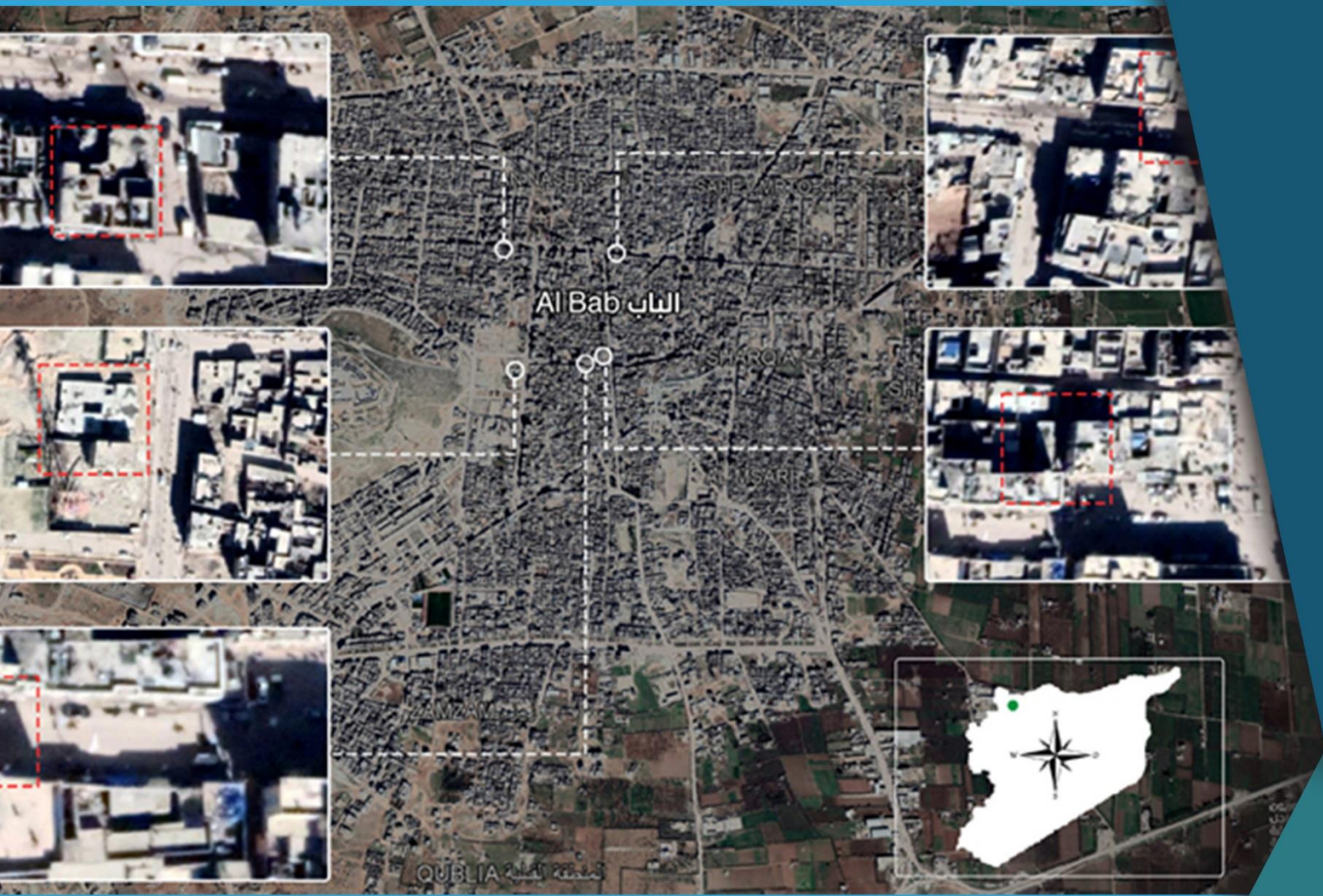
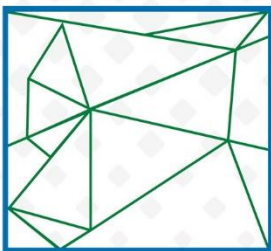


Syria: Casualties in Indiscriminate Attacks on Al-Bab and A'zaz



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BM-21 Grad rockets hit the two cities in February; the rockets originated from areas jointly controlled by the Syrian government and the YPG

On 2 and 15 February 2022, indiscriminate rocket attacks rocked the cities of al-Bab and A'zaz in northern rural Aleppo, killing 11 civilians and wounding 31 others, including women and children. The attack of 2 February on al-Bab city coincided with a [Turkish bombardment](#) on Ayn Dewar village of Al-Malikiyah/Derek district in al-Hasakah, leading to casualties and displacements.

Details of the 02 February Attacks on al-Bab City

On 2 February 2022, at approximately 2:00 pm local time, rockets hit five sites in al-Bab city, leaving eight deaths and 24 injuries among civilians. STJ collected substantial information on this attack and forwarded it with open source images and videos to an arms expert to determine the type and the range of the rockets used. The expert concluded that the rockets were most likely BM-21 Grad.

Sources from military observatories of armed opposition groups testified to STJ that the rockets landed on al-Bab fired from a [rocket launcher](#) set in an area adjacent to [Sha`alah village](#). Sources noted that this area was fully controlled by the People's Defense Units YPG before the latter allowed the deployment of Syrian and Russian forces in it. Furthermore, sources confirmed that the area has a joint military operations room, which makes it impossible to identify the attack perpetrator.

A source in the Syrian National Army (SNA) testified to STJ: "Initial reports on any shelling on al-Bab often blame the SDF, since the firing usually originates from its areas. However, there are regime forces stationed in the SDF areas and they were responsible for most of the shelling on the city."

Rockets landed on five sites in al-Bab city; on the main street opposite a local restaurant, on al-Bareed Street near the Police Headquarters building, on the al-Jadeed Street at al-Omar exchange shop, at the Center roundabout near a prosthetics center, and on a local market at a perfume store.

The shelling on al-Bab wounded 24 civilians, including three children and four women, and killed eight others; we identified four of them, who are; Zakaria Rajab, Taha Dabek, Muhammed Abd al-Razzaq Sheikh Issa and Ahmed al-Ali.

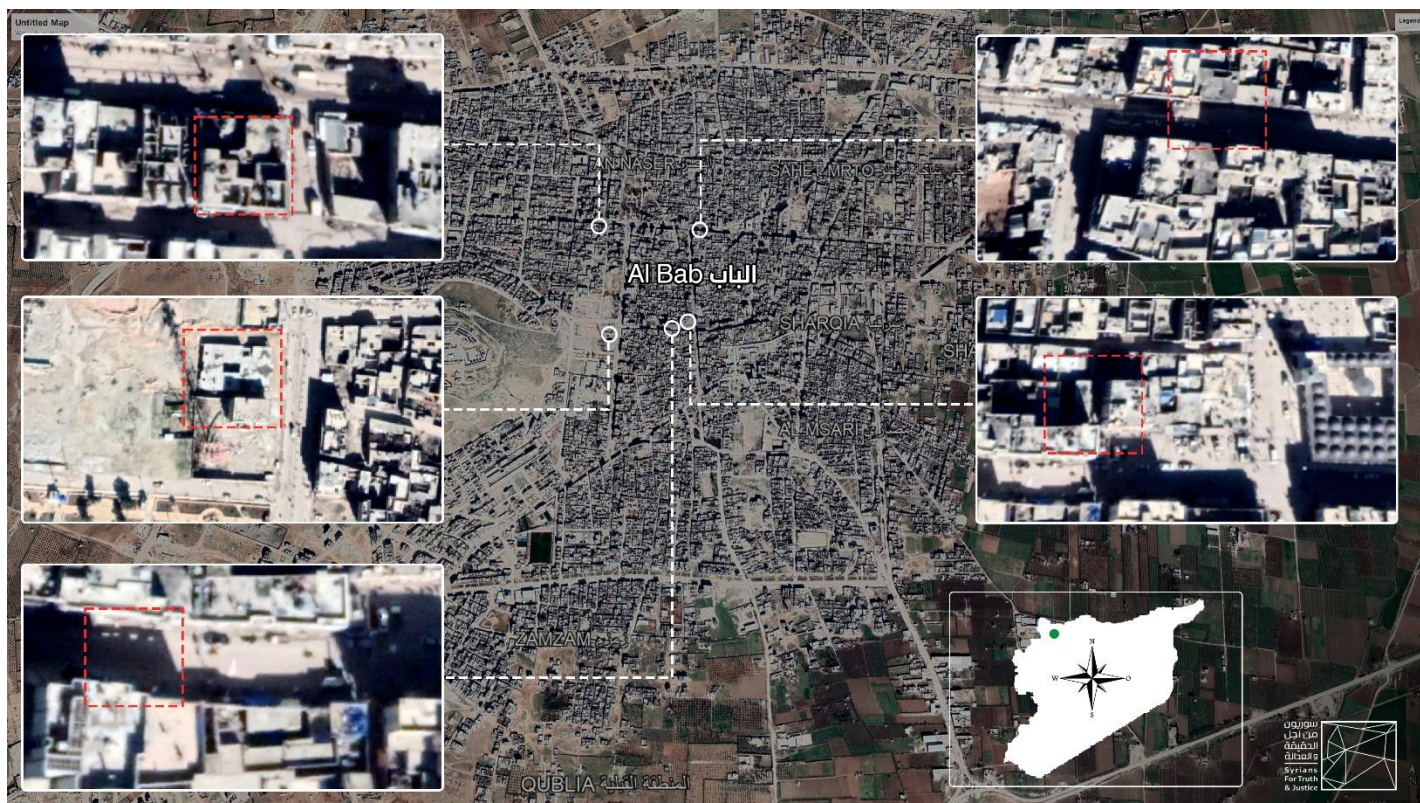


Image (1)- The impacted sites in the 02 February 2022 shelling on al-Bab city in northern Aleppo.

Details on the 15 February Shelling on A'zaz City

On 15 February 2022, at approximately 4:30 p.m. local time, [A'zaz](#) city witnessed indiscriminate rocketing on four sites resulting in the death of four people and the injury of seven others, including a child. About two hours earlier, the Syria Civil Defense/the White Helmets [reported](#) an explosion of a detonating device resulting in the injury of a woman and three children.

STJ's digital forensic expert inspected open source images of the missiles that rocked A'zaz on 15 February. He concluded that they were of Type 63, 107 mm, which is a copy of the Chinese-made Type 63 rockets.

STJ met a worker at a military observatory of the armed opposition, who confirmed that the rockets that hit A'zaz were fired from [Malkiyah](#) village near [Maraanaz](#) town, which is jointly controlled by the YPG and the Syrian government. The source said:

“We cannot confirm who was behind A'zaz attacks, but we suggest that it was the regime forces.”

The rockets that hit A'zaz, landed on close points in the area between the public Ottoman Park and al-Kafeen roundabout (There is a checkpoint of the Civil Police here) and on the Sajo road. Victims of the attack were the two university students Sa'ad al-Hajja and Akram al-Hassan and the Civil Police member Farouq Nashab.

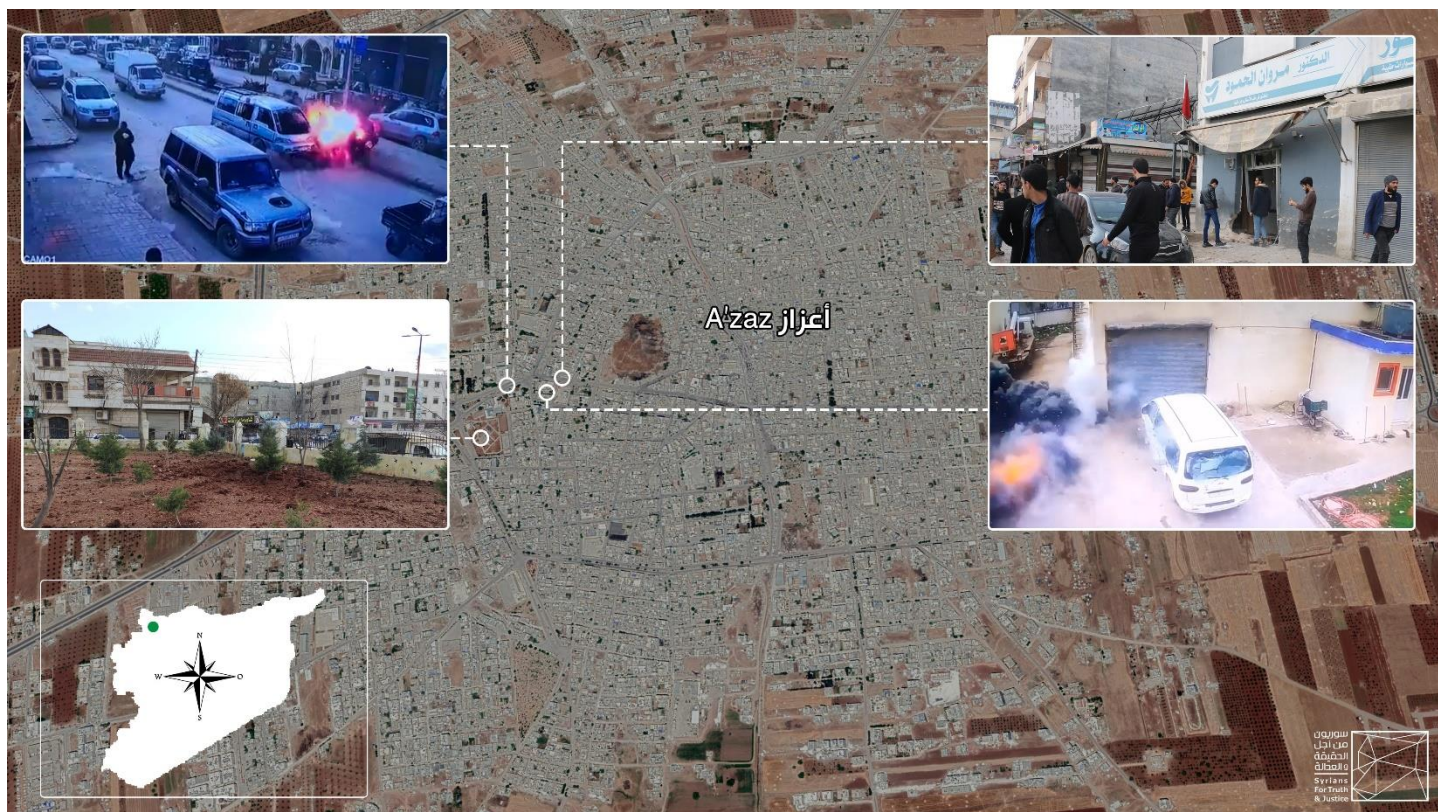


Image (2)- The impacted sites in the 15 February 2022 shelling on A'zaz city.

The Type of Missiles Used in the Attacks on al-Bab and A'zaz

STJ's digital forensic expert, [Alexander McKeever](#), inspected open-source materials, analyzed visual evidence, and consulted a weapons expert to determine the type of missiles used in the attacks on al-Bab and A'zaz cities. McKeever's investigations concluded:

- In al-Bab city: the missiles used in the 2 February attacks were likely 122mm Grad. (Type of the missiles used in the attacks cannot lead us to perpetrators, since several actors, including the government forces and the YPG, use this type.)
- In A'zaz city: the missiles used in the attacks of 15 February are similar to the Chinese Type-63 107mm. (Remnants of a rocket were found in front of the clinic of Dr. Marwan al-Hammoud). Type-63 is a rocket manufactured by China in 1963 and several countries produced their own licensed versions of it later, including Iran and Turkey.

The regime, the opposition, and the SDF have used this type of rockets as well over the course of the war. Thereby, it is impossible to determine who was responsible for the 15 February attacks on A'zaz, especially since both regime forces and the SDF have military presence in al-Shahba'a area.



Image (3)- Remnants of a likely Grad rocket landed near Omar ibn al-Khaṭṭab mosque in [al-Bab](#) city on 2 February 2022. Credit: Horan Free League.



Image (4)- A larger view of the impacted location near Omar ibn al-Khaṭṭab mosque. Location coordinates: (36.373783, 37.516802). Credit: Enab Baladi.



Image (5)- A satellite image of the impacted location near Omar ibn al-Khaṭṭab mosque.



Image (6)- A close shot of remnants of the rocket landed near Omar ibn al-Khaṭṭab mosque in al-Bab on 2 February 2022. Credit: A [video](#) published by the Syria Civil Defense.



Image (7)- Remnants of a likely Type-63 rocket [landed](#) in front of the clinic of Dr. Marwan al-Hammoud in A'zaz city on 15 February 2022. Location coordinates (36.585415, 37.042627). Credit: A [video](#) published by the Syria Civil Defence.



Image (8)- Type-63,107mm rockets. [Credit.](#)



Image (9)- The Type-63, 107mm multiple rocket launcher. [Credit](#).

Attempts to Determine the Direction, Source of the Shelling

STJ took into account the range of the rockets likely used in the attack against al-Bab in defining the geographical area from where the rockets originated. To this end, STJ also analyzed photos and visual evidence related to the attacks and spoke to civil and military sources, including workers at observatories that monitor air traffic and military movements in the area.

Analysis of visual evidence on the attack against al-Bab

The range of the 122mm Grad rocket, which was likely used in the attack against al-Bab, is 20 km. The angle at which the rocket landed and the direction of the sun in the image provide evidence that the rocket launched from a distance of 1 to 20 km. to the west. This analysis is consistent with testimonies of the observatory workers, who confirmed that the [rocket launcher](#) which fired at al-Bab was set near [Sha`alah village](#). The village of Sha`alah is controlled by the YPG but has a military presence of the Syrian government forces.

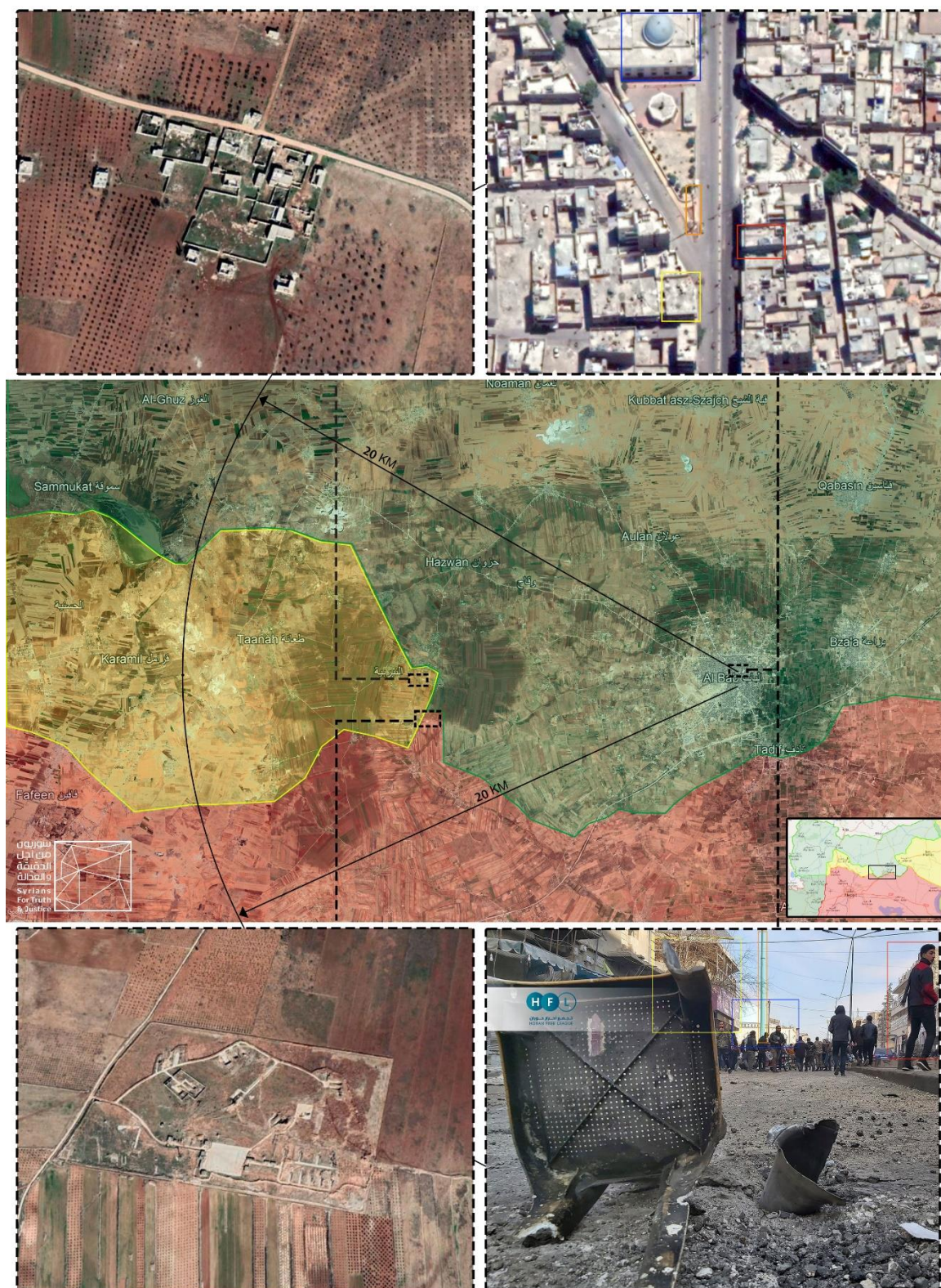


Image (10)- The lower right image shows remnants of one of the projectiles that landed in al-Bab near Omar ibn al-Khaṭṭāb mosque. We matched this image with a satellite one of the site (the upper right image) and found that the shelling on al-Bab originated from an area to the west, jointly controlled by the Syrian government and the YPG. The images on the left are of the area from where the shelling sourced. Credit: STJ.

Analysis of visual evidence on the attack against A'zaz

The projectiles hit A'zaz were fired from a Type 63 107mm multiple rocket launcher whose maximum range 8.5 km/5 miles. Image analysis showed that the shelling originated from the south.

Image analysis results are consistent with testimonies of the military observatories workers, who confirmed that the shelling on A'zaz originated from [Malkiyah](#) village, which is 6.5 km away from the targeted sites; meaning within the range of the used rockets.

The Malkiyah village is under the control of the YPG but has a military presence of the Syrian government forces.

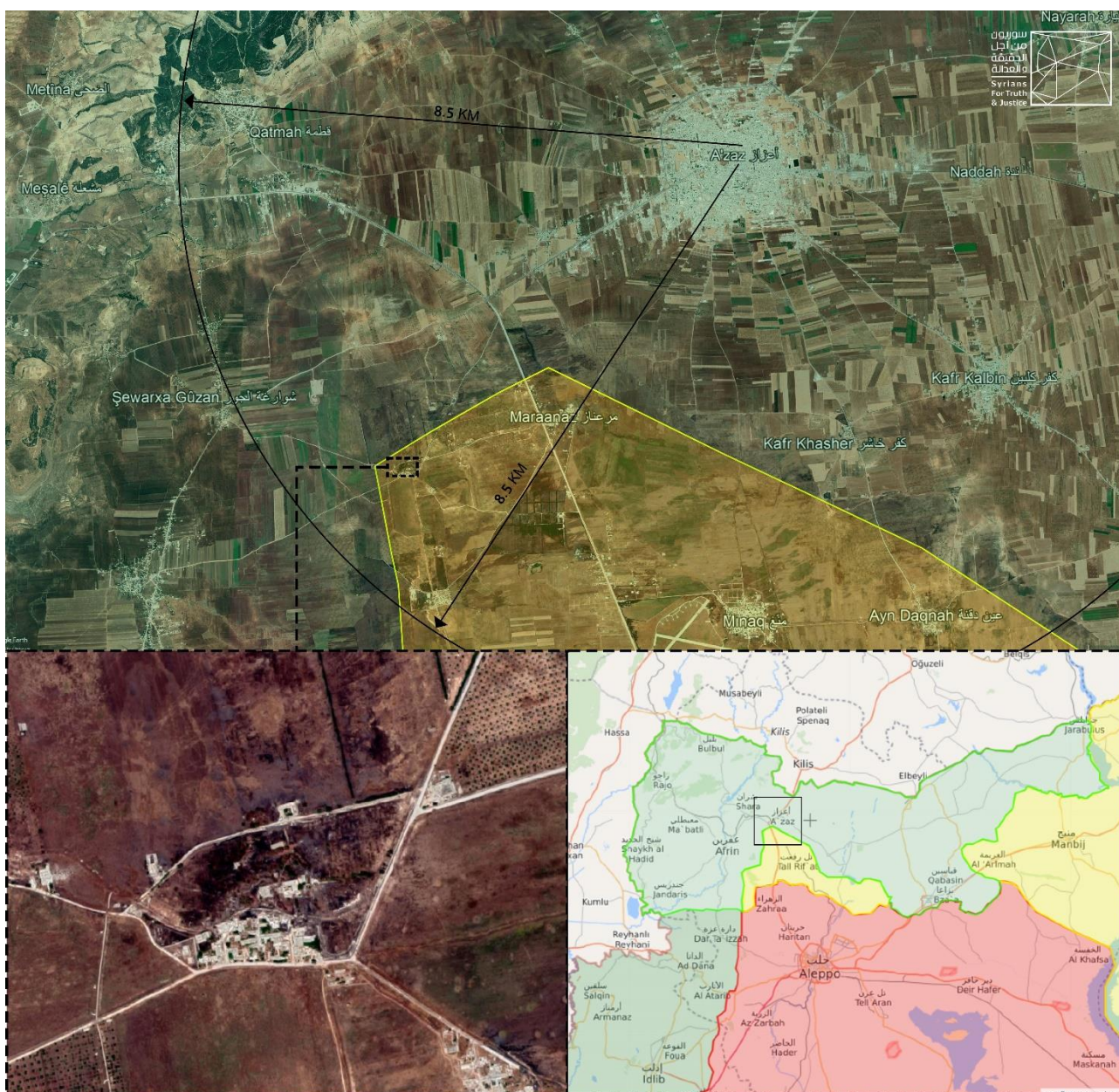


Image (11)- The lower left image shows the area from where the shelling on A'zaz city originated. The Syrian government forces and the YPG jointly control this area. Credit: STJ.



About Us:

Syrians for Truth and Justice (STJ) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization monitoring human rights violations in Syria. Founded in 2015, STJ has been based in France since 2019.

STJ is an impartial and independent Syrian human rights organization operating across Syria. Our network of field researchers monitor and report human rights violations occurring on the ground in Syria, while our international team of human rights experts, lawyers, and journalists gather evidence, examine emerging patterns of violations, and analyze how violations break domestic Syrian and international law.

We are committed to documenting violations of human rights committed by all parties in the Syrian conflict and elevating the voices of all Syrians victimized by human rights violations, regardless of their ethnicity, religion, political affiliation, class, and/or gender. Our commitment to human rights monitoring is founded on the idea that professional human rights documentation meeting international standards is the first step to uncovering the truth and achieving justice in Syria.



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