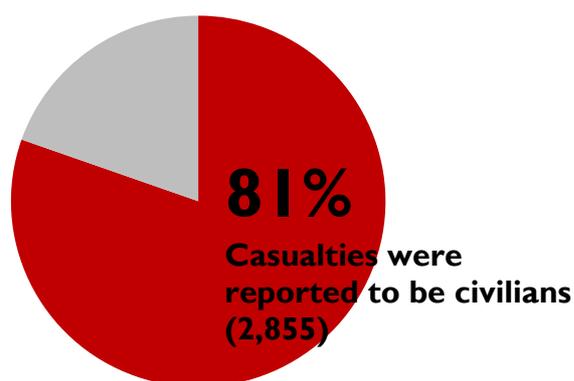
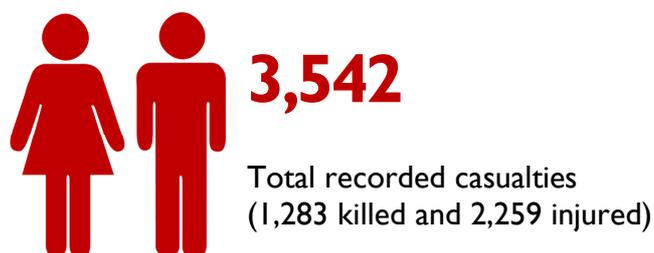


Explosive Violence: May 2014

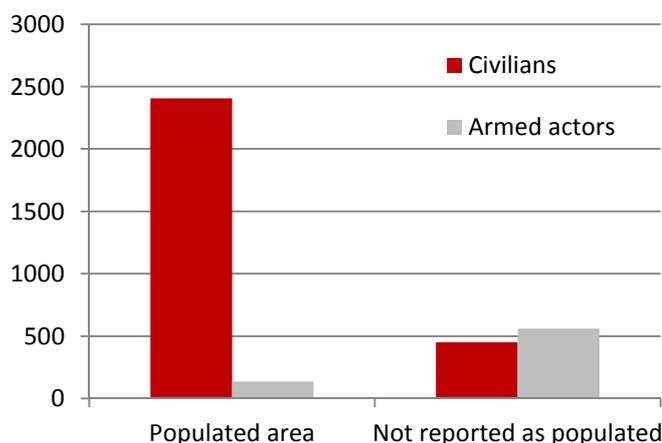


Data presented is based on information gathered by AOA's explosive violence monitoring project. No claims are made that this data captures every incident or casualty of explosive violence, but is indicative of the scale and scope of explosive weapon use.



May's Hotspots

Country	Civilians ¹	Armed actors	Incidents
Syria ²	1023	118	45
Iraq	650	61	47
Nigeria	289	3	5
Kenya	175	1	5
Afghanistan	156	75	19



Weapon types



Air-launched

110
civilians killed and injured



Ground-launched

1,048
civilians killed and injured



IEDs

1,676
civilians killed and injured

Top stories in May

Election violence The worst incident in May occurred in the Daraa province of Syria on 22 May. A mortar shell hit a campaign tent packed with pro-Assad supporters, killing 11 and injuring more than 200.³ While the attack wasn't explicitly linked to the presidential elections that took place on 3 June, political rallies and public gatherings were bombed in four different countries in May, with recent elections in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Egypt.

Nairobi market bombing Kenya features in the five countries most affected by explosive violence in May after five grenade and IED attacks killed 17 civilians and injured 158. The worst attack was on 16 May, when two IEDs detonated in Gikombo open-air market, the biggest market in the capital city of Nairobi.⁴

Shelling in eastern Ukraine The first civilian casualties from explosive violence were recorded as clashes in eastern Ukraine escalated during May. AOA recorded 27 civilian and 76 armed actor casualties from explosive weapons, after separatist rebels shot down a military helicopter on 2 May.⁵

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 Zeina Karam, "Syrian TV: 39 killed in campaign tent shelling," *The Associated Press*, posted by *Yahoo! News*, 23 May 2014, <http://news.yahoo.com/syrian-tv-39-killed-campaign-tent-shelling-200012619.html>

⁴ BBC, "Kenya's Nairobi hit by twin bomb blasts in Gikomba market," 16 May 2014, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-27443474>

⁵ Jacob Parakilas and Robert Perkins, "Ukraine crisis: AOAV warns against further use of explosive weapons," AOAV, 2 May 2014, <http://aoav.org.uk/2014/ukraine-explosive-weapons/>