

Explosive Violence: December 2015

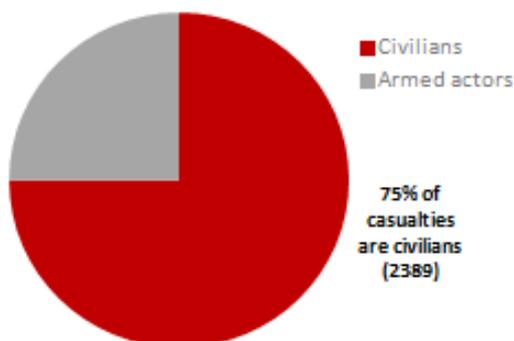


Data presented is based on information gathered by AOAV's explosive violence monitoring project. No claims are made that this data captures every incident or casualty of explosive violence, but is indicative of the scale and scope of explosive weapon use.



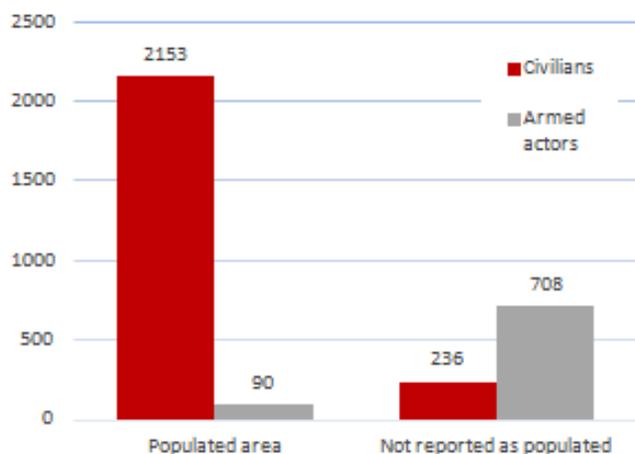
3,187

Total recorded casualties
(1,396 killed and 1,794 injured)



Country	Civilians ¹	Armed actors	Incidents
Syria	1119	148	28
Nigeria	291	6	4
Pakistan	197	15	10
Chad	145	6	2
Yemen	139	161	11

Explosive weapons in populated areas²



Weapon types



Air-launched

636
civilians killed
and injured



Ground-launched

363
civilians killed
and injured



IEDs

1,270
civilians killed
and injured

Top Story: Suspected Russian airstrikes cause devastation in Idlib

On Sunday the 20th, bombers suspected to be Russian launched six separate airstrikes on different locations across the northwestern Syrian city of Idlib, leaving at least 73 civilians dead and 150 more injured. Since mid-2015 the city has been controlled by the Army of Islam, one of a number of Syrian opposition groups fighting against the government, and was recently proposed as a potential interim seat for a Syrian opposition parliament. As a result, it has been a frequent target of government and, more recently, Russian bombing raids. In June 2013, AOAV recorded 130 civilian deaths and injuries as the result of a single Syrian government missile attack on a residential neighbourhood in the city. In December's attack the locations hit included a number of government buildings and a market, continuing a bloody trend of airstrikes on densely populated civilian areas. AOAV has previously highlighted market bombings in Syria, most recently in August.

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Aid In Danger: Transport routes threatened by bombing^[3]

By *Insecurity Insight*: www.aidindanger.org



**Insecurity
Insight**

Data on People in Danger

During the week of the 14 December, the Maram foundation trucked tents in two vehicles from the Turkish border towards Latakia province in Syria to provide shelter for the increasing number of people displaced by air raids. When they saw Russian bombers approaching the road, the aid workers stopped the trucks and ran away. After an hour, when the jets had disappeared, the staff dared to return to their vehicles and continued their journey. While neither the aid workers nor their cargo was hit in this case, the incident illustrates the fear among aid workers and the resulting delays in the delivery of aid when explosive weapons are insight near major supply routes during intensified air campaigns that cause civilian casualties, damage civil infrastructure and trigger displacement.

The Maram Foundation, like all aid agencies, is concerned about the safety of their aid workers and introduced added security measures for the supply trips into Syria. They no longer travel in convoy but leaving a few kilometers between trucks. They no longer take the vehicle directly to the warehouse. This has slowed down distribution. The cumulative effect of security measures introduced across the board by aid agencies in response to the intensified bombing resulted into a sharp decline in the quantity of aid delivery. According to Mercy Corps, one of the largest aid agencies working in Syria distributing aid with the help of local partners, the organisation's ability to transport and distribute food fell by 80% since the number and severity of air strikes increased over northwest Syria following the downing of the Russian plane by Turkey on 24 November 2015. Commercial suppliers, who use the same routes, experience identical threats and have taken similar measures. The result are food and other shortages in Syria. Armed fighter jets overflying major supply routes, even if they never directly bomb the highway, have a devastating effect on aid agencies' abilities to mitigate the effects of the use of explosive weapons on the civilian population.

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 attacks on supply routes, please see: www.middleeasteye.net/news/it-s-hard-imagine-conditions-getting-worse-syria-they-are-322835650?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRoks6TJcu%2FhmjTEU5z1%E2%80%A6 and www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-russia-airstrikes-syria-20151214-story.html?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRoks6vNcu%2FhmjTEU5z17e4vT%25%E2%80%A6