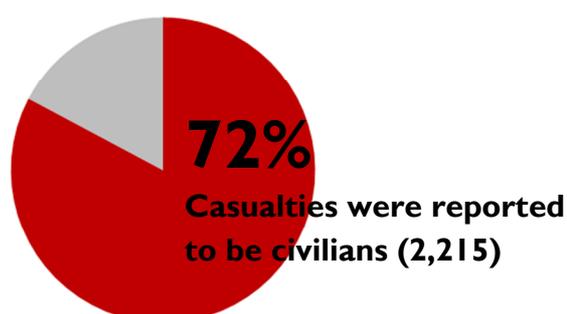
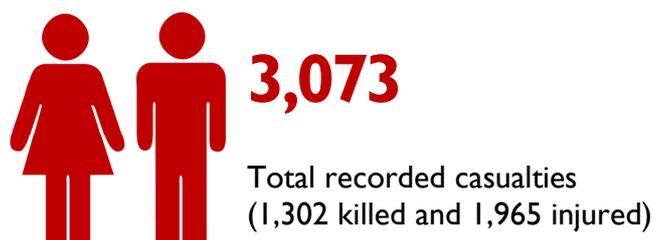


# Explosive Violence: February 2014

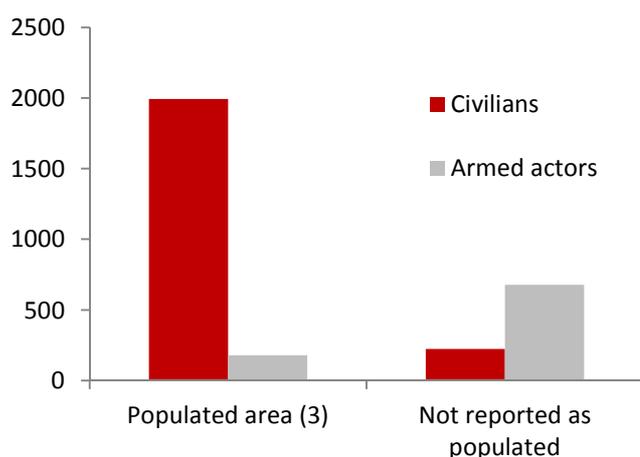
# AOAV

Data presented is based on information gathered by AOAV's explosive violence monitoring project. No claims are made that this data captures every incident or casualty of explosive violence, but is indicative of the scale and scope of explosive weapon use.



## February's Hotspots

Country	Civilians <sup>1</sup>	Armed actors	Incidents
Iraq	954	256	76
Syria <sup>2</sup>	539	243	35
Pakistan	253	213	28
Lebanon	180	18	8
Afghanistan	71	25	13



## Weapon types



Air-launched

**285**

civilians killed  
and injured



Ground-launched

**354**

civilians killed  
and injured



IEDs

**1,493**

civilians killed  
and injured

## Top stories in February

**Barrel bombings in Aleppo:** AOAV recorded 189 civilian deaths in February as so-called 'barrel bombs' hit the northern Syria city of Aleppo. This included 44 children.<sup>4</sup>

**Schools under attack:** AOAV recorded 63 civilian casualties from six incidents where explosive weapons were used in or near schools. Schools were hit in four countries, Afghanistan, Libya, Pakistan and Syria. In the worst incident, 18 people, including five Palestinian refugee children, were killed when a bomb fell on the Zeitoun school in Daraa province on 18 February.

**Cluster bombs:** The UN has condemned the use of cluster munitions in South Sudan after remnants were found this month near the town of Bor.<sup>5</sup> Further, Syrian government forces have fired a new type of cluster munitions that are the largest ground-launched type yet seen in the war.<sup>6</sup> Cluster bombs are inherently indiscriminate weapons that have been banned under international law.<sup>7</sup>

## AOAV's Explosive Violence Monitor

**Methodology:** Information is gathered from English-language news sources on incidents of explosive violence with at least one reported casualty. AOAV uses an RSS reader to scan Google news for key terms which relate to explosive weapon use. Information is extracted on: the date, time, and location of the incident; the number and status of people killed and injured; the weapon type; the reported user and target; the detonation method and whether displacement or damage to the location was reported. AOAV does not attempt to comprehensively capture all incidents of explosive violence around the world, instead this data is intended to serve as a useful indicator of the scale and pattern of harm. Direct casualties are just one aspect of the impact of explosive weapons in populated areas. Damage to civilian infrastructure, psychological and socio-economic impacts on individuals and communities, and the danger of UXO are seldom reported in news sources.

For the latest analysis and research of developments in explosive violence go to:

[Manufactured Explosive Weapons](#)

[IEDs and Suicide Bombings](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Actors are defined as civilians if they are not identifiable in reports either as armed actors or security personnel.

<sup>2</sup> The number of casualties from explosive violence in Syria is significantly under-reported, owing to the nature of news-source reporting from the conflict. Very few incidents in Syria were reported with injuries (only 19% as opposed to 83% in Iraq). Both Iraq and Syria had a very similar number of civilian fatalities reported in January.

<sup>3</sup> Incidents are designated as occurring in populated areas if: a) It is stated in the source (e.g. a busy street, a crowded market etc); b) If an incident occurs in or near a pre-defined location which is likely to contain concentrations of civilians: Commercial premises, Entertainment venues, Hospitals, Hotels, Encampments (IDPs, Refugees, Nomads), Markets, Places of worship, Police stations, Public gatherings, Public buildings, Public transport, Schools, Town centres, Urban residential neighbourhoods, Villages/ compounds. Other locations recorded include: Agricultural area, Armed Base, Road, and Transport-related infrastructure. Incidents which occurred in these locations are recorded as 'Populated area' if details of the media report state that they were located in or next to any of the locations classified as likely to be populated. If there is insufficient or unclear information, then it is recorded as 'Unclear', and combined with the 'Not reported as populated area' category for analysis.

<sup>4</sup> See AOAV's analysis of barrel bombs and their effects on civilians featured in Newsweek: "Are Syrian barrel bombs really worse than normal weaponry?" Newsweek, 12 February 2014, <http://aoav.org.uk/2014/syrian-barrel-bombs-really-worse-normal-weaponry/>

<sup>5</sup> South Sudan: Investigate New Cluster Bomb Use, 15 February 2014, [www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/14/south-sudan-investigate-new-cluster-bomb-use](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/14/south-sudan-investigate-new-cluster-bomb-use)

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Watch, "Syria: New Deadly Cluster Munition Attacks," 19 February 2014, [www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/18/syria-new-deadly-cluster-munition-attacks](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/18/syria-new-deadly-cluster-munition-attacks)

<sup>7</sup> The Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), 2008, [www.clusterconvention.org/](http://www.clusterconvention.org/)