



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

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I. Introduction:

Unlike the Russian ambassador's announcement in the United Nations, that the Syrian regime stopped using barrel bombs, however SNHR's daily documentation proved the opposite. In this monthly report we present documented cases by time, place, and images of the Syrian regime's use of barrel bombs. 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 Shi-ite 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 respond 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 in 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.

Additionally, in some cases we documented the use of barrel bombs that contained toxic gases by government forces which violates UN Security Council resolution 2118 and 2209. 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.

I. Executive Summary:

• **Toll of The Syrian Government's Use of Barrel Bombs in 2015:**

A. Toll of Barrel Bombs Used in 2015:

Through our daily documentation, SNHR team was able to document the use of not less than 17,318 barrel bombs in 2015, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governo- rates:





- Damascus suburbs: 7,971 barrel bombs
- Daraa: 3,980
- Aleppo: 1,777
- Hama: 1,721
- Idlib: 879
- Homs: 563
- Lattakia: 163
- Al Qunaitera: 161
- Damascus: 43
- Al Hassaka: 30
- Deir Al Zour: 23
- Al Suwaida: 7

The use of barrel bombs as a random weapon killed 2,032 individuals, including 499 children and 338 women, according to the documentation team in SNHR.

Victims' distribution according to Syrian governorates:

- Daraa: 384 individuals were killed including 114 children and 80 women
- Aleppo: 776 individuals were killed including 198 children and 98 women
- Damascus suburbs: 99 individuals were killed including 23 children and 19 women
- Homs: 188 individuals including 35 children and 32 women
- Hama: 158 individuals were killed 24 including children and 39 women
- Idlib: 347 individuals were killed including 86 children and 66 women
- Damascus: 10 individuals were killed including 11 children and 3 women
- Lattakia: 1 individual
- Al Hassaka: 31 individuals were killed including 6 children and 1 woman
- Al Qunaitera: 3 individuals

Targeting Vital Facilities in 2015:

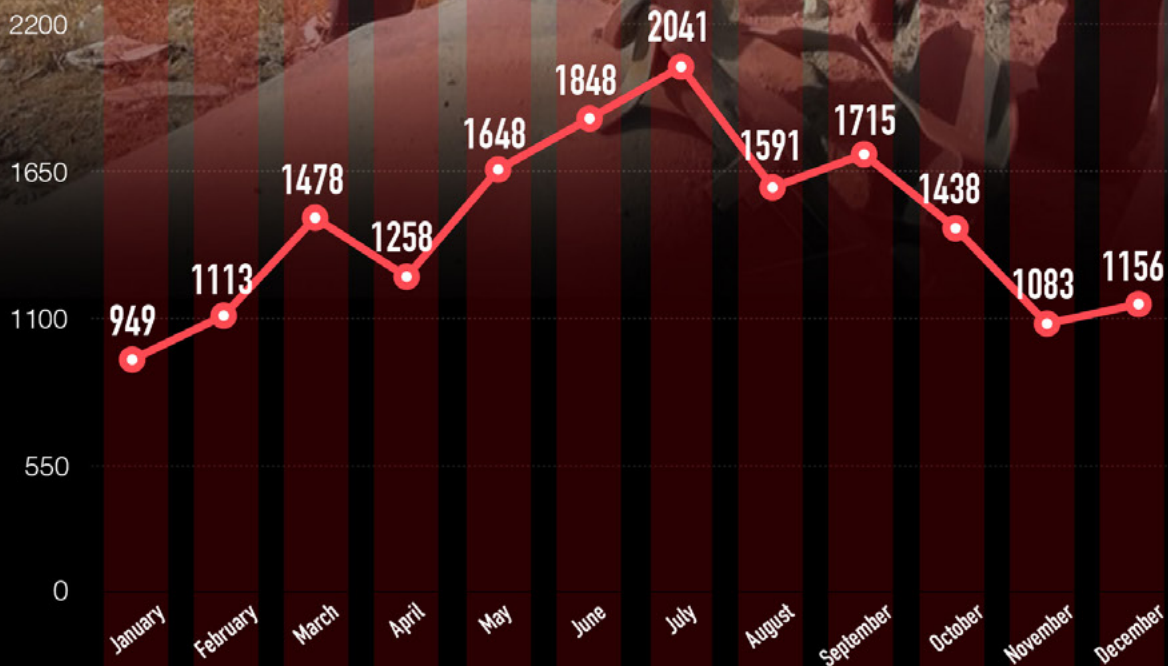
We could not document all destructions caused by barrel bombs, since it is enormous therefore we recorded the number of vital facilities targeted by government military aviation, i.e. markets, schools, hospitals and houses of worship.

During 2015, not less than 206 vital facilities were targeted by government barrel bombs:

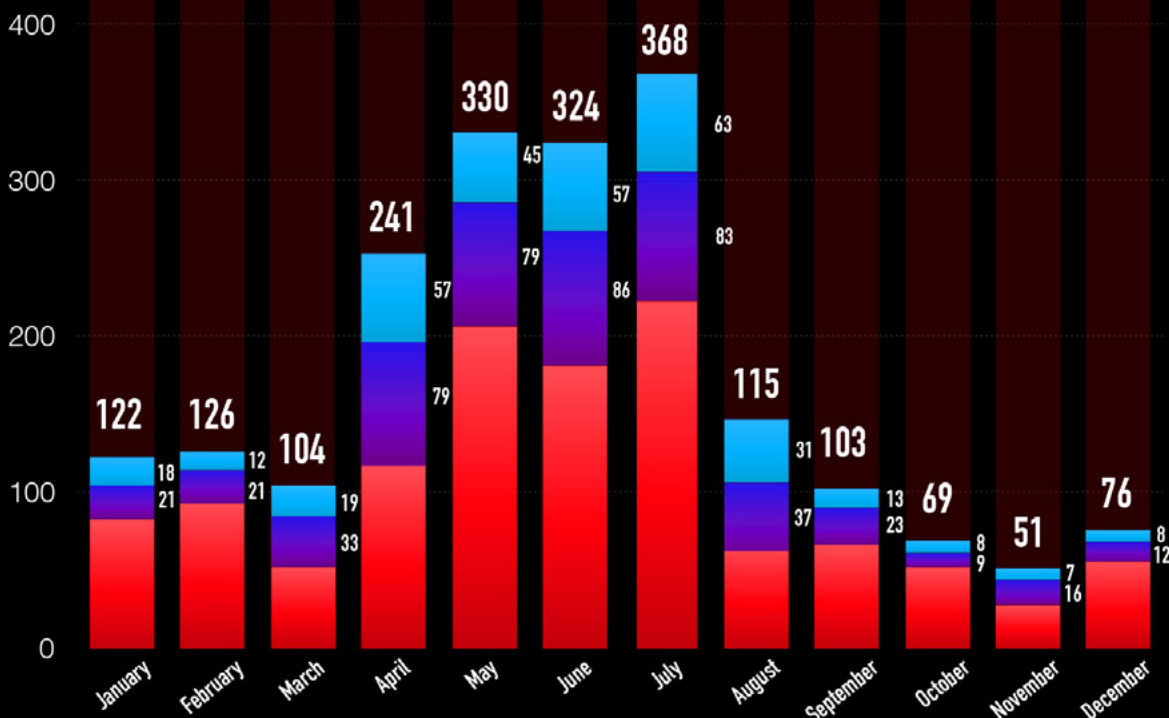
- Places of Worship:
 - Mosques: 52
- Educational Facilities:
 - Schools: 39



Toll of barrel bombs dropped by the Syrian Regime air-force in 2015



Toll of victims died due to barrel bombs dropped by the Syrian Regime air-force in 2015



Children Women

According to SNHR documentation



- Nurseries: 1
- Medical Centers:
- Medical Facilities: 33
- Ambulances: 18
- Cultural Facilities:
- Archeological Regions: 3
- Communal Facilities:
- Markets: 19
- Elderly Care Houses: 1
- International Humanitarian Insignia
- Red Crescent: 11
- Infrastructure:
- Power Stations: 8
- Civil Defense Centers: 8
- Water Systems: 1
- Official Headquarters: 3
- Transportation Systems: 1
- Bakeries: 3
- Barns: 2
- Industrial Facilities: 3

• **Toll of Barrel Bombs Used in December 2015:**

A. Toll of Barrel Bombs Used in December 2015:

Through our daily documentation, SNHR team was able to document the use of not less than 1,156 barrel bombs in December 2015, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

- Damascus suburbs: 768
- Aleppo: 154
- Daraa: 137
- Homs: 75
- Hama: 17
- Idlib: 3
- Lattakia: 2

The use of barrel bombs as a random weapon killed 76 individuals, including 12 children and 8 women, according to the documentation team in SNHR.





The classification of the victims' death toll due to the use of barrel bombs according to the Syrian governorates:

- Daraa: 32 individuals were killed, including 9 children and 5 women
- Damascus suburbs: 22 individuals were killed, including 1 child and 1 woman
- Aleppo: 13 individuals including 2 women
- Hama: 6 individuals including 2 children

Since the beginning of the Russian intervention in Syria, the Syrian government barrel bombs dropped not less than 3,677 barrel bombs since 30 September 2015. The barrel bombs killed 196 individuals including 37 children and 23 women during 3 months.

We have noticed that there were some sort of coordination between the Syrian government forces and the Russian forces whereas the Russian forces intensify its airstrikes on Syria's north. However, the Syrian government warplanes concentrate its airstrikes on the southern governorates and Damascus suburbs, in addition to the northern governorates.

A. Targeting Vital Facilities by Barrel Bombs in December 2015:

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

During December 2015, not less than 9 vital facilities were targeted by government barrel bombs:

- Places of Worship:
- Mosques: 1
- Educational Facilities:
- Schools: 1
- Nurseries: 1
- Medical Centers:
- Medical Facilities: 3
- Ambulances: 3
- Cultural Facilities:
- Archeological Regions: 1





II. Report Details:

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

Daraa:

On 3 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Jasem city in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition, which killed a person.

On 6 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Jasem city in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition, which killed a woman.

On 7 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Busr Al Hareer town in Daraa suburbs which killed a woman.

On 8 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Inkhil city in Daraa which killed an individual.

On 8 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Jasem city in Daraa suburbs which killed 2 individuals including a child.

On 10 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 3 barrel bombs on Al Sheikh Miskeen city in Daraa northern suburbs which killed 3 individuals including a child.

On 10 December 2015, government helicopters [dropped 2 barrel bombs](#) on Jasem city which [killed 8 individuals from one family](#) including 4 children and a woman.

On 25 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Nawa city in Daraa which killed 4 individuals including 2 children and a woman.

On 25 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Sheikh Miskeen city in Daraa which killed an individual.

On 27 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Hara city in Daraa which killed an individual.

On 28 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 4 barrel bombs on Nawa city which killed an individual.





On 30 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Ibtee' city in Daraa which killed 4 individuals including a child.

On 30 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Hara city in Daraa which killed a woman.

Damascus suburbs:

On 2 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 24 barrel bombs on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which killed an individual.

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 24 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 16 barrel bombs on Mo'dameyat Al Sham city in Damascus suburbs which killed one individual.

On 30 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 20 barrel bombs on Daraya city which killed one individual.

Aleppo:

On 15 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 24 barrel bombs on Al Bab city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which killed 4 individuals.

On 20 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Bab city in Aleppo which killed 6 individuals including a woman.

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





On 28 December 2015, government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs on Al Shiekh Maksoud in Aleppo which killed a woman.

Hama:

On 27 December 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb on a school](#) that sheltered refugees in Talaf town in Hama that is under the control of armed opposition which caused a massacre, [greatly damaged the school](#) and caused [it to go out of service](#).

Homs:

On 20 December 2015, government helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Al Rastan city in Homs suburbs which killed 3 individuals.

• Targeting Vital Facilities with Barrel Bombs in December 2015:

- Places of worship:

- Mosques:

On 20 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Al Naser Mosque in Al Mensheyi neighborhood in Al Bab city in eastern Aleppo suburbs that is under ISIL's control which damaged the mosque.

- Educational Facilities:

- Schools:

On 27 December 2015, government helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a school that sheltered refugees in Talaf town in Hama that is [under the control of armed opposition](#) which caused a massacre, greatly damaged the school and caused it to go out of service.

- Medical Centers:

- Medical Facilities:

On 6 December 2015, government helicopters [dropped a barrel bomb next to Al Radwan](#) makeshift hospital in Jassem city in Daraa suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition which greatly destroyed it and caused it to [go out of service](#).

On 25 December 2015, government helicopters dropped two barrel bombs next to Baghdad Makeshift Hospital in Hraytan city in northern Aleppo suburbs that is under the control of armed opposition. As a result, one person died from the medical personnel, the X-ray devices and emergency room equipment were damaged, in addition to an operation room. The hospital went out of service.





On 26 December 2015, government helicopters dropped several barrel bombs on Baghdad Makeshift Hospital in Hraytan city in Aleppo which greatly destroyed it and caused it to go out of service.

- Ambulances:

On 25 December 2015, government helicopters [dropped two barrel bombs](#) next to 3 ambulances in Baghdad makeshift hospital in [Hraytan city which greatly damaged](#) it and caused it to go out of service.

- Cultural Facilities:

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.



III. Attachments:

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Inkhil city in Daraa suburbs on 8 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the shelling moment with barrel bomb on Daraya city in Damascus suburbs on 11 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Daraya city on 14 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Talbisa city in Homs on 15 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Mo'adameyat Al Sham in Damascus suburbs on 21 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Teir Ma' alaa town in Homs on 23 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling the western front in Daraya city on 23 December 2015





The location of a dropped barrel bomb on Daraa governorate on 20 December 2015



An image that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Daraa Al Balad city in Daraa on 14 December 2015



An image of two dropped barrel bombs on Daraa on 8 December 2015

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

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Al Ghanto town in Homs on 29 December 2015

A [video](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on the southern front in Mo'adameyat Al Sham on 29 December 2015

An [image](#) that depicts the barrel bomb shelling on Al Ghanto town in Homs on 29 December 2015





III. 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.

Acknowledgments

Out 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.

