

CIVCAS CELL INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Allegation #	811		
Source(s)	Airwars	Date Received	28 June 2017
Casualty Estimate	Killed: 5-19 Injured: 2-12		
Incident Date	7 Jan and 48 hours prior		
Location	Khisham, Deir Ezzor governorate, Syria IVO (b)(1)1.4a		
Allegation	<p>January 7th 2017: خشام Khisham, Deir Ezzor governorate, Syria Summary: As many as 19 civilians died following reported Coalition airstrikes on an oil market in central Khisham.</p> <p>The Euphrates Post initially reported six civilian deaths though later raised this to 14 civilians killed: "Coalition aircraft targeted the oil market in the town today with several raids. The first raid – at dawn – did not leave any victims because no one was around. The second raid around 10am left a number of Martyrs who were from the desert of Homs. The third raid a few hours ago left four martyrs who are local to the region. This market sells red petrol substance produced by Koniko and sold by IS to their contractors, who trade the oil and distribute it to merchants from all provinces using smaller tanks."</p> <p>The Syrian Observatory placed the death toll at five, while LCCSY said four civilians died. Step News later reported that 19 civilians in total died.</p> <p>RFS also put the death toll at nine and said that the raids were carried out by suspected Coalition planes.</p> <p>Elnashra, Alkhalijonline, Jisr TV, Worldnews and Qasioun were among other sources who reported on the incident but didn't identify the warplanes responsible. Death counts varied from six to eight non-combatants, with a dozen more wounded.</p> <p>JFL reported: "Correspondent Justice Observatory said "The first raid was at 8:00 am, and did not cause any injuries, while the second and third raids were at noon time, leading to a dozen civilians, including civilians from outside Deir Ezzor province dying, with others injured." They didn't identify the planes responsible.</p> <p>Ara news also said that the planes – which reportedly belonged to the Coalition – returned for further raids: "Warplanes of the international coalition targeted Khisham with several air raids. The warplanes returned to target the area again but did not kill or injure people. On a third raid, in the afternoon, they targeted the gasoline market for the sale of gasoline, killing six civilians. The number increased to eight as two others later died from their injuries."</p> <p><i>The Coalition reported on March 4th that "Jan. 7, 2017, near Dayr Az Zayr, Syria, via self-report: During a strike on ISIS oil tanker trucks it is assessed that one civilian driver was unintentionally killed. After warning shots were fired to dislodge drivers from the vehicles, aircraft engaged the targets. After munitions' impact a driver exited a vehicle and attempted to flee when he was killed by a secondary explosion from one of the oil tanker trucks."</i></p> <p><i>Officials later confirmed that that event was at the Tabiyah Modular Refinery, which Airwars has geolocated to Khisham (35.343345, 40.3189659.)</i></p> <p>Civilians reported killed: 5-19</p>		

	<p>Civilians reported injured: 2-12</p> <p>Sources: Euphrates Post (1) [Arabic] [Archived], Euphrates Post (2) [Arabic] [Archived], Euphrates Post (3) [Arabic] [Archived], Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (1) [Archived], Euphrates Post (4) [Arabic] [Archived], LCCSY [Arabic] [Archived], Shaam News Network [Arabic] [Archived], Syria News Desk [Arabic] [Archived], Step News [Arabic] [Archived], Al Natek [Arabic] [Archived], Step News (2) [Arabic] [Archived], Step News (3) [Arabic] [Archived], LCCSY (2) [Arabic] [Archived], Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (2) [Archived], Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (3) [Archived], Euphrates Post (5) [Archived], Sound and Vision [Arabic] [Archived], 7al [Arabic], [Archived], Elnashra [Arabic], [Archived], Alkhalijonline [Arabic], [Archived], RFS [Arabic], [Archived], Jisr TV [Arabic], [Archived], Worldnews [Arabic], [Archived], Aranews [Arabic], [Archived], JFL [Arabic], [Archived], Alamawi [Arabic], [Archived], RevolutionSyria [Arabic], [Archived], Qasioun [Arabic], [Archived], Syriapost1 [Arabic], [Archived], Halab Today [Arabic], [Archived], AJAbreaking [Arabic], [Archived], Coalition monthly civcas report (March 2017),</p> <p>Quality of reporting: CONFIRMED CIVILIAN CASUALTY EVENT</p>
Analysis	<p>1. Is this allegation a self-report? NO 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 NO b) a general location, e.g., Tabqah, Manbij, Tel Afar; if in Mosul, or similarly sized city, must provide neighborhoods, e.g., Zanjili.. 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, YES AND b) Specific location, e.g., MGRS or specific building? YES, the oil market <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. NO</p> <p>4.b. Is the single source a high quality source or does it provide specific facts that may warrant a CCAR. 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? YES 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>7. Are there any potentially corroborating strikes? If yes, answer the below questions and task CCAR. If no, close allegation.</p> <p>NO, there are two strikes in the vicinity of the town of Khisham, however, the location doesn't match the specific location described in the allegation.</p> <p>Two different sources claim that the strike occurred in the town - central Khisham, and the oil market in the village. Airwars.org claims that this allegation is confirmed, however, upon further evaluation it appears that they are associating a strike which occurred at a Modular Refinery 5 km northeast of the village.</p> <p>Assessed date of incident: 5-7 Jan 2017 Location: Khisham, Deir Ezzor governorate, Syria IVO (o)(1)1.4a</p>
Non-US Coalition Involvement	
Decision	<p>Close at IA due to insufficient information to corroborate the allegation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no strikes in the specific location mentioned in the allegation, nor anywhere else within the town of Khisham, Syria IVO (b)(1)1.4a.
Report Approved By:	(b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6)

Approved for Release