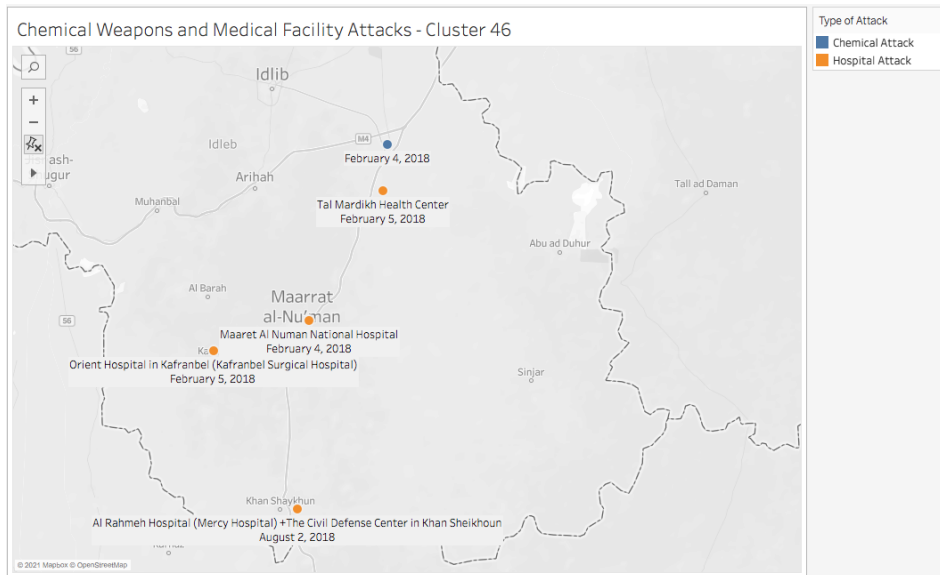


CASE STUDY: SARAQIB



The week of February 4, 2018, there were four documented attacks against medical facilities around the time of and near a chemical weapons attack in Saraqib. Situated near Saraqib along the main, M5 Aleppo-Damascus highway, these attacks on medical centers limited availability and access to medical care in the event of civilian casualties from an air attack. This is particularly notable given the specialized care required for victims of chemical poisoning.

FEBRUARY 4: CHEMICAL ATTACK

On February 4, the Syrian government launched a chemical weapons attack using at least 2 barrels/canisters carrying chlorine gas. The attack reportedly injured 12 civilians. According to a [report](#) on the incident by the Office for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, victims of the attack were taken to one medical facility nearby. Testimonies taken by Syrians for Truth and Justice reveal that victims were evacuated to “the medical centers adjacent to Saraqib since many of the city’s hospitals have been out of service recently because they were targeted by the regime and allies.”

FEBRUARY 4: HOSPITAL ATTACK 1

The same day of the attack, 25 km south of Saraqib in the city of Maaret Al Numan, Russian Forces hit the Maaret Al Numan National Hospital by airstrike. Given that the attack was a direct hit and the hospital had been attacked at least six times before, Syrian Archive identified this medical facility as deliberately targeted. The Maaret Al Numan National Hospital is situated in a strategic location directly along the vital M5 highway. These characteristics of the attack suggest potential intent in attacking the medical facility the same day as a nearby chemical weapons attack.



The inside of [Maaret Al Numan National Hospital](#) after Russian Forces struck the facility on February 4, 2018.

FEBRUARY 5: HOSPITAL ATTACK 2

A day after the attack in Saraqib, on February 5, the Tal Mardikh Health Center—situated 5 km south of Saraqib—was attacked by Syrian government forces. Similar to Maaret Al Numan National Hospital, the health center in Tal Mardikh is located directly along the M5 highway.

FEBRUARY 5: HOSPITAL ATTACK 3

Also on February 5, Russian Forces hit the Orient Hospital in Kafranbel—35 km south of Saraqib—with an airstrike. Orient Hospital was identified as deliberately targeted with 6

previous attacks on the facility including a direct hit and double tap attack on the hospital on February 5.

FEBRUARY 8: HOSPITAL ATTACK 4

Lastly, on February 8 in Khan Sheikhoun—50 km south of Saraqib—Russian Forces hit the Al Rahmeh Hospital and neighboring Civil Defense center. Also situated directly along the M5, the facilities were hit



Inside [Al Rahmeh Hospital](#) after Russian Forces hit the facility with airstrikes days after a chemical weapons attack nearby.

Previously attacked before and directly hit with multiple targeted strikes, Syrian Archive identified the facility as deliberately targeted. The Al Rahmeh Hospital and Civil Defense center were also situated directly along the M5.