



Russian Forces are Pouring Cluster Munition over Syria No less than 54 Russian Cluster Attacks Recorded before the Cessation of Hostilities Statement

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I. Introduction and Methodology

The Syrian regime started using cluster munition in 2012, and has been using it ever since. We have published [several reports](#) documenting the use of cluster munition over the past five years. We claimed that the Syrian regime is the worst in the world in terms of cluster munition use in the past few years as our colleagues in the Cluster Munition Coalition have proven in a number of reports as did our colleagues in Human Rights Watch. Since 2013, 113 state members of the United Nations General Assembly have condemned the exhaustive use of cluster munition by the Syrian regime. However, this apparently wasn't enough to stop the Syrian regime from using cluster munition.

On 30 September 2015, Russian forces entered the Syrian conflict under the request of the Syrian regime, and while the United Nations General Assembly's resolution to condemn the use of cluster munition didn't deter the Syrian regime, it certainly wouldn't deter the Russian regime who has more audacity to disregard and offend the international humanitarian law. We have recorded a number of instances of cluster munition use by the Russian regime in Syria. This 33-page extensive report records every instance of cluster munition use by the Russian regime that we have been able to document from the beginning of the Russian military action in Syria until the commencement of the Cessation of Hostilities statement on 27 February 2016. Nonetheless, this doesn't mean that Russian forces ceased the use of cluster munition afterwards where we





recorded many instants that will be included in the second part that sheds light on the Russian forces' use of cluster munition from 27 February to the date of the next report.

It should be noted that the Syrian regime have used cluster munition in a number of attacks during the same period of time. We have tried to distinguish between the Russian regime's attack and the Syrian regime's attack as much as possible. This report focuses on attacks we believe have been carried out by Russian forces using cluster munitions which other forces on the ground don't possess. We haven't recorded any use of cluster munition by the Democratic Union Party (Branch for the Kurdistan Workers' Party), extremist Islamic groups, or armed opposition factions. One of the most major factors that helped us in identifying the party responsible for the attacks is that after 30 September 2015, new types of cluster munitions emerged that we haven't recorded in the previous years when the Syrian regime used cluster munition extensively (but used different types of munition). We were able to pinpoint a number of them: (RBK-500 that carries AO-2.5RT submunition, AO-2.5RTM and RBK-500 that carries ShOAB-0.5 submunition, 9M79 Tochka missile with cluster warheads, and RBK-500 that carries SPBE submunition.) These attacks were conducted using missiles that are carrying hundreds of small bombs that were dropped by warplanes or by launching pads that are evidently located in the Mediterranean Sea or through rocket launchers.

SNHR contacted many eyewitnesses, survivors, and local activists where we included 21 accounts in this report. Additionally, we verified pictures and videos we received. We have explained the purpose of these interviews for the eyewitnesses and they gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report. we have copies of all the videos and pictures included in this report which are consistent with the account we acquired to a great extent.

Despite the ban on the use of indiscriminate weapons including cluster munition in residential areas, 99% of the cluster attacks by Russian forces that SNHR documented took place in civil residential areas.

This report only represents the minimum of the actual magnitude of the crimes and it doesn't address the social, economic, and psychological impact.





Unfortunately, Russian authorities denies all of these incidents and crimes and haven't lunched even one investigation which has been the Syrian regime's methodology the Syrian regime didn't hold anyone accountable since 2011. Certainly, this doesn't absolve the Russian forces and the Syrian regime of the responsibility for their crimes.

To read [extensively](#) about SNHR's methodology, please visit the following URL:

Fadel Abdul Ghani, chairman of SNHR says:

"It seems that the Syrian lands are blatantly used as a testing ground where the Russian weapons and its effectiveness are tested. No action has been taken against the use of cluster munition by Russian forces or haven't been even condemned. Apparently, Russian forces have used huge amounts of cluster munitions that are estimated to be tens of thousands of small bombs in a few months. Most of these bombs were directed against areas populated by Syrian citizens. The proper disposal of the remnants will require long decades and will cause injuries among citizens. The international community must aid Syrians with the necessary expertise and equipment in order to dispose the submunitions that haven't exploded yet."





The Following table illustrates some of the cluster munitions used by alleged Russian forces between 30 September 2015 and 27 February 2016

Type (bombs and submunition)	Place of Attack	Attachments	References
RBK-500 carrying SPBE submunition	Kafr Halab town in Aleppo governorate The area located between the towns of Byanoun and Hayyan	Picture of the cluster munition 	
RBK-500 carrying AO-2.5RTM submunition or AO-2.5RT submunition	Al-Zyara town (Aleppo) Hayyan town (Aleppo) Al-Myassar neighborhood (Aleppo) Al-Marja neighborhood (Aleppo) Mare'e city (Aleppo) Tal Ref'at city (Aleppo) Kafr Hamra village (Aleppo)	Picture of the cluster munition 	
RBK-500 carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition	Jam'yat Al-Kahruba area (Aleppo) The area between Al-Barqoum village, Khan Touman village, and Al-Zarba town (Aleppo). Al-Uthmaniya village (Aleppo) Ihres village road (Aleppo) Al-Latamna city (Hama)	Picture of the cluster munition 	THE ROGUE ADVENTURER 





Tochka missile
with 9M79 cluster
warhead

Obean camp in Idlib

Picture of the cluster munition



AW EnemyForces



9m55k carrying
9n235 submuni-
tion

Kafr Nabouda town
in Hama

Picture of the cluster munition

ARES



RBK-500 Carry-
ing
PTAB-1M sub-
munition

Al-Ghanto town in
Homs

Picture of the cluster munition

ARES





II. Executive Summary

From the beginning of the Russian military action in Syria on 30 September 2015 until 27 February 2016, SNHR documented 54 cluster attacks that were suspected to be carried out by Russian forces. The attacks are distributed across Syria as follows:

A. Areas under the control of armed opposition factions:

Aleppo: 27

Idlib: 12

Homs: 6

Hama: 3

Daraa: 3

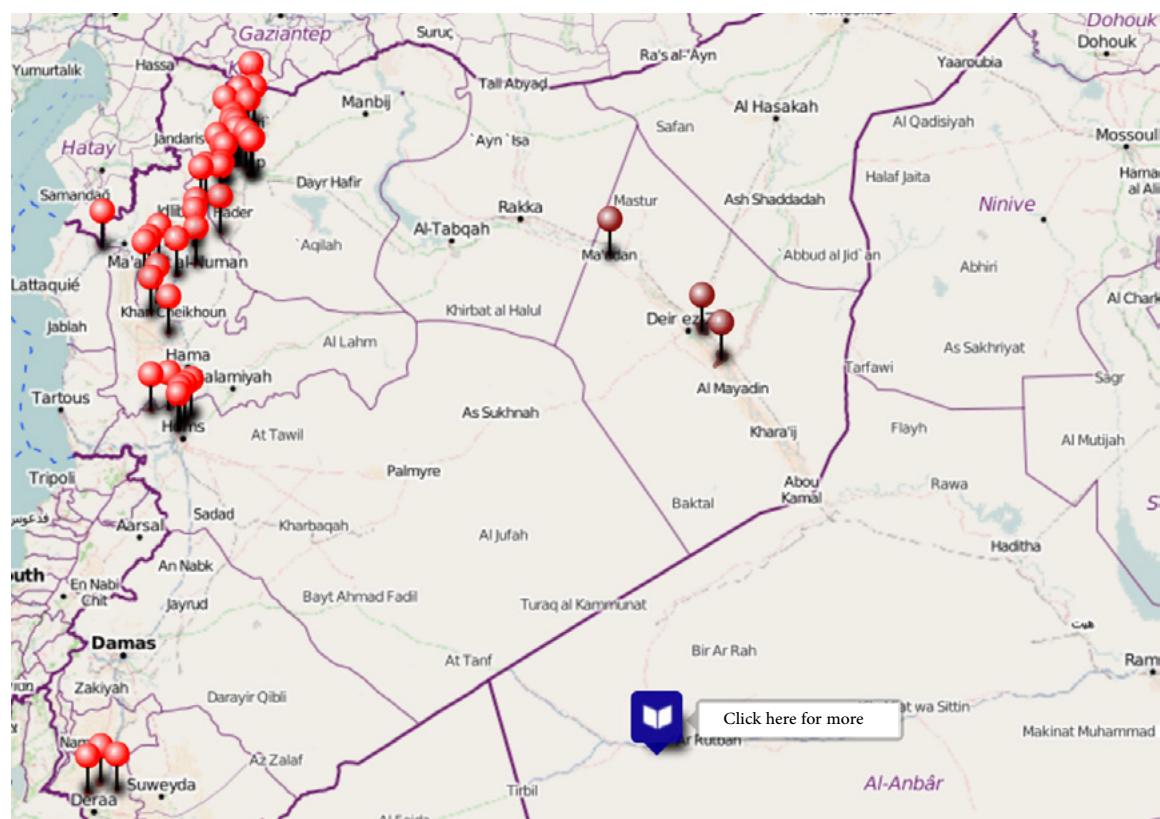
B. Areas under the control of ISIS:

Deir Ez-Zour: 2

Al-Raqqa: one

These attacks resulted in the death of 52 civilians including 13 children and seven women and wounded 145 others at least.

The following map shows the distribution of the cluster attacks by alleged Russian forces in Syria between 30 September 2015 and 27 February 2016





III. Details

A. Areas under the control of armed opposition factions:

Aleppo governorate:

- Kafr Halab town, Sunday 4 October 2015

Alleged Russian forces dropped RBK-500 cluster bombs carrying SPBE submunition on Kafr Halab town, located in western Aleppo suburbs and is under the control of armed opposition factions. The attack targeted two camps for Soqour Al-Jabal brigade. The attack resulted in mild wounds for some of Soqour Al-Jabal elements.

ph . ammar alhalabi

Picture of remnants of cluster munition dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Kafr Halab town



Pictures taken by local activists of new type of cluster munitions that haven't been recorded in our previous reports:



Picture showing alleged Russian warplanes dropping cluster munition in Kafr Halab town





- Al-Zyara town, Wednesday 14 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired 500 missiles carrying AO-2.5RTM submunition. The attack resulted in the killing of one civilian named Abdullah Hallaj.

[Video](#) footage showing the remnants of the cluster missiles. An armed opposition element is shown collecting and disarming the remnants

The area located between Byanoun and Hayyan town

Alleged Russian warplanes dropped three RBK-500 bombs carrying SPBE submunition on the area located between Byanoun and Hayyan towns. The bombing resulted in mild damages.

Anas Al-Byanouni is a local media activist who spoke to SNHR about the incident:

“Russian warplanes are using a new type of cluster weapons that is carried in a missile that explode in the air and then small bombs come out in parachutes. Someone told me that this is an anti-tank cluster weapon.”

“These remnants cause big explosions. Thank God that he bombing didn’t cause any casualties. However, some residents were wounded. Civil defense team went to the area to dispose of the remnants from the agricultural lands in order to protect the farmers”

Pictures if the cluster remnants in Hayyan and Byanoun towns:





- Hayyan town, Saturday 24 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RT submunition. Two civilians were killed: Hussein Adel Osou and Mohammad Yahya Al-Sarraj. Also, five others were wounded including one civil defense personnel.

Samer Osou, a resident of Hayyan town says: “The bombing was at night, the explosions were so severe that the sky looks like it is illuminating. The cluster bombs fell on our homes and civil defense teams tried to dispose of the remnants. However, one civil defense personnel, called Yousef Azwa, was injured by a shrapnel in his leg. Also, two were killed and four others were wounded.”

Pictures of the remnants after the cluster bombing on the town:



- Al-Myassar neighborhood, Wednesday 28 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RT submunition on Al-Myassar neighborhood, controlled by armed opposition factions. The bombing injured 12 civilians including four children and three women.

Picture of some of the cluster remnants





- Jam'yat Al-Kahruba area, Saturday 7 November 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missiles carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition on Jam'yat Al-Kahruba, located between Kafr Naha town and Khan Al-Asal village. One civilian, Ahmad Mohammad Qafou, was killed.

Picture of two civil defense personnel carrying cluster remnants after the bombing



Picture of a cluster bomb from the remnants after the bombing carried out by suspected Russian warplanes on Jam'yat Al-Kahruba area



- Area between the villages of Barqoum and Khan Touman and Al-Zarba town, Thursday 19 November 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition on the agricultural lands between the villages of Al-Barqoum and Khan Touman and Al-Zarba town in southern Aleppo suburbs.

Picture of a cluster munition dropped by alleged Russian warplanes





- Al-Zarba town, Sunday 22 November 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying a ShOAB0.5 submunition on Al-Zarba town in southwestern Aleppo suburbs. Some of the submunition exploded near the main water tank in the town causing a number of fires.

Pictures of a cluster carrier dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Al-Zarba town in Aleppo, 22 November 2015



- Al-Marja neighborhood, Monday 14 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RT submunition on residential homes in Al-Marja neighborhood. The bombing resulted in the death of three civilians including two children and the injury of 10 others.

Names of victims:

- 1- Mohammad Shaikh Al-Jub, eight-year-old.
- 2- Hamdou Shaikh Al-Jub, 50-year-old.
- 3- Female child Ghosoun Haout.





SNHR contacted Mr. AbdulMun'em, a resident of Al-Marja neighborhood, who told us about the bombing:

“Around 10:00 AM, I saw two Russian warplanes flying together. They bombed Al-Jazmati and Tareaq Al-Bab neighborhood before bombing Al-Marja neighborhood with cluster missiles. The warplanes were flying at a very high altitude.

The remnants scattered over a wide area that included Al-Marja, Bab Al-Nayrab, and Karm Al-Tarrab neighborhoods. Civil defense units collected some of the remnants. One remnant weights more than two kilograms.”

Pictures of cluster remnants that were found in Al-Marja neighborhood on Monday 14 December 2015





- Mare'e city, Friday 18 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on the northern parts of Mare'e city



- Tal Ref'at city, Friday 18 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on the western side of Tal Ref'at city. The missiles targeted the road connected Der Jamal and Kafr Antoun towns. One civilian was wounded.

Picture of cluster remnants found in Tal Ref't after a bombing carried out by an alleged Russian warplane, 18 December 2015



Picture of the missile remnants that was fired by an alleged Russian warplane on Tal Ref'at city, 18 December 2015





Al-Uthmaniya village, Saturday 19 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition on Al-Zriefa neighborhood in Al-Uthmaniya village. The bombing resulted in the death of one woman, Salwa Shehada, and the injury of seven others.

[Picture](#) of cluster remnants found in Al-Uthmaniya village after an attack carried out by alleged Russian warplanes on 19 December 2015

- Tal Ref'at city, Saturday 19 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on the residential homes near the railway. One civilian, Ahmad Mohammad Hamdou, was killed and a number of pre-manufactured rooms for Al-Bara' em Educational Center were damaged.

[Video](#) footage showing the remnants of the cluster attack on Tal Ref'at city in Aleppo, 19 December 2015

- Mare'e city, Saturday 19 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM/AO-2.5RT submunition on the eastern side of the city near the makeshift hospital.

[Video](#) footage of the cluster remnants that were dropped by suspected Russian warplanes on Mare'e city in Aleppo, 19 December 2015

Remnants of cluster munition dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Mare'e city in Aleppo, 19 December 2015





- Trade road between Ihres and Harbal villages, Thursday 24 December 2015
Alleged Russian warplanes fired two missiles. One of the missiles was a RBK-500 missile carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition and was fired on a gathering of trucks on the trade road between Ihres and Harbal villages, the road is under the control of ISIS. As a result, five civilians were killed including one female child and a number of shipping cars were burned. The cars carried food and gas tanks and was headed to ISIS-held areas to sell them.

Names of victims:

Ahmad Ali Yahya Al-Shami.

Female child Batool Ahmad Hmiedi.

AbdulQader Hamidou.

Shahoud Ahmad Rostom.

Nour Al-Din Ahmad Rostom.

SNHR contacted Mr. Mohannad, a member of the civil defense team of Tal Ref'at city. Mohannad headed to the bombed area and told us:

“When we arrived, the cars were still on fire. We extinguished the fire and pulled out wounded and victims. There were burned bodies. Because there were cars carrying gas tanks, the fire intensity increased and it went on for a long period of time.”

People who were in the area told me that the bombing occurred at 1:30 PM and was carried out using missiles including a missile carrying cluster submunition. I saw cluster remnants scattered all over the place.”

“The targeted area was a gathering of shipping cars between Harbal and Ihres villages. The cars were loaded with food and gas tanks and were headed to the ISIS-held village of Harbal to sell these items. Eight individuals were killed in the airstrikes including two children.”

[Video](#) footage showing the moment when alleged Russian warplanes targeted a gathering of civil trucks, Thursday 24 December 2015

[Video](#) footage of burned trucks after a bombing carried out by alleged Russian war planes, Thursday 24 December 2015





- Al-Shaikh Reeh village, Sunday 13 December 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on Al-Shaikh Reeh village in northern Aleppo suburbs. The missile targeted a frontline for Ahrar Al-Sham, an armed opposition faction.

The targeted area was a frontline between Ahrar Al-Sham and ISIS. ISIS controls a village next to Al-Shaikh Reeh village.



Picture of cluster remnants that were dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Al-Shaikh Reeh village in Aleppo, 13 December 2015

تحت القصف الروسي على الشيخ ريح في ريف حلب الشمالي

Anadan city, Wednesday 27 December 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on the building of Anadan charity hospital. A medical staff member was killed, Abdurrahman Ibied, and a midwife was injured. Also, a number of hospital patients were injured in addition to damages to the hospital building.

Picture of the cluster remnants after the bombing in Anadan charity hospital



Image of cluster ammunitions remnants in Anadan city in Aleppo governorate due to suspected Russian warplanes cluster bombs shelling, January 27, 2016

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[Pictures](#) showing the damages to [the hospital building and an ambulance](#)

- Kafra Hamra village, Friday 29 January 2016
Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted the road of Al-Layrmoun circle in Kafra Hamra village, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombing resulted in six injuries including a child and a woman.



- Mare'e city, Friday 29 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted the southern neighborhood of Mare'e city, which is under the control of armed opposition factions. As a result, four civilians were killed including one female child.

Names of victims:

- 1- Mahmoud Mohammad Al-Hamoud Abbas, 65-year-old.
- 2- Abdullah Mahmoud Mohammad Abbas, 35-year-old.
- 3- Khadija Rashid Naser, 14-year-old.
- 4- Jaber Mohammad Abbas, 37-year-old.



- Hraitan city, Wednesday 3 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted the northeastern neighborhoods of Hraitan city,





which is under the control of armed opposition factions. the bombing resulted in three civilians being injured. Also, a number of cars were burned.

Pictures of the cluster remnants after the cluster attack on Hraitan city

- Hayyan city, Wednesday 3 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted the northern side of the city near the road leading to Byanoun town.

A video footage showing a civil defense personnel carrying cluster remnants after the cluster attack on Hayyan city in Aleppo, Wednesday 3 February 2016

- Al-Ashrafiya neighborhood, Tuesday 16 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a missile carrying cluster submunition that targeted the parts under the control of armed opposition factions in Al-Ashrafiya neighborhood.

Video footage shows the bombing on Al-Ashrafiya neighborhood using a cluster missile and the explosion of the submunition

- Kafr Naha town, Friday 19 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition that targeted residential neighborhoods in Jam'yat Al-Kahruba area. The bombing resulted in the killing of the child Bakr Osama Al-Bayrini, three-year-old, in addition to six others who were injured.

Pictures of the remnants of the cluster bombing on Kafr Naha town





- Injara village, Sunday 21 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition that targeted residential homes near the circle that leads to Bsartoun town. [Video](#) footage showing the remnants of the cluster attack on Injara village

Kafr Naha town, Sunday 21 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile carrying AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted residential homes near the main road. The bombing resulted in 10 injuries.

[Picture](#) of cluster remnants after the bombing on Kafr Naha town



- Anadan city, Thursday 25 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two missiles carrying cluster submunition that targeted the western neighborhoods of the city.

Picture of the cluster munition that were fired by suspected Russian warplanes on Anadan city





- Mare'e city, Thursday 25 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired no less than four missile carrying cluster submunition on the western and northern neighborhoods of Mare'e city. The bombing resulted in six injuries

Pictures of the cluster munition that were dropped by suspected Russian warplanes on Mare'e city

[Pictures](#) of [wounded](#) after the cluster attacking



Hama governorate

- Kafr Nadouda town, Wednesday 7 October 2015

Two 9m55k missiles carrying 9n235 submunitions that were fired by a suspected Russian rocket launcher targeted eastern Kafr Nabouda town, located in Hama governorate and is under the control of armed opposition factions. No injuries or damages were recorded.

[Picture](#) of cluster remnants after the bombing with cluster munition on Kafr Nabouda town in Hama governorate, 7 October 2015

Picture of the remnants of cluster munition in Kafr Nabouda town in Hama governorate, 7 October 2015



- Al-Latamna city, Monday 23 November 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles carrying Ao-2.5RT submunition on the Eastern side of Al-Latamna city which caused mild damages to the agricultural lands.

[Video](#) footage showing cluster remnants and munition after an alleged Russian warplanes bombed Al-Latamna city in Hama, 23 November 2015

- Al-Latamna city, Saturday 28 November 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles carrying ShOAB-0.5 submunition on the northeastern front of the city. The bombing resulted in the injury of one civilian and mild damages to buildings and vehicles.

[Video](#) footage showing remnants of cluster bombs and the damages it caused





Daraa governorate

- Ibta' town, Saturday 27 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired four missiles. Two of the four missiles were RBK-500 carrying AO-2.5RTM/AO-2.5RT submunition on the northeastern sides of Ibta' town which is under the control of armed opposition factions. One woman, Radwa AbdulRazzaq Al-Talfah, was killed. Additionally, two houses and two shops were destroyed almost completely.

Mahmoud Al-Nsierat is a local activist who was a witness to the bombing, he told SNHR:

“Around 9:40 PM, Russian warplanes fired four missiles. Two of them fell on the northeastern side of the town to the side of Qarfa area. The residents told me that one of the missiles was thermobaric while the other carried cluster bombs.”

“The other two missiles fell in the New Market Street near me. One of them carried cluster submunitions that detonated sequentially in the sky and the shrapnels scattered over a distance of 300 meters. Some of the remnants didn’t explode. The tow missiles destroyed no less than nine shops and two homes. Also, one woman was killed.”

“I verified that the warplanes were Russian through the Free Army monitors. Also, the bombing was during night and usually the Syrian regime warplanes don’t conduct airstrikes at these hours.”

“The town is controlled by the Free Army. There are no Islamic organization in the town and the targeted area don’t have any military presence or Free Army centers.”

Pictures of the cluster submunition that didn’t explode – pictures by Mahmoud Al-Nsierat



- Tafas town, Friday 5 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired 10 RBK-500 missiles carrying AO-2.5RTM/AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted several areas in Tafas town that is under the control of armed opposition factions. The bombing resulted in four civilian injuries and mild damages to the makeshift hospital in the town which is affiliated to Doctors Without Borders organization. Also, the bombing caused damages to Al-Ba’l, Al-Ghazali, and Al-Umari Al-Qadeam mosques.





Abu-Ra'd Al-Jbabi is a local media activist in Tafas town who was present during the attack. He told SNHR:

"Around 9:30 PM, airstrikes started targeting the town. The warplanes were soaring at a very high altitude which assured me that the warplanes were Russian as Russian warplanes are the ones that are more capable of conducting airstrikes at night and from a high altitude."

"About 14 cluster missiles were fired which targeted several areas. Three missiles targeted minarets as the mosques of Al-Ba'l, Al-Ghzali, and Al-Umari Al-Qadeam were damaged. Also, the makeshift hospital, which is affiliated to Doctors Without Borders organization, in the town was targeted with two missiles carrying cluster submunition where the first missile fell inside the hospital and the second missile fell in front of the outer fence. There was a missile that fell in a neighborhood located in the outskirts of the town. Each missile contained about 200-300 spherical cluster bombs. However, less than half of the bombs exploded. The civil defense teams collected the remaining bombs and destroyed them. I visited all the places that were targeted and took pictures of the remnants of the cluster bombs."

Pictures of the cluster remnants after alleged Russian warplanes targeted Tafas town in Daraa governorate with cluster missiles, 5 February 2016





- Al-Soura town, Sunday 14 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles carrying AO-2.5RTM/AO-2.5RT submunition on residential neighborhoods in Al-Soura town. Three individuals were injured and three homes were damaged.

SNHR contacted the media activist Ahmad Al-Anwar who told SNHR about the attack:

"About 11:00 AM, I heard a strong sound that was caused by a missile that was fired on the northern neighborhood of the town. Seconds later, the explosion was followed by the sound of successive pops similar to fireworks. 15 minutes later I heard the same sound followed by the same pops but this time it was coming from the southern neighborhood."

"the bombing was by a Russian warplane that dropped two containers carrying cluster bombs. Each container carried about 50 bombs that scattered over an area of 200 meters². Al-Soura town is under the control of Al-Muhajreen Wa Al-Ansar brigade which is a Free Army brigade. There are no centers for ISIS or Al-Nussra Front in the area."

[Video](#) footage show the cluster bombs containers that were dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Al-Soura town in Daraa, 14 February 2016

[Video](#) footage of alleged Russian warplane in the sky of Al-Soura town in Daraa, 14 February 2016

[Video](#) footage of cluster munitions after a bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on Al-Soura town in Daraa, 14 February 2016





Pictures of cluster munitions after a bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on Al-Soura town in Daraa, 14 February 2016



Homs governorate

- Keesein village, Friday 22 January 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired three RBK-500 missiles loaded with ShOAB-0.5 submunition on Keesein village that is under the control of armed opposition faction in Homs governorate. As a result, several houses were damaged in the village. Abbas Abu Osama, a media activist witnessed the incident and told SNHR his testimony:

«Before Al Jom'a prayer about 11:00 am, Russian warplanes were intensively soaring in the sky of the northern suburbs of Homs, then it dropped three containers loaded with cluster bombs. One of them fell on the north of the village while two other fell on the road between Keesein village and Harbnafse village. Each container has about 200 bombs the weight of each one is 400 g. the estimated number of exploded bombs were more than 100, while some of bombs were implanted in the agricultural lands which is a danger to the families in the village. The observatory of the Free Army assured that the bombardment was by Russian warplanes as they were able to bug the communications of the warplanes».





[Image](#) of cluster munition remnants after alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles loaded with cluster munition on Keesein village in Homs village on 22 January 2016.

[Image](#) of cluster munition remnants due to alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles loaded with cluster munition on Keesein village in Homs village on 22 January 2016.

- Kafr Laha, Wednesday 27 January 2016:

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missiles loaded with ShOAB-0.5 sub-munition on residential neighborhood in Kafr Laha city that affiliated to Al Hola Township. As a result, five civilians were killed including one woman and two children, and 30 individuals were injured. In addition to slight damages in the place where the bombs fell.

The victims' names:

1. Samer Abdul Bari Harba, 38-year-old.
2. Fahmeyeh Ibrahim Al Yousof 50-year-old.
3. Amal Mahmud Al Sayeid Ali 13-year-old.
4. Mohammad Mahmoud Al Younes 6-year-old.
5. Alaa Ryad Ibraheim, 32-year-old.

SNHR was able to contact Mr. Abu Ali, a local media activist and eyewitness to the bombardment. He told us his testimony:

«Medium explosion that was followed by sounds of successive explosions which I heard it coming from the west of city, and it was about 14:10. The bombardment was using cluster missiles which was dropped by Russian warplanes from great height which explains the weakness of the explosion.»

The remnants resulted in the injury of children and youths who were playing in the neighboring school yard. Some of remnant fell on the houses resulting in the injury of more than 45 civilians and the death of six others including one woman»

Russia had used this type of weapons in densely populated areas to cause the most injuries, damages, and casualties possible particularly after the displacement of people of the southern suburbs of Hama to the city».





[Image](#) depicts cluster munition in Kafr Laha town:

[Image](#) of Russian plane soaring in the sky of Al Hola city 27 January 2016

- Talbiseh city 5 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired no less than 14 missiles- six were RBK-500 loaded with ShOAB-0.5 submunition on the residential neighborhoods in Talbiseh city that is under the control of armed opposition factions in Homs governorate. The bombardment resulted in the injury of two children in addition to material damages in some houses.

Image of cluster submunition remnants due to alleged Russian warplanes fired cluster missiles on Talbiseh city in Homs governorate on 5 February 2016.



SNHR talked with the media activist Feras who witnessed the bombardment and told us his testimony:

«It was the first time that the Russian warplanes shelled us at night. Three warplanes attacked the residential neighborhoods in the middle of the city and the southern of the city and fired 16 missiles some of them loaded with cluster bombs. On the day after, I was able to record 25 bombs that didn't explode from the bombardment remnants. The bombardment resulted in material damages only, and the injury of two children. However, the bombardment with thermobaric missiles resulted in the death of one girl and the complete destruction of her house, in addition to death of two rebels who were in the residential area»

[Video](#) footage depicts the cluster bombs explosion after bombing by alleged Russian warplanes on Talbiseh city in Homs on 5 February 2016





- Al Dar Al Kabereh town, Monday, 8 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired six missiles on the center of Al Dar Al Kabereh, two of them were RBK-500 loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition. The bombardment resulted in the injury of 12 individuals.

SNHR talked with the media activist Abu AL Baraa Al Homsi who told us his testimony:



«After midnight, the strikes begun on the town. More than six strikes- two of them were with cluster missiles which targeted the public road near the communication tower (Syriatel) on the city center. The rest of missiles were thermobaric and it resulted in the partial destruction of more than 15 houses and the complete destruction of three shops. There were more than 200 cluster bombs in each missile, and they scattered over wide distances. »

“The strikes targeted the densely populated areas. Despite that our village is free of the Islamic organizations, it wasn’t safe from the Russian airstrikes.”

I was informed by the observatory that affiliated to rebels that the bombardment was by three Russian planes»

Image of cluster munition that were dropped by alleged Russian planes on the town. The image source is the media activist, Abu Al Baraa Al Homsi.

Image depicts the destruction after alleged Russian warplanes targeted Al Dar Al Kabera town

Video of the destruction after alleged Russian warplanes targeted Al Dar Al Kabera town in Homs, on 8 February 2016





- Al Makrameyeh village, Thursday 18 February 2016

Alleged Russian warplanes fired four RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on agriculture lands in the outskirts of Al Makrameyeh village. These lands have some IDPs tents from neighboring village. The bombardment resulted in the death of Mrs. Thoraya Asrha, and the injury of 10 civilians, in addition to slight damages in some tents. According to families, the targeted area is far from any military presence of armed opposition factions.

[Video](#) footage depicts cluster bombs which didn't explode after alleged Russian warplanes' shelling with cluster bombs on Al Makrameyeh village in the northern suburbs of Homs, 18 February 2016

- Al-Ghanto town, Wednesday 24 February 2014

Alleged Russian warplanes fired eight RBK-500 missiles loaded with PTAB-1M sunmunition on Al Ghanto town which resulted in the injury of one civilian and severe damage in two buildings.

SNHR talked with the local media activist Mr. Mo'tasim Bellah Sowais who witnessed the bombardment and told us his testimony:

«Two missiles exploded out of the eight missiles that were fired about 23:45. The two missiles fell on two civil houses. As a result, the houses were severely damaged and the fire broke out in them. The engineering team affiliated to Al Tawheid Army disposed of six bombs that were founded before they exploded. I can affirm that the bombardment wasn't by regime forces but by Russian warplanes because it was soaring at night at a great height as we couldn't hear the plane sound like the bombardment of regime»

Image of cluster submunition after alleged Russian warplanes fired cluster missiles on Al Ghanto town in Homs governorate, 24 February 2016





- Ihsim town, Wednesday 7 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired four RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition that targeted agriculture lands in southern Ihsim town.

[Image](#) of cluster submunition remnants after alleged Russian warplanes fired cluster missiles on Ihsim town in Idlib governorate, 7 October 2015

[Image](#) of cluster submunition remnants after alleged Russian warplanes fired cluster missiles on Ihsim town in Idlib governorate, 7 October 2015

- Ma'aret Al-Nu'man city, Wednesday 7 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired three RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on a residential neighborhood in the north of Ma'aret Al Nu'man city which resulted in the injury of one child and slight damages to the buildings

[Image](#) of cluster submunition remnants dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Ma'aret Al Nu'man city, 7 October 2015

[Image](#) of cluster bombs that didn't explode, dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Ma'aret Al Nu'man city, 7 October 2015

- Ma'saran village, Wednesday 7 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired eight missiles on residential houses in the entrance of Ma'saran village. Two of them were RBK-500 loaded with AO-2.5RT submunitions. The six thermobaric missiles resulted in the death of six civilians including two children and three women.

Mo'ath Al Shami, a media activist. He spoke to SNHR about the attack:

«The Russian warplanes shelled us with at least eight missiles. Six of them were thermobaric type, and two were loaded with cluster submunition. The bombardment targeted the outskirts of the village while the remnants of bombardment scattered over a distance of more than 50 meters.

I went to the place of the bombardment, and recorded the destruction and the corpses of victims. During that, I heard a sound that resulted from the explosion of one of cluster remnants bombardment on the hand of person as he tried to come near it. That resulted in injuries in his chest and foot.

The bombardment resulted in the death of a whole family, there were children under the rubble. I saw a corpse of a three-year-old girl which





was distorted and burned due to the bombardment. There was one woman among the victims.”

There were no military centers in the targeted area. ISIS was no less than 80 km away from the village, but the Russian warplanes targeted civilians only»

[Video](#) footage depicts the destruction due to Russian warplanes shelling on Ma'saran village in Idlib, 7 October 2015

- Al Nqaeir camp in Idlib, 9 October 2015

Suspected Russian rocket launchers targeted Al Nqaei camp in Idlib with rocket shells which resulted in the death of five civilians including two children and one woman, and the injury of 20 civilians, in addition to great damages to 20 tents.

The victims' names:

The girl Batool Mohammad Shamma, 5-year-old

The child Marwan Abdul Kareim Abu Ali

Karmo Marouan Al Darweish

Ahmad Ibraheim Al Darweish

Fatima Ibraheim Al Darweish

The media activist in the southern suburbs of Idlib and the northern suburbs of Hama, Ibraheim Al Shamali, told SNHR:

«The camp is located in the northern of Al Habeit town in the agriculture lands. The regime barrel bombs had targeted us last year. But this time the shelling was with cluster munition from Hama Airport which has become a Russian operation room since the beginning of the Russian intervention. The families told us that was the first time they heard these sounds. The explosions were strong and resulted in damages in agriculture lands»

[Video](#) footage depicts cluster submunition remnants due to government launchers firing rockets on Al Naqier camp, 9 October 2015





- Kansafra town, Wednesday 28 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RT submunitions on the center of Kansafra town.

SNHR talked with the media activist Abdul Razzaq Khaleil. He told us his testimony:

«The bombardment started at 18:00, when we heard the sound of soaring plane. Although the weather was rainy which usually impedes the regime planes from soaring and that made me sure that the airstrikes were Russian in addition the confirmation of the observatory of rebels.»

“I heard the sound of two missiles that fell on the ground but I couldn't hear the sound of the explosion. When I went to the place with the civil defense team, a civil defense element warned me from coming close because there were cluster submunition in the place and it was scattered over the distance of more than 500m. ”

“The bombardment targeted the town center, about 200 m from the high school for boys, which is a populated area and free of any military headquarters»

[Images](#) of [cluster](#) submunition remnants in Kansafra town

- Ma'aret Al Nu'man Thursday 29 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on Hersh Ma'aret Al Nu'man area in Ma'aret Al Nu'man which resulted in material damages to the external equipment of the water well that provides the city.

Mostafa Ghareib, a local media activist, from the city told SNHR his testimony:



«Two Russian warplanes were in the sky, they fired two missiles, a missile exploded in the sky and the bombs scattered over a distance of 1-2 km. the bombs were scattered across the agriculture lands, near a well that provides Ma'aret Al Nu'man, its external equipment were damaged. I collected by myself 97 cluster bombs which didn't explode»





[Video](#) footage depicts the cluster bombs that were dropped by alleged Russian warplanes on Ma'aret Al Nu'man 29 October 2016

[Images](#) depict alleged Russian cluster submunition in Ma'aret Al Nu'man city

- Kafr Owayeid village, Thursday 29 October 2015

Alleged Russian warplanes fired a RBK-500 missile loaded with AO-2.5RT submunition on the western neighborhood of Kafr Owayeid village which resulted in the injury of one child in addition to damages to Ahmad Meghlaj School

[Images](#) of cluster submunition after a [bombing](#) by alleged Russian warplanes

- Obien camp- Obien village, Monday 9 November 2015

The camp is located near Al Youniseyeh village in western suburbs of Jisr Al Shoghour, the camp has civilians and there are no armed opposition centers in or near it. Ballistic missiles type 9m79 loaded with cluster submunition suspected to be Russian targeted the northeast of the camp which resulted in the injury of nine individuals and the damage of 15 tents.

SNHR contacted Mr. Abu Mohammad Hosam, the manager of the civil defense center in Bdama town near Obien village, who went to the place of the bombardment, and told us his testimony:

«Between 1:30 and 2:00 pm we receive news of the falling of big ballistic missile on the northeast of the camp. I went to the place to aid the injured and victims. »

“People told me that the missile exploded in the sky before it fell on the ground and split into two parts the pushing part and the head which included cluster bombs. 20 bombs fell within the IDPs tents, seven of them had exploded, and our team removed 13 bombs which didn’t explode. The bombs scattered over a distance of 150 m. The causalities of the bombardment were five civilians, and no less than 10 others were injured. The injuries varied between mild, moderate, and severe. Most of the injured were children and women. The bombardment resulted in material damages in 15 tents.”

“I saw the remnants of the missiles, it seemed that it was launched by Russian battleships as it was very huge and I don’t think that it is from surface launcher. And we didn’t see any warplanes in sky at the moment of the bombardment.”





“Hundreds of IDPs from the suburbs of Aleppo and Idlib live in the camp, but they weren’t safe from the Russian strikes.”

Images of cluster remnants after an alleged Russian ballistic missile targeted Obien camp, 9 November 2015



- Ma’aret Al Nu’mān city Monday 14 December 2015

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM submunition on the western side of Ma’aret Al Nu’mān. As a result, five civilians were killed including one girl and 10 others were injured. The bombardment resulted in a fire in one shop and the damage of the neighboring buildings.

The city is jointly controlled by Al Nusra Front and armed opposition factions.

SNHR was able to contact Mr. Abu Diea from the observatory who followed the planes movement. He told us his testimony:

Images of cluster submunition remnants





«We were able to observe the exit of one Russian plane from Hmeimem airport in Latakia. The pilot was communicating with the military base when the missiles were fired from more than 8 km high. The bombardment was at 13:00 on Al Corniche Street in the western neighborhood of the city with two missiles. I was informed that they were cluster and tens of the bombs dropped didn't explode. A group of the civil defense broke up the cluster submunition which didn't explode and removed it from the street. The bombardment resulted in a damage in one shop and a number of neighboring houses in addition to the death of four civilians and the injury of 10 others».

SNHR contacted Mr. Hamoud, from Ma'aret Al Nu'man and he told us his testimony:

«About 12:30 pm I saw the Russian plane. It was distinctive as its color is white and has a long head. The plane fired two missiles, one of them fell on Al Dalli circle but it didn't explode, the other exploded near So'oud bakery in North corniche. I heard successive explosions resulted from the explosion of cluster remnants which were loaded in the missile. The civil defense found about 20 bombs in the container which didn't explode. The fall of missile resulted in partial damage in one shop and the burning of one other, while the victims of the bombardment were 14 that varied between martyrs and injured. »

The victims' names.

Video footage depicts the container and numbers of cluster submunition remnants after an allegedly Russian warplanes' shelling on Ma'aret Al Nu'man in Idlib 14 December 2015

Images of cluster bomb that didn't explode

- Ma'aret Al Na'san village Tuesday 15 December 2015

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired five missiles, one of them were loaded with cluster submunition that targeted fuel market in northeast of Ma'aret Al Na'san which resulted in the burning of the market and the cars that transfer the fuel, in addition to damages in the market building.





SNHR talked with the media activist Tawfeiq Katyan who told us his testimony:

«About 9:30 am, according to rebels' observatory, Russian planes attacked fuel market in the village two times. First time was with three missiles which is suspected to be thermobaric due the intensity of the bombardment that resulted from it and the volume of holes it made. The first attack was on a funeral that was passing near the market. While the second attack was with two missiles one of them were cluster that targeted the market center. The container had about 32 bombs, this type wasn't used by the regime warplanes but it was used by helicopter. The cluster shrapnel were scattered over a distance of 10 km.”

There wasn't any military centers for the factions that control the village which are « Ahrar Al Sham and Soqor Al Sham» in addition to small group of Al Nussra Front in the market or near it as all their centers were outside the village»

[Video](#) footage depicts cluster munition remnants in Ma'aret Al Na'san village

[Image](#) depicts remnants of cluster munition containers that dropped by allegedly Russian planes

- Saraqeb city, Friday 22 January 2016

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired RBK-500 missiles loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on the agriculture lands that is located about four kilometers north of Saraqeb city

SNHR contacted Mr. Layeth Fares a civil defense member who told us his testimony:

«About 6:30 pm, Russian warplanes fired four missiles loaded with cluster submunition, in each one there was about 60 bombs.

Two missiles fell on the east of the highway and two missiles fell on the west of the highway. The bombardment didn't cause any casualties, so we didn't go to the place until the next day. We collected 50 bombs that didn't explode which scattered over an area of 1.5 square kilometers.”

“I was informed that the warplanes were Russian, according to rebel's observatory. The eyewitnesses also told me that the sound was low and they couldn't hear it until the warplanes left the place»





[Image](#) depicts [cluster](#) submunition that didn't explode which dropped by allegedly Russian warplanes

[Image](#) of cluster submunition container dropped by allegedly Russian warplanes

[Image](#) of a hole caused by one cluster munition in the ground

- Tal Mardeikh village, Wednesday17

February 2016

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired two RBK-500 missiles loaded with ShO-AB-0.5 submunition which targeted the agriculture lands in the outskirts of Mardeikh town.

Image of cluster submunition after an allegedly Russian warplanes' shelling on Mardikh village



B. ISIS controlled areas:

Deir Ez-Zour governorate

- Al-Bolail town Tuesdays 19 January 2016

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired one RBK-500 missile loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on Rowayda neighborhood in Al Bolail town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour. As a result, seven individuals were killed including two children and 25 other were injured.

The victims' names:

- 1.Ghassan Mohammad Hmoud Al Afat
2. Miz'el Al Shaman
3. Mhaydi Saleh Al Hasan Al Shihali
4. The girl of Ahmad Saleh Al Mahal, 8-year-old





5. Bashar Jaber Al Mikhlig, from Mohasan city
6. Unidentified child- the son of Fawaz Hamad Al Afat
7. Eng. Othman Al Hasan Al Shihali Abu Al Hasan

[Image](#) of cluster submunition dropped by allegedly Russian warplanes on Rowayda neighborhood in Al Bolail town in Deir Ez-Zour, 19 January 2016

- Hatla town, Friday 5 February 2016

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired one RBK-500 missile loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on agriculture lands in Hatla town that is located the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour.

[Image](#) of cluster submunition dropped by allegedly Russian warplanes on Hatla town

Al Raqqa governorate

- Ma'dan town, Monday 1 February 2016

Allegedly Russian warplanes fired one RBK-500 missile loaded with AO-2.5RTM / AO-2.5RT submunition on Ma'dan town in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour. As a result, eight individuals were killed including one child and two women.

The victims' names:

1. Ahmad Fayad Al Naser
2. Jihad Ghazi Al Naser
3. Ahmad Kamel Al Naser
4. Mahmoud Al Haid
5. The wife of Husain Al Ali Al Trad
6. 7-8- Maizar Al Shawish and his wife and his child

[Image](#) of a [cluster submunition container](#) dropped by allegedly Russian warplanes on Ma'dan





IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Use of cluster munition by Russian forces is a violation of the principles of distinction and proportionality that are established in the international humanitarian law. The incidents included in this report constitute war crimes especially that evidences suggest that cluster munition were used against civil targets rather than to accomplish specific military objects.

Recommendations:

To the Russian government:

- The Russian government must immediately cease the use and manufacture of cluster munition in Syria and start destroying its arsenal of cluster munition and join the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- To investigate all the violations included in this report. We are willing to provide all detailed evidences and aid in the process of holding the responsible for these crimes accountable.
- To publish detailed maps that illustrate the sites where cluster attacks occurred and make these maps available for the United Nations and the Syrian community which will facilitate the process of the disposal of the remnants that didn't explode yet.
- To insure reparations to the Syrian society for all the material and moral damages and particularly to the victims and their families for all the To the Security Council:
- The Security Council must adopt a resolution particularly on the prohibition of cluster munitions in Syria akin to what happened with the chemical weapons.
- The fact that Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council must not impede Russia from being held accountable by the Security Council itself. Otherwise,

the Security Council will lose its remaining credibility.

To Friends of Syria group:

- To condemn the use of cluster munitions against the Syrian people by the Russian forces and to press on Russia to cease its ongoing and repeated violations which implies that this is a policy for the Russian State.
- To refuse to recognize Russia as a part of the political conversation and political transition in Syria in case it kept perpetrating widespread and systematic violations against the Syrian people. The use of cluster munition is a blatant evidence on the violations of the Russian forces.

Human Rights Council and the International Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic:





- To issue a statement condemning the use of cluster munition by the Russian government.
- To work on document incidents that involve the use of cluster munitions by the Russian government.
- To conduct extensive studies in the sites where cluster munitions were used by Russian forces to warn the residents of these areas and accelerate the process of the disposal of cluster remnants. Thousands of hectares in Syria are polluted by remnants of cluster munitions. SNHR is fully prepared to contribute in that matter.

Acknowledgments

Our most heartfelt condolences go out for the families of victims and wounded and our most sincere thanks and appreciation to them and the eyewitnesses, media activists, and local activists who all contributed majorly to this report.

