries: 1

Archeological sites: 1

III- Report Details:

A- Casualties due to barrel bomb shelling in June 2015:

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

Aleppo:

1- On 3 June 2015, government aviation dropped four **barrel bombs** on residential houses in **Tal Refa't City** in Aleppo killing 18 persons, including 8 children and a woman, in addition to destroying a number of houses and shops.

2- On 3 June 2015, government aviation dropped a **barrel bomb** on a market in **Jib Al Kibba neighborhood** in Old Aleppo killing 5 individuals, including a child, and injured 20 others. Also, a great number of shops and houses were destroyed.

3- On 4 June 2015, government **aviation shelled** neighborhoods in **Hayan City** in Aleppo with two barrel bombs **killing 9 civilians**, including 9 children and a woman, and **injured 8 others**.

4- On 4 June 2015, government helicopters dropped **two barrel bombs** next to Al Tawba mosque in Deir Jamal town in Aleppo **killing 6 civilians** including two children and a woman, and injuring not less than 5 others.

5- On 6 June 2015, **government helicopters** dropped a **barrel bomb** on Bab Al Nayrab neighborhood in Aleppo **killing 6 civilians**, amongst 3 children and **two women**.

6- On 6 June 2015, **government helicopters** shelled **Tareeq Al Bab neighborhood** in Aleppo with two barrel bombs **killing 10 individuals**, including **2 children**.

7- On 7 June 2015, government aviation shelled houses in **Al Ma'adi neighborhood** in Aleppo with a barrel bomb killing 5 children and woman, in addition to injuring 5 persons.

8- On 21 June 2015, government **aviation shelled** houses in **Al Kusayla neighborhood** in Old Aleppo **killing 8 individuals**, including 4 children and a woman, and injuring not less than 7 others.

9- On 22 June 2015, **government helicopters** shelled Saad **Al Ansari mosque** in Ansari neighborhood in Aleppo with a barrel bomb **killing 10 individuals**, amongst a child.





10- On 27 June 2015, government helicopters shelled **Al Halak neighborhood** in Aleppo with a barrel bomb **killing 7 civilians**, 3 children and 2 women, in addition to injuring 5 others. **Houses were damaged** as well.

11- On 30 June 2015, government helicopters dropped **two barrel bombs** on Al Saleheen neighborhood in Aleppo killing 8 persons including a child.

Idlib:

1- On 3 June 2015, government aviation dropped a number of barrel bombs on Kafrsinja town in Idlib. One barrel was dropped on a house that sheltered displaced people killing 8 civilians, including 5 women.

2- On 4 June 2015, **government aviation** shelled Silqeen town in Idlib with **3 missiles** killing 22 persons, including a child and two women.

3- On 8 June 2015, **government aviation** shelled **Al Janudiyi town** with a number of missiles **killing 48 individuals**, including 7 children and 5 women.

4- On 15 June 2015, government warplanes shelled **Areha city** in Idlib with two missiles killing 7 civilians, including 4 children and two women.

Homs:

1- On 7 June 2015, **government aviation** dropped **three barrel bombs** on **Al Za'afaraneh town** in Homs **killing 19 individuals**, including a child.



2- On 11 June 2015, government aviation dropped **two barrel bombs** on Al Raстан City in Homs killing 7 persons of the same family (3 children and 4 women).

3- On 11 June 2015, government warplanes shelled the Motaka'adeen region in Palmyra city in Homs with two barrel bombs killing 6 persons of the same family, including 3 children.

Damascus suburbs:

1- On 14 June 2015, government aviation dropped 8 barrel bombs on Madaya town. One of these barrels was dropped on a residential building killing 5 persons at once, amongst two children and two women.

Daraa Governorate:

1- On 27 June 2015, government aviation dropped an **explosive container** on Naseeb town in Daraa **killing 10 civilians**, amongst 4 children and 5 women.

Hassaka Governorate:

1- On 20 June 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on one of the houses in Eib Al Showk town in Al Hasaka killing 6 children, including 2 children and a woman, in addition to seriously injuring more than 5 persons.





B- Targeting Vital Facilities with Barrel Bombs:

- Places of Worship:

- 1- On 1 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on the Great Mosque in Abu Dhur town in Idlib. Parts of the mosque and the building were destroyed.
- 2- On 4 June 2015, government forces shelled Al Tawba Mosque in Deir Jamal in Aleppo with two barrel bombs killing 6 individuals and partially destroying the mosque and the nearby houses.
- 3- On 7 June 2015, government warplanes shelled Ma'arat Al Nu'man mosque in Idlib with a barrel bomb causing partial damage.
- 4- On 9 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Dahrat Awwad mosque causing partial destruction to it.
- 5- On 9 June 2015, government aviation shelled Ihsim mosque in Iblid with a barrel bomb injuring an individual and causing partial destruction to the mosque.
- 6- On 10 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb next to Darwishyi mosque in Al Ferdos neighborhood in Aleppo injuring a number of children and causing partial damages to the mosque.
- 7- On 19 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on a mosque in Skeek town in Idlib causing partial material damages.
- 8- On 21 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Al Talihan mosque in Al Kalasa neighborhood, killing a woman and causing partial damage to the mosque.
- 9- On 22 June 2015, government warplanes shelled Sa'ad Al Ansari mosque in Aleppo killing 10 persons in addition to causing partial destruction to the mosque's dome and ceiling.
- 10- On 23 June 2015, government forces dropped a barrel bomb on Al Wasfani mosque in Al Habeet town in Idlib killing 3 persons and causing partial destruction to the mosque.
- 11- On 26 June, 2015 government aviation dropped 14 gas cylinders next to the Great Mosque in Bliyoun town in Idlib causing damage to the mosque.

- Medical Facilities:

- 1- On 4 June 2015, government aviation shelled Al Atarib Healthcare Center in Aleppo with two barrel bombs killing 3 individuals, injuring 5 others, and causing total destruction some of the center's facilities and putting it out of service.
- 2- On 9 June 2015, government warplanes shelled Al Zarzour hospital in Al Ansari neighborhood in Aleppo with two barrel bombs killing 2 persons and causing material damage to the hospital putting it out of service.
- 3- On 10 June 2015, government warplanes shelled Al Bayan hospital in Al Sha'ar neighborhood in Aleppo with a barrel bomb, killing one person and injuring 9 others. The shelling caused great material damages to the operation rooms and the hospital went out of service.
- 4- On 11 June 2015, government aviation shelled Al Kudus makeshift hospital in Aleppo with a barrel bomb in causing partial destruction to the mosque putting it out of service.
- 5- On 16 June 2015, government warplanes shelled a makeshift hospital in Al Bashayriyi town in Idlib causing partial destruction to the hospital.
- 6- On 23 June 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on a makeshift hospital in Hama suburbs causing material damage to it.





- Schools:

- 1- On 4 June 2015, government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Al Latamina City in Hama causing a partial destruction to the school's building.
- 2- On 16 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on Be'er Al Sabe' UNR-WA school in Khan Al Sheikh camp in Damascus suburbs killing a woman and completely destroying most of the school's buildings.
- 3- On 29 June 2015, government warplanes dropped 3 gas cylinders on a school in Khan Shaykoun in Idlib causing material damage to the school's building.

- Markets:

- 1- On 3 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb in a market in Jib Al Kibba neighborhood killing 5 persons and burning a great number of shops.
- 2- On 10 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on a market in Al Ferdous neighborhood in Aleppo injuring 12 persons and causing damages to the shops.

- Vital Facilities:

- 1- On 10 June 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on the electrical converter center in Aleppo causing complete power outage on 5 hospitals.
- 2- On 10 June 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on the complaints center in the electricity directorate of in Al Shaar neighborhood in Aleppo causing complete destruction to the center.
- 3- On 29 June 2015, government aviation shelled the granaries in Khan Shaykoun with two barrel bombs in Idlib causing great damage to it putting it out of order.
- 4- On 30 June 2015, government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on the power station in Hanano city in Aleppo causing great damage to the facility and putting it out of order. Six neighborhoods suffered from power outage as a result.

- Ambulances:

- 1- On 23 June 2015, government aviation dropped a barrel bomb on a makeshift hospital in Hama suburbs causing great damage to the hospital's ambulance.

- Bakeries:

- 1- On 9 June 2015, government aviation shelled the bakery in Al Ansari neighborhood in Aleppo starting a fire in it and putting it out of service.

- Archeological Sites:

- 1- On 15 June 2015, government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Ma'art No'man museum in Idlib causing partial destruction to it.

IV- Conclusions and recommendations

According to the Humanitarian International Law, purposed, indiscriminate, or disproportionate attacks are prohibited. Thus, government forces' targeting of schools, hospitals, churches, and bakeries is an utter disregard for the minimum standards of international law and the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Some of the extremist groups and other armed groups targeted a number of those facilities. The indiscriminate bombardment is a violation of the intentional humanitarian law and can be classified as a war crime.





Recommendations

The Security Council

- 1- To bind all the influential parties to respect Resolution 2139 by, at least, condemning the targeting of vital facilities that civilians need every day.
- 2- To enforce a comprehensive arms embargo on the Syrian regime considering its horrible violations of the international laws and the Security Council resolutions.
- 3- To consider the states that supply the Syrian regime with weapons and the groups involved in perpetrating crimes against civilians partners in these crimes as well as all weapon suppliers and distributors
- 4- States who support the armed opposition should stop supporting any factions that don't respect the international humanitarian law.

V- Attachments:

Images and video footages that document the barrel bomb shelling in June 2015:

- 1- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Al Bu Omar town in Deir Al Zour, on 2 June 2015
- 2- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling and shelling aftermath on Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib on 7 June 2015
- 3- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Ma'art Al No'man city in Idlib on 7 June 2015
- 4- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Al Kark town in Daraa on 8 June 2015
- 5- A video that depicts the location of a shelled barrel bomb on Al Rakaya town in Idlib on 20 June 2015
- 6- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Al Buhous neighborhood in Aleppo on 23 June 2015
- 7- A video that depicts that barrel bomb shelling on Ma'ardabsa town in Idlib on 26 June 2015

