Watching Guys Fire Rockets

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Humanitarian Data Sucks

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We Need Event Data

? What

📍 Where

⏰ When
Social Media = Holy Grail

? What

Where

When

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Social Content is Messy

* 1.28 billion users
* 50 million+ pages
* 2 billion page posts per month
Needles in Very Big Haystacks

Roughly .004% of pages post content relevant to the crisis in Syria (for example)
Enter Brown Moses

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Evidence Chlorine Gas Was Used In A Second, Failed, Chemical Attack On Kafr Zita

This is an update of an earlier post.

On April 11th, reports supported by video from the town of Kafr Zita, Hama, claimed to show the aftermath of a chemical attack on the town. Reports claimed helicopters had dropped a “barrel bomb” containing a toxic gas on the town, with the below video claiming to show the attack as it happened.
Death by Open Data

* 1,000 YouTube channels
* 1,800 Facebook pages
* 10k+ pieces of content per week

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Global firehose for crisis data

Finds, formats, and exposes crisis information in a popular web format so you can turn your data into knowledge
Us, to the Rescue!

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Knowledge in the Chaos

What

Where

When

Aleppo

Homs

Damascus

ISIS

Barrel Bombs

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Raging Conflict

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We Mapped It

* 50,000 conflict docs
* 1,800 Facebook pages
* 10k+ pieces of content per week

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The Map Was Accurate

“Warplanes overhead ... explosions and clashes in the region”

“smoke in the sky of the city of Hula Brief # Homs result of heavy shelling”
Barrel Bomb Hunting

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Tracking the Bombs

FACEBOOK REPORTS TRACKING

SYRIAN BARREL BOMBS

"...smell of chlorine in the atmosphere of the city of Darya after throwing an explosive barrel"  
— Facebook post, 5/17/2014

"...explosive barrels now second on the same place the first barrel, a southern outskirts of the town"  
— Facebook post, 5/15/2014

The Syrian government continues to resort to makeshift "barrel" bombs pushed out of aircraft and helicopters. Since May 12th, a survey of a curated list of Facebook pages found almost 2000 mentions of barrel bombs, often with accompanying photos and video. By linking reports to cities mentioned and extracting the daily total, it is possible to see an underlying pattern where and when the deadly weapons are used.

For more information about barrel bombs, check out the excellent reporting done by Eliot Higgins (aka Brown Moses) at brown-moses.blogspot.com. For the data and code used to create this visualization, visit CrisisNET.

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Whoa, Jonathon, that is super freakin’ awesome.

...so now what?
It’s open source.
Join the party.

* More Data
* Better Science
* Build, Build Build
We are the makers. Let’s make data work.

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