

CIVCAS CELL INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Allegation #	539		
Source(s)	WebOps Iraq-Syria	Date Received	21 June 2017
Casualty Estimate	Killed: 13-16		
Incident Date	19-21 June 2017		
Location	Khasham Village, Eastern Dayr Al-Zur, SY IVO (b)(1)/1.4a		
Allegation	<p>1. Description of allegation: Claims of CF Airstrikes Caused 16 CIVCAS in Khasham Village, Eastern Dayr Al-Zur: Pro-Syrian opposition social media users and regional media outlets circulated reports on Twitter and Facebook that CF airstrikes targeting the village of Khasham, outskirts of eastern Dayr al-Zur, killed 16 civilians and injured 50 others. Pro-Syrian opposition social media users condemned the attack. This topic trended and resonated at a low level in the Arabic IE.</p> <p>2. Is this in Airwars? YES If yes, Title: June 20th 2017: Khisham, Eastern Deir Ezzor, Deir Ezzor governorate, Syria Synopsis: Up to 16 civilians, including several women and children, were killed and dozens more injured in airstrikes on Khisham village in Deir Ezzor governorate. However it was not clear who was responsible with allegations lodged against the Coalition, the Russian air force and the Syrian government. In total, five sources alleged that the Coalition was responsible, four sources said Bashar al Assad's government was to blame, three said Russia was responsible and six sources did not reach a final conclusion apportioning blame. A number of reliable sources – including Smart News Agency, Euphrates Post, Radio al Kul and Baladi News – reported that phosphorous munitions were used in the attack, likely to be a contributing factor to the high casualty rates. Several sources also reported that after the initial strike, the aircrafts returned and targeted a house where civilians had taken cover during the original attack. <u>A number of those killed in the attack were identified as:</u> Hamid Ibrahim al Fahd al Jabr Alian Farhan al Ahbash The wife of Alian Farhan al Ahbash [Female] Two children of Alian Farhan al Ahbash Raw'a Farhan Ahbash [Female] The daughter of the Raw'a Farhan Ahbash [Female] A boy and a daughter of Ali Farhan Ahbash The son of Ibrahim Malis Many others who were killed remained unidentified, sources reported. DeirEzzor24 reported that of the wounded, several were critically ill and suffered from amputations, burns and maiming. Radio al Kul reported similar injuries and said the death toll was likely to rise with 15 of 50 or more injured in a life-threatening condition. Civilians reported killed: 13-16, including 5 children and 3 women Civilians reported injured: 12-50+</p>		

	<p>Sources: Sharqiya24 [Arabic], [Archived], Siraj Haskawi [Arabic], [Archived], Deirezzor24 [Arabic], [Archived], Jisirtv [Arabic], [Archived], Baladi [Arabic], [Archived], RFS [Arabic], [Archived], Radioalkul [Arabic], [Archived], Qasioun [Arabic], [Archived], Syrianpc [Arabic], [Archived], Syrian Network for Human Rights (SN4HR) [Archived], Abdulhadi66x [Arabic], [Archived], SN4HR (2) [Archived], Shahed_alep [Arabic], [Archived], Euphrates Post [Arabic], [Archived], Euphrates Post (2) [Arabic], [Archived], Sharqiya Voice [Arabic], [Archived], Euphrates Post (3) [Arabic], [Archived], Free Deir Ezzor [Arabic], [Archived], Ahmad al Shibli [Arabic], [Archived], Smart News Agency [Arabic], [Archived], Al Natek Network [Arabic], [Archived],</p> <p>Quality of reporting: Contested – Coalition, regime and Russia all blamed</p> <p>Coalition position: The Coalition has not publicly reported any strikes in Deir Ezzor for June 19th-21st..</p> <p>Quality of Reporting: Contested- Coalition, regime and Russia all blamed.</p>
<p>Analysis</p>	<p>1. Is this allegation a self-report? If yes, add details of corroborating strike below and task a CCAR. If no, move to 2.</p> <p>2. Does the allegation include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) video/photo evidence of CIVCAS YES b) a general location, e.g., Tabaqah, Manbij, Tel Afar; YES AND c) a way to identify the date or a 48 hour date range? YES <p>If yes to all three, move to 6. If any are no, then move to number 3.</p> <p>3. Does the allegation contain a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) General Day, AND b) Specific location, e.g., MGRS or specific building? <p>If yes to the two, then move to 6. If any are no, move to number 4.</p> <p>4.a. Is the allegation from a single source (even if there are multiple sources, look at whether the sources lack independence, i.e., all derived from one source)? If yes, move to 4.b. If no, move to 5.</p> <p>4.b. Is the single source a high quality source (well known/credible news source) OR does it provide specific facts that may warrant a CCAR, i.e., a way to narrow down a reasonable list of strikes to assess. If yes, move to 6. If no, then move to 4.c.</p> <p>4.c. Has media interviewed witnesses and/or victims? If yes, then contact journalist and re-assess. If no, then close the allegation.</p> <p>5.a. Are any of the sources high quality? If yes, move to 6. If no, move to 5.b.</p> <p>5.b. Are there at least two corroborating sources (total of 3) that independently reported the allegation, OR does it provide specific facts that may warrant a CCAR? If yes, move to 6. If no, close the allegation.</p> <p>6. Does the allegation contain sufficient information on the time, location and details to make an assessment of credibility? YES I.e., does it provide enough information to determine the date within 48 hour; does it provide enough information to determine a neighborhood, landmark, or other way to where the alleged incident occurred within a .5km radius? If yes, move to 7. If no, close the allegation.</p>

	<p><i>MAT checked, no results</i> <i>CAOC strike log checked, no results</i> <i>CJTF strike log, no results</i></p> <p>7. Are there any potentially corroborating strikes? If yes, answer the below questions and task CCAR. If no, close allegation. NO</p>
Non-US Coalition Involvement	None
Decision	<p>Close at IA; insufficient evidence to make an assessment due to no corroborating strikes.</p> <p>-There were no coalition strikes found within or around the village of Khisham, Sy from 19-21 June 2017. See Enclosure 1.</p>
Report Approved By:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)</div>

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