A child stands near an RBK cluster bomb tail fin in Aleppo, Syria, after the Syrian armed forces launched an airstrike on a residential area 1 March 2013.

The Syrian air force dropped nine Soviet-made RBK cluster bombs – each carrying up to 150 cluster submunitions – in the middle of a large housing estate.

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157 COUNTRIES HAVE CONDEMNED USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IN THE CONTEXT OF ONGOING USE IN SYRIA

USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IS UNACCEPTABLE BY ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANY TIME

WWW.STOPCLUSTERMUNITIONS.ORG
At least 10 civilians at an olive oil processing facility were killed and more than 10 were wounded when an aircraft dropped two cluster bombs. A journalist who visited the site four days after the attack told Human Rights Watch that the 10 people who were killed were local farmers who had brought their olives there for pressing, and that he saw no signs of military activity or weapons at the site.

Abu Hilal, Idlib, Syria, 27 November 2012
2 of 9 Russian made cluster bombs launched by Syrian government forces against a housing estate in Aleppo, Syria, on 1 March 2013, unexploded submunitions from a cluster bomb can be seen centre left.

© Amnesty International
Since July 2012, cluster bombs have been used in in 10 of Syria’s 14 governorates.
Screenshot from video, Maliha, Rural Damascus 4 April 2014: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRGRVM4qaC8
During a cluster bomb attack, each bomb covers a wide area of land with explosives and shrapnel:

Up to the size of several football fields

Many bomblets fail to explode on impact remaining a deadly risk to civilians
Screenshot from video, Yabroud, Rural Damascus February 7, 2014:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQU4QAwzbXw
“Suddenly the jet came and dropped its bombs. The bombs fell from above, one after another, small bombs spread out in the sky. They were exploding everywhere, like a volcano erupting, on and on. Shrapnel hit me in my behind and back. I was taken to the hospital which was full of wounded people, many in critical condition.”

Sheik Sa`eed Neighborhood, Aleppo City, Syria, 3 April 2013
A Soviet-era ShOAB 0.5 submunition, not previously known to have been used in Syria, as seen in a YouTube video uploaded by local activists in Hesih or Hish in Idlib governorate on March 10, 2013.

© 2013 Private (Courtesy of Human Rights Watch)
“One of the bombs went through the roof and into Fatima’s home right above her bed. We tried to save her but the bomb had caused a huge wound by her waist and abdomen and she died almost immediately, as we were evacuating her from her home.”

Al-Najiya, a small village near the town of Jisral-Shughour, Syria, 9 February 2013

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“I heard people screaming. I ran toward them and found out that one of the streets where the bomblets dispersed had people in it at the time. When I reached the house, I saw heavily wounded children inside. The children had been inside the house when the bomblets entered the walls and exploded. After helping out the injured we found three people killed in one of the nearby houses. They were from the same family. The bomblet exploded next to them, we saw remnants. I was told that a fourth man was also found killed on the street. I think he was walking at the time.”

Talbiseh, Syria, 2 March 2013
An unexploded 9N235 antipersonnel fragmentation submunition found in Keferzita in Syria. Each submunition contains 395 pre-formed fragments, some the mass of 9mm pistol bullets.

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“The bomblets killed two men: one died instantly while he was in his car and the other one died an hour later when a bomblet exploded in his hands while he was trying to throw it far away from the yard of his house. His hand was amputated by the explosion. His name is Ala`Nasser Othman. The wounded [I saw] included seven children, five women and three men.”

Latamneh, Syria, 3 January 2013
An unexploded 9N235 antipersonnel fragmentation submunition found in Keferzita in Syria. Each submunition contains 395 pre-formed fragments, some the mass of 9mm pistol bullets.

© 2014 Private (Courtesy of Human Rights Watch)
An unexploded DPICM submunition delivered by a 122mm rocket that was used in an attack near the village of Banin in Jabal Al Zaweyya, Syria, in December 2012.

© 2012 Nicole Tung
DAYS, MONTHS, YEARS, DECADES

The length of time deadly unexploded submunitions have laid dormant since use, ready to kill or maim at any moment

Laos  50 years and counting

Vietnam  49 years and counting

Iraq  34+ years and counting

Lebanon  30+ years and counting

www.stopclustermunitions.org
A child, Mustafa Ali, aged 6, in a field hospital in Aleppo, Syria after sustaining injuries in a cluster bomb attack by the Syrian armed forces on a residential area on 1 March 2013.

The Syrian air force dropped nine Soviet-made RBK cluster bombs – each carrying up to 150 cluster submunitions – in the middle of a large housing estate.
“Around 2:50 p.m. a MIG 23 appeared in the sky. I was 100 meters away from the playground. I looked outside and saw the MIG hovering around and then release six cluster bombs as it flew away. I saw two breaking in half. Then I heard a series of small explosions. It sounded like fireworks but of course louder. Then I heard people screaming and running toward the playground. I followed them with the rest of the men who were with me. When I reached the playground I saw five children dead and many other wounded. The severely injured children were taken to nearby hospitals and the ones with lighter wounds to a field hospital.”

Cluster Bomb Attack on Deir al-`Assafeer near Damascus, Syria, 25 November 2012
94% of cluster bomb casualties are civilians. 40% are children.

(Source: Cluster Munition Monitor)

www.stopclustermunitions.org
Abderraman Assuus, 10, killed by a cluster bomb in Salqeen on 18 Jan 2013.
Abderraman had been playing in the street downstairs from his apartment when the explosions happened. "Neighbours rescued him and brought him upstairs but he was already dead"

The strikes took place just after Friday prayer, with cluster bomblets exploding all along a main street lined with shops.

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Musa Ramadhan Hassun, 16, killed when he picked up an unexploded cluster bomb dropped by Syrian government forces in Darkush, Syria, on 20 February 2013.
“I was sitting outside my home with my friends; the little ones were playing around us. There were explosions; the children were screaming and then I don’t remember anything.”

Masaken Hanano district of Aleppo, Syria, 1 March 2013
CLUSTER BOMB STRIKES IN SYRIA HAVE HIT
PLAYGROUNDS, NEIGHBOURHOODS, FACTORIES,
SHOPS, STREETS, ALLEYWAYS, GARDENS, HOMES

WWW.STOPCLUSTERMUNITIONS.ORG
Nour al-Keis, 13, who was killed by a cluster bomb dropped by Syrian government forces in al-Najiya, Syria, in January 2013.

© Amnesty International
“I was coming back home with the children, we had been visiting our relatives here in the village, just a few streets away. It was about 1:30 pm. We were in the centre of the village when we heard a plane circling above, then it bombed but not immediately above us, but the bombs came to us, in the little street between the houses. Everything was full of smoke, I could not see anything, I could not see my children. When I found Nour she was lying face down in a pool of blood”

Al-Najiya, a small village near the town of Jisral-Shughour, Syria, 15 January 2013
A young boy helps collect what is left of his family’s belongings from the ruins of their house in Aleppo city. A Syrian government jet dropped four bombs on the street on April 7, killing at least 17 civilians.

© 2013 Ole Solvang/Human Rights Watch
800+ NIGHTS
SYRIAN CHILDREN HAVE GONE TO BED WITH THE FEAR OF CLUSTER BOMBS

HOW MANY SLEEPS UNTIL THE THREAT OF CLUSTER BOMBS AND OTHER WEAPONS STOPS?

WWW.STOPCLUSTERMUNITIONS.ORG
Syrian opposition fighters and bystanders watch bulldozers clean the debris outside Dar al-Shifa hospital in Aleppo, northern Syria, on November 22, 2012. The Syrian government claimed that the hospital was a "terrorist hideout," but provided no warning before the attack. The government struck the hospital and immediate vicinity at least eight times.

© 2012 Getty Images
“There were so many injured, they had horrible cuts and pieces of flesh missing. Little children were screaming in so much pain; it was heart breaking, and the medics in the field hospital didn’t know who to attend to first.”

Southern district of Sarmin, a small town in the Idlib governorate, Syria, 7 March 2013
THERE MAY BE MORE SUBMUNITIONS DROPPED ON CIVILIANS IN SYRIA THAN THE NUMBER OF CERTIFIED PHYSICIANS REMAINING IN THE COUNTRY

www.stopclustermunitions.org

(SOURCE: PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS)