

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نیاشد تن من مباد بدین بوم ویر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبان های اروپایی

<http://theweek.com/articles/609228/america-dropped-23000-bombs-last-year-heres-where-exploded>

America dropped 23,000 bombs last year. Here's where they exploded.

Shane Dixon Kavanaugh

3/5/2016

An American bombing raid in Libya last month signaled a potentially deepening involvement in the latest front of the U.S. military campaign against the Islamic State — and underscored the expansion of U.S. airstrikes as a tool to combat Islamist terror groups around the globe.

U.S. aircraft are now targeting jihadists in seven countries from North Africa to Afghanistan. And ISIS militants aren't the only extremists in the crosshairs of American warplanes and drones. The U.S. is also still hunting al Qaeda operatives and Taliban fighters where these jihadists pose security threats to U.S. allies and interests.

American aircraft fired at least 23,144 bombs and missiles in 2015 alone, according to data compiled by Micah Zenko, an expert on U.S. military planning and operations who is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. The Pentagon shows no signs of slowing down the strikes this year: U.S.-led warplanes and drones dropped more than 2,800 bombs in January, recent military statistics show.

More than 95 percent of these American airstrikes have focused on ISIS targets in Syria and Iraq, at a cost of billions of dollars. Targets in other nations have been under steady fire as well, however. U.S. drones continue to pick off members of al Qaeda affiliates in Somalia, Pakistan,

and Yemen. In Afghanistan, fighter jets fired weapons at Taliban, ISIS, and al Qaeda militants nearly 1,000 times in the last year, according to CFR data.

U.S. officials regularly highlight the success of these strikes. They kill militant leaders, such as ISIS's infamous Jihadi John, and level massive terrorist training camps, like one belonging to al Qaeda in Afghanistan that was blown to bits in October. Pentagon officials also credit the relentless bombing campaign in Syria and Iraq with stopping ISIS's expansion there.

But the civilian toll in these attacks can be high, analysts and monitoring groups say. A United Nations report last year alleged that U.S. drone strikes in Yemen had killed more civilians than al Qaeda operatives. In September, an American warplane fired on a charity hospital in northern Afghanistan, killing 30 patients and staff and wounding dozens more.

The airstrikes in Libya last month appear to have had mixed results. At least 40 ISIS militants were said to have been killed, but two Serbian embassy staffers who had been taken hostage by the terror group in November were also reportedly killed.