

including 56 Breaches of Resolution 2209



The Syrian Network for Human Rights is a independent and non-governmental, non-profit human rights organization that investigates and documents all violations committed by all conflict parties involved in the Syrian conflict since 2011. The network, that does not adopt any ideology, was founded in June 2011 and aims to defend the human rights of the Syrian people. It also includes 27 researchers and human rights activists stationed in Syria and in other neighboring countries.

SNHR is committed to all standards and international conventions of Human Rights issued by the United Nations. It aims to ensure that victims' rights are not exploited and perpetrators are held accountable for their crimes.

SNHR issues periodic reports concerning the most notable daily violations, eight monthly statistical or specialized reports, annual reports, and reports concerning global human rights events. It also issues significant studies and documentaries on a regular basis in order to contribute to raising awareness in the Syrian community.

SNHR is considered to be one of the most distinguished and reliable sources of information and references for all the analytical and statistical studies issued by the United Nations.



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I. Introduction and Methodology:

On 21 August 2013, the Syrian government committed a massacre in Al Ghouta, in Damascus suburbs. The UN Security council issued resolution 2218 that condemned the killing of civilians that resulted from the chemical attack, affirmed that the use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of the international law, and stressed that those responsible for any use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. Later, resolution 2235 was issued and condemned in the strongest terms any use of chlorine as a weapon in Syria. With the advent of the second anniversary of the chemical massacre in Syria, SNHR issues its periodic report about the government's use of toxic gases against Syrian people.

In this report, we focus primarily on the use of toxic gases by government forces before and after resolution 2118 was issued.

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry report stated that there are reasonable grounds to believe that chemical agents, probably Chlorine gas, had been used in Kafr Zeta, Al Tamania'a and Talamnis towns in eight incidents within 10 days in April. Also, according to the commission's report, there are reasonable grounds to believe that those chemical agents were dropped in barrel bombs from government helicopters flying overhead". Therefore, the commission identified the party responsible for these attacks. Further, in September 2014 the Fact Finding Mission that was assigned by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons stated that there are "compelling confirmation" that a toxic chemical, i.e. Chlorine gas, was used three time "systematically and repeatedly" as a weapon in villages in northern Syria, however, the FFM did not identify the party responsible for the chemical attack.

As an independent national human rights group, we in SNHR, affirm that we recorded 125 breaches of UNSC resolution 2118, including 56 breaches of resolution 2209 by government forces. It is worth mentioning that UNSC resolution 2118 states that "in the event of non-compliance with this resolution, measures shall be imposed under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter." Despite this, the Syrian government did not comply with this resolution and continued to violate the rights of the Syrian people and was not held accountable or responsible.

Fadel Abdul Ghani, head and founder of SNHR, said:

"There is plenty of evidence that indicates that the party responsible for these violations is the Syrian government which owns the aviation force, toxic gases, and heavy weaponry. Therefore, resolution 2235 tends to show procrastination signs and gives additional time for criminals to perpetrate more crimes. Government forces meet all Security Council resolutions with contempt and indifference midst committing more breaches and violations."

While comparing the reports issued by SNHR, we find that that the regions under the control of armed opposition groups are targeted at a rate ranging between 90 - 98% compared with regions under ISIL control. In this report, we found that government forces used toxic gases in regions under the control of armed opposition groups by 97% versus 3% in ISIL-controlled regions (in Deir Al Zour and Homs).

The main purpose behind this destruction and killing is to prevent the establishment of any alternative to the Syrian government in armed opposition regions, while at the same time allowing ISIL to spread more and more; and thus portraying ISIL as a substitute for the Assad regime.

Since we were not able to visit and collect samples from regions shelled with toxic gases, we relied on survivors and eyewitnesses testimonies, Civil Defence members and doctors who treated the injured people. Also, we examined videos and images sent to use by our local activists.

II. Executive Summary:

Since 23 December 2012, when toxic gases were firstly used in Al Bayada neighbourhood in Homs, until 8 August 2015, government forces used toxic gases 158 times, according to SNHR archives.

1252 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poising due to government's use of toxic gases, detailed as follows:

- 1202 civilians, including 180 children and 170 women
- 43 armed opposition members
- 7 government forces prisoners
- Not less than 12050 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication

Shelling with toxic gases before and after resolution 2118 was issued is detailed as follows:

A. Before Resolution 2118 was issued:

SNHR documented 33 incidents where toxic gases were used by government forces between 23 December 2012 and 27 September 2013, detailed below according to the Syrian governorates:

Damascus Suburbs: 20 incidents of shelling with toxic gases

Damascus: 6 Aleppo: 3 Homs: 3 Idlib: 1

B. After Resolution 2118 was issued:

SNHR documented 125 breaches of UNSC resolution 2118 since it was issued on 27 September 2013 up to the moment to preparing this report; amongst which, 56 breaches of UNSC resolution 2209 that was issued on 6 March 2015. The breaches are detailed below according to the Syrian governorates:

Idlib: 40 incidents of shelling with toxic gases

Damascus suburbs: 27

Hama: 20 Damascus: 21 Aleppo: 8 Homs: 2 Daraa: 4

Deir Al Zour: 3

III. The Most Recent Incidents' Details

On 19 April 2015, SNHR issued a report entitled "Waiting for the Second Ghouta Attack" (see attachments section). In this report, we document the incidents that happened since that date until now. The total toxic gases attacks reached 41, detailed as follows according to the Syrian governorates:

Idlib: 26 incidents of shelling with toxic gases

Damascus: 5

Damascus suburbs: 2

Hama: 2

Deir Al Zour: 2

Homs: 2 Aleppo: 1 Daraa: 1

Idlib Governorate:

A1- Shelling with toxic gases on Krasaa Town on 28 April 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Krasaa town and caused Chlorine gas intoxication for 12 individuals.

A2- Shelling with toxic gases on Saraqeb City:

Sargeb was shelled three times:

The First Shelling Incident on 29 April 2015:

Government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Sargeb City. One of the barrels was shelled on a remote area and the other fell on one of the houses. The house was destroyed and 15 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The Second Shelling Incident on 2 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on the eastern and northern neighbourhoods in the city. As a result, 70 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning, including women and children.



SNHR spoke to Mr. Layth, one of the Civil Defence members:

"At 3 a.m. the eastern and northern neighbourhoods in Saraqeb were shelled with two barrels loaded with Chlorine gas. I went with other Civil Defence members to aid the residents. 75 persons, including a great number of women and children suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning. The suffocation cases were mild, like burning in the throat, eyes, severe cough that incites vomiting and shortness of breath.

A video that depicts a number of suffocating children.

The Third Shelling Incident on 8 June 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the eastern neighbourhood in Saraqeb city. The shelling caused the suffocation of 5 individuals (including 3 children and two women).

A3- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Nayreb Town on 2 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on one of the houses in Al Nayreb town. As a result, a father and his son were killed and 10 civilians suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

Victims' names: Ahmad Moustafa Hajj Ali and his baby Moustafa Hajj Ali.

A video that depicts the baby, Moustafa Hajj Ali.



A4- Shelling with toxic gases on Ibleen town in Jabal Al Zawiya on 3 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Ibleen town. As a result, 12 civilians suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

A5- Shelling with toxic gases on Kafr Bateekh town on 7 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with chlorine gas on Kafr Bateekh town and 9 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

A6- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Janoudiya town on 7 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Janoudiya town. 12 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and were taken to Droukoush Hospital, according to the residents.

A7- Shelling with toxic gases on Knasfara town: It was shelled three times:

The first shelling incident on 29 April 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Knasfara town. 10 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The second shelling incident on 3 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas. 4 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The third shelling incident on 8 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas. 3 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

A8- Shelling with toxic gases on Joseph town: It was shelled twice:

The first shelling incident on 3 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas Joseph town's square. As a result, 2 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The second shelling incident on 29 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas next to Joseph town. We did not record any injuries since there were no civilians around in the region.

A9- Shelling with toxic gases on Mishmishan town: It was shelled four times:

The first shelling incident on 15 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Mishmishan town in the suburbs of Jisr Al Shoughour. A woman and her daughter were killed and 30 other civilians suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

SNHR spoke to the local activist Mohamad Al Khdier, who told us what, happened:

"At 3 a.m. government forces dropped a barrel bomb that contained Chlorine gas on the middle of Mishmishan town in the eastern suburbs of Jisr Al Shoughour. 30 civilians suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and then were taken to the nearest medical point. Most of the cases were mild and treated by the civil defence except for two cases; a woman in her forties, Futaim Mohamad Shiekh Khalil, and her baby girl. They died two days later of their injury."

A video that depicts individuals who suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The second shelling incident on 17 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine in conjunction with shelling Al Kastan town with another barrel bomb. 43 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication in both towns.

The third shelling incident on 19 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Mishmishan town. 21 persons suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The fourth shelling incident on 7 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Mishmishan town in conjunction with shelling Al Kastan town with another Chlorine loaded barrel. 9 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

A10- Shelling with toxic gases on Jisr Al Shoughour town on 19 May 2015

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Jisr Al Shoughour town in Jisr Al Shoughour suburbs thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 36 individuals

A11- Shelling Al Bashyariya town: It was shelled four times:

The first shelling incident on 19 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Bashyariyi town. 7 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning

The second shelling incident on 25 May 2015:

Government warplanes targeted with a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas Al Bshariya town. 6 Individuals suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning.

The third shelling incident on 2 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Bshariya town which led to the Chlorine gas intoxication of 9 persons.

The fourth shelling incident on 9 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the town thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 6 persons.

A12- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Kastan town:

The first shelling incident on 17 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the town in conjunction with targeting Mishmishan town with a similar barrel bomb thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 43 individuals in both towns.

SNHR spoke to a local activist, Mohamad Al Khdeir:

"On Sunday at 2:30 a.m. government aviation raided the eastern suburbs of Jisr Al Shougour and dropped two barrel bombs on Al Kastan and Mishmishan town. The barrel bombs contained Chlorine gas and the smell spread all over the towns. Civil defence teams and ambulances rushed to aid the citizens. There were 40 individuals in both towns who suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and their injuries were mild, their eyes burned and felt nauseous. The severe cases were taken to the medical points to monitor them.

The second shelling incident on 7 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the town in conjunction with targeting Mishmishan town with a similar barrel bomb causing Chlorine gas intoxication for 5 persons.

A13- Shelling with toxic gases on Sfouhen town on 9 June 2015:

At 4:30 a.m. Government warplanes dropped two barrel bombs that contained Chlorine gas on the town which led to the Chlorine gas intoxication of 9 individuals who were taken to makeshift hospitals.

A14- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Tamanaa' town on 17 June 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb that contained Chlorine gas, however it did not explode.



SNHR spoke to local activist Abdul Kader Al Bakri who gave us is testimony about what happened:

"On Wednesday at dawn at 4:30 a.m. government warplanes were hovering around over Al Tamanaa' town and dropped a barrel bomb on one of the houses in the middle of the town but it did not. We thought that it was loaded with Chlorine gas, most of the times those barrels don't explode. After checking the barrel and where it fell, we found out that it contained Chlorine gas cylinders, but luckily, it did not explode."

Damascus Suburbs Governorate:

B1- Shelling with toxic gases on Harasta City on 21 July 2015:

Government forces targeted one of the tunnels used by the Syrian opposition groups with two bombs loaded with Chlorine gas thus killing 2 armed opposition members and causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 5 others.

SNHR spoke to local activist Aram Al Doumani who told us what happened:

"At 4:45 p.m., government forces bombed a tunnel next to Al Kouee' region while it was being dug by rebels. It was followed with bombs similar to tear gas; however, it was loaded with Chlorine gas. The doctor at the makeshift hospital told me that the Chlorine gas intoxication cases were mild and was treated. But, two persons died.

A video that depicts Chlorine gas intoxication cases due to toxic gases:

Victims' Names:

Mohamad Al Tellawi and Abdo Al Takli.

B2- Shelling with toxic gases on Zamalka, 27 July 2015:

At 5:00 a.m. Government forces launched a number of "Fiel" local made rockets loaded with Chlorine gas. The rockets fell on Jobar neighborhood and one of the rockets fell on the peripheries of Zamalka City thus causing 5 Chlorine gas intoxication cases.

Hama Governorate:

C1- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Hawash town on 26 April 2015:

Government aviation dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on the middle of Al Hawash town in Sahel Al Ghab in Hama western suburbs, thus causing 10 Chlorine gas intoxication cases. The residents took the injured people to makeshift hospitals.

SNHR spoke to local activist Mr. Zakaria Attieh, Al Assi News Agency reporter:

"At 11:00 p.m. yesterday, a government warplane dropped a barrel bomb filled with Chlorine gas on the middle of Al Hawash town. I went with paramedic from a makeshift hospital to the shelling site. The paramedic suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and was pulled out from the location directly and I felt my eyes burning. Fifteen minutes later, the gas spread in the western side of the town (according to the wind's direction). As a result, 10 individuals suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and were taken to makeshift hospitals. Some of them vomited as well."

A <u>video</u> that depicts a young man who inhaled Chlorine gas:

A <u>video</u> that depicts one of the survivors who suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication after he inhaled Chlorine gas:

C2- Shelling with toxic gases on Kastoon town, 30 April 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb filled with Chlorine gas on Kastoon town. 5 persons suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and had breathing problems.

Damascus Governorate:

D1- Shelling with toxic gases on Jobar neighborhood: Government forces targeted it five times, detailed as follows:

The first shelling incident on 3 May 2015:

On 11:00 p.m. government forces centered on the periphery of Jobar neighborhood threw grenades loaded with Chlorine gases on a tunnel used by armed opposition groups. As a result, 8 individuals suffered from breathing problems. It is worth noting that government forces bombed the tunnel earlier on.

The second shelling incident on 13 June 2015:

Government forces targeted Al Manasher frontier in Jobar neighborhood with a number of grenades thus causing Chlorine gas intoxication to 8 armed opposition members. Their cases were mild.

The third shelling incident on 27 July 2015:

At 5 a.m. government forces targeted Jobar neighborhood with 7 "Fiel" local made rockets loaded with Chlorine gases. 27 individuals asphyxiated, half of them were women and children.

SNHR spoke to Dr. Abu Abbas who works in the makeshift hospital in Jobar neighborhood:

"Government shelling targeted Jobar neighborhood mainly and some of the rockets fell on eastern Ghouta neighborhoods (like Ein Terma and Zamalka). The injuries were simple and mild. Two young men and two children were taken to the hospital where I worked and their situation was stable. They presented symptoms like chronic asthma. Bicarbonate spray was used and the results were good."

A <u>video</u> that depicts a group of injured individuals at the makeshift hospital:

The fourth shelling incident, on 30 July 2015:

Government forces targeted one of the frontiers that belonged to armed opposition groups with grenades loaded with Chlorine gas. As a result, 15 individuals suffocated.

The fifth shelling incident, on 6 August 2015:

Government forces targeted Arefa frontier with grenades loaded with toxic gases. SNHR could not identify the nature of the toxic substances. As a result, 1 armed opposition member died and 10 others suffocated. They suffered from shortness of breath and fainting.

Homs Governorate:

E1- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Sikhna town on 16 May 2015:

Government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Al Sikhna town in eastern Homs suburbs that is under ISIL control since May 2015. 5 persons suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication.

SNHR member in Homs, Khaled Al Manjed, interviewed the residents:

"At 6 p.m. government warplanes dropped a barrel bomb filled with Chlorine gas on the town's square. 5 persons suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication and were taken immediately to Ragga City Hospital that is under ISIL control. The doctor confirmed that they inhaled air polluted with Chlorine gas."

E2- Shelling with toxic gases on Palmyra City on 22 May 2015:

Government aviation dropped two barrel bombs loaded with Chlorine gas around the ancient citadel and the Military Security Branch in Palmyra city that has been under ISIL's control since 13 May 2015. The shelling killed 3 individuals, including a child. Some residents were also injured and treated in one of the doctor's clinics in the city.

SNHR member in Homs, Khaled Al Manjed was able to visit and observe the shelled region:

"The shelling incident happened at 4 p.m. next to the citadel. Afterwards, a strange smell and white-yellowish smoke started to spread. I went with some residents to shelling site and saw three individuals, including a child. They were taken to a nearby clinic and the doctor stated that the symptoms they presented where compatible with symptoms of Chlorine gas intoxication."



Deir Al Zour Governorate:

F1- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Shiekh Yaseen neighborhood on 8 July 2015:

Government forces stationed on the mountain targeted Al Shiekh Yaseen neighborhood, which is under ISIL's control, with two rockets loaded with Chlorine gas. One of the rockets fell on one of the residential buildings thus killed 5 civilians from one family, including 3 children, and injured 23 individuals.

SNHR spoke to local activist "Samer" who was in the hospital when people who suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication started to arrive:

"I was in Farmex Hospital when injured people started to arrive. A man, a woman and three children entered. There were no signs of blood or shelling, but their faces were blue and half an hour later, at least 23 persons who suffered from Chlorine gas poising arrived as well. Most of them were women and children who needed ventilators.

An hour later, I went to the shelling location. There was not much amount of blood around and I did not even find the rockets' shrapnel. However, I found red substance where it fell and I felt shortness of breath then went directly to the hospital where I used the ventilator machine to get better."

Most of the people who suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication left the hospital hours later and some of them left the day after. I was not able to document the number of individuals who suffered from Chlorine gas intoxication since ISIL members prevented me from videotaping the residents."

The <u>location</u> of the shelled <u>rockets</u>.

F2- Shelling with toxic gases on Al Hwayka neighborhood on 8 July 2015

Government forces rocket launchers shelled Al Hwayka neighborhood with a rocket loaded with Chlorine gas. The rocket fell over a region that witnessed clashes between government forces and ISIL. The shelling did not result in civilian casualties.

Aleppo Governorate:

G1- The scientific research headquarters on 7 July 2015:

Government aviation dropped two barrel bombs loaded with a gas, presumably Chlorine gas, on the scientific research headquarters western of New Aleppo neighbourhood that is under armed opposition groups' control. The shelling caused Chlorine gas intoxication cases for about 27 individuals.

A <u>video</u> that depicts one of the persons who suffered from Chlorine gas poisoning:

Daraa Governorate:

H1- Shelling with toxic gases on Kafr Shams town on 1 May 2015:

Government forces dropped a barrel bomb loaded with Chlorine gas on Kafr Shams town in Daraa. We did not record any civilian casualties.

SNHR spoke to local activist Mahmoud Kinaan who told us what happened:

"On Friday at 4 p.m. government forces dropped a number of explosive barrels on Kafr Shams town in Daraa. The town witnessed clashes between armed opposition forces and the regime's army and the town was shelled with a barrel that contained Chlorine gas. I saw a helicopter that threw the barrel bomb on the town's periphery and the Chlorine gas spread in large areas. Luckily, the barrel fell in a remote area."

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations:

Government forces violated the International Humanitarian Law by using an internationally forbidden weapon and this is considered as a war crime, as government forces also violated the Security Council resolutions concerning this matter, also the killing crimes amount to crimes against humanity according to charter 7 of Rome Statue, as it is since March 2011 a systematic and wide spread policy as well.

To International Independent Investigation Commission

The commission must start investigation in the incidents they can process at once, and take serious steps towards speeding the investigation of identifying the responsible of the use of this kind of weaponry, especially after the Syrian government signed an agreement on prohibiting chemical weapons.

To the Security Council:

The Security Council must shoulder its responsibilities in preserving the peace and security in Syria, as the violations committed by the Syrian government forms a grave threat to the peace and security of the world, and to stop playing the game of political interests on behalf of the Syrian people blood.

And the Syrian regime obvious neglect of Security Council resolution 2118 and later resolution 2209 is a political disgrace and a terrible offence to the Security Council.

To Human Rights Committee:

The committee must shed more light on the Syrian regime violations of the Security Council resolutions 2118 and 2209 in order to form a higher pressure on the Security Council to take serious and dissuasive measures.

To Friends of Syria countries:

Supply the areas suffering from the poisoned gas shelling with protective masks (as the Security Council is unable to stop these attacks); SNHR estimates the need of these areas with at least 14500 protective masks, plus equipment to remove the chemical pollution effects.

V. Attachments:

On 30 April 2014, SNHR issued a report about the governments' use of toxic gases since the beginning of year 2014 and until 21 April 2014. Toxic gases were used not less than 17 times.

On 14 April 2014, SNHR issued a report that documented 26 toxic gas attacks perpetrated by government forces since the beginning of 2014 and until the moment of making this report.

On 26 July 2014 SNHR issued a report that documented 27 toxic gas attacks perpetrated by government forces since the beginning of 2014 and up till the moment of making this report.

On 10 November 2014, SNHR issued a report that documented 50 toxic gas attacks after UNSC resolution 2118 was issued on 27 September 2013 until 21 November 2014.

On 7 March 2015, SNHR issued a report that documented 71 breaches for UNSC resolution 2118.

On 22 March 2015, SNHR issued a report entitled "Breathing Death" where it documented 6 breaches for UNSC resolution 2209.

On 19 April 2015, SNHR issued a report entitled "Waiting for the second Ghouta attack"

Condolence and Gratitude:

Our condolence to the victims' families, and we wish the injured a speedy recovery, and all the appreciation and gratitude to the victims' families, the injured, eyewitnesses, and local activist, whom their contribution have effectively enriched the report.