



Ministry of Defence

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Reference: FOI 2019/07855 (189)

11 September 2019

Mr I Overton

request-587607-4cc04672@whatdotheyknow.com

Dear Mr Overton,

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2019 which requested the following information:

"1) *The number of enemies killed in action (EKIA) and enemies wounded in action (EWIA) by RAF strikes in Iraq and Syria.*
- The data broken down by aircraft type responsible for the strike (e.g. Typhoon, Tornado and Reaper) and by month, beginning from September 2014 (Iraq) and December 2015 (Syria) up to the end of June 2019 if possible. Please include data up to the latest date possible while processing this request.

2) *All allegations of civilian casualties from RAF strikes in Iraq and Syria received by the British government since September 2014 to the present day.*
For each allegation, please provide the date, location, and all other details available such as the numbers of civilians killed or injured.

A previous FOI to this end was answered, in part, here:

<https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fassets.publishing.service.gov.uk&data=02%7C01%7Ccio-foi%40mod.gov.uk%7C77cb4df0f66d482cf55608d702ad8d37%7Cbe7760ed5953484bae95d0a16dfa09e5%7C0%7C0%7C636980816736111700&sdata=eP5%2FTXWs%2BMAtWS9js%2FY7iSSnR0Fugy%2BpF9QI73rc9ps%3D&reserved=0...>

But I would like this data to be updated to the present day, or as near as, if possible."

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

A search for the information has now been completed within the Ministry of Defence, and we can confirm that some information in scope of your request is held.

As you will be aware some of the information you have requested has already been published on the MOD website¹ and is exempted under Section 21 (Information accessible to applicant by other means) of the FOIA.

Please see the accompanying tables which provide updated information to answer your question relating to the number of Estimated Enemy Killed in Action (Annex A) and Estimated Enemy Wounded in Action (Annex B) covering the period from September 2016 to July 2019.

Information concerning enemy killed and wounded in action is based on the best available post-strike analysis. This information, however, is only given as an estimate as the UK is not in a position to visit airstrike sites inside Syria and verify the facts. One of the aims of the UK and Coalition airstrikes is to dismantle Daesh's military infrastructure by targeting fortified positions, command and control sites, and military equipment rather than Daesh fighters. Therefore, we would not always expect to see enemy killed and wounded in action for all targets the UK strikes.

The data contained in this statement is believed to be complete and correct at the time of issue. The MOD operational activity databases are frequently reviewed, and any errors and omissions are corrected. It is therefore possible that future statements might not match this statement exactly. The MOD regrets any difficulty that this may cause but emphasises that our aim is to ensure that our records are as complete and correct as possible.

Regarding your second question, the UK has received 6 further allegations of civilian casualties caused by RAF Air Strikes in Iraq and Syria. The table below has been updated to include the further allegations. The data has been provided by a third party; it sets out their assessment of potential civilian casualties by comparing the evidence they have gathered with MOD's online narrative of the RAF's operational activity at the time.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/571871/20161011-FOI2016_08593_Enemy_killed_or-wounded_in_Iraq-Syria_by_RAF-airstrikes.pdf

CIVILIAN CASUALTY ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED SINCE 1 AUGUST 2016

Location (lat, long)	Date(s)
36.38747, 43.1592	9 January 2017
36.36012, 43.09335	15 May 2017
35.95538, 38.96341	2 June 2017
35.95181; 38.981945	28 June 2017, about 7.30 pm
35.950687, 38.993151	Between 13 and 22 July 2017
35.93988, 38.99818	18 July 2017, morning
35.95358, 39.00444	13 August 2017
35.952188, 39.016402	22 August 2017, about 7 pm
Close to 35.952188, 39.016402	Last week of August/first week of September
35.958671, 39.007236	12 October 2017, about 04.45 am
35.958649, 39.007077	12 October 2017, about 04.45 am
34.75317, 38.77176	20 January 2018
34.73418, 40.77497	9 February 2018

Further to the allegations in the table above, the MOD received correspondence from Amnesty International outlining a range of allegations of civilian casualties which was responded to on 13 May 2019. The details of the allegations and the MOD response are provided at Annex C.

On 2 May 2018 the Secretary of State for Defence laid a written statement to Parliament notifying the House that a UK air strike on 26 March 2018, targeting Daesh fighters in eastern Syria, resulted in an unintentional civilian fatality. The statement can be found on Parliament's website at the link below:

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2018-05-02/HCWS665/>

It is important to note, that we cannot completely eliminate the risk of civilian casualties, but we carefully mitigate that risk through strict targeting procedures.

All weapons releases by RAF aircraft are conducted in strict accordance with the Law of Armed Conflict and rigorous Rules of Engagement, incorporating estimates to minimise the chance of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. Furthermore, after every British strike, the MOD conducts an assessment of its effectiveness, including whether or not the objective of the strike has been met. This assessment includes checks to see whether there are likely to have been civilian casualties. In the event that there is any evidence at all, a further investigation is undertaken.

The MOD has committed to examining all evidence of civilian casualties that may be submitted, no matter what the source is. We take all allegations of civilian casualties seriously and analyse each allegation individually.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat

Annexes:

- A. Estimated Enemy Killed in Action Iraq and Syria – September 2016–July 2019.
- B. Estimated Enemy Wounded in Action Iraq and Syria – September 2016–July 2019.
- C. MOD response to Amnesty International dated 13 May 2019.

**Annex A to
FOI 2019/07855 (189)
dated 11 September 2019**

**ESTIMATED ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ AND SYRIA – SEPTEMBER 2016–
JULY 2019**

ESTIMATED ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION							
		IRAQ			SYRIA		
Year	Month	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper
2016	Sep ²	14	15	43	0	3	14
	Oct	71	23	69	4	0	2
	Nov	32	2	73	6	0	9
	Dec	8	9	25	0	4	0
2017	Jan	8	7	46	5	0	0
	Feb	9	9	5	0	0	0
	Mar	95	62	1	0	7	0
	Apr	3	50	2	23	0	4
	May	15	146	0	7	0	2
	Jun	80	117	3	32	34	12
	Jul	86	57	0	58	25	6
	Aug	81	33	0	112	24	0
	Sep	9	45	0	20	4	27
	Oct	0	13	0	3	0	22
	Nov	0	7	0	1	36	3
	Dec	0	11	0	4	3	21
2018	Jan	6	0	0	35	12	53
	Feb	0	0	0	5	7	21
	Mar	0	1	0	0	0	9
	Apr	4	5	0	0	0	0
	May	0	21	0	4	2	0
	Jun	0	0	0	2	5	13
	Jul	0	0	0	0	0	13
	Aug	0	2	0	0	0	3
	Sep	1	0	0	21	14	4
	Oct	0	0	0	6	16	7
	Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dec	7	0	0	0	9	48

² Please note this is the total number of Estimated Enemy Killed in Action for September 2016. The previously published data for September 2016 was for part of the month.

ESTIMATED ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION							
		IRAQ			SYRIA		
Year	Month	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper
2019	Jan	0	5	0	4	1	4
	Feb	5	0	0	5	0	0
	Mar	0	0	0	0	0	4
	Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May	7	0	0	0	0	0
	Jun	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul	6	0	0	0	0	2
Total		549	640	267	357	206	303

Information concerning enemy killed and wounded in action is based on the best available post-strike analysis. This information, however, is only given as an estimate as the UK is not in a position to visit airstrike sites inside Syria and verify the facts. One of the aims of the UK and Coalition airstrikes is to dismantle Daesh's military infrastructure by targeting fortified positions, command and control sites, and military equipment rather than Daesh fighters. Therefore, we would not always expect to see enemy killed and wounded in action for all targets the UK strikes.

The data contained in this statement is believed to be complete and correct at the time of issue. The MOD operational activity databases are frequently reviewed, and any errors and omissions are corrected. It is therefore possible that future statements might not match this statement exactly. The MOD regrets any difficulty that this may cause but emphasises that our aim is to ensure that our records are as complete and correct as possible.

**ESTIMATED ENEMY WOUNDED IN ACTION IN IRAQ AND SYRIA – SEPTEMBER
2016–JULY 2019**

ESTIMATED ENEMY WOUNDED IN ACTION							
		IRAQ			SYRIA		
Year	Month	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper
2016	Sep ³	1	0	5	0	3	3
	Oct	0	0	11	0	0	0
	Nov	0	0	16	0	0	3
	Dec	0	0	5	0	4	0
2017	Jan	7	0	8	0	0	0
	Feb	0	0	2	0	0	0
	Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Apr	0	2	0	1	0	0
	May	4	0	0	2	0	0
	Jun	0	3	1	0	0	2
	Jul	0	4	0	4	0	0
	Aug	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Sep	1	12	0	0	4	2
	Oct	0	3	0	0	0	3
	Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dec	0	1	0	0	0	4
2018	Jan	2	0	0	1	3	6
	Feb	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jun	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Jul	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Aug	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sep	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Oct	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Nov	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Dec	0	0	0	0	0	6

³ Please note this is the total number of Estimated Enemy Wounded in Action for September 2016. The previously published data for September 2016 was for part of the month.

ESTIMATED ENEMY WOUNDED IN ACTION							
		IRAQ			SYRIA		
Year	Month	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper	Typhoon	Tornado	Reaper
2019	Jan	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mar	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Apr	0	0	0	0	0	0
	May	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jun	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Jul	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total		15	27	48	8	14	39

Information concerning enemy killed and wounded in action is based on the best available post-strike analysis. This information, however, is only given as an estimate as the UK is not in a position to visit airstrike sites inside Syria and verify the facts. One of the aims of the UK and Coalition airstrikes is to dismantle Daesh's military infrastructure by targeting fortified positions, command and control sites, and military equipment rather than Daesh fighters. Therefore, we would not always expect to see enemy killed and wounded in action for all targets the UK strikes.

The data contained in this statement is believed to be complete and correct at the time of issue. The MOD operational activity databases are frequently reviewed, and any errors and omissions are corrected. It is therefore possible that future statements might not match this statement exactly. The MOD regrets any difficulty that this may cause but emphasises that our aim is to ensure that our records are as complete and correct as possible.

UK MOD RESPONSES TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CASES – 13 MAY 2019

Relevant extracts from Strike Statements on Gov.UK are provided in italics

1. **28 May 2017 36.047659 38.980279**
This was not a UK strike – our only targets that day were in Mosul.
2. **30-31 May 2017 35.952357 39.024896**
This was not a UK strike – the coordinates above are in central Raqqah. Our only Syrian target was to the west of the city:
On Wednesday 31 May, Typhoon FGR4s, armed with Paveway IV guided bombs, demolished a terrorist-held building to the west of Raqqah.
3. **6 June 2017 35.956542 38.992414**
This was not a UK strike – the RAF struck no targets that day.
4. **6 June 2017 35.959065 38.999199**
This was not a UK strike – the RAF struck no targets that day.
5. **9 June 2017 35.956623 38.993065**
This was not a UK strike – these coordinates are in the west of the city:
On Friday 9 June, Tornados bombed a terrorist position in eastern Raqqah.
6. **9 June 2017 35.955285 38.992263**
This was not a UK strike – these coordinates are in the west of the city:
On Friday 9 June, Tornados bombed a terrorist position in eastern Raqqah.
7. **9 June 2017 35.955204 38.992263**
This was not a UK strike – these coordinates are in the west of the city:
On Friday 9 June, Tornados bombed a terrorist position in eastern Raqqah.
8. **9 June 2019 35.947746 39.032995**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
On Friday 9 June, Tornados bombed a terrorist position in eastern Raqqah.
9. **9 June 2019 35.945621 39.03397**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
On Friday 9 June, Tornados bombed a terrorist position in eastern Raqqah.

10. **10 June 2017 35.945636 38.989906**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
A Reaper intervened in a firefight in western Raqqah between Syrian Democratic Forces and a group of Daesh, hitting the latter with a very effective Hellfire attack, whilst Paveway-armed Typhoons struck two entrances to a network of tunnels built beneath a factory in the north-east of the city.
11. **10 June 2017 35.945841 38.988815**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
The following day, a Reaper intervened in a firefight in western Raqqah between Syrian Democratic Forces and a group of Daesh, hitting the latter with a very effective Hellfire attack, whilst Paveway-armed Typhoons struck two entrances to a network of tunnels built beneath a factory in the north-east of the city.
12. **10 June 2017 35.94603 38.989027**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
The following day, a Reaper intervened in a firefight in western Raqqah between Syrian Democratic Forces and a group of Daesh, hitting the latter with a very effective Hellfire attack, whilst Paveway-armed Typhoons struck two entrances to a network of tunnels built beneath a factory in the north-east of the city.
13. **10 June 2017 35.945713 38.989611**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
The following day, a Reaper intervened in a firefight in western Raqqah between Syrian Democratic Forces and a group of Daesh, hitting the latter with a very effective Hellfire attack, whilst Paveway-armed Typhoons struck two entrances to a network of tunnels built beneath a factory in the north-east of the city.
14. **10 June 2017 35.949412 39.022963**
This was not a UK strike – these coordinates are in the east-central area of city.
A Reaper intervened in a firefight in western Raqqah between Syrian Democratic Forces and a group of Daesh, hitting the latter with a very effective Hellfire attack, whilst Paveway-armed Typhoons struck two entrances to a network of tunnels built beneath a factory in the north-east of the city.

15. **11 June 2017 35.934506 39.010462**
This was not a UK strike – these coordinates are right down on the river, next to or on the bridge.
A second Tornado flight, and two pairs of Typhoons, meanwhile operated over Raqqah. Paveway IVs accounted for four sniper positions and a Daesh-held building, whilst a simultaneous attack with two Brimstones eliminated two firing points in a building on the western edge of the city.
16. **11 June 2017 35.952293 39.021907**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
Gov.UK entry as above for this date
17. **11 June 2017 35.950754 39.02297**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
A second Tornado flight, and two pairs of Typhoons, meanwhile operated over Raqqah. Paveway IVs accounted for four sniper positions and a Daesh-held building, whilst a simultaneous attack with two Brimstones eliminated two firing points in a building on the western edge of the city.
18. **11-17 June 2017 35.94298 39.02375**
It is hugely difficult for us to judge whether or not the UK has hit targets of interest to you over a matter of days. These coordinates are in south-central Raqqah. We have no record of strikes near those coordinates on the dates in question.
[11 June] A second Tornado flight, and two pairs of Typhoons, meanwhile operated over Raqqah. Paveway IVs accounted for four sniper positions and a Daesh-held building, whilst a simultaneous attack with two Brimstones eliminated two firing points in a building on the western edge of the city.
[15 June] Two Typhoons bombed three Daesh positions in Raqqah in support of the offensive by the Syrian Democratic Forces.
Typhoons were again in action over Raqqah on Friday 16 June, when they bombed two further Daesh positions. Typhoons and Tornados, flying as mixed pairs, employed one Brimstone weapon and four Paveway IVs to eliminate two machine-gun teams and three other terrorist strongpoints.
On Saturday 17 June, Tornados and Typhoons suppressed a Daesh position in Raqqah.
19. **13 June 2017 35.967089 39.023021**
This was not a UK strike – the RAF struck no targets that day.
20. **14 June 2017 35.951921 39.022304**
This was not a UK strike – our only targets that day were in Iraq.

21. **Night between 21-22 June 2017 35.957716 38.991572**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in west-central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
On Wednesday 21 June, a pair of Typhoons assisted Syrian Democratic Forces in Raqqah; two buildings held by extremist fighters were hit with Paveway IVs.
22. **21 June 2017 35.9577 38.992307**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in west-central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
Extract from Gov.UK as above for this date.
23. **21 June 2017 35.958455 38.991499**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in west-central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
Extract from Gov.UK as for serial 21 above for this date.
24. **22 June 2017 35.960331 39.022197**
This was not a UK strike – our only targets that day were in Iraq.
25. **24 June 2017 35.954112 38.987886**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in western Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.
A pair of Paveway IV-armed Tornados eliminated a terrorist sniper team in Raqqah on Saturday 24 June.
26. **24-29 June 2019 35.95402 38.9878**
It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in western Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question over such a range of dates.
A pair of Paveway IV-armed Tornados eliminated a terrorist sniper team in Raqqah on Saturday 24 June.
A Brimstone weapon accounted for a sniper team in Raqqah [on 26 June].
On Wednesday 28 June, two Tornado flights operated over Raqqah. At the north-western end of the city, at least one suicide bomber was known to be waiting inside a Daesh-held building, waiting for an opportunity to attack the Syrian Democratic Forces as they closed in. The building and the terrorists inside were struck with a Paveway IV, whilst a second such weapon demolished a building in the east, from where heavy fire had been directed at the SDF. This successful strike allowed the SDF to resume their advance.
Support to the SDF continued on Thursday 29 June: a flight of Typhoons used a Paveway IV to silence a sniper team which had been firing on the SDF in eastern Raqqah, whilst a pair of Tornados conducted a simultaneous Paveway attack on a group of three buildings, all occupied by Daesh extremists, in the south-east of the city.

27. **28-30 June 2017 35.961086 39.006606**

It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in north-central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question over these three days.

On Wednesday 28 June, two Tornado flights operated over Raqqah. At the north-western end of the city, at least one suicide bomber was known to be waiting inside a Daesh-held building, waiting for an opportunity to attack the Syrian Democratic Forces as they closed in. The building and the terrorists inside were struck with a Paveway IV, whilst a second such weapon demolished a building in the east, from where heavy fire had been directed at the SDF. This successful strike allowed the SDF to resume their advance.

Support to the SDF continued on Thursday 29 June: a flight of Typhoons used a Paveway IV to silence a sniper team which had been firing on the SDF in eastern Raqqah, whilst a pair of Tornados conducted a simultaneous Paveway attack on a group of three buildings, all occupied by Daesh extremists, in the south-east of the city.

Royal Air Force Tornado GR4s and Typhoon FGR4s provided close air support to Syrian Democratic Forces pushing into Raqqah on Friday 30 June. The Typhoons worked closely with a coalition surveillance aircraft which had spotted a large truck-bomb; a direct hit from a Paveway IV removed the threat. A Tornado pair meanwhile bombed a Daesh-held building in the south-east of the city.

28. **End June - Beginning July 2017 35.952487 39.014531**

These coordinates are in central Raqqah. It is not possible to judge whether or not the UK has hit targets of interest to you over such a vague date-range. We would of course be content to examine any further detailed evidence that you might provide about the specific targets.

29. **1 July 2017 35.954908 39.023073**

It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.

A Reaper remotely piloted aircraft patrolled over Raqqah on Saturday 1 July. A mortar was reported firing on the Syrian Democratic Forces, and the Reaper's crew spotted its muzzle flashes from a position concealed beneath a tree. A Hellfire weapon destroyed the target. Typhoons were also active over the city, and they used a Paveway IV to silence a heavy machine-gun which was holding up an SDF advance.

30. **5 July 2017 35.95483 39.00495**

It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question.

[5 July] Tornados kept watch over the latest SDF advances in Raqqah, and used a Paveway IV to deal with a sniper team.

31. **6-18 July 2017 35.944578 39.002742**

It is not possible to say from the coordinates alone (these coordinates are in south-central Raqqah) whether or not UK weapons struck the target in question over such a wide range of dates.

A flight of two Royal Air Force Typhoon FGR4s, armed with Paveway IV bombs, operated over Raqqah on Thursday 6 July. Syrian Democratic Forces encountered a large building on the southern edge of the city, close to the bank of the Euphrates, which was heavily defended by Daesh extremists. Two Paveways struck the building and brought an end to the terrorists' activity. A mixed pair of a Typhoon and a Tornado GR4 were also active over Raqqah, and these aircraft bombed a sniper position which had been firing persistently at the SDF.

[7 July] Two more [PW IVs] were employed in attacks by Typhoons on a pair of defensive positions which the Syrian Democratic Forces had come up against in Raqqah.

[8 July] Tornados meanwhile continued support to the Syrian Democratic Forces in Raqqah, striking a Daesh position there.

Typhoons hit a further target in Raqqah on Sunday 9 July.

[12 July] Over Raqqah, a second mixed Tornado and Typhoon pair flew overwatch as the Syrian Democratic Forces continued their advance through the city; our aircraft used Paveway IVs to engage three Daesh positions which opened fire on the SDF, and successfully silenced each threat in turn.

Two Typhoons used a Paveway IV on Friday 14 July to destroy the entrance to a tunnel dug beneath an area in the west of the city.

[15 July] The following day, Tornados and Typhoons bombed eleven mortar positions in Raqqah.

In the course of surveillance over Raqqah on Sunday 16 July, a Reaper remotely piloted aircraft delivered a Hellfire weapon attack which killed a small group of terrorists armed with rocket-propelled grenades, who had been firing on the Syrian Democratic Forces from a rooftop. Tornados and Typhoons were also very active over the city, and used a Brimstone weapon to attack one terrorist firing point, and Paveway IVs to deal with three sniper teams and two other positions defended by Daesh extremists.