

Dates of strikes: January 8 and 10, 2016
Location of strike: Bilad Ar-Rus District, Sana'a Governorate
Object(s) struck: Community college
Weapons remnants ID: **UK-made** "Hakim" A series precision guided munition (PGM)
Weapons manufacturer: GEC-Marconi Dynamics



“I was sitting inside the administration building and heard three bombs strike the student dormitories and classroom building. I went to the [makeshift bomb shelter I had constructed for myself about fifty meters away]. Two days later, at around sunset, they struck again.”

—Ali Al-Muzalim

33-year-old male
Survivor of attack and college security guard

On January 8 and 10, 2016, Saudi/UAE-led Coalition forces attacked a community college in the village of Kouhaza in Bilad Ar-Rus District, Sana'a Governorate, partially destroying some areas of the college compound and completely destroying other areas. Mwatana researchers recovered remnants of a UK-made bomb at the site of the airstrikes.

The educational facility was in its final stages of construction at the time of the attacks. At around 2 p.m. on Friday, January 8, the security guard, 33-year-old Ali Al-Muzalim, heard three bombs strike the student dormitories and classroom building. Ali escaped to a makeshift bomb shelter he had constructed for himself about fifty meters away from the college. Two days later, at around sunset, Coalition forces dropped another two bombs on the compound. Ali was able to film the January 10 airstrike using his mobile phone. “The contractor’s son was next to me and he was going crazy because they had just put the finishing touches on the buildings,” recalled Ali.

The attacks completely destroyed a warehouse in the college compound and partially destroyed the remaining buildings, including the student dormitories. The community college was not located near any potential military targets, according to Ali, who said the nearest military sites were weapons depots located about fifteen kilometers to the north.

The Saudi/UAE-led Coalition attack appears to have been indiscriminate. Mwatana found no evidence to suggest that the college compound was being used for military purposes or that there were any military targets in or near the compound at the time of the attack. Indiscriminate attacks carried out intentionally or recklessly are war crimes. Educational facilities are presumed to be civilian objects. Before conducting an attack, a party must do everything feasible to verify that the persons or objects to be attacked are military objectives and not civilians or civilian objects.

At least one of the bombs used in the attacks was a UK-made “Hakim” A series precision guided munition (PGM) manufactured by GEC-Marconi Dynamics, as Mwatana has noted in a written submission of evidence to the UK Parliament’s Committee on Arms Export Controls.¹ Hakim munitions are rocket-assisted bombs equipped with either 500-pound (A series) or 2000-pound (B series) warheads.²

1 Written Evidence from the Mwatana for Human Rights (UKY 11) to Committees on Arms Export Controls, UK Parliament (Mar. 2016), <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/committees-on-arms-export-controls/use-of-ukmanufactured-arms-in-yemen/written/31059.html>.

2 Armament Research Services, *United Arab Emirates employ British Hakim A series precision guided munitions in Yemen* (Nov. 26, 2015), <http://armamentresearch.com/united-arab-emirates-employ-british-hakim-a-series-precision-guided-munitions-in-yemen/>.

The 500-pound Hakim PGM was most likely dropped by a United Arab Emirates (UAE) Air Force plane—either the Dassault Mirage 2000-9 or F-16E/F “Desert Falcon” fighter.³ The UK delivered 1,750 Hakim A and B series munitions to the UAE between 1989 and 1998.⁴



Remnants of a UK-made “Hakim” A series precision guided munition (PGM) found at the scene of the attack on the community college. The markings on the remnant in the photo on the right identify GEC-Marconi Dynamics as the manufacturer.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*