

Explosive Violence: April 2014

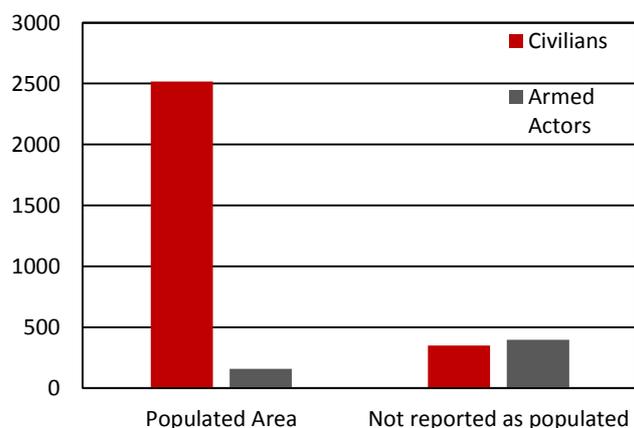
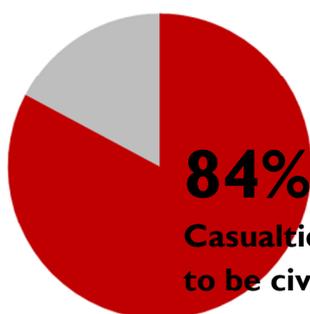
AOAV

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.



3,423

Total recorded casualties
(1,130 killed and 2,293 injured)



Top stories in April

Increasing violence in Nigeria A huge explosion in a bus station in the Nigerian capital Abuja killed and injured 216 civilians on 14 April. Boko Haram, who are becoming increasingly active in Nigeria, claimed responsibility for the attack, which resulted in the highest number of civilian casualties of any incident of explosive weapon use in April.

Pakistan market bombing Markets are often the location of IED incidents.³ On 9 April an IED was hidden in a crate of fruit in a crowded market in Islamabad where more than 2,000 people were gathered.⁴ When it exploded, 23 civilians were killed and a further 143 were injured.

Syrian schools under attack April saw a dramatic increase in the number of reported civilian casualties in Syria, largely due to the bombardment of civilian areas in Homs and Damascus. [Mortars](#) and air drop bombs have caused devastation in these cities, and have been responsible for several attacks on schools in the country.⁵ One of the worst mortar attacks in Damascus hit the Badr el-Din Hussini education complex, killing and injuring 101 civilians.

April's Hotspots

Country	Civilians ¹	Armed actors	Incidents
Syria ²	1172	14	48
Iraq	832	203	55
Pakistan	324	105	22
Nigeria	248	9	2
China	80	2	1

Weapon types



Air-launched

260
civilians killed
and injured



Ground-launched

869
civilians killed
and injured



IEDs

1,653
civilians killed
and injured

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](#)

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

² 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.

³ Henry Dodd, "Data shows Wednesday's bomb attack on Islamabad market part of a bloody pattern," Action on Armed Violence, 11 April 2014, <http://aoav.org.uk/2014/data-shows-wednesdays-bomb-attack-islamabad-market-part-bloody-pattern/> (accessed 16 May 2014).

⁴ Omer Farooq Khan, "23 killed, 120 injured in Pakistan bomb blast," TNN posted in *The Times of India*, 9 April 2014, <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/23-killed-120-injured-in-Pakistan-bomb-blast/articleshow/33501186.cms> (accessed 16 May 2014).

⁵ Robert Perkins, "Syrian children killed in school bombing," Action on Armed Violence, 30 April 2014, <http://aoav.org.uk/2014/syrian-children-killed-school-bombing/> (accessed 16 May 2014).