Barrel bombs in Syria ..
Blind bombs for kill and destruction
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What is barrel bomb:

Syrian Regime used barrel bombs, which is a bomb has two types either in cement mold or solid metal mold, equipped with push fan in the back and detonator in the top, the barrels explode after being dropped, where the fuse ignites when it hits the target, It has different capacities may reach almost 500 Liter, has hooks on the sides help to lift it and put it in military aviation.

It stuffed with TNT, oil, it designed to set fire in a wider area, and chunks of steel are added in order to be fragments, it caused material damages, varying injuries like burnings, and may the loss of body parts, if the victim is a child or close to the site it may led to kill them, not to mention the pressure of explosion, and the huge bang sound.

They use military aviation to shell those barrels, Syrian regime use it because they cost much less than the cost of the missiles, and have great destructive effects, it depends of the principle of free-fall, where its weight may exceed sometimes quarter ton.

Barrel bombs effects:

Syrian Network for Human Rights consider bombed barrels as random weapons aimed to indiscriminate kill and destruction, According to a survey conducted by SNHR in all of the Syrian governorate since the beginning of the Syrian revolution to the time we prepared this report, government forces used more than 1370 bombed barrels led to kill more than 947 citizens including more than 189 children, more than 95% of the killed are civilians which is a strict evidence that these weapons are random aimed just to kill.

Those barrel bombs caused mass destruction, where it caused damage and destroy to at least 5400 buildings including: houses, schools, mosques, and churches, the effects of the huge holes caused by those barrels exists to this moment, mostly in residential neighborhoods.

Barrel bombs use:

Aleppo governorate: Saturday 30/11/2013, approximately at 3:00pm, two helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on a crowded market in Albab city of Aleppo, it instantly led to kill 10 residents and injured dozens.

Government forces and during military campaign launched against Sphira city of Aleppo governorate from 7/10/2013 to 30/10/2013, caused almost completely destruction to the entire
city, where the city was shelling with at least 300 barrel bombs, in addition to neighborhoods inside the city of Aleppo as Alsakhour neighborhood, as targeted Khan Alasal with those barrel bombs in 2/3/2013.

Alraqqa governorate which controlled by armed opposition in 4/3/2013, government forces punished the residential by shelling more them with more than 15 barrel bombs, as they use it in their attack against armed opposition, where they shelled the surrounding area of brigade 14 with more than 25 barrel bombs, they shell the governorate every month periodically with more than 3 barrels, with a rate of 1 barrel every 10 days.

Homs governorate: they shelled the besieged neighborhood of the city very intensively, where SNHR's team estimated targeting those neighborhoods with more than 100 barrels.

Idlib governorate: Ariha city had the greatest part of the barrel bombs, where at least they shelled it with almost 150 barrels, followed by Maarat Alnoaman in addition to Jisr Alshogor, Hish, Basnakoul, Bara villages, many town in Idlib countryside.

Damascus governorate: shelled every two weeks periodically with at least 1 barrel, caused a massacre and the kill of entire families, we recorded an average rate in Damascus countryside with almost 5 barrels in month, and focused on the Eastern Ghota as Doma, and also on the Western Ghota as Daria and Moadamiah.

Hama governorate: Many towns in the eastern countryside of Hama was shelled by barrel bombs, the most urban population suffered from those barrels is Halfaia city of Hama countryside.

Dier ez Zoor governorate: the widespread use of barrel bombs extend to the eastern area, where they shelled Bo-Kamal city in 16/9/2013, in many barrels causing mass destruction and huge losses.

Syrian Network for Human Rights' director Fadel Abdulghani said "the international 'silence' of the use of such kind of weapons, which in any case can't cause an accurate military target, and that is a real threat and collapse of several major principles in International Humanitarian Law"
Proofs and attachments:

The most prominent videos and photos that documents the use of barrel bombs by government forces, the victims and destruction resulted in many Syrian governorate:

Videos shows barrels were dropped from warplane and didn't explode:

- Jisr Alshoghour of Idlib governorate 21/1/2013
- Hish town of Idlib 24/1/2013:

- Sakhour neighborhood of Aleppo 31/1/2013
- Eastern countryside of Hama 24/6/2013

- Basnakoul town of Idlib 8/7/2013
- Bara town of Idlib 31/7/2013

- Yabroud city of Damascus countryside 5/8/2013
- Bo Kamal city of Dier ez-Zoor governorate 16/9/2013

- Sphira city of Aleppo 11/10/2013
Video shows barrels were dropped from warplanes:

- Aleppo: Albab city 30/11/2013

- Photos of the mass destruction caused in the city:
Barrel bombs

Syrian Network for Human Rights

www.syrianhr.org
- Ariha town of Idlib 13/4/2013

- Jabal Alzawia of Idlib 1/8/2013
- Ariha town of Idlib 21/8/2013

- Mraean town of Idlib 25/8/2013
Syrian Network for Human Rights

- Kafar Naboda town of Hama 20/9/2013

- Alarbain mountain of Idlib 27/9/2013
- Morak town of Hama 2/10/2013

- Sphira city of Aleppo 10/10/2013
- *Sphira city of Aleppo 27/10/2013*

Video shows destructions caused by barrel bombs:

- *Tabaqa of Raqqa 8/6/2013*
Conclusions:

1. Syrian network for human rights emphasize that the shelling by barrel bombs was deliberately and aimed civilian targets, so the Shabieha and Government forces violated international human rights law that protects the right of life. in addition that it has committed in non-international armed conflict so it tantamount to war crimes and had all the elements.

2. SNHR considered shelling accompanied by killings is a war crime, this is not the first time, but it's almost daily event in all Syrian governorate, so its systematic and widespread methodology.

3. Random attacks committed by Syrian government consider as violations of customary IHL, because they shell populated areas, not specific military target.

4. Those attacks, specially shelling, caused accidently looses in civilians lives, injury, or damaged civilian objects, there are very strong indications to believe that damaged was too excessive when compared with expected military benefit.

5. The size and repeated nature of the massacre, the level of excessive force used, in addition to the random nature of the shelling, and coordinating attacks cannot be but only supreme directives which is state policy.

Recommendations:

Syrian Governments:

1. Immediately stop all human rights' violations.

2. Respect international obligations of protection of civilians in time of war, and respect for rules of international humanitarian law and international human rights law
Human Rights Council:

1- Demand the Security Council and the concerned international institutions to hold their responsibilities of what's happening for the Syrian People of killing, rape, displacement, and arrested.

2- Pressure on the Syrian Government Troops to stop shelling, killing and release all kidnapped and arrested.

3- Hold alias and supporters of the Syrian Government Troops: Russia, Iran and China, the moral and physical responsibilities for what's happening to the Syrian people.

4- Serious attention of this case and give it high priority, and try to take care of victim families Psychologically and materially and educationally.

Security Council:

1- Decision to refer all the criminals and the involved to ICC

2- Warn the Syrian Government Troops of their percussions of using brutal methods on the stability of civil peace and coexistence between the people of the same society

3- Insert Syrian National Army, and Shabiha troops loyal to Syrian Government's

Arab League:

1- Demand Human Right Council and United Nations to give a serious and right attention of stop daily killing.

2- Political and diplomatic pressure on the Syrian Government Troops's main allies-Russia, Iran and China-to prevent them from continuous providing cover and international and political protection for all the crimes committed against the Syrian people and hold them moral and physical responsibility for all the excesses of the Syrian Government Troops.

3- Serious attention of this case and give it high priority, and try to take care of victim families Psychologically and materially and educationally.
International Commission of Inquiry:

The International Commission of inquiry must stop describing the conflict in Syria as a conflict between two equal parties in crimes, power and centralized decision, and give an accurate description of violations without alleviate for political purposes.

The committee must also increase its carders in Syria because of the magnitude of the daily crimes to enable them of wider and more comprehensive committed documentation.