

# The Syrian Regime Has Dropped Nearly 70,000 Barrel Bombs on Syria

The Ruthless Bombing

**SNHR**

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.



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## I. Introduction and Methodology

The use of barrel bombs, which are dropped by the Syrian regime army from their helicopters or fixed-wing warplanes, manifest one of the most appalling ways in which the international community has blatantly let down the Syrian people as these barrel bombs have been forgotten almost completely in the last year with no condemnations to be heard about the repeated use of this barbarian type of weapons which is a disgrace for any army in the modern world seeing that dropping a barrel loaded with explosive objects from an altitude as high as 5,000 meters rely mainly on the principle of free falling and air currents. This strategy should have been condemned by military men from around the world. Using this rudimentary weapon against civilians in this repeated fashion fully reflects the unprecedented degeneration that the army institution of the ruling regime has fallen into just to kill and exterminate the Syrian people.

In light of the aforementioned, SNHR has devoted a periodic monthly report on the toll of barrel bombs dropped by the Syrian regime on Syria in the past month which is something SNHR has been doing for a number of reasons – most notably, perhaps, to stress that dropping barrel bombs haven't stopped for one month, and merely condemning this barbarian weapon have very noticeably faded. Lastly, this seriously questions the possibility of accepting a regime that drops barbarian barrels on its own country without agreeing to any form of political settlements, except for one that rehabilitates it and only leads to giving some ceremonial ministries to its opponents.



## **Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:**

“The repeated use of this arbitrary, indiscriminate weapon against residential communities is a message to the Syrian people that protecting civilians and the international law are mere illusions, and that you have to submit and accept the regime that is killing you. Security Council has to take decisive action against the Syrian regime’s use of arbitrary weapon on this large, widespread scale. The U.N. special envoy has also to play a more effectual role in putting an end to the winter of barrel bombs in Syria.”

## **Methodology**

In the event of the introduction of a new weapon, we, at SNHR, work on monitoring its use in order to determine the way by which Syrian citizens are killed and targeted to establish a comprehensive documentation process for any given incident as much as possible. Considering the heavy and frequent use of barrel bombs by the Syrian regime, SNHR publishes news on the use of barrel bombs exclusively when the attack results in human or material losses. In addition, we have devoted a [monthly](#) report, as well as other [extensive reports](#), for this barbarian mindset and the continued use of barrel bombs even after Security Council Resolution 2139 was adopted on February 22, 2014, which explicitly condemns the use of barrel bombs: **“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.”**

This new report tackles the toll of the use of barrel bombs by Syrian regime forces from its first use in July 2012 until December 2017, and the resultant casualties and attacks on vital civilian facilities. A point that this report stresses is that use of barrel bombs has never stopped in any month including the months that saw de-escalation agreements or Geneva Talks.

The report draws upon the daily, ongoing, routine monitoring and documentation efforts by SNHR, and secondly on accounts for survivors, eyewitnesses, and local media activists that we have contacted via phone or social media. We also have analyzed a large number of pictures and videos that were published online or were sent to SNHR by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media. We have copies of all the videos and pictures mentioned in this report in a secret online database and backup copies on hard drives. For more information, please see our general working [methodology](#).



This report contains nine accounts that were collected through speaking directly with eyewitnesses, and are not cited from any open sources. We have explained the purpose of these interviews to the eyewitnesses who gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report without offering or giving them any incentives. SNHR has tried to spare the eyewitnesses the agony of remembering the violation as much as possible, and gave guarantees to conceal the identity of any witnesses who preferred to use an alias. This report doesn't cover the social, economic, and mental consequences and ramifications.

All of the attacks included in this report have been carried out by the Syrian regime as we never concluded that any other parties (Russian forces and international coalition forces) had used this weapon on Syrian lands despite possessing an air force.

Videos published online have shown helicopters for the Syrian regime dropping barrel bombs while other photos showed remnants of barrel bombs that didn't exploded and an external shell for some of the barrel bombs that were loaded with gas cylinders. We were able to distinguish the fires that resulted from barrel bombs loaded with incendiary ammunitions through many pictures and videos.

The investigations into all of the attacks we documented have proven that the targeted areas were civilian areas with no military centers or weapon warehouses to be found during or before the attack. The Syrian regime didn't distinguish between civilian and fighters in its use of this indiscriminate weapon, and didn't consider the principle of proportionality. Therefore, many of the attacks constituted war crimes. Also, we never recorded that civilians were alerted prior to the attack as the international humanitarian law requires.

## II. What are Barrel Bombs?

A barrel bomb is often a Russian-made weapon that is known for its huge destructive power while having a simple mechanism and technology. Considering its low cost compared to other more developed weapons such as missiles and the international community's disinterest regarding the continued use of such an indiscriminate weapon, the Syrian regime worked on heavily manufacturing this weapon at private factories that are located mostly in military and civilian airbases and defense workshops judging from the locations from which the helicopters and fixed-wing warplanes that drop barrel bombs take off according to what residents and local activists have been to monitor.



The Syrian implements rudimentary methods to manufacture barrel bombs that revolve around loading various metal containers -like [cylinders](#) that are similar to those used to purify drinking water, [water heater shells](#), water tanks, and locally-made [containers](#) according to videos online- of different sizes (rounded, or [quad-band](#) in other cases) and weights (vary between 50 kilograms-1 ton) with explosive materials and metal pieces (nails, bars, and chips) in order to inflict as much damage as possible as those objects scatter in the air after the barrel bomb explodes, In some cases, barrel bombs come loaded with [explosive hoses](#).

By continually monitoring the use of barrel bombs dropped by the Syrian regime, we noticed that the Syrian regime initially relied on using [barrel bombs](#) that has an [fuse-based](#) exploding mechanism before moving to using barrel bombs that explode as a result of applying pressure on a mechanical detonator. Also, the Syrian regime added directed wings to the body of the barrel in order to direct it into the ground and ensure the necessary pressure for the barrel bomb to explode.

From a practical standpoint, the accuracy of a barrel bomb attack correlates directly with how much the helicopters near the ground, which is something that Syrian regime helicopters is not keen on, fearing that they might be targeted by the shoulder-mounted MANPAD which factions from the armed opposition possess or even machine guns.

The location at which the barrel bomb land is subject to a number of variables such as: the altitude at which the barrel bomb is dropped, wind speed, warplane speed, barrel mass, barrel weight, the ratio of its height to its surface area, the length of the ignition fuse, and the dimensions of the directed wings. All of this clearly shows that it is almost impossible to hit a precise and determined target. Thus, using barrel bombs constitutes blatant violations to the international humanitarian law.

We documented cases where barrel bombs exploded before reaching the ground, and in other cases barrel bombs didn't explode after landing. All of this points at how barbarian and arbitrary this weapon is, and asserts that the Syrian regime doesn't have the slightest regard for the lives of the Syrian people. However, what is most appalling is the international community who let the Syrian regime continues to use this type of weapon in this century in front of the entire world, which resulted in systematic killings in the most savage and brutal manner.



## **Barrel bombs loaded with poison and incendiary ammunitions**

Not only did the Syrian regime loaded barrel bombs with explosives, nails, and other objects in the hopes of inflicting as much damage as possible after the barrel bomb explodes and its contents are fragmentized, but in mid-2014, according to SNHR, the Syrian regime also added poison chemical substances in the form of cylinders carrying a poison gas in the insides of the barrel bomb. Additionally, the Syrian regime has dropped [gas cylinders](#) directly from the helicopter as we recorded in a number of attacks and noted in the reports we released on the use of chemical weapons. According to our records, the first chemical attack using a barrel bomb was on Thursday, April 10, 2014, in Kafr Zita, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. Consequently, the Syrian regime has breached Security Council Resolutions 2118, adopted on September 27, 2013, 2209, adopted on March 6, 2015, and 2235, adopted on August 7, 2015, as well.

On August 14, 2016, we recorded the first use of barrel bomb loaded with incendiary ammunitions believed to napalm was in Darayya city, southeastern Damascus suburbs governorate.

### **III. Indiscriminate Barrel Bomb Attacks in Context of Military Progression**

The Syrian regime has used barrel bombs against areas that are no longer under its control, targeting residential communities which resulted in repeated massacre and wide destruction that led to large forced displacement waves. The most notable of these areas are:

#### **A. Darayya city, Damascus suburbs governorate**

[Darayya city](#), of an area of approximately 102 km<sup>2</sup>, has been subjected to heavy barrel bomb attacks, especially after the Syrian regime imposed a suffocating siege on the city in mid-November 2012. The city saw roughly 7,846 barrel bombs from the start of the siege until its residents were evacuated as part of a settlement agreement on August 25, 2016 including 3,894 barrel bombs that were dropped by Syrian regime warplanes over the course of seven months between August 2015 and the announcement of the first Cessation of Hostilities on Saturday, February 27, 2016. In its last offensive against the city that started in early-June 2016 and lasted until August 25, 2016, Syrian regime warplanes dropped 1,556 barrel bombs which caused huge destruction that encompassed almost the entirety of the city and its vicinities as the whole world witnesses this more clearly when the Syrian regime cameras entered the city after displacing its residents.

We have released an [extensive report](#) that documents the most notable crimes and violations of human rights that took place in Darayya city and led to the residents' displacement





## **B. Khan al Sheih town, Damascus suburbs governorate**

Syrian regime helicopters have dropped no less than 3,127 barrel bombs from the start of the siege that was imposed by Syrian regime forces on [Khan al Sheih town](#), which as an area of no more than 89 km<sup>2</sup>, on December 24, 2013 until Saturday, November 26, 2016 when armed opposition factions and Syrian regime forces agreed to a truce that led to the evacuation of no less than 3,500 armed opposition fighters with their families from Khan al Sheih and the towns of Western Ghouta (al Kiswa, Zakiya, Deir Khbayya) to Idlib governorate and settle the matters of the civilians who remained. Out of the 3,127 barrel bombs that were dropped, 1,137 barrel bombs were dropped in the last offensive that Syrian regime forces carried out in early-October 2016.

We have released an [extensive report](#) that documents the most notable crimes and violations of human rights in Khan al Sheih town which led to the residents' displacement



## **C. Daraa city**

On Thursday, June 1, 2017, Syrian regime forces carried out a wide offensive on the neighborhood of [Daraa city](#) that are under the control of factions from the armed opposition (parts of Daraa al Balad area, Tareaq al Sad neighborhood, Daraa Camp in Daraa al Balad area....) which encompasses an area of nearly 30 km<sup>2</sup> in order to take back control. The offensive lasted for nearly 35 days until a de-escalation agreement was announced in south Syria on Sunday, July 9, 2017. The number of barrel bombs we recorded in that period of time was roughly 1,248 barrel bombs.







#### **D. Wadi Barada, Damascus suburbs governorate**

Wadi Barada, covers an area of approximately 75 km<sup>2</sup>, contains 14 villages and towns that factions from the armed opposition took over in early-2012. On Thursday, December 22, 2016, Syrian regime initiated an offensive in order to submit the area and force the residents to agree to settlements that lead to their displacement. We recorded nearly 784 barrel bombs from the start of the offensive until the Syrian regime managed to take over all of the villages in Wadi Barada on Sunday, January 29, 2017.



## **E. Al Mayadeen city, Deir Ez-Zour governorate**

Monday, September 25, 2017, Syrian regime forces carried out an offensive on al [Mayadeen city](#) which had been under the control of ISIS since July 3, 2014 in order to take back control of the city. The offensive ended with Syrian regime forces seizing control of the city on Sunday, October 15, 2017. We recorded that Syrian regime helicopters have dropped nearly 84 barrel bombs over the course of 21 days to an average of four barrel bombs a day.

## **IV. Use of Barrel Bombs before and after Security Council Resolution 2139**

The Syrian people grew a bit hopeful after Security Council resolution 2139/2014 was adopted that it might rid them of this barbarian weapon and deter the Syrian regime from using it against them seeing that the Resolution explicitly stated barrel bombs and said that deterrent measures are to be taken in case of non-compliance. However, we recorded a steady, continued pace of barrel bombs use by the Syrian regime as if no Security Council Resolutions have been adopted in that regard. Further, proving that the Syrian regime is the one who is using barrel bomb is no difficult feat as the Syrian regime is the only party that possesses helicopters and fixed-wing warplanes that drop barrel bombs. This rudimentary weapon won't be used by international coalition forces or Russian forces because using it is something to be shameful of in the military norms and combat traditions as many military experts have pointed out. On the other hand, pictures of the areas where barrel bombs and their shrapnel landed are abundantly available. We will show a large number of those from our database.

SNHR has documented no less than 68,334 barrel bombs that were dropped by Syrian regime helicopters of fixed-wing warplanes from the first documented use in July 2012 until December 2017. These barrel bombs resulted in the killing of 10,763 civilians, including 1,734 children and 1,689 women (adult female). In addition, Barrel bombs resulted in damages to vital civilian facilities in 565 attacks, including 76 on medical facilities, 140 on schools, 160 on mosques, and 50 on markets.

These numbers are divided between the period of time prior to the adoption of Security Council Resolution 2139 on February 22, 2014 and after it was adopted as follows:

### **• Before Security Council Resolution 2139**

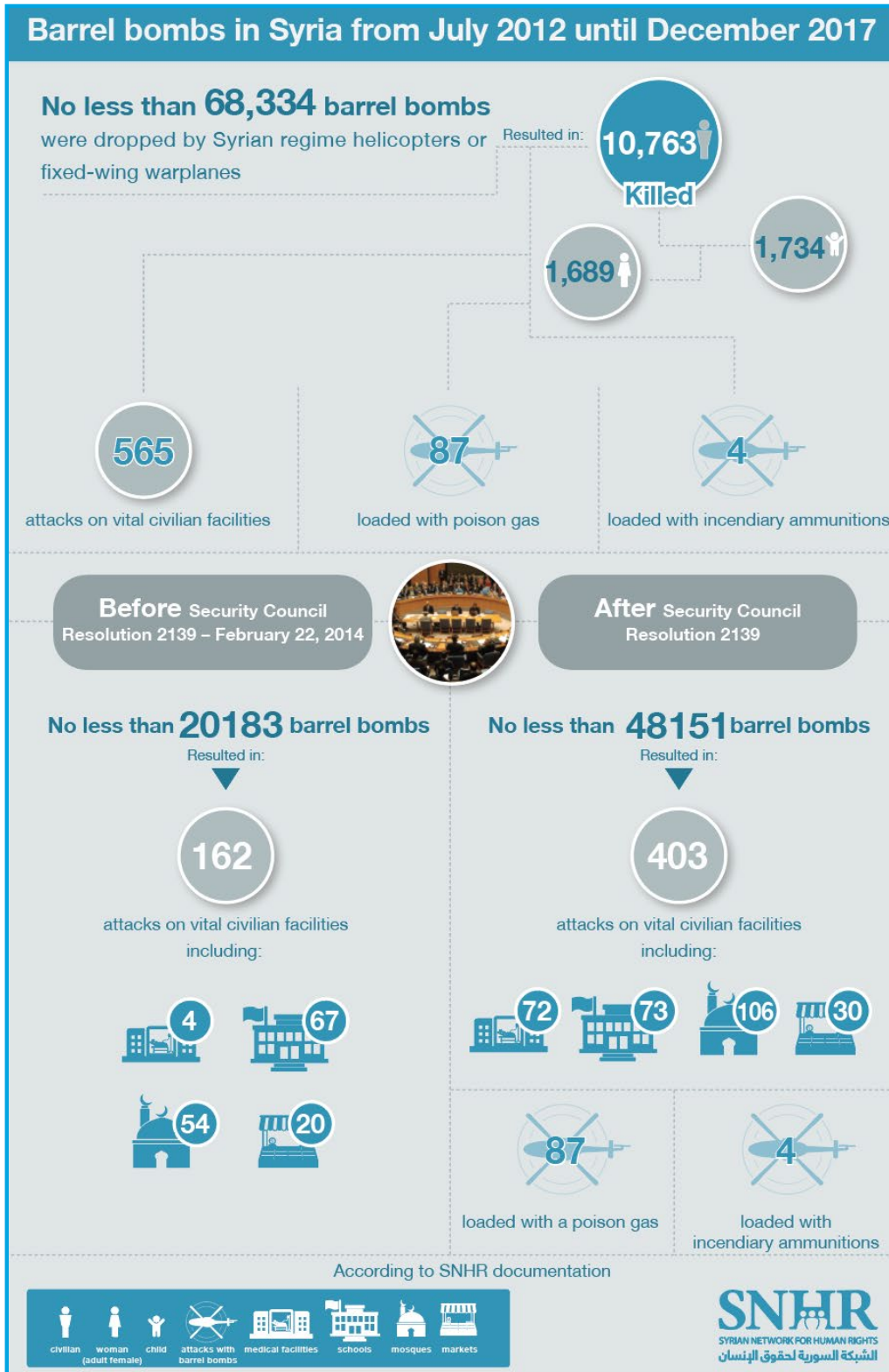
We have documented that Syrian regime warplanes dropped no less than 20,183 barrel bombs from July 2012 and Security Council Resolution 2139 (an average of 33 barrel bombs per day). Barrel bombs resulted in damages to vital civilian facilities in 162 attacks, including four on medical facilities, 67 on schools, 54 on mosques, and 20 on markets.



**• After Security Council Resolution 2139**

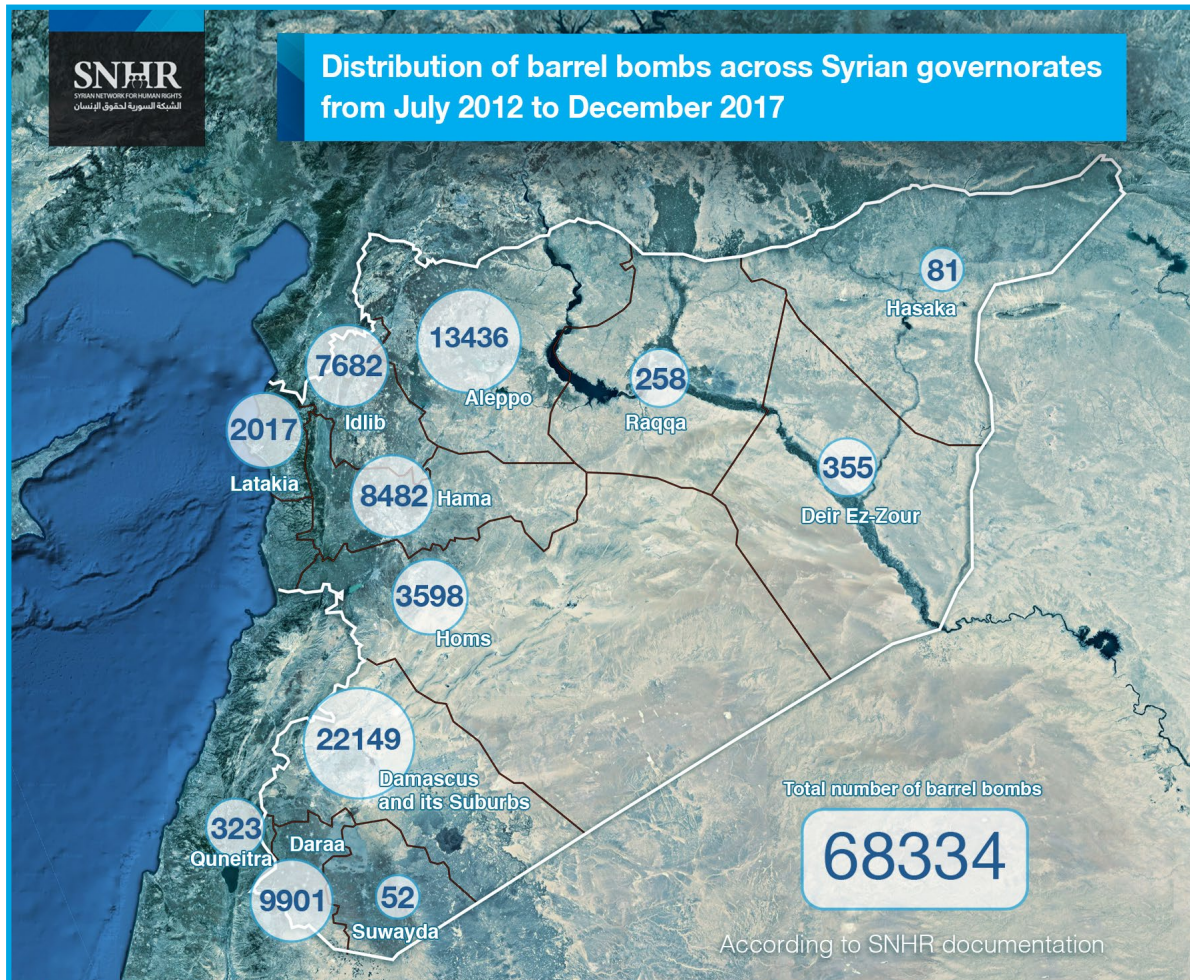
We have recorded that no less than 48,151 barrel bombs were dropped after Security Council Resolution 2139 was adopted until December 2017 (an average of 36 barrel bombs per day). Barrel bombs resulted in damages to vital civilian facilities in 403 attacks, including 72 on medical facilities, 73 on schools, 106 on mosques, and 30 on markets.

Moreover, we have recorded 87 barrel bomb attacks that involved poison gases and four barrel bomb attacks that involved incendiary ammunitions. All of these attacks were after the Resolution was adopted.

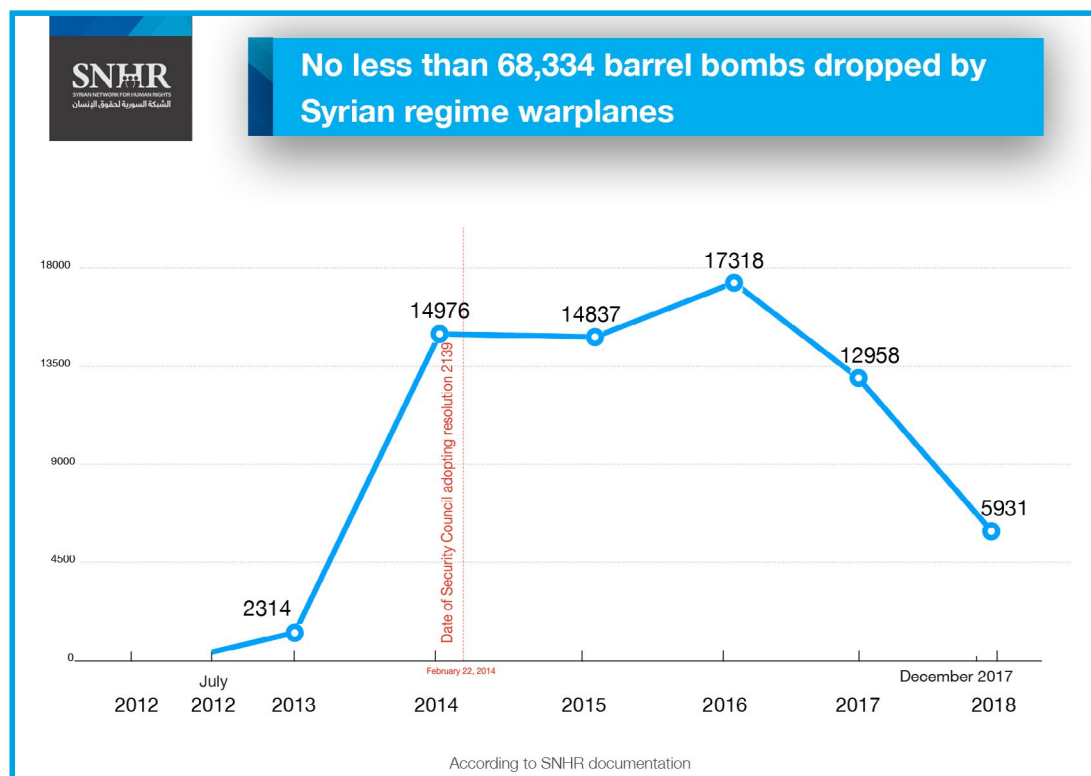


## V. Use of Barrel Bombs since July 2012

### Distribution of barrel bombs across Syrian governorates

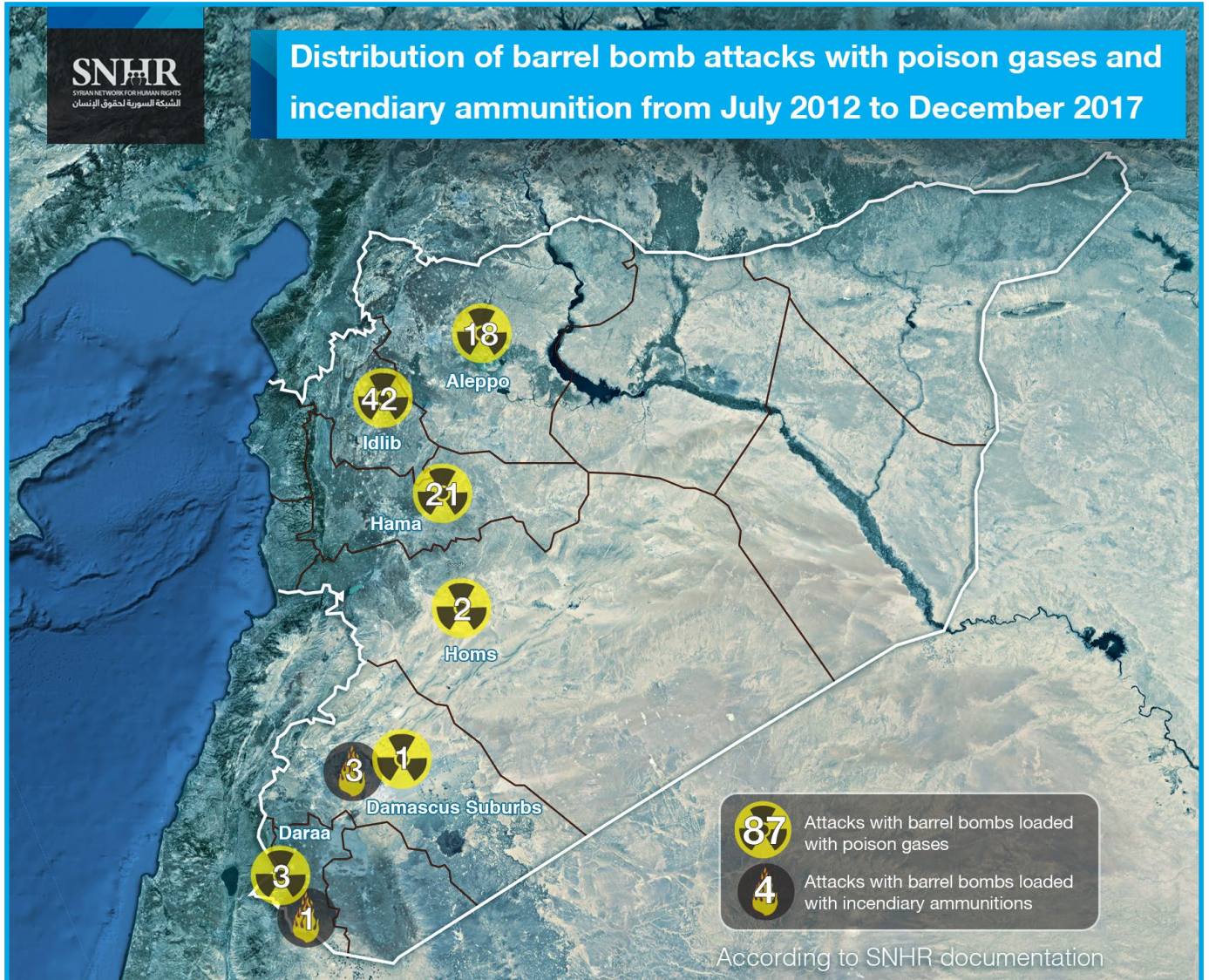


### Distribution of barrel bombs by year



## Barrel Bomb attacks involving poison gases and incendiary ammunitions

SNHR has documented that Syrian regime forces have used barrel bombs loaded with poison gases in 87 attacks while barrel bombs loaded with incendiary ammunitions were used in four attacks between July 2012 and December 2017



## VI. Most Notable Incidents of Barrel Bomb Use

### A. Barrel bomb attacks that resulted in massacres and civilian deaths

#### **Aleppo governorate**

Thursday, May 1, 2014, helicopters dropped four barrel bombs on a local market in al Hollok neighborhood, which resulted in the killing of 62 civilians, including 12 children and six women. The neighborhood was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Thursday, October 23, 2014, helicopters dropped three [barrel bombs](#) on a wedding hall that houses IDPs in Tal Qrah village, northeastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in the killing of [19 civilians](#), - 15 children and four women. The village is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Saturday, May 30, 2015, helicopters dropped two [barrel bombs](#) on [al Hal market](#) in al Bab city, eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in the killing of 53 civilians, including one child and three women. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



Victims killed in a massacre by Syrian regime forces in al Bab city, Aleppo suburbs – May 30, 2015



Thursday, June 4, 2015, around 08:30, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) within two minutes on the [residential houses](#) in Hayyan town, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. One of the barrel bombs landed on [an empty house](#), while the other landed 500 meters away from the first in [a residential street](#), killing nine civilians, including seven children and one woman. In addition, eight others were wounded. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Media activist Obayda al Hayyani<sup>1</sup> told us that he woke up to the sound of a strong collision with the ground: **“I took the camera and immediately headed for the incident site. I found out that the sound was the sound of two barrel bombs hitting the ground. The first one landed on an empty house, while the second one landed in the street near a group of children who were playing. The barrel bomb reduced the children and some pedestrians to scattered body parts. It was horrifying and painful to watch. We collected the body parts and the dead bodies and buried them.”** Obayda added that the barrel bombs destroyed five Arabian houses and completely destroyed them.

Thursday, July 21, 2016, around 12:30, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on the public [street next to](#) “al Mash-had neighborhood” square in western Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of eight civilians at once. The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Sharif Damlakhi<sup>2</sup>, a media activist in Aleppo city, heard on a wireless communication device that the helicopters dropped two barrel bombs in al Mash-had square by his house: **“I rushed with my friends to the site. The dust and the dead bodies and the injured were everywhere. It was like there has been a huge earthquake. We helped the wounded who were about 15 people including eight martyrs.”** Sharif added that the two barrel bombs landed in the public street where civilians were gathering in front of Beit al Falafel Restaurant, which raised the overall death toll.

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<sup>1</sup> Contacted via WhatsApp

<sup>2</sup> Contacted via WhatsApp



Sunday, August 7, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Darat Ezza city, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in the killing of two civilians. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Mohammad Yahya<sup>3</sup>, a photographer for the media office at Darat Ezza city that he heard alarms going off at nearly 02:30 followed by the sound of a helicopter. Two minutes later, the helicopter dropped a barrel bomb, but the sound of the explosion was different from the usual sound caused by barrel bomb explosions. A minute and a half later, he learned through wireless communication devices that helicopters had dropped a second barrel bomb: **“I didn’t hear the sound of the second barrel bomb. I headed for the location where the barrel bomb was dropped and was shocked by the size of the destruction in the street. We couldn’t determine why the sound was unusual or why there were scattered pieces of hose in the area until we saw the second barrel bomb that didn’t explode which contained an explosive hose.”** Mohammed added that the second barrel bomb was dropped in a heavily crowded civilian area: **“Thank God it didn’t explode. Otherwise, We would have to had to deal with a massacre”**

Friday noon, December 9, 2016, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on the residential buildings near Abdul Qader al Najjar School in al Jalloum neighborhood, eastern Aleppo city, which resulted in the killing of 25 civilians, including 15 children and six women. The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, May 10, 2017, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Smouma village, which is part of Maskana county in eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The bombing resulted in the killing of 14 civilians, including 10 children and two women. The village is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

### **Daraa governorate**

Monday, April 28, 2014, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on Sahm al Joulan village, southwestern suburbs of Daraa governorate, which resulted in the killing of 10 civilians, including four children and four women. The village is under the control of ISIS at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions with a minor presence for al Nussra Front at the time of the incident.

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<sup>3</sup> Contacted via Facebook





Media activist Abu Mohammad al Hourani<sup>4</sup> told us that they were startled by a helicopters entering the sky of the village at nearly 10:30 on the day, as the village was only bombed twice using barrel bombs before in 2013 due to the close proximity it has with Syrian regime-held areas: **“The helicopter dropped two large barrel bombs -we call them Haw-yea (mass container)- in the middle of the village. One minute later, I headed for the targeted side, which is about 100 meters away from the Old Mosque. The two barrel bombs landed on a house where IDPs from Nawa city, 12 kilometers to the east of the village, live. People of Nawa city had fled their city in the wake of an offensive and heavy bombing by Syrian regime forces at the time. The house was completely destroyed along with the people who live in it. The large destruction affected three houses in the vicinity of that house, and two families, who were living in the house, were killed. Most of the victims were children and women.”** Abu Mohammad added that the two barrel bombs faded completely and left huge destruction that blocked the road, while the dead bodies were clearly tossed out of the house from the severe pressure caused by the explosion: **“I think this abrupt barrel bomb attack was due to the Syrian regime’s fear of an attack by the rebels on its areas of control, as a number of factions were gathering in the village.”**

Wednesday, December 23, 2015, helicopters dropped [a number of barrel bombs](#) on a residential building in al Sheikh Miskeen city, northern suburbs of Daraa governorate, which resulted in the killing of [eight civilians](#), who were mostly from the same family, including four children and one woman. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Dead bodies in the aftermath of a massacre by Syrian regime forces in al Sheikh Miskeen city, Daraa suburbs – December 23, 2015

<sup>4</sup> Contacted via WhatsApp



## Idlib governorate

Sunday, August 31, 2014, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) in al Habeit village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The barrel bomb landed on a cave housing IDPs from Kafr Nbouda town, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in the killing of 18 civilians, including [seven children](#) and six women. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Media activist Sa'd al Hmadi<sup>5</sup> that the southern suburbs of Idlib saw a heavy presence for helicopters on the morning of that day, something that left the civilians in panic and drove many of them to hide in caves: **“After less than an hour of the heavy flying, nearly around 10:00, a helicopter dropped two barrel bombs. The first one landed on the front entrance to a cave, while the other landed in al Shamali neighborhood on the back entry point to the same cave. Everyone inside was killed, most of them were IDPs from Hama suburbs.”**

Tuesday, April 21, 2015, [helicopters](#) dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of [six civilians](#) at once, including [five children](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Media activist Mustafa al Gharib<sup>6</sup> told SNHR that he was at his office when the helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on al Shamali neighborhood near him. This was around 15:00: **“I rushed to the attack site to document the incident. I found out that the first barrel bomb landed on a school, while the second barrel bomb landed on the public street and injured some kids who were playing in the street and reduced about six of them to scattered body parts, as some of them were killed in the powerful explosion, while who survived were wounded. Seeing all those dead bodies and all that destruction is something I will never forget.”** Mustafa confirmed that al Shamali neighborhood is a residential neighborhood, but warplanes and helicopters bomb it almost daily. He also told us that the sound of the explosions was particularly strong on that day: **“The barrel bombs dropped by the regime are of the large kind, and had destroyed many houses.”**

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<sup>5</sup> Contacted via Facebook

<sup>6</sup> Contacted via Facebook



Sunday, April 26, 2015, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on al Laj village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of [nine civilians](#) (eight children and one woman). The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Monday, August 24, 2015, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on al Shamali neighborhood in al Bara village, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of 18 civilians, including five children and five women. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

We contacted the media activist Abdul Razzaq Madi<sup>7</sup> who told us that a helicopter took off from Latakia Airbase before dropping two barrel bombs on the neighborhood, two mass containers, where the barrel bombs landed in the middle of the public street in the village market at noon – a time when the market is usually crowded, which raised the overall death toll. Most of the victims were IDPs from Hama suburbs and other areas. In addition, tens were wounded, including amputation cases, while many shops and houses were destroyed. Abdul Razzaq said: **“I headed for the site immediately after the bombing. It was horrifying, there were fires everywhere, and rocks got mixed with the dead bodies and the blood. Ambulances were transferring the wounded and people were trying to help however they can even though they were afraid of a second bombing, as it has become a habit for the Syrian regime to target the same site consecutively twice in order to inflict as much damage as possible.”** Abdul Razzaq added that Jabal al Zawiya sky saw a heavy presence for helicopters on that day.

Sunday, December 4, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on the eastern farms in al Tamane'a town, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians (four children and two women) from the same family. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## Homs governorate

Thursday, August 14, 2014, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on al Rastan city, northern suburbs of Homs governorate, which resulted in the killing of 16 civilians, including nine children and four women. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

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<sup>7</sup> Contacted via Facebook



Thursday, May 19, 2016, helicopters dropped [a number of barrel bombs](#) on Taldao city, northwestern suburbs of Homs governorate, which resulted in the killing of [seven civilians](#), including five children and one woman. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Victims killed in a massacre by Syrian regime forces in Taldao city, Homs suburbs  
– May 19, 2016

### **Hama governorate**

Friday, February 7, 2014, helicopters dropped [a number of barrel bombs](#) on Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in the killing of 11 civilians at once, including four children and two women. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Friday, August 22, 2014, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on Hasraya village, northern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians, including one female child and four women - one of whom was pregnant and died along with her fetus. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, May 2, 2017, [helicopters](#) dropped [a number of barrel bombs](#) on al Latamena town, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in the killing of seven civilians (five children and their parents). The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



## **Damascus suburbs governorate**

Saturday, June 21, 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a residential building in Khan al Sheih camp, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of 11 civilians from the same family, including seven children and two women. The camp is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, September 28, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on al Wadi neighborhood, al Mqaileiba town, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of five civilians at once, including two female children and one woman. Additionally, about eight others were wounded. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, January 11, 2017, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on a residential building in Ein al Khadra village, Wadi Barada area, northwestern Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians (four children and their parents). The village is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions with a small presence for Fateh al Sham Front at the time of the incident.

## **Hasaka governorate**

Saturday, June 20, 2015, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a residential building in Ub al Shouk village, western suburbs of Hasaka governorate, which resulted in the killing of six civilians, including two children and one woman. Additionally, about five others were wounded. The village is under the control of the Kurdish-majority Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

## **Deir Ez-Zour governorate**

Saturday, May 23, 2015, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on [a residential building](#) in al Hamidiya neighborhood, eastern Deir Ez-Zour city, which resulted in the killing of [18 civilians](#), including [10 children](#) and one woman. Additionally, about 25 others were wounded. The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.



## **B. Barrel bomb attacks that resulted in damages to vital civilian facilities**

### **Places of worship**

#### - Mosques

Tuesday, January 14, 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Abu Suliman al Darani Mosque in Darayya city, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building was heavily damaged, as the mosque was rendered out of commission. The city is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Tuesday, June 17, 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on “Bashlamoun village” Mosque, western suburbs of Idlib governorate. The mosque building was heavily destroyed and its minaret was [moderately damaged](#), as the mosque was rendered out of commission. The village was under the joint control of The Turkistani Islamic Party and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Friday, August 7, 2015, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [al Jesr al Kabir Mosque](#) in al Zabadani city, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate. The mosque building was partially destroyed, and its minaret was heavily destroyed. It should be noted that this mosque was a church thousands of years ago, and was turned into a mosque during the Umayyad Era. The city is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, November 4, 2015, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a mosque in Rabe'a town, northeastern suburbs of Latakia governorate. The mosque building and its minaret were [partially destroyed](#). The town is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces that targeted a mosque in Rabe'a town, Latakia suburbs – November 4, 2015

Monday, May 30, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs near [Abu Bakr al Siddeeq Mosque](#) in Hraitan town, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The mosque building was heavily damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, April 21, 2017, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near [Abu Obayda ben al Jarrah Mosque](#) in Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. The barrel bomb landed in an agricultural land a few meters away from the mosque, as its building was moderately damaged. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the incident.

### **Vital educational facilities**

#### - Schools

Tuesday, January 28, 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near Abdul Qader Aswad School in Karm al Tahhan neighborhood, eastern Aleppo city. The school building was partially destroyed, as the school was rendered out of commission. The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Sunday, May 17, 2015, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on Amin Marzouq School in al Ardi neighborhood, eastern Deir Ez-Zour city. The school building was [heavily destroyed](#). The neighborhood was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Sunday, May 31, 2015, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [Ahmad Meghlaj School](#) in Kafr Aweed village, southwestern suburbs of Idlib governorate. The school building was partially destroyed. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces who targeted Ahmad Meghlaj School in Kafr Aweed village, Idlib suburbs – May 31, 2015

Tuesday, June 16, 2015, helicopters dropped a [barrel bomb](#) on the [UNRWA's Ber al Sabe' School](#) in Khan al Sheih camp, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in casualties. In addition, most of the school buildings were destroyed almost completely. The camp is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Sunday dawn, October 23, 2016, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) in [Kafr Dael Elementary School](#) in Kafr Dael village, western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The bombing created a hole in front of the school. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Tuesday, March 28, 2017, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on Hamida al Taher Intermediate School for Girls in Halfaya city, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The schoolyard and its building were heavily damaged. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## **Vital medical facilities**

### - Medical facilities

Monday, April 14, 2014, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) near a dispensary in Kahil village, eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The dispensary building and its equipment were heavily damaged, as the dispensary was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, March 6, 2015, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [al Khames makeshift hospital](#) (al Takhasusi Hospital) in Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate. [The hospital building](#) was [heavily destroyed](#), as the hospital was rendered out of commission. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on al Shaddadi General Hospital in al Shaddadi city, southern suburbs of Hasaka governorate. [Four hospital rooms](#) at the north building were destroyed, while all the equipment and machines in those rooms were smashed. In addition, a part of the hospital fence was destroyed. The city is under the control of the Kurdish-majority SDF at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Friday, December 25, 2015, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs [near Baghdad Make-shift Hospital](#) in Hraitan town, northern suburbs of Aleppo governorate, which resulted in the killing of [a medical personnel](#). In addition, the x-ray machines, the emergency department, an operation room, and three ambulances belonging to the hospital were heavily damaged, as the hospital was rendered out of commission. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, May 20, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of barrel bombs on [the medical point](#) that is affiliated with [the Physicians Across](#) Continents Aiding Network in Burj Qa'ie village, northwestern suburbs of Homs governorate. The point building was [heavily damaged](#). The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



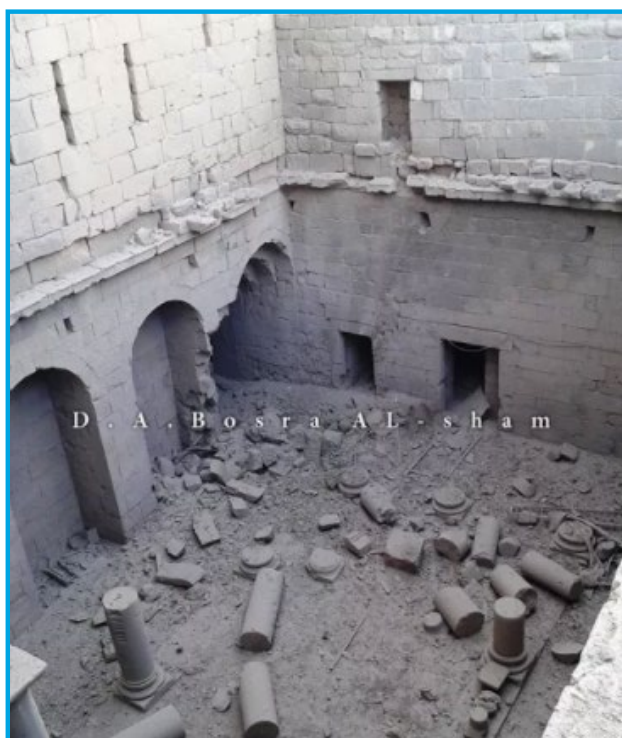
Wednesday, October 5, 2016, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on [al Salam Hospital](#), the only hospital in al Hama town, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate, which resulted in the killing of [two medical personnel](#) including one doctor. In addition, the hospital building and its equipment were moderately damaged. We had released [a report](#) on the incident. The village is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs near the makeshift hospital in Nasib village, southeastern suburbs of Daraa governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, the hospital building was slightly damaged. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## Vital cultural facilities

### - Archeological sites

Tuesday, December 22, 2015, [helicopters dropped](#) two barrel bombs on the [ancient castle](#) in Bosra al Sham city, eastern suburbs of Daraa governorate. The east tower of the castle was [destroyed almost completely](#), and the roof of the yard and a number of the surrounding pillars were ruptured in the south side of the village. In addition, [a number of corridors](#) of the Roman Theater that is next to the castle [were destroyed](#), while a number of holes were created in the vicinity of the Theater and the fence surrounding it. The city was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces who targeted the ancient castle in Bosra al Sham city, Daraa suburbs – December 22, 2015



## Communal facilities

### - Markets

Friday, November 28, 2014, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a commercial street in al Shaddadi city, southern suburbs of Hasaka governorate, which resulted in casualties. Additionally, 11 shops were destroyed. The city is under the control of the Kurdish-majority SDF at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Sunday, August 16, 2015, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on the local market in Daraa al Balad area in the middle of Daraa city, which resulted in a massacre. In addition, a number of shops were destroyed. The area was within the parts that are under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Sunday afternoon, August 21, 2016, [helicopters](#) dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on the [vegetables market](#) in Bostan al Qaser neighborhood, eastern Aleppo city. [The market facilities](#) were [heavily damaged](#). The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces who targeted the vegetables market in Bostan al Qaser neighborhood, Aleppo – August 21, 2016



Wednesday night, September 28, 2016, helicopters dropped [a number of barrel bombs](#) on the [old market](#) in Khan al Sheih camp, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate, which [heavily damaged](#) a number of shops. The camp is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## International humanitarian insignia

- [Red Crescent \(centers - vehicles\)](#)

Monday evening, September 19, 2016, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped [four barrel bombs](#), while [fixed-wing warplanes](#) we believe were [Russian carried out](#) no less than [nine airstrikes](#) that involved the use of missiles and heavy machine guns. [The attack](#) targeted a warehouse for the [Syrian Red Arab Crescent \(SARC\)](#) – Urm al Kubra village branch in western suburbs of Aleppo governorate. The attack [resulted in a massacre](#), while the warehouse building was [heavily destroyed](#), and [10 cars loaded](#) with aid supplies were burned. We had released [a report](#) documenting the incident. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.



Image of burning trucks due to Russian – Governmental attack on the Red Crescent center in Orm Al Kubra town in Aleppo governorate, 19 September 2016

© SNHR

A destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces who targeted a SARC warehouse in Urm al Kubra village, Aleppo suburbs – September 19, 2016



## Infrastructures

### - Civil defense facilities (centers - vehicles)

Thursday, June 19, 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on [a civil defense center](#) in Masaken Hanano neighborhood, eastern Aleppo city. The center building was partially destroyed and a service vehicle belonging to the center was heavily damaged and rendered out of commission. The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

Friday, October 7, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of [barrel bombs](#) on center 114 which is affiliated to the Syrian civil defense. [The center](#) is located in al Latamena city, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate. The center building was [heavily destroyed](#) and a rubble-removing vehicle, as well as two service vehicles, belonging to the center were heavily destroyed, as the three vehicles were rendered out of commission, while an ambulance belonging to the center was heavily damaged. The town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

### - Water systems and sources

Friday, December 23, 2016, helicopters dropped a number of [barrel bombs](#) on Ein al Fija [Springs facility](#) in [Ein al Fija](#) town, [Wadi Barada area](#), Western Ghouta, Damascus suburbs governorate. The facility building was [partially destroyed](#), and its mechanical and electrical mechanisms were [moderately damaged](#), as the facility was rendered out of commission. In addition, the water was polluted after it was mixed with dirt and fuel. The town is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions with a small presence for Fateh al Sham Front at the time of the incident. It should be noted that the bombing on Wadi Barada area on that day was preceded by a barrel bomb bombing and followed by a bombing by fixed-wing Syrian regime forces war-planes and heavy artillery that involved missiles and shells. Abu Mohammad al Bardawi<sup>8</sup>, a media activist and member of the Media Commission in Wadi Barada area, confirmed to us that Syrian regime forces bombed the Springs facility and its vicinity with various types of weapons (barrel bombs, thermobaric missiles, and mortar shells): **“The bombing destroyed the water pumps that generate the water from within the earth. Also, the chlorine tanks exploded. These tanks are for sterilizing the pipes and the special tunnels that channel the water from Ein al Fija Springs to Damascus. The huge chlorine leaks into Ein al Fija Springs, as well as the other substances in the pumps -gasoline, oil, and mineral oils- polluted the water.”** Abu Mohammad added that after the Springs were destroyed, the water was re-routed to the Barada riverbed and caused an overflow, while al Fija Springs were rendered out of commission.

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<sup>8</sup> Contacted via Facebook





Destruction in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces on Ein al Fija Springs in Ein al Fija town, Damascus suburbs – December 23, 2016

#### - Bakeries

Thursday, September 18, 2014, helicopters dropped a number of [barrel bombs](#) on al Bab city, eastern suburbs of Aleppo governorate. One of the barrel bomb targeted al Ragheb Bakery in [al Souq Street](#), which resulted in a massacre. Additionally, the bakery building was destroyed almost completely, as [the bakery](#) was rendered out of commission. The city is under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

Saturday, May 30, 2015, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on al Khamis Bakery in al Bou'amr town, eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour governorate. The bakery building was destroyed almost completely, as the bakery was rendered out of commission. The town is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of ISIS at the time of the incident.

#### - Industrial facilities

Sunday, September 13, 2015, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) on the industrial district in Idlib city, which [resulted in a massacre](#). Additionally, a number of shops in the area were [heavily damaged](#). The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.



## **Refugee camps**

Sunday, December 27, 2015, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) on a school housing IDPs in Talaf village, southern suburbs of Hama governorate, which resulted in a massacre. Additionally, the west section of the school was destroyed and its cladding materials were heavily damaged, as the school was rendered out of commission. The village was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

## **C. Most notable attacks that involved barrel bombs loaded with incendiary ammunitions**

### **Damascus suburbs governorate**

Khan al Sheih town, Western Ghouta, western Damascus suburbs governorate - one attack  
Thursday, October 6, 2016, helicopters dropped approximately 16 barrel bombs including at least four barrel bombs that were loaded with incendiary materials -believe to be napalm- in the vicinity of Martyr Doctor Ziad al Buqa'ie Makeshift Hospital. The hospital building was heavily destroyed and the furniture was damaged, as the hospital was rendered out of commission. We released a [statement](#) that documented the incident. The town is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.

### **Daraa governorate**

Daraa al Balad area, middle of Daraa city - one attack

Friday, June 9, 2017, around 00:10, helicopters dropped no less than four barrel bombs loaded with incendiary materials -believed to be napalm- in the middle of Daraa al Balad area. The bombing targeted Daraa [al Balad market](#) and al Umari Mosque. As a result, al Hassan Bakery was burned as well as more than five houses. In addition, the north part of al Umari Mosque was burned after a barrel bomb landed on it. The incident took place within the parts of Daraa al Balad area that are under the control of armed opposition factions.





Fires in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime forces that dropped barrel bombs loaded with incendiary materials, believe to be napalm, on al Umari Mosque in Daraa al Balad area, Daraa – June 9, 2017

## **D. Most notable attacks that involved barrel bombs loaded with poison gases**

### **Idlib governorate**

Saraqeb city, eastern suburbs of Idlib governorate – four attacks, we are going to highlight the following attacks:

Saturday, May 2, 2015, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) loaded with a poison gas on al Sharqi and al Shamali neighborhoods in the city. 70 individuals suffered from suffocation as a result of the bombing including women and children.

Monday, August 1, 2016, around 23:00, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs carrying cylinders that were loaded with [a poison gas](#) on a residential neighborhood in the middle of the city. The two barrel bombs landed 2-3 kilometers apart from each other. As a result, no less than 30 individuals suffered from breathing difficulties. In addition, a shop was destroyed almost completely, and a number of residential houses were partially destroyed.





Saraqeb city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Hay'at Tahrir al Sham at the time of the three attacks.



Remnants of cylinders loaded with a poison gas that were dropped by Syrian regime helicopters -in barrel bombs- on Saraqeb city, Idlib suburbs – August 1, 2016

Ebleen village, Jabal al Zaweya, southern suburbs of Idlib governorate – one attack Sunday, May 3, 2015, around 03:00, helicopters dropped [a barrel bomb](#) loaded with a poison gas. As a result, 12 civilians suffered from mild suffocation. The village was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Abdul Razzaq Madi<sup>9</sup>, a media activist from the village, said that a helicopter took off from Hama Military Airbase. As the helicopter entered the atmosphere of the village, residents rushed to hide in caves: **“The helicopter dropped on barrel bomb that landed in the north side of the village – about 10 meters from the houses, but it didn’t explode. Civil defense from Balyoun civil defense center rushed to the site for examination.”** Abul Razzaq confirmed that the barrel bomb contained chlorine, adding that 10 individuals who were hiding in a cave that was close to the site where the barrel bomb landed were rushed to medical points in Ihsim town: **“They exhibited symptoms such as suffocation, foaming, and redness in the face.”**

<sup>9</sup> Contacted via Facebook



## Hama governorate

Kafr Zita city, northern suburbs of Hama governorate – 11 attacks, we are going to shed light on one of them

Thursday, July 17, 2014, around 23:15, helicopters dropped two barrel bombs loaded with a poison gas on al Shamali neighborhood in the city. One of the barrel bombs landed on a residential basement used as a bunker in the event of bombardment. No less than 50 individuals suffered from suffocation, while a flock of sheep was affected in the targeted area. The city was under the joint control of armed opposition factions and al Nusra Front at the time of the incident.

Al Latamena town, northwestern suburbs of Hama governorate – four attacks, we are going to highlight the following:

Thursday, May 29, 2014, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with a poison gas on al Shamali neighborhood in the town, which is a highly-populated neighborhood. As a result, no less than 20 individuals suffered from suffocation, including nearly 15 women and children and one armed opposition fighter.

Saturday, March 25, 2017, between 14:30 and 15:30, helicopters dropped a barrel bomb loaded with a poison gas. The barrel bomb landed by al Latamena Surgical Hospital, which resulted in the killing of one doctor and a fighter from Jaish al Ezza, an armed opposition faction, while no less than 30 individuals suffered from suffocation.

Doctors Without Borders released a [statement](#) condemning the attack on the hospital which is supported by the organization.

Al Latamena town was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the attacks.

## Aleppo governorate

Al Sakhour neighborhood, eastern Aleppo city, one attack

Sunday, November 20, 2016, helicopters dropped [two barrel bombs](#) loaded with [a poison gas on the neighborhood](#). One of the barrel bombs landed in the vicinity of al Khayrat Mosque, which resulted in the killing of six civilians, including [four children](#) and one woman, as the victims suffocated to death. In addition, no less than 18 individuals were injured. The second barrel bomb landed on al Sakhour neighborhood highway. The neighborhood is under the control of Syrian regime forces at the time of this writing, while it was under the control of armed opposition factions at the time of the incident.





Remnants of a barrel bomb loaded with a poison gas in the aftermath of a bombing by Syrian regime helicopters on al Sakhour neighborhood, Aleppo – November 20, 2016

## VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

1- The Syrian government has, beyond any doubt, violated Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2254, and used barrel bombs in a systematic, widespread manner. Also, the Syrian government, through the crime of willful killing, has violated Article 7 of Rome Statute in a systematic and widespread manner which constitutes crimes against humanity.

2- SNHR can confirm that barrel bomb attacks are an indiscriminate bombing that targeted defenseless civilians and caused collateral damages that involved deaths, injuries, or significant damages to civilian objects. There are strong indicators suggesting that the damage was too excessive compared to the anticipated military benefit.

3- Syrian regime forces have violated the rules of the international human rights law that guarantee the right to life. In addition, these violations were committed in a non-international armed conflict, which constitutes war crimes, as all elements were fulfilled.

4- Through the use of poison gases-loaded barrel bombs, the Syrian regime has violated the rules of the customary international humanitarian law which prohibits the use of chemical weapons no matter the circumstances. Secondly, the Syrian regime has, beyond any doubt, violated the CWC treaty which the Syrian government acceded to in September 2013 as the treaty provides for the prohibition and destruction of poison gases. Thirdly, the Syrian regime has violated all relevant Security Council Resolutions – particularly 2118 in 2013, 2209 in 2015, and 2235 in 2015. In addition, using chemical weapons constitutes a war crime according to the ICC's Rome Statute.



5- Syrian regime forces have used barrel bombs loaded with incendiary ammunitions against populated residential neighborhoods without taking any measures to reduce the damages to civilians and civilian buildings and facilities. On the contrary, Syrian regime used these weapons with no military justification from our point of view as the use of these weapons wasn't followed by any progression on the ground, nor it was pointed out that these attacks destroyed or sabotaged trenches or military facilities.

6- The systematic, continued, repeated bombing, the excessive level of force, the indiscriminate nature of the bombing and the coordinated approach of the attacks. All of this can't be without high orders and a part of state policy.

7- Syrian regime forces, in all of their leaderships and forms, are involved in committing crimes against humanity and war crimes against the Syrian people. All those who provide financial, political, and military support, such as the Russian and Iranian government and the Lebanese group Hezbollah among others, as well as weapon import companies are partners to these crimes and prone to criminal prosecution.

## **Recommendations**

### **Security Council**

- The Security Council should ensure the serious implementation of its Resolutions that have been reduced to mere words, effectively losing its credibility and the legitimacy of its existence.
- The permanent state members should apply pressure on the Russian government in order to cease its support for the Syrian regime who is using chemical weapons and barrel bombs as its involvement has been proven in this regard.
- Impose an arms embargo on the Syrian government and prosecute all who supply it with finance and weapon to eliminate the risk of these weapons being used in crimes and serious violations of human rights.
- In the Syrian case, the Security Council is the party who is authorized to refer the case to the International Criminal Court. However, the Security Council has been hindering this process for five years instead of providing facilitations and instilling peace and security. Steps should be taken to immediately start the prosecution for all the individuals whose involvement in war crimes and crimes against humanity have been proven.

### **The European Union and the United States of America**

Support the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism that was established in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 71/248, adopted on December 21, 2016. And establish local tribunals that enjoy a universal jurisdiction, and address the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.



## OHCHR

The OHCHR should submit a report to the Human Rights Council and other organs of the United Nations on the incidents include in this reports and other documented incidents from our past reports. Also, the OHCHR should work on implementing the recommendations mentioned in this report.

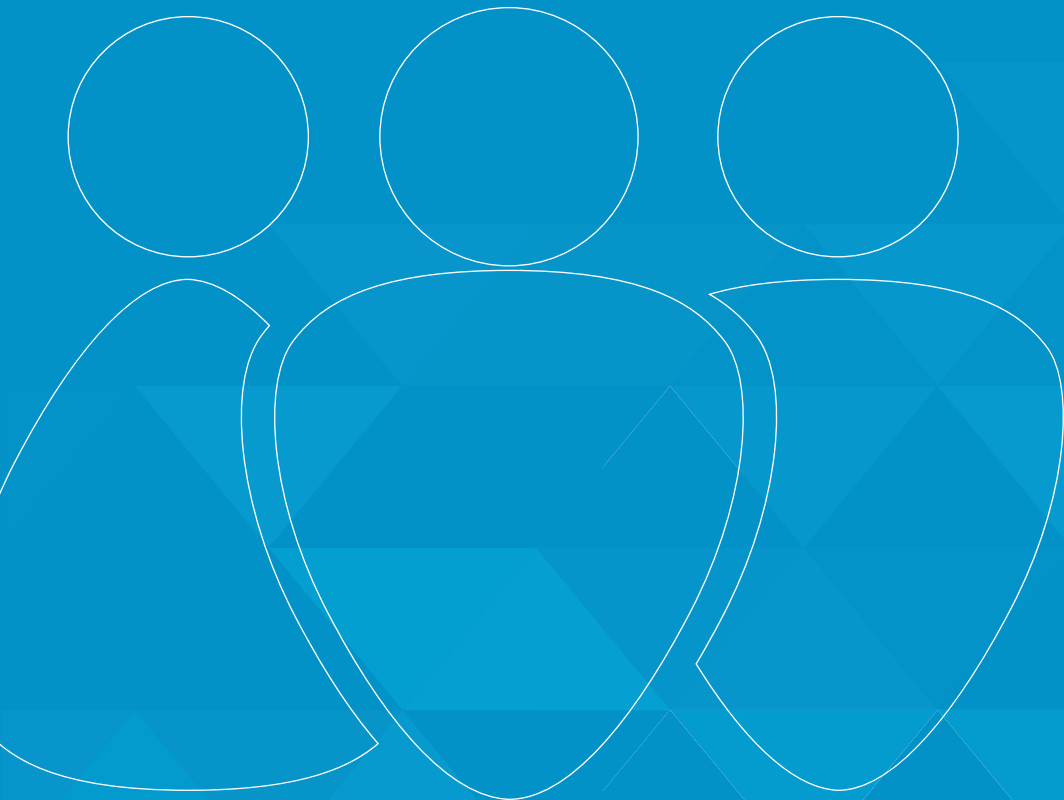
## International community

- In light of the split of the Security Council and its utter inability, Steps must be taken on the national and regional levels to form alliances to support the Syrian people that would protect them from the daily killing and siege and enhance the support for the relief efforts. Additionally, the principle of universal jurisdiction must be activated in local courts regarding these crimes in order to conduct fair trials for all those who were involved.
- SNHR has repeatedly called for the implementation of the Responsibility to Protect in tens of studies and reports and as a member of the “International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect” (ICRtoP) after all political channels through the Arab League’s agreement and then Mr. Kofi Annan’s plan have been drought out. Therefore, steps under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations should be taken, and the norm of the Responsibility to Protect, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly, should be implemented. The Security Council is still hindering the protection of civilians in Syria.
- Renew the pressure on the Security Council to refer the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court
- Work on fulfilling justice and achieving accountability in Syria through the United Nations General Assembly and the Human Rights Council and work on activating the principle of the universal jurisdiction.

## Acknowledgment

Our most heartfelt gratitude and condolences to the victims’ families and friends and local and media activists who contributed effectively to this report.





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