



Ministry of Defence

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Thank you for your email of 17 February 2016 which requested the following information:

Can you provide details of all external allegations of civilian casualties. Please detail dates, location, the allegation itself e.g. numbers of nationalities of those alleged to have been killed, source and your review conclusions as to the veracity of those allegations.

Your correspondence has been treated as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). The delay in replying to you is regretted.

A search of records held by the Ministry of Defence has now been completed and we can confirm that all of the information within the scope of your request is held. The answer to the first part of your question is provided at Annex A, containing a table provided by the organisation Airwars, which details all allegations which have been analysed and responded to at the time of writing. Regarding the second part of your question, the MOD has previously stated that RAF aircraft were not involved in strikes in seven of the incidents cited by Airwars. The eighth incident was impossible to locate from the detail given in the letter: all information from the RAF air strike conducted on that particular day has been reviewed and there was no indication of any civilian casualties resulting from the strike. A statement regarding the Ministry of Defence's reviews into these allegations can be found at the following link:-

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2016-01-25/23953/>.

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.

Please note that in the hundreds of air strikes conducted by the RAF there is no evidence of civilian casualties resulting from UK military action in Iraq or Syria.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact this office in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, 1st Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <http://www.ico.org.uk>.

Yours sincerely,

PJHQ J9 FOI Secretariat

Annex A- Airwars submitted to Ministry of Defence- 8 January 2016

Date	Location	Allegation	MoD Report
13/12/15	Mosul	Three professors from University of Mosul among four civilians and a Daesh official reportedly killed in alleged Coalition airstrike	'Operations in and around both Mosul and Sinjar continued on Sunday 13 December: Typhoons employed a Paveway IV in a successful attack on ten terrorists as they manned a rocket launcher position, whilst Tornado GR4s used Paveways to strike both a mortar firing point and another rocket launcher team.'
	Mosul	Single-source claim that 19 civilians died in a Coalition airstrike on Mosul. Citing local residents, the National Iraqi News Agency claimed that " <i>coalition aircraft bombed residential compounds in the Hadbah area east of Mosul, killing 19 civilians including six women and four children, and wounding six others.</i> " However Airwars' own sources in Nineveh contested claim, suggesting event may not have taken place.	As above
21/12/15	Mosul	Reuters: " <i>About 20 people, including at least 12 civilians, were killed on Monday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, in two air strikes that destroyed houses believed to be used by Islamic State militants, six eyewitnesses and a medical source said.</i> "	Monday 21 December, Typhoon FGR4s and an RAF Reaper operated around the Mosul area. The Typhoons used a Paveway IV bomb to destroy a Daesh vehicle, while the Reaper provided targeting support to a coalition air strike that destroyed a terrorist mortar position before delivering two attacks with its own Hellfire missiles which destroyed a supply vehicle and a Daesh-held building.'
	Mosul	17 civilians including 4 women and 5 children reported killed in alleged Coalition strike in Wehda and Methak neighbourhoods east of Mosul. Some doubt regarding the incident, with NRN News denying civilians had died.	As above
	Mosul	According to three Arabic media sources, 6 civilians reportedly killed and 3 injured – all children and women – after Coalition jets allegedly bombed their house in Keseir village east of Mosul.	As above

22/12/15	Ramadi	During fierce air and ground assault on Ramadi, local sources said airstrikes had targeted the Jazeerat Al-Khalidiya area NE of Ramadi, resulting in 8 civilian deaths and 12 injuries, most of them women and children.	With Iraqi troops conducting ground assaults on Daesh positions in Ramadi on 22 December, two pairs of RAF Tornados and a Reaper, provided the Iraqis with continuous close air support alongside other coalition aircraft. When the Daesh fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades and small arms at Iraqi soldiers tending to wounded personnel, the Tornados intervened with a very accurate Paveway strike. The Reaper, meanwhile, assisted other coalition aircraft in an attack that destroyed an anti-aircraft gun.
25/12/15	Ramadi	Military aircraft – which some sources described as the Coalition’s – reportedly killed 5 civilians in a Christmas Day strike. According to Al Rafidain the attack could have been the work either of the Iraq Army or the Coalition, noting that <i>“army aviation commander Hamid al-Maliki also confirmed that army helicopters carried out a raid on 50 locations within the city of Ramadi on the day.”</i>	Missions continued on Christmas Day, with Tornados maintaining close air support over Ramadi . Once again working closely with other coalition aircraft, they used Paveway IVs against two terrorist teams, an anti-aircraft gun, and a massed Daesh group who were assembling for an attempted counter-attack on the successful Iraqi advance.
29/12/15	Mosul	Alleged Coalition strike on two Daesh positions in western Mosul also reportedly led to unspecified number of civilian casualties. According to NRN News, vehicles used by Daesh to transport oil were destroyed in a 1pm strike, killing about 15 militants. But the attack also destroyed the ‘Cairo’ gas station, which in turn damaged a number of civilian homes nearby. In a second alleged incident reported that house targeted in northern Mosul killing 20 Daesh. But according to NRN, <i>“the house is located in a residential area and is surrounded by many other homes, which suffered significant physical damage. Civilians were also killed and injured.”</i>	