

Explosive Violence: August 2015

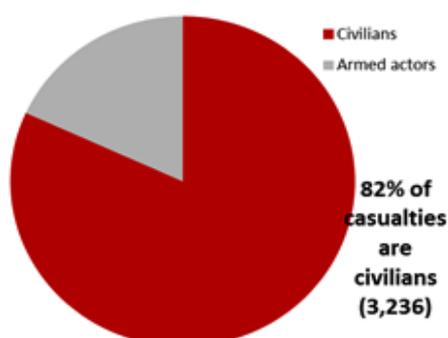
AOAV

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.



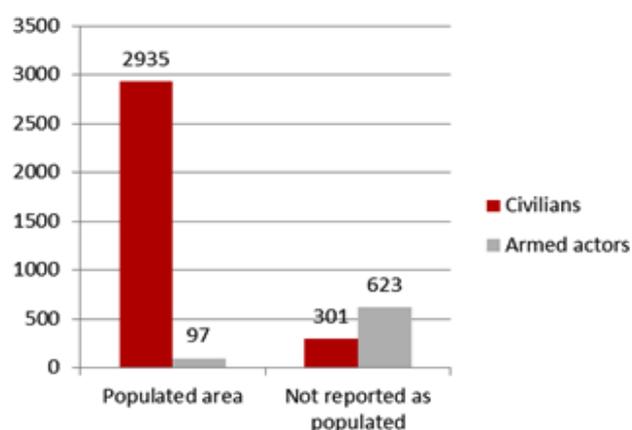
3,956

Total recorded casualties
(1,435 killed and 2,521 injured)



Country	Civilians ¹	Armed actors	Incidents
Syria	1,225	168	35
Iraq	628	163	24
Afghanistan	460	13	10
Yemen	307	29	13
Thailand	145	5	2

Explosive weapons in populated areas²



Weapon types



Air-launched

793
civilians killed
and injured



Ground-launched

1,027
civilians killed
and injured



IEDs

1,416
civilians killed
and injured

Top Story: Devastating market bombing in Syria

The single worst incident of explosive violence recorded by AOAV in August 2015 was the bombing of a market in the outskirts of Damascus, Syria. At least 96 people were killed and another 200 were wounded in the air strike on 16 August, carried out by Syrian fighter jets.

The strikes took place during rush hour as civilians were shopping for food on the first working day of the week. At least two bombs fell in the marketplace, the second falling as rescuers rushed to help the victims of the first blast. Eyewitnesses said that the public space had been completely obliterated, and that the destruction of supplies meant that survivors in the area would now go without food.

The particularly severe nature of the destruction arising from potentially just two munitions suggests that fuel-air explosives may have been used. Commonly called 'vacuum' bombs because of the enormously destructive shockwave these weapons have.

Aid In Danger: Nine hospitals bombed in three days

By *Insecurity Insight*: www.aidindanger.org



**Insecurity
Insight**

Data on People in Danger

Between 7 and 10 August 2015, air strikes affected nine hospitals across Idlib province. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), who run five different medical facilities in Syria and support over 100 others, believe that the attacks are [“part of an ongoing and devastating trend towards more targeted attacks on healthcare services across the country.”](#)

The strikes killed three hospital staff, one patient and seven civilians, and injured seven hospital staff, six patients and over 18 civilians. The impact of the explosive force destroyed two ambulances, a generator and a laboratory and damaged three more ambulances.

The long-term consequences of damage caused by explosive weapons will be felt by a wider circle of civilians as the dialysis centre serving a catchment population of 30,000 remains closed and the surgery, orthopaedics and physiotherapy services were affected in several of the hospitals.

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) Refers to areas likely to contain concentrations of civilians. To see AOAV's recording guidelines see <https://aoav.org.uk/explosiveviolence/methodology/>

[3] For more on the bombing of Douma market in Syria, see:

“UN condemns Syria market attack as witnesses tell of ‘corpses everywhere,’” The Guardian, 17 August 2015, www.theguardian.com/world/2015/aug/17/un-condemns-syria-market-attack-douma-air-strike

“Syrian army bombards Douma as air raid toll rises: monitor,” Reuters, 17 August 2015, www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/17/us-mideast-crisis-syria-attack-idUSKCN0QMORZ20150817

“A new kind of bomb is being used in Syria and it's a humanitarian nightmare,” 28 August 2015, <https://news.vice.com/article/a-new-kind-of-bomb-is-being-used-in-syria-and-its-a-humanitarian-nightmare>