

SECRET//REL TO USA, FVEY

## CIVCAS Tracker

CLASSIFICATION: ~~SECRET~~

RELEASABILITY: ~~REL TO USA, FVEY~~

## Allegation

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASABILITY: ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

ALLEGATION NUMBER: 460

ALLEGATION STATUS: Closed

INCIDENT DATE: 12-May-2017 00:00

COUNTRY: SYRIA

OPENED DATE: 12-May-2017 00:00

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: village of Bir Hashim on the outskirts of northern Raqqa

MGRS: Not Reported

NEAREST MAJOR CITY: Raqqah

COORDS UNKNOWN: No

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASABILITY: ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

ALLEGATION DATE: 12-May-2017 00:00

SOURCE: Webops

SOURCE TYPE: Social Media

DESCRIPTION: Claims of 13 CIVCAS from CF Airstrikes on the Outskirts of Northern Raqqa: A pro-Syrian opposition media outlet/radio station on Twitter (@radioamalfm) was the first to circulate reports that CF airstrikes killed more than 13 civilians in the village of Bir Hashim on the outskirts of northern Raqqa. This topic trended and resonated at a low level in the Arabic IE, and there was no observed adversary (ISIS) exploitation of the topic."

## Initial Assessment

CLASSIFICATION: SECRET

RELEASABILITY: REL TO USA, FVEY

INITIAL DATE: 17-May-2017 12:57

"Closed at IA:

a. (~~S/REL USA, FVEY~~) Airwars.org contained a corroborating allegation.

b. (~~S/REL USA, FVEY~~) Neither WebOps nor Airwars.org included picture or video evidence of CIVCAS. Moreover, neither source provided a specific location, e.g., MGRS, name of building.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT:

c. (~~S/REL USA, FVEY~~) The allegation stems from a multiple sources, including the Euphrates Post and Syrian Observatory for Human Rights; both are likely high quality sources.

d. (~~S/REL USA, FVEY~~) The CIVCAS Cell searched for potentially corroborating strikes; however, there were no engagements within 2.5km from Bir Hashim, SY from 9-13 May 2017.

e. (~~S/REL USA, FVEY~~) Accordingly, CIVCAS Cell recommended this allegation be closed due insufficient evidence to corroborate the allegation."

## Assessment Details

## Status

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

RELEASABILITY: FOR OFFICIAL USE  
~~ONLY~~

INVESTIGATION STATUS: NONE

CLOSED DATE: 23-May-2017 00:00

US INVESTIGATION  
REPORT DATE: Not Reported

CLOSED AT: Initial Assessment-No  
Corroborating Strikes

EX GRATIA: No

CIVCAS: NO

COMMENTS: Not Reported

KILLED: 0

INJURED: 0

PAO RELEASE DATE: 07-Jul-2017 11:09

NA: No

REASON FOR NO  
RELEASE: Not Reported

Approved for Release

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
COMBINED JOINT TASK FORCE - OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE  
CAMP ARIFJAN, KUWAIT  
APO AE 09306

IRCS

25 MAY 2017

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: CIVCAS Allegation Closure Report, Allegation No. 460

1. (U) **BLUF**. Based on the below findings, this allegation is **NOT CREDIBLE**. There were no potentially corroborating strikes on or around Bir Hashim, SY from 9-13 May 2017; therefore, there is insufficient evidence to corroborate the allegation. CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell shall close this allegation and make available for immediate public release.

2. (U) **Background**. I considered the following information in making my findings:

a. (U//~~FOUO~~) On 12 May 2017, WebOps Iraq-Syria reported that pro-Syrian opposition media outlet/radio station on Twitter (@radioamalfm) was the first to circulate reports that CF airstrikes killed more than 13 civilians in the village of Bir Hashim on the outskirts of northern Raqqa. This topic trended and resonated at a low level in the Arabic IE, and there was no observed adversary (ISIS) exploitation of the topic."

b. (U) On 24 May 2017, CJTF-OIR CIVCAS Cell conducted an initial assessment and determined to close this allegation at the Initial Assessment stage.

3. (U) **CJTF Initial Assessment**

- a. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Airwars.org contained a corroborating allegation.
- b. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Neither WebOps nor Airwars.org included picture or video evidence of CIVCAS. Moreover, neither source provided a specific location, e.g., MGRS, name of building.
- c. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) The allegation stems from a multiple sources, including the Euphrates Post and Syrian Observatory for Human Rights; both are likely high quality sources.
- d. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) The CIVCAS Cell searched for potentially corroborating strikes; however, there were no engagements within 2.5km from Bir Hashim, SY from 9-13 May 2017.
- e. (~~S//REL USA, FVEY~~) Accordingly, CIVCAS Cell recommended this allegation be closed due insufficient evidence to corroborate the allegation.

4. (U) **Action**.

(U) I direct closure of this CIVCAS incident and that CJTF-OIR PAO publish the result of this CIVCAS assessment in a press release as soon as practicable.

5. (U) Point of contact is (b)(3) 10 USC 130b; (b)(6) at DSN (b)(6)

2 Encls

- 1. Initial Assessment
- 2. Screen Shot

*J. Scott O'Meara*  
J. SCOTT O'MEARA  
BGen, USMC  
Chief of Staff

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Approved for Release