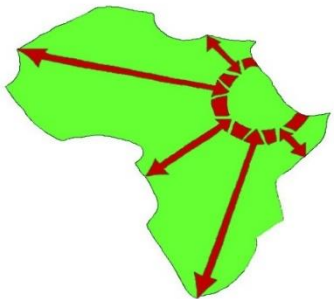


The Sudan Consortium
African and International Civil Society Action for Sudan

National Human Rights Monitors Organisation

Human Rights Update: September-October 2015

Despite a ceasefire bombings of civilians continue

The Sudan Consortium has been working with a trusted group of local Sudanese partners who have been working on the ground in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile since the current conflict began in 2011. Some of these partners have now constituted a local organisation, the National Human Rights Monitors Organisation (NHRMO). Unless otherwise cited, information in this report, including all photos, were gathered by these monitors. **All the attacks referred to in this report were launched against areas where there was no military presence and which were clearly identifiable as civilian in character**. We believe that this information provides strong evidence that civilians are being directly and deliberately targeted by the Sudanese armed forces in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile.

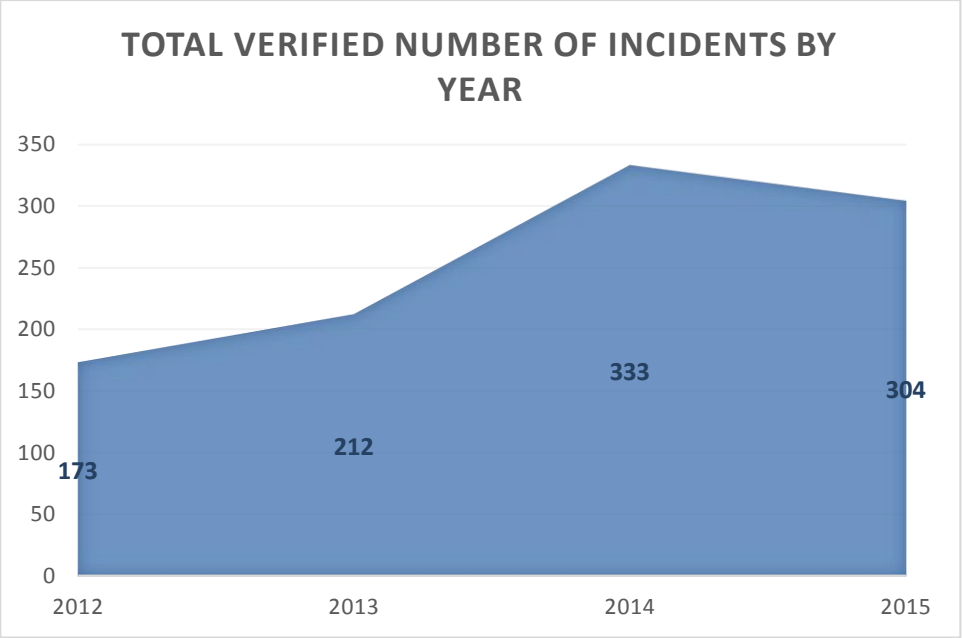
In the last two months, attacks against civilians in Southern Kordofan (SK) and Blue Nile (BN) have continued though at a reduced scale compared to this year's high of 65 attacks in May. There was, however, a five-fold increase in the number of attacks in September 2015 as compared with September 2014. The slight decrease is likely to be as a result of the annual decrease due to the rainy season. A two month ceasefire was declared in September to enable peace talks.[1] Whilst the ceasefire has clearly not been respected by the government of Sudan (GoS), it may have contributed to reducing the number of bombings.

Although the GoS's agreement to resume talks, the first in a year, with SPLM-N in November was a positive development,[2] they were suspended again very shortly afterwards following a deadlock on discussions around humanitarian aid.[3]

Despite the smaller number of attacks over the past two months, 2015 is shaping up to be one of the worst on record for SK. In nine months, from January to September our monitors were able to verify 294 attacks,

[1] AFP, "Sudan govt accepts invitation to talks with rebels," 21 October 2015, available at http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-3283482/Sudan-govt-accepts-invitation-talks-rebels.html
[2] Sudan Tribune, "SPLM-N claims repelling fresh government attack in Blue Nile," 21 November 2015, http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article57110=
[3] Radio Dabanga, "Sudan: Suspension Sudan Peace Talks, Deadlock Over Aid Delivery," 24 November 2015.

more than they documented over the full year in 2013, which saw 212 attacks, and 2012, which saw 173 attacks. Only 2014, with 333 attacks, remains higher.



Meanwhile, the needs of the people of SK remain acute and in some cases are worsening in terms of food security. Our monitors reported, once again, the critical food security situation in Heiban and Dilling counties which is not expected to improve from September to December as the ongoing targeting of civilians has considerably reduced the amount of land cultivated, insufficient rain has reduced yields in areas that were cultivated and livestock continue to be killed.[4] As in July and August, most of bombs and shells reported in September and October fell in civilian areas particularly used for cultivation.

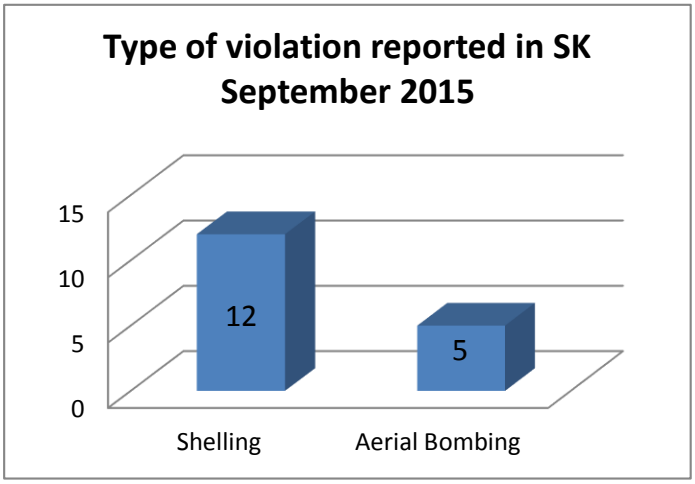
In September and October 2015, our monitors verified 27 incidents[5] in SK including 17 shelling attacks, six aerial bombings, one incident of ground fighting, one of looting and one of abduction. Unfortunately, a one year old baby and a man were killed and two children, three men and one woman were injured in these attacks. In addition, one child is missing. At least 50 bombs and 164 projectiles landed in the SPLM-N controlled areas of SK during the reporting period.

Over the last two months, the use of cluster bombs was not reported, nevertheless, in a worrying development, there were reports that the GoS may be using chemical weapons against civilians. A witness described how "[t]*hese bombs have a very bad smell. It remains for about a one week after the bombing and it has skin effects on children*." We are working to verify this information and to establish what type of weapon might have been used.

[4] OCHA, Humanitarian Bulletin Sudan – Issue 36 and Issue 39 available at http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_Sudan_Weekly_Humanitarian_Bulletin_Issue_36_%2831_August_-_6_September_2015%29.pdf and http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_Sudan_Weekly_Humanitarian_Bulletin_Issue_39_%2821_-_27_September_2015%29.pdf

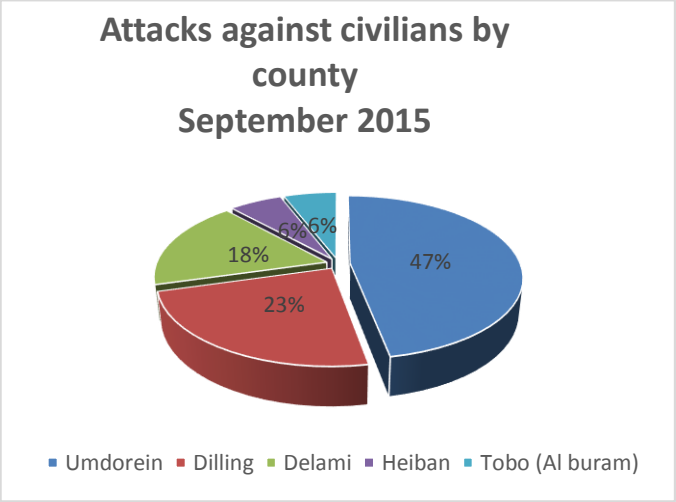
[5] 17 verified incidents in September and ten verified incidents in October.

September 2015



Overall, 17 attacks against civilians were reported in September 2015, including five aerial bombings and 12 shellings. As a result, a one year old baby was killed, two children (aged 9 and 13 years old) and three men were injured, 27 farms, four huts, two houses and one garden were destroyed and 21 animals, mainly goats, were also killed. At least 36 bombs and 123 rockets fell on SK in September. Some of them did not explode, posing an ongoing and severe threat to the civilian population, especially children.

Once again in September, Umdorein County was the most targeted with 47% of the attacks and again followed by Dilling County with 23% or four verified incidents. In addition, Delami County had three verified incidents, Heiban and Tobo (Al Buram) Counties had only one verified incident each.



<u>Umdorein County</u>:
There were eight verified attacks on civilians in Umdorein County in September, including two aerial bombings and six shelling attacks. Unfortunately, six farms were damaged and a goat was killed. At least 15 bombs and 21 rockets fell over the county during the reporting period. Thankfully no one was killed.

The verified incidents were:

- **On 6 September 2015 at 9.37am**, two MiG jet fighters dropped four parachute bombs in Kurji village (Tangal Payam). Even though two of them did not explode, six farms were damaged and most concerning is the suggestion that these may have contained chemical irritants. According to one of the witness "[t]*hese bombs are new and have a very bad smell. It remains for about a one week after the bombing and it has skin effects on children.*"
- **On 12 September 2015 at 9.37pm**, five shells fell in the Umserndiba area (Tangal Payam).
- **On 13 September 2015 at 7am**, three shells fell in northwest Umserndiba (Tangal Payam).
- **On 24 September 2015 at 10pm**, three shells fell in Allabu village (Ngoran Payam).
- **On 25 September 2015 at 9.45am**, an Antonov cargo plane dropped 11 bombs in the area of Allabu village (Ngoran Payam).

Pieces of shrapnel
25 September 2015
Allabu area, Ngoran Payam, Umdorein County

Bomb crater
25 September 2015
Allabu area, Ngoran Payam, Umdorein County

- **On 26 September 2015 at 8pm**, five shells fell on Alnugra village (Tangal Payam). Two people were injured.
- **On 29 September 2015 at 12pm** a shelling attack was reported in Alnugra village (Tangal Payam). Only a goat was killed.
- **On 30 September 2015 at 9.30am**, five shells fell on Umserndiba village (Tangal Payam).

Dilling County:

In Dilling County four verified shelling attacks were reported by the monitors. Unfortunately, a 13 year old boy was injured, 17 goats were killed, and 17 farms, two houses and one garden were destroyed. Once again, farms were targeted by the Sudanese government as shells fell on areas used for cultivation. The verified incidents were the following:

- **On 1 September 2015**, two shells fell on Koldi village (Julud Payam), destroying an area used for cultivation.
- **On 2 September 2015,** six shells fell in Karko village (Karko Payam) damaging two farms.
- **On 3 September 2015 at 6.30pm**, 12 shells fell in Salarah and Farshava Payam. Eleven farms were destroyed.
- **On date 9 September 2015 at 11.47am**, 27 shells fell on Julud, Salarah and Farshaya Payams. One boy (13 year old) was injured, 17 goats were killed, four farms and two houses were damaged.

Delami County:

Three verified incidents were reported including two shelling attacks and one aerial bombing. At least, nine bombs and eight rockets fell but thankfully no causalities were recorded.

- **On 15 September 2015 at 1.45pm,** the Sudan Air Forces dropped nine bombs in Tunguli village (Tunguli Payam).
- **On 24 September 2015 at 7.45am**, the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) shelled Lumberi village, with at least three rockets falling in the village.
- **On 25 September 2015 at 8.37am**, SAF shelled Umberi village, with at least, five projectiles falling on the village.

Injuries sustained by a nine year old girl
15 September 2015
Nyakima village, Alzarag Payam, Heiban County

Heiban County:

One aerial bombardment was reported in Nyakima village (Alzarag Payam) on **15 September 2015** between **1.35 and 1.40pm**. An Antonov dropped six bombs killing a one year old baby and severely injuring a nine year old girl. In addition, three animals were killed, and four huts and four farms were damaged.

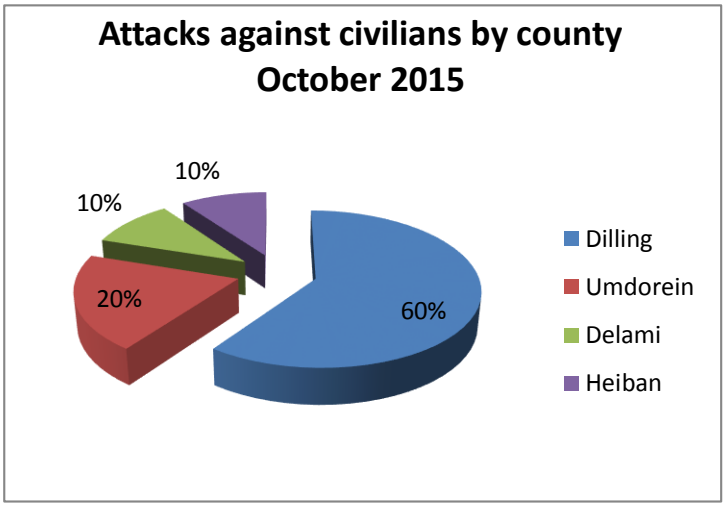
One of the four huts destroyed during the aerial bombardment
15 September 2015
Nyakima village, Alzarag Payam

Tobo (Al Buram) County:
In Tobo (Al Buram) County, there was one aerial bombardment reported on **16 September 2015 at 11.50am**. At least six bombs were dropped in Trochi village (Trochi Payam), injuring one man.

October 2015

Ten verified attacks on civilians including five shelling attacks, two looting incidents, one aerial bombardment, one incident of ground fighting and one abduction were reported. At least 14 bombs and 41 projectiles fell and as a result one man was killed and one woman was injured.

In October, Dilling County was the county most targeted with 60% of the verified incidents followed by Umdorein County with two verified incidents. Delami County and Heiban County had only one verified incident each.



Dilling County:
Six verified incidents were reported including four shelling attacks, one looting and one ground attack. Unfortunately, one man was killed, 19 cows and 11 goats were looted and many farms were burned. At least 37 projectiles fell in Dilling County in October. The six verified incidents were the following:

- **On 3 October 2015 at 7.10am**, 12 shells fell on Nitil and Fragil villages (Salarah Payam) and five shells fell in Farshaya village (Farshaya Payam) burning two farms.
- **On 5 October 2015 at 1.45am**, militia of the Khartoum government looted 19 cows and 11 goats in Kamarya village (Tiemen Payam).
- **On 22 October 2015 at 10am**, ten shells fell on Higerat village (Salarah Payam) and ten shells also fell on Subei Village (Farshaya Payam).
- **On 22 October at 12.05am**, a ground attack led by militia affiliated with the Khartoum government took place in Farshaya Payam and an 18 year old boy was killed.

Umdorein County:
Two verified incidents were reported. **On 19 October 2015 at 10am,** militia of the Khartoum government looted 80 cows and more seriously, abducted a ten year old child from Kajuza village (north Umserndiba in Tangal Payam). According to a witness, "*the militia group that [is] still occupying Alkensia area looted my uncle's cows while they abducted his child of 10 years old. The last information we have is that the livestock and the child were taken to Kadugli.*" The child's whereabouts are still unknown.

Heiban County:
On 8 October 2015 at 10am, two 2 Sukhoi fighter jets dropped 14 bombs in Nyakima village (Alzarag Payam). As a result, a woman was injured and five huts and four farms were destroyed.

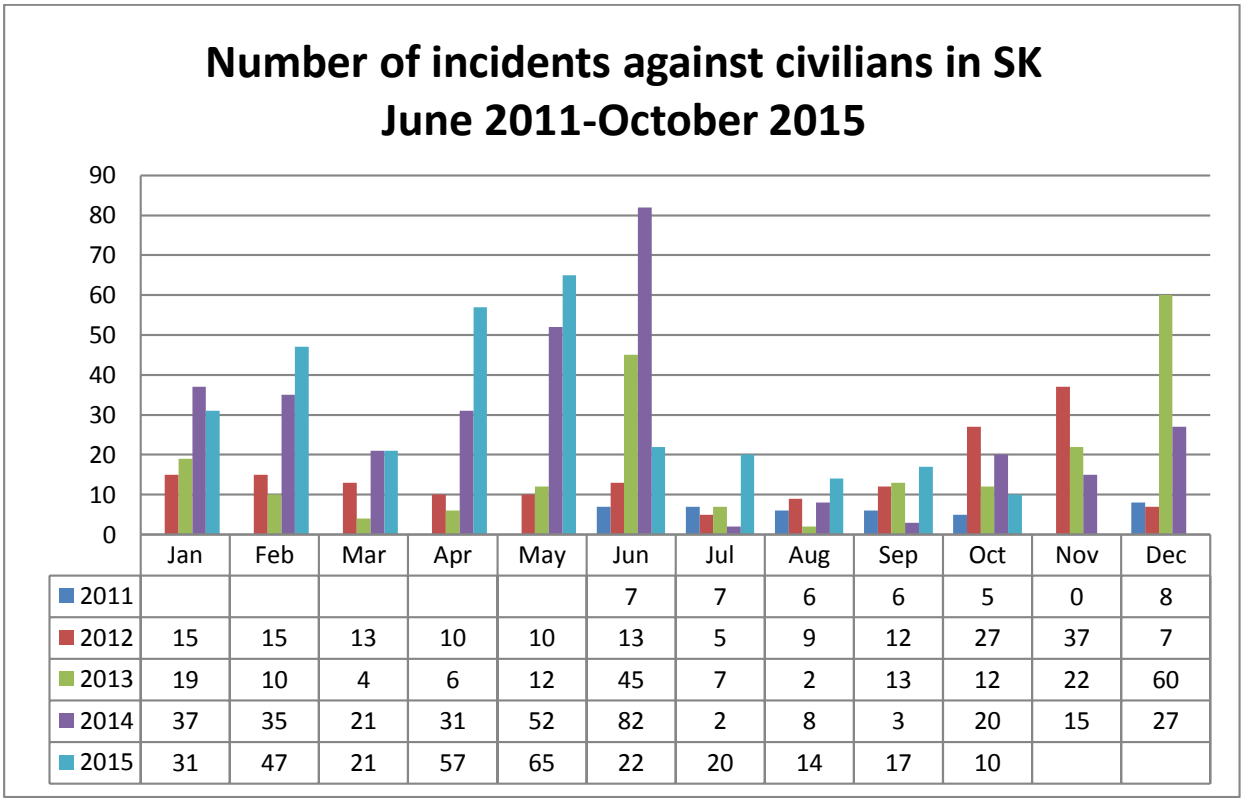
Delami County:
On 5 October 2015 at 9.30am in Lumberi village (Aberi Payam) four shells were dropped. No causalities were reported by the monitors.

Conclusion

September and October were relatively quiet compared to earlier in the year mainly due to the rainy season and possibly also as a result of the temporary ceasefire declared by Bashir in September. This relative decrease in attacks and deaths is of course welcome respite for the people of SK, but the humanitarian situation in the two areas still remains critical in terms of food security, health, access to clean water and sanitation.

Of grave concern is the suggestion that the GoS have used some form of chemical weapon against the civilian population. This is not the first time that such allegations have been made, and the details are unclear, but if true this is completely unacceptable and a breach of international law. The timing is also concerning, as it would likely undermine SPLM-N faith in negotiations with the GoS.

For these rounds of peace talks to be different from previous attempts, GoS needs to match its rhetoric with action and publicly show its commitment to peace by completely stopping its attacks on the civilian areas in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile and the international community must support and reinforce the dialogue process to end the four year conflict in the two areas.



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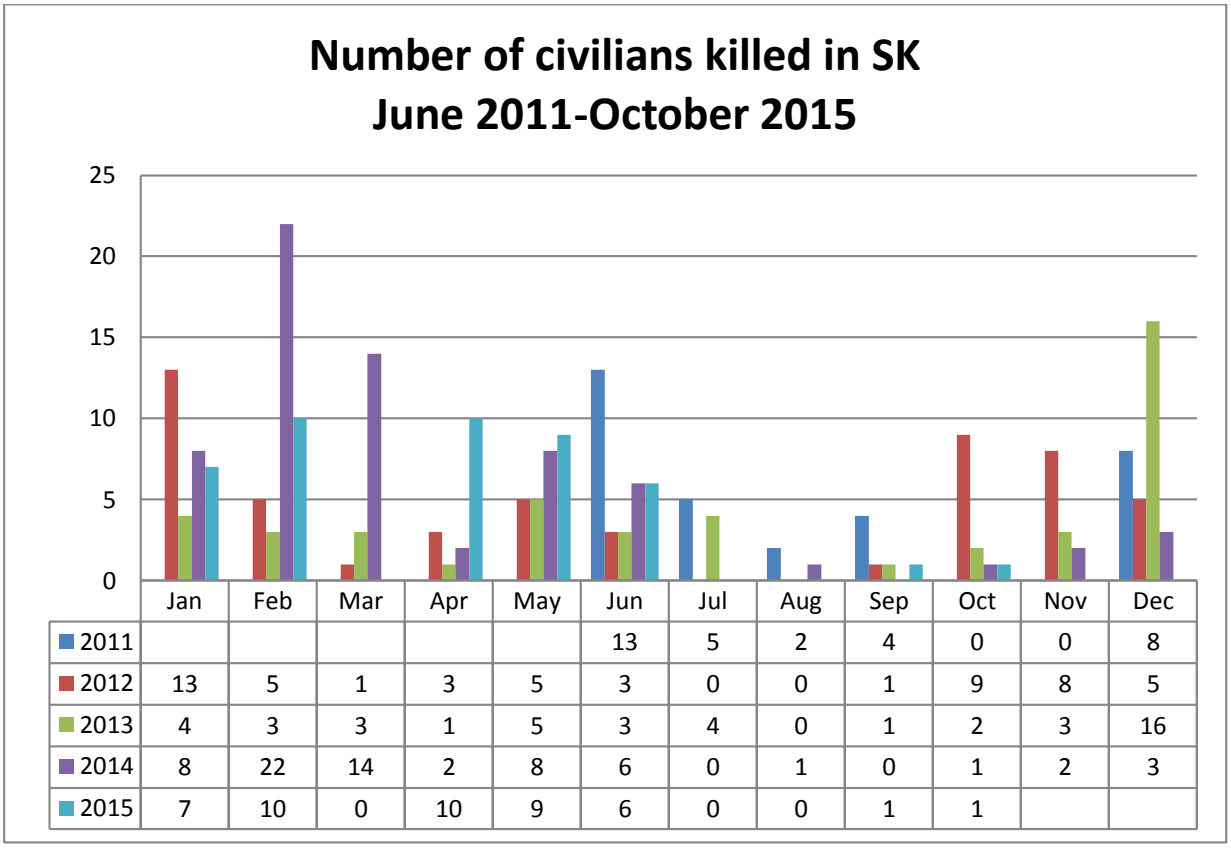
2011						7	7	6	6	5	0	8
2012	15	15	13	10	10	13	5	9	12	27	37	7
2013	19	10	4	6	12	45	7	2	13	12	22	60
2014	37	35	21	31	52	82	2	8	3	20	15	27
2015	31	47	21	57	65	22	20	14	17	10		



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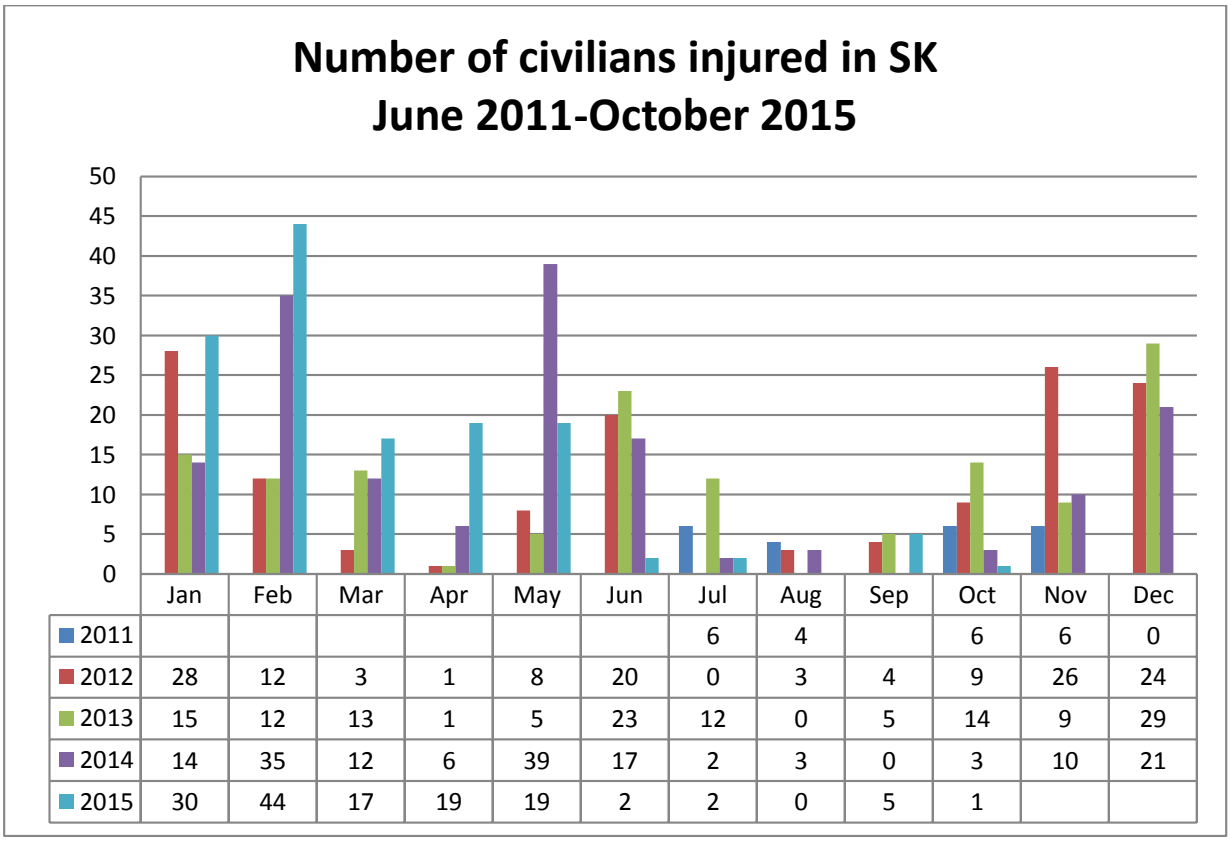
2012	13	5	1	3	5	3	0	0	1	9	8	5
2013	4	3	3	1	5	3	4	0	1	2	3	16
2014	8	22	14	2	8	6	0	1	0	1	2	3
2015	7	10	0	10	9	6	0	0	1	1		



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2011							6	4		6	6	0
2012	28	12	3	1	8	20	0	3	4	9	26	24
2013	15	12	13	1	5	23	12	0	5	14	9	29
2014	14	35	12	6	39	17	2	3	0	3	10	21
2015	30	44	17	19	19	2	2	0	5	1		