



The 2nd Anniversary of UNSC Resolution 2139 Not Less than 19947 Barrel Bombs killed 8136 Civilians

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I. Introduction

The Syrian people were pleased with the UNSC resolution 2139 that was issued on 22 February 2014 as it stated to: “immediately cease all attacks against civilians” and explicitly expressed “its intent to take further steps in the case of non-compliance with the resolution.” However, through daily documentation concerning the use of barrel bombs used, we found no difference before that the Security Council resolution was issued and after. Government forces continued to shell residents with barrel bombs; a clear violation and insult for the Security Council and a dictatorial triumph over democracy.

Based on the monthly reports and documentation, we confirm that since the resolution was issued, not less than 19947 barrel bombs killed 8136 civilians. All victims are documented by name, date, and cause of death. Several cases were reported to the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings. Additionally, SNHR communicated with several activists and residents and conducted several interviews, where two interviews are depicted in this report. We explained the goal of the interviews to the witnesses and were granted their consent to use the information they provide in this report. We verified the photos and videos we had received, and we kept copies of all the video clips and images used in this report.

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. 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%.

In some cases, we documented the use of barrel bombs that were loaded with toxic gases, which is considered a violation for resolution 2118 issued on 27 September 2013, and resolution 2209 that was issued on 6 March 2015.

In this report depict the toll of barrel bombs used, the shelling outcomes and aftermath, in addition to the most significant facilities that were shelled with barrel bombs keeping in mind all the challenges and obstacles we face.

The only conflict party who possesses this kind of weapons is the ruling regime; however its officials deny the use of these barrel bombs as weapons just like they deny all their other crimes. Additionally, the current government prohibits all different kinds of media outlets or independent international organizations. This report depicts the use of barrel bombs by the Syrian government only, regardless of the other conflict parties like armed opposition, extremist Islamic groups and Kurdish Self Management Forces) since they do not possess airpower.

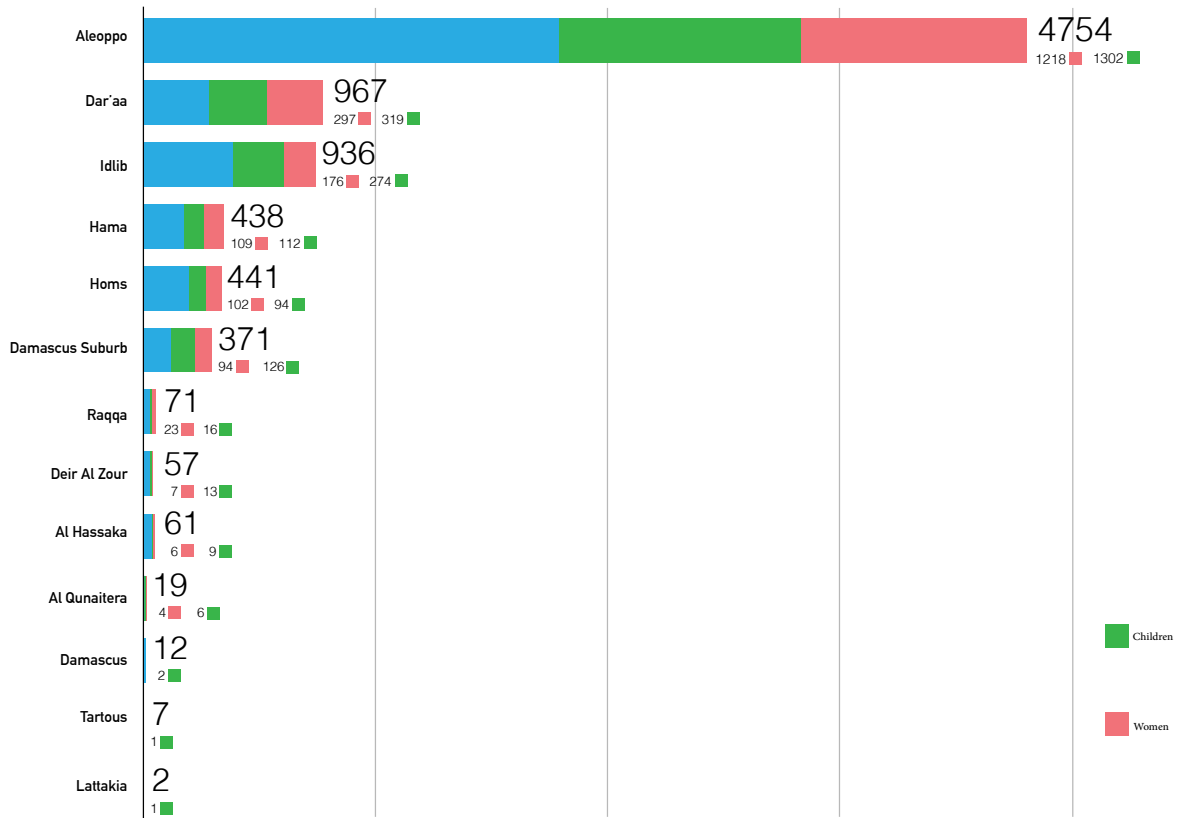
SNHR studies and reports prove that most of the attacks were deliberate and targeted crowded civilian areas. The government's aerial bombardment, displacement and destruction it causes are apparently aimed at thwarting the establishment of any governance model that may serve as a substitute for the Assad government.

II. Executive Summary

Since UNSC resolution 2139 was issued on 22 February 2014 and until 20 February 2016, not less than 19947 barrel bombs were dropped by government helicopters on different Syrian governorates.

Those barrel bombs killed 8136 civilians including 2274 children and 2036 women according to SNHR documentation team. The death toll is detailed as follows:





II. Report Details:

In what follows the highlights of the barrel bomb shelling incidents on different Syrian governorates. Significant exerts have been taken from each monthly report.

- Damascus Suburbs Governorate:

On 22 May 2015, government helicopters dropped barrel bombs next to Al Marah mosque in Al Zabadani city in Damascus suburbs which caused some damages. No human casualties or injuries were reported.

On 15 August 2015, government helicopters dropped 3 barrel bombs on Baseema town in Damascus suburbs which killed 8 individuals, including 5 children and two women, most of them were from one family.

On 12 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 24 barrel bombs on [Daraya](#) city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which [killed 6 individuals](#) including a pregnant woman.





On 30 January 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb next to the civil defense center in Daraya city in Damascus suburbs which damaged [the center greatly](#).

- Aleppo Governorate:

On 6 March 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Omar Bin Al Khat-tab mosque in Hraytan city in Aleppo which caused severe damage.



On 11 April 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on the [vegetables market](#) in Al [Ma'adi neighborhood](#) in Aleppo which [killed 26 civilians](#) including 6 children and a woman.

On 12 May 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb](#) on a [car garage](#) in Al [Jisr region](#) in Aleppo which [killed 30 civilians](#) including 2 children and a woman. More than [50 individuals](#) were injured.



On 30 May 2015, government helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on a market in Al-Bab city which [killed 53 victims](#) including [three children and one woman](#).



On 16 September 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [Al Mashhad](#) neighborhood that is under the control of armed opposition groups in Aleppo, which killed 20 individuals, including 11 children and two women. [Most of the victims were from one family](#).

On 25 December 2015, government warplanes launched [two barrel bombs](#) next to Baghdad Make-shift Hospital in Hraytan city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. As a result, one person died.





On 10 January 2016, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the houses that surrounds Yaked Western Elementary School in Yaked Al Adas town that belongs to Adnan city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. As a result, a student was killed and two others were injured; and the school was damaged as well.

- Daraa Governorate:

On 21 March 2015 government helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on Omar Bin Al Khattab mosque](#) in Mamreen town in Daraa which destroyed it almost completely.

On 23 July 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on [Al Ghariya town](#) in Daraa suburbs. 15 persons were killed, including 7 children and 5 women.

On 11 September 2015, government helicopters dropped [three barrel bombs](#) on a crowded market in [Busra Al Sham in Daraa](#) which [killed 22 individuals](#) including a child and 6 women.

On 19 November 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [Martyr Waleed Khattab Hospital](#) in Nawa city in Daraa suburbs which caused great material damages to it and caused it to go out of service.

On 22 December 2015, government warplanes [dropped two barrel bombs on the archeological citadel](#) in Busra [Al Sham in Daraa](#) suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. [The citadel was greatly damaged](#), the columns, hallways, [the Roman theater](#) and the citadel's wall.





Idlib Governorate:

On 17 March 2015 government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb](#) that was loaded with [chlorine gas](#) on [Sermeen](#) city in Idlib which [killed 7 individuals including 3 children and 2 women.](#)



On 13 April 2015, government helicopters dropped an [explosive container](#) next to [Orient ambulance station](#) in Idlib which injured several medical personnel and [damaged the station.](#)



On 21 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a mosque in Idlib – Qmianas village which destroyed it almost completely.

On 15 June 2015, government aviation dropped two barrel bombs on Ma’art No’man museum in Idlib casing [partial destruction to it.](#)

On 16 July 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on [Ma’art Misreen](#) in Idlib suburbs. 16 persons were killed, including [2 children and a woman.](#)

- Homs Governorate:

On 4 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Rastan Elementary school in Homs which injured some students and destroyed some classes.

On 7 June 2015, government aviation dropped [three barrel bombs](#) on [Al Za’afaraneh town](#) in Homs killing [19 individuals](#), including a [child.](#)





On 22 September 2015, government helicopters dropped 40 barrel bombs on Palmyra city. One of the barrel bombs fell on a residents' gathering which killed 12 individuals. Moreover, 42 others were injured.

On 27 October 2015, government helicopters dropped [several barrel bombs](#) next to one of the mosques in Al Halmouz town that is under the control of armed opposition in Homs which [damaged the mosque](#).

Hama Governorate:

On 6 March 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the fifth [makeshift hospital](#) in Kafar Zeita city in Hama which greatly damaged the hospital and caused it to [go out of service](#). [No casualties were recorded.](#)

On 5 May 2015, government helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb on Al Shirka town](#) in Hama which [killed 9 civilians including a child](#) and 3 women.

On 28 July 2015, government warplanes [dropped a number of barrel bombs](#) on [Al Maddek Fort](#) in Hama. [10 persons were killed](#), including a child and four women.

On 11 September 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a [school](#) in Al Latamena city in northern Hama suburbs which caused great [destruction to the school](#).

On 16 February 2016 government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs next to Abu Baker Al Sedeek in Kafar Zieta city in Hama northern suburbs which [destroyed the mosque](#) that was previously [shelled several times](#).

- Damascus Governorate:

On 9 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Palestine Hospital that belongs to the Syrian [Red Crescent in Al Yarmouk Camp](#) in Damascus which led to an almost complete destruction in its final floor. The hospital was greatly [damaged](#) as well but we did not record any [human casualties](#).

On 7 April 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near the electricity company in Damascus – Al-Yarmouk camp. The building was damaged.





On 5 October 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Qudus School in Al Yarmouk camp in Damascus that belongs to the UNRWA which caused material damages to the school.

- Deir Al Zour Governorate:

On 3 May 2015, government helicopters dropped 3 barrel bombs on Hatla town in Deir Al Zour which killed 8 civilians including 4 children and injured 12 others.



On 23 May 2015, government warplanes [dropped a barrel bomb](#) on one of the residential buildings in [Al Hamadeyi neighborhood](#) which [killed 18 civilians including 10 children](#) and a woman. [25 others were injured.](#)

On 17 May 2015, government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb on [Ameen Marzouk School](#) in Al [Aradi](#) neighborhood in [Deir Al Zour city](#) which greatly [destroyed it.](#)

- Al Hassaka Governorate:

On 15 April 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on Al Shadadi Hospital in Al Hassaka which destroyed four rooms in the hospital and [destroyed all the equipment](#) and [machines in it.](#)

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.

- Lattakia Governorate:

On 4 November 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a mosque in Al Rabea' town that is under the control of armed opposition in Lattakia governorate. The mosque's building was partially damaged [the mosque's building and its minaret](#), thus causing it [to go out of service.](#)





On 23 November 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in a school that sheltered displaced people in Kabeena town that is under the control of armed opposition in Lattakia suburbs which greatly damaged the school's building and caused it to go out of service.

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council resolution 2139 and used barrel bombs in a widespread and systematic manner. Furthermore, the Syrian government perpetrated the crime of murder in a widespread and systematic manner according to Article VII of The International Criminal Court Rome Statute. Additionally, it violated many principles of the international humanitarian law and perpetrated tens of crimes that can be classified openly as war crimes through its indiscriminate and proportionate bombing.
2. SNHR notes that the bombing using explosive barrels is an act of indiscriminate bombing that targeted armless civilians, thus the government forces and its militias have violated the articles of the international law for human rights which guarantee the right to live. Furthermore these violations were perpetrated during a non-international armed conflict and hence can be absolutely classified as war crimes.
3. The random attacks committed by the government forces are considered violations of the customary international law considering the fact that government forces have attacked residential areas rather than a specific military target.
4. These attacks, especially aerial bombing, have caused immeasurable humanitarian and material losses. There are strong indicators that prove that the damage was deeply severe compared to the expected military advantage.
5. The magnitude of this wide systematic frequent bombing, the level of its excessive strength, its military nature, and the coordinated approach of these attacks must be based on high orders, and a state policy.
6. Government forces, and all of its leaderships and forms, are responsible for crimes against humanity and war crimes as well as any parties that support the Syrian government politically, materially, and militarily – such as the Russian government, the Iranian government, and Hezbollah in addition to the weapon manufacturing companies. All of these parties must be prosecuted for the crimes they perpetrated, or contributed to, against the Syrian people.





Recommendations

The Security Council

1. The Security Council should take serious steps in order to implement its resolutions which have become ineffective and thus lost all of its credibility and purpose.
2. Also, it should impose an arms embargo on the Syrian government and prosecute anyone who supplies the Syrian government with money and weapon considering that those resources are being used to perpetrate crimes and serious human rights violations.
3. The Security Council is the party who has the authority to refer the Syrian case to the International Criminal Court. Instead of preserving peace and security, the Security Council is hindering this step. Everyone responsible for war crimes and crimes against must be prosecuted.

Attachments:

A. Videos that depict the use of barrel bombs by the Syrian government:

- A video that depicts an unexploded barrel bomb that was dropped by government helicopters on Al Latamna city in Hama on 8 March 2015.



- A video that depicts the shelling with barrel bombs on Al Mayser neighborhood in Aleppo on 4 April 2015



- A [video](#) that depicts the location of a shelled barrel bomb on Inkhil city in Daraa on 13 March 2015

- A video that depicts the shelling with barrel bombs that was loaded with toxic gasses on Al Tamane'aa town in Idlib on 10 April 2015

- A video that depicts the moment a barrel bomb was shelled on Saraqib city in Idlib on 27 March 2015





- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Talbisa city in Homs on 3 May 2015



- A [video](#) that depicts the location of a shelled barrel bomb on Ein Zakar town in Daraa on 20 May 2015

- A video that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on [Al Bu Omar town in Deir Al Zour](#), on 2 June 2015

Images that depict unexploded barrel bombs dropped by government aviation on Kafr Aweed town on 15 July 2015.



- A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with 4 barrel bombs on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs on 8 October 2015



- A video that depicts the shelling with a two barrel bombs on Mo'adamiyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs on 3 November 2015





- A [video](#) that depicts the shelling with 4 barrel bombs on Daraya city on 21 November 2015



- An [image](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Daraa Al Balad city in Daraa on 14 December 2015



- A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Talaf town in Hama suburbs on 27 December 2015

-An image that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Al Ghanto town in Homs on 29 December 2015



A. Links to the monthly reports issued by SNHR which documents the use of barrel bombs:

- [Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in January 2015](#)

949 Barrel Bombs Killed 122 Individuals, including 21 Children and 18 Women

- [Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in February 2015](#)

1113 Barrel Bombs Killed 126 Individuals, including 21 Children and 12 Women

- [Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in March 2015](#)

1478 Barrel Bombs Killed 104 Individuals, including 33 Children and 19 Women

- [Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in April 2015](#)

1258 Barrel Bombs Killed 241 Individuals, including 79 Children and 57 Women





[- Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in May 2015](#)

1648 Barrel Bombs Killed 330 Individuals, including 79 Children and 45 Women

[- Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in June 2015](#)

1848 Barrel Bombs Killed 324 Individuals, including 86 Children and 57 Women

[- Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in July 2015](#)

2041 Barrel Bombs Killed 368 Individuals, including 83 Children and 63 Women

[- Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in August 2015](#)

1591 Barrel Bombs Killed 115 Individuals, including 37 Children and 31 Women

[- Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in September 2015](#)

1715 Barrel Bombs Killed 103 Individuals, including 23 Children and 13 Women

[- Unlike the Russian Ambassador's Announcement, Syrian Government's Barrels Did not Stop for a Day in October 2015](#)

1438 Barrel Bombs Killed 69 Individuals, including 9 Children and 8 Women

[- More Than 3173 Barrel Bombs Dropped On Syria since the Russian Military Intervention](#)

1083 Barrel Bombs Killed 51 Individuals, including 16 Children and 7 Women in November 2015

[- More than 17,318 Barrel Bombs killed 2,032 individuals including 499 children and 338 women in 2015](#)

1,156 amongst which killed 76 individuals including 12 children and 8 women in December 2015

[- More Than 5238 Barrel Bombs Dropped On Syria since the Russian Military Intervention](#)

1428 Barrel Bombs Killed 22 Individuals, including 7 Children and 4 Women in January 2016

Acknowledgments

Our most profound condolences go out to the victims' families and friends and our thanks to the local activists and families who contributed majorly to this report.

