

Harmoon Observatory

August 2021 Report



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مركز حرمون
 للدراسات المعاصرة
 Harmoon Center
 For Contemporary Studies

Harmoon Observatory

Harmoon Observatory aims at monitoring the course of events related to the conflict in, and over Syria, from all sides and for all parties, in order to create a clear perception of what is happening on the various political, military, economic and social levels. As well as to figure out the different opinions of all acting parties and their activities and influence, through reports produced on the ground close to the events, where information about the Syrian issue is gathered and summarized in monthly reports.

The main objective is to monitor the development of the Syrian issue in order to create up-to-date knowledge that helps researchers and informs decision-makers of the latest updates.

Harmon Center for Contemporary Studies

Harmoon Center is an independent nonprofit research institution, focusing on the production of political, societal and intellectual studies and research related particularly to the Syrian issue, and the possible outcomes of ongoing conflict in Syria. The center is concerned with bolstering civil society and democratic awareness. Harmoon Center also works on Arab issues and related conflicts, as well as Arab regional and international relations.

The Center undertakes practical projects and activities, promotes initiatives for building Syria's future on the foundations and values of democracy, freedom, equality, human rights, and equal citizenship rights. Harmoon Center strives to be a platform for constructive dialogue and an arena for exchanging ideas.

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Executive summary

- No efforts were made to stimulate the establishment of a political solution, with the exception of a letter to the US President, signed by 60 American clerics (Muslims, Christians and Jews) to which the Syrian community in the United States contributed. The letter calls on the US foreign policy to prioritize the Syrian issue.
- Arab positions (Jordanian - Egyptian - Iraqi - Algerian) have emerged calling for normalization with the Syrian regime and restoring its seat in the League of Arab States, in return for the firm refusal of the United States and the European Union to rehabilitate the regime and support the reconstruction process, and for the US administration's continuous imposition of sanctions on individuals and entities dealing with the regime.
- International organizations continued to pressure the Syrian regime over its chemical program, and there were calls to hold it accountable for the crime of using chemical weapons against the Syrians.
- Tension and escalation persisted in the crisis of Daraa al-Balad neighbourhood, where the Syrian regime forces bombed the neighbourhood, and clashed with opposition fighters in Daraa al-Balad, al-Sed neighbourhood, the camp, and in the city of Tafas. No solution has been reached yet, despite many negotiation rounds sponsored by the Russians.
- The Russian forces, along with the regime army and Iranian-backed militias continued to bombard the Syrian opposition-controlled areas in the north of Syria, targeting civilian areas and vital centers, while ISIS fighters continued their attacks against the regime forces and militias. Clashes and exchange of fire were recorded between the SDF forces and the "National Army" factions.
- A decrease in the frequency of bombings and assassinations was noted, as well as the continuation of violations and arrests by both the regime and the SDF, and casualties.
- There is no significant change in the geographic distribution of security events inside Syria for the month of August 2021, with the continuation of clashes and shelling in Daraa governorate.

- Asma al-Akhras, the president's wife, increased her activity in Syrian public affairs by holding several meetings with Syrian businessmen, the most prominent of which was her meeting with dozens of businessmen from Aleppo, Homs and Hama.
- Political activity focused on the Daraa crisis, as international condemnations, mainly from the European Union and the foreign ministries of the US, Canada, Britain, France and Turkey, targeted the Syrian regime's siege of the city of Daraa and its attacks on Daraa al-Balad, along with its attempts of displacing the people. The aforementioned entities demanded the regime to abide by the Security Council's decisions.
- The pace of Israeli bombing of Syrian sites continued to decline for the second month in a row, as only two missile attacks were recorded during the month of August, targeting sites of the Syrian regime forces and Iranian-backed militias.
- There has been a significant increase in Coronavirus cases in northern Syria, along with dozens of cases of the "delta" variants, in view of the continued warnings of collapse of the medical sector.
- The frequency of street anger increased over the government's poor performance and the deteriorating living conditions in the regime-controlled areas. Also, there were cases of protests, which the authorities dealt with using containment instead of confrontations.
- The quality of life has further deteriorated as a result of the economic policies of the Syrian regime, including increases in prices and lack of services, despite the stability of the Syrian currency.
- With the "Back to school" season, the northern Syrian markets witnessed a slight improvement, and the activity of local councils increased in areas controlled by the opposition factions in northern Syria.
- A continuous increase in the demand for immigration and asylum among Syrians was recorded during the month of August, especially in areas controlled by the regime. Immigration was sought by sea towards Europe, and by land towards areas controlled by the Syrian opposition.
- With the exception of the Daraa crisis, the media, as well as international studies and research canterers, have largely ignored the Syrian issue, in favour of news from Afghanistan.

1. Political monitoring report for August 2021

United Nations:

- The US delegate to the United Nations, Linda Thomas Greenfield, stressed the need for the international community to confront the Syrian regime's attack on Daraa, noting that the regime prevents humanitarian organizations from providing assistance to the population that is struggling to survive.
- Amnesty International called on the Syrian regime to end the siege of the neighbourhoods of Daraa al-Balad, and to immediately allow the entry of humanitarian aid.
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights called for an immediate ceasefire, in order to alleviate the suffering of civilians in the city of Daraa, and to allow humanitarian aid.
- The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, expressed his growing concern over the situation in southern Syria, at the meeting of the Humanitarian Working Group of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) that was held in Geneva recently.
- The United Nations Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that UNRWA is deeply concerned about the lives and life quality of about 30,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the agency in southern Syria. About a third of them resided in the Daraa Palestinian refugee camp, prior to the conflict and the widespread devastation.
- The Deputy High Representative of the Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Thomas Markram, said that the Syrian regime's announcement of ending its chemical program is "inaccurate and incomplete," noting that "there is inconsistency in this information."
- The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons requested more information from the Syrian regime, regarding the reported destruction of two chlorine cylinders related to a deadly 2018 attack on the city of Douma.
- Thirteen international relief/humanitarian organizations have warned that there are more than 12 million people, in Syria and Iraq, who lost access to wa-

ter, food and electricity, and stated that urgent measures are needed to combat the acute water crisis.

- The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, announced that there is progress in the process of transferring international humanitarian aid across the lines of conflict in Syria.

United States:

- US lawmakers increased pressure on US President Joe Biden, in order to take a decisive stance that would help stop the events in Daraa, and work to hold the Syrian regime and its supporters in Russia and Iran responsible for the atrocities taking place in Daraa in particular, and Syria in general.
- The US State Department condemned the regime's attack on Daraa Governorate, describing it as "brutal."
- US President Joe Biden confirmed that he believes that the United States faces a greater threat from Syria and other countries than from Afghanistan.
- The US State Department imposed sanctions on Iraqi, Russian, Lebanese and other entities affiliated with the Syrian regime, and on a Romanian bank that sent transfers to the regime.
- US Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, expressed his belief that the release of journalist Austin Tice, with whom contact was lost after he was arrested at a checkpoint near Damascus in August 2012, falls within the powers of President Bashar al-Assad.
- The spokesman for the "International Coalition to Defeat ISIS", Wayne Moroto, confirmed that the US forces' presence in northeastern Syria is in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.
- A group of Jewish, Christian and Muslim religious leaders, as well as civilians, demanded that US President Joe Biden puts an end to the decade-long Syrian war, and to make this a priority on the US foreign policy agenda, and to appoint a special envoy to push for peace.

European Union

- The European Union called on all parties to protect civilians in the Daraa governorate, which is being attacked by the regime.
- The International Development Committee of the British House of Commons issued a summary regarding the Syrian crisis, stating that millions of people still need aid with the conflict in the country entering its second decade, and having caused the deaths of more than 500,000 people.
- The Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirmed that the office opened by the Autonomous Administration in Geneva “is not considered an official representation,” denying “categorically” any support for this endeavour.
- The British government canceled its sanctions imposed on the Syrian businessman close to the Syrian regime, Tarif al-Akhras, cousin of the wife of the head of the regime, Asma al-Assad.

Turkey

- Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister, Sadat Unal, met with a Russian delegation headed by President Vladimir Putin’s special envoy to Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev, at the headquarters of the Foreign Ministry in the Turkish capital, Ankara, with the aim of coordinating the parties’ positions in Syria.
- Turkish and Russian military officials reached an agreement to solve the problem of water and electricity, in the Nabaa Al-Salam operations area, in northern Syria and in the northeastern province of Hasaka, which is under control of both the “Syrian Democratic Forces” and the Syrian regime.

Russia:

- The Russian Embassy in the United States of America said that the presence of US forces in Syria has no legal basis.
- The Russian ambassador to Jordan, Gleb Desyatnikov, said that Moscow supports Jordan’s efforts to return Syria to the Arab League.
- A report by the American newspaper “The Wall Street Journal” considered that the events taking place in Daraa governorate threaten Russia’s credibility in its

political role in Syria. And that Moscow's goal of establishing itself as a main political actor in the Middle East has been eroded.

Iran:

- The newly elected Iranian president, Ebrahim Raisi demanded the immediate departure of foreign forces from Syria.
- Bashar al-Assad received Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir Abdollahian and his accompanying delegation in Damascus, and discussed with him regional and international files. Abdollahian criticized Baghdad for not inviting the Syrian regime to attend the Baghdad summit of neighbouring countries.
- Senior Adviser to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs, Ali Asghar Khaji, and the envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Syria, Geir Pedersen, stressed the importance of revitalizing the work of the Syrian Constitutional Committee.
- Iran continued its policy of taking over Syrian industries, through a new agreement revealed by the Minister of Industry of the Syrian regime, Ziad Sabbagh, with an Iranian delegation that included representatives of the Iranian "Amer-san" company. The agreement consisted of developing production lines of the Syrian industrial company "Barada."

Arab countries

- The Baghdad Summit for Cooperation and Partnership was held in Iraq with the participation of 9 countries, the majority of which are regional neighbors and Arab and international organizations. The Syrian regime was not invited following objections by participating countries, including France.
- Members of the Lebanese army's intelligence kidnapped 5 young men, from Daraa province, after they left the Syrian regime's embassy in the Lebanese capital, Beirut, on Saturday, August 28, on charges of illegally entering Lebanese territory.
- The Jordanian Ministry of Interior reopened the "Jaber" border crossing with Syria, after it was closed for days as a result of the clashes.
- Saudi Prince Sattam bin Khaled described what is happening in Syria as a "great

human tragedy”, in light of the regime’s violations against the Syrian people and the “hypocrisy of the West” in dealing with the Syrian issue.

- The Jordanian Prime Minister, Bishr Al-Khasawneh, announced that the return of the Syrian refugees to their country will not occur in the near future, given that their return is predicated by determining the place they will return to and appropriate preparations, in addition to providing them with the requirements for a decent life in their country, including political participation.
- The Algerian Foreign Minister, Ramtane Lamamra, revealed that “Syria is an essential topic in the preparations for the upcoming Arab summit.”
- The Iraqi President Barham Salih called during his meeting with media delegations at the Baghdad Conference for Neighbouring Countries (Baghdad Conference for Cooperation and Partnership), for the return of the Syrian regime to the Arab League.

Israel

- Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz renewed Israel’s readiness to attack Iran, stressing that Tehran seeks to form a multi-area challenge to Israel, by building its strength in Lebanon and Gaza, and deploying militias in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen.
- The Israeli authorities opened an investigation with an unidentified woman, who was arrested while sneaking across the border with Syria without carrying any weapons.

The Syrian regime:

- Bashar al-Assad assigned the regime’s prime minister, Hussein Arnous, to form the new government, after the “presidential elections” held by the regime last May. The new government saw only 5 changes out of 30 ministers, and included one of the candidates for the presidential elections.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in the Syrian regime denounced the Western governments’ condemnations of the military escalation on the Daraa al-Balad area.
- President of the regime, Bashar al-Assad, accepted the credentials of Mahinder

Singh Kanyal, the ambassador of the Republic of India, and Radovan Stojanovic, the ambassador of the Republic of Serbia, to the regime in Syria.

- Sheikh Laith al-Balous (son of the founding leader of the Men of Dignity Movement in Suwayda, Wahid al-Balous) accused Iran and Hezbollah of being behind the murder of his father and the bombings that took place in September 2015, which killed a number of the movement leaders.
- The “Youth Party for Building and Change” and the “Solidarity Party”, two of the parties licensed by the Syrian authorities, announced in a joint statement their refusal to form the new “government”, stating that: “We have not dared for a while to name new government ministers, as if this country was destined to see the same faces all over again”.
- Representatives of the people of Daraa held a meeting with the UN envoy to Syria Geir Pedersen to discuss the latest military and humanitarian issues in the governorate, and in the besieged neighbourhoods of Daraa al-Balad, in particular.
- A large oil slick spread along the Syrian coast, with an area of about 309 square miles, according to a report published by the British newspaper “Daily Mail”, as a result of the leakage of about 20,000 tons of fuel, due to cracks in one of the fuel tanks at the Baniyas thermal station. Maintenance teams were unable to stop the spread of the slick, and the Cypriot authorities warned that the oil slick was threatening the coasts of the North Island after it approached its shores.

The Syrian opposition:

- A number of activists of the Syrian-American community organizations met at the beginning of August with Senator Bob Menendez, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the US Senate, in order to strengthen the efforts for a political solution in Syria, and to urge the US administration to play a role in sparing Daraa city the risks of escalation by the regime forces. The conferees handed Senator Menendez a document of the “five steps to the solution in Syria”, which had been prepared by these organizations.
- Revolutionary activists organized sit-ins and protests, memorializing the eighth year since the chemical attack that killed many people.
- Groups of the Syrian Opposition held a meeting for the General Assembly of the “National Conference for the Restoration of Decision” in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Syrian opposition circles met it with reservations, criticism, and doubts about its motives and the parties behind it.

- The opposition “Syrian Coalition” warned in a statement of a humanitarian disaster due to the escalation by the Syrian regime, its Russian ally, and the Iranian militias against the towns and villages of the southern countryside of Idlib and the northern and western countryside of Hama.
- The head of the “Syrian Interim Government”, Abdul Rahman Mustafa, held a meeting with the political official of the US State Department, Rachel Schneller, in the state of Gaziantep.
- The “Syrian Islamic Council” issued a statement in which it congratulated “the Afghan people, represented by the (Taliban) movement”, for what it described as “victory over the colonizer and his supporters”, in reference to the withdrawal of US forces from Afghanistan.
- The head of the opposition “Syrian National Coalition” Salem Al-Maslat, called for “restoring the initiative of moving stagnant waters, and re-establishing the centrality of the Syrian revolution, through a purely national action based on one vision.”
- The Syrian opposition coalition issued a statement regarding the kidnapping of 5 Syrians, by Lebanese security forces, in front of the regime’s embassy in Lebanon, blaming the Lebanese authorities for the safety of the abductees.
- The British Syrian Council (SBC) denounced the United Kingdom’s raising the name of a businessman close to the Syrian regime, Tarif al-Akhras, one of the main financiers of the Syrian regime. The Council confirmed that the House of Lords and the House of Commons are working to get Akhrass back on the British sanctions list.

2. Military and security monitoring

United States:

- The United States has reinforced its military base in the city of Al-Malikiyah in Al-Hasakah, with a logistical convoy coming from Iraq, including 30 trucks carrying “engineering equipment and logistical materials”, accompanied by military armored vehicles.
- US forces arrested 4 Syrian citizens linked to the Islamic State “ISIS”, in the village of Muhaimida and in the town of Jdeidet Okaidat in Deir ez-Zor, after carrying out operations, and took them to an unknown destination.
- The US military said that a fighter plane belonging to the US-led coalition shot down a drone in eastern Syria, after it was considered a threat.
- The American newspaper, Politico, quoted an American official as confirming that President Biden’s administration will keep about 900 military personnel, to support the “Syrian Democratic Forces” in the fight against ISIS.

Russia

- The commander of the Russian forces in Syria, Yevgeny Nikiforov, revealed that Russian pilots have carried out more than 100,000 combat sorties in the Syrian skies since 2015.
- Military experts reported to Harmoon Observatory that the bombing operations launched by the Russian forces in and around Idlib use laser-guided Russian Krasnopol missiles, via reconnaissance planes, which are precision-guided, and they are recently used against opposition forces and civilians.
- The deputy head of the Russian Reconciliation Center in Syria, Major General Vadim Kolet, accused the militants of “Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham” of launching dozens of bombing operations against the regime forces in the Idlib region.
- The Russian military police continued to patrol the main roads in Al-Raqqa and Al-Hasakah governorates, and the Manbij area in the Aleppo governorate.

- A member of the “National Defence” militia was killed, and two others were wounded, in a Russian raid that mistakenly targeted the vicinity of a military position of the Syrian regime militia, in the Rusafa desert, south of Raqqa governorate.

Iran and its militias:

- Iranian media revealed the killing of a member of the “Quds Force” Muhammad Norouzi, as a result of chemical injuries sustained during clashes in Syria, details of which were not disclosed. The dead man is known to be an expert in chemical weapons and has been fighting in Syria for years.
- The Iranian-backed “Arab National Guard” militia denied the participation of its members, along with the Syrian regime forces and Iranian militias, in the battles taking place in Daraa Governorate, and stressed the strength of relations with Iran and its fighters fighting alongside the regime’s President Bashar al-Assad.
- Iraqi militias backed by Iran (Hezbollah, Ansar Allah, and Harakat al-Nujaba) have reinforced their positions in the town of Al-Suway’iyah in Al-Bukamal areas in Deir ez-Zor, and the “Minej Salt” base in the Maadan desert in Raqqa, with equipment, ammunition and engineering fortifications.
- The Iranian-backed “Sayyid Al-Shuhada Brigades” militia announced that all its affiliated groups withdrew from Syria to Iraq, stressing at the same time that they are responsible for bombing American targets in northeastern Syria, including the Al-Omar oil field.
- Iranian-backed Shiite militias continued to seize homes and lands of displaced civilians from Deir ez-Zor. The new seizures were concentrated in the neighborhoods of Al-Joura, Al-Qusour, Al-Bukamal, and Maadan in Al-Raqqa Governorate. It also seized a house owned by a displaced civilian and turned it into a field hospital for its members under the name “Al-Shifa Hospital”.
- On Friday, August 13, Iranian officials and clerics buried in Qom Mohamad Mehdi MalaMiri, the first Shiite cleric killed by the Free Syrian Army on April 20, 2015, in the city of Busr al-Harir, east of Daraa, with a number of members of the Afghan “Fatimiyoun” militia. The circumstances of finding his body after all these years are not clear.

Turkey:

- On Friday, August 13 Turkish forces stationed at Kaljibrin base bombarded the sites of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) forces with heavy artillery, in the vicinity of Tal Rifaat, mainly the villages of Mara'anaz and Alqamiyeh, and the villages of Sadd al-Shahba and Samouqa in the northern countryside of Aleppo.
- Four members of the "Syrian Democratic Forces" were killed in a Turkish bombing, on Friday, August 20, targeting the military headquarters of the "Tal Tamer Military Council" north of Hasakah.
- A Turkish soldier was killed when a military vehicle was targeted by the "Syrian Democratic Forces", with an explosive device, near the Aley area in the countryside of Ras al-Ain, in al-Hasakah.

Israel:

- On Tuesday, August 17, Israeli warplanes bombed military sites of the Syrian regime and Iranian-backed militias in the town of Hader in the Quneitra governorate.
- The Israeli enemy aircraft bombed, on Friday, August 20, weapons depots and military sites belonging to the Hezbollah Militia in the Qara area in Damascus countryside, killing 4 members of the party.

The Syrian regime:

- The Syrian regime forces continued their attempts to storm the besieged neighbourhoods of Daraa al-Balad, pounding them with rockets and missiles, and inflicting civilian casualties. This prompted the negotiating committees to announce a general mobilization in Houran.
- A bus exploded in the Masaken Al-Haras neighbourhood in Damascus. The explosion resulted in a number of dead and wounded.
- The Deputy Governor of Aleppo, Ahmed Al-Yaseen, was shot by unknown persons in Al-Hamdaniya neighbourhood in Aleppo, during a quarrel that took place between the children of the deputy governor and Muhammad Amin Afar.

- After someone bothered him, an armed militia member attacked, with bursts of fire, the patrons of a café (Hammam Bab al-Ahmar), opposite the Citadel of Aleppo, thus injuring one of the café's employees.
- An armed group calling itself "Saraya 2011" announced the assassination of a member of the Political Security Service, called "Alaa Nazih Hassan", in the town of Talbiseh in the northern countryside of Homs.
- The regime's army reinforced its military forces in the vicinity of Talbiseh city, north of Homs, threatening to invade the city and revoke the settlement agreement, in response to sporadic attacks against its forces' checkpoints by unknown gunmen.
- "Abu Obeida Harb", the field commander in the Palestinian Al-Quds Brigade militia, was killed along with two militia members by a landmine explosion left behind by the "Islamic State" organization, in the "Al-Tabni" desert, west of Deir ez-Zor.
- "Ali Hafez", a member of the Syrian regime's National Defence Militia, was killed in Qalamoun, by two other members, after an armed clash took place between them in the town of (Hafir al-Fouqa).
- A number of opposition fighters, who had conducted security settlements living in Damascus countryside, clashed with members of the regime's security forces, at checkpoints near the "Kashkol" locality, and the clash resulted in injuries and the arrest of two gunmen.

Daraa's security situation:

- The regime forces, with the support of sectarian militias backed by Iran, continued to bombard and besiege Daraa for the second month in a row, in conjunction with rounds of negotiations, sponsored by Russia, the Central Committee representing the people of Daraa, and security committees affiliated with the regime led by Major General Hossam Louka, Director of the General Intelligence Department in Syria. The regime forces provoked their counterparts more than once, and the month of August witnessed strong clashes between the two sides, resulting in more than 20 deaths, most of them civilians from Daraa, while dozens of Syrian forces members fell, without any change in the areas of control.
- The Houran Clans Council issued successive statements, in which it addressed the latest events in Daraa governorate, and denounced the regime and its loyal

militias for the increasing military build-up in the land of Houran, and for the siege imposed on the people of Daraa al-Balad. The Council also denounced the threats made by regime officers to kill, storm and displace residents as well as civil activists in Daraa, and demanded the opening of a humanitarian corridor for families to Jordan, to save them from the “Iranian danger facing them.”

- The two parties reached more than one settlement agreement during the current monitoring month, the last of which was in the last days of August, but soon the Syrian regime overturned the agreement, amid speculation that most Daraa Al-Balad residents would be displaced in the coming days unless the regime and its ally abide by the agreement.

Tension and security chaos in As-Suwayda:

- The town of Al-Raha in As-Suwayda witnessed, during the month of August, security chaos, due to an armed clash between the “National Defense” militia and the security forces on the one hand, and an armed faction affiliated with the so-called “Liwa’ Party” on the other hand, without any human casualties. The clash broke out after a popular uprising forced the two factions to withdraw their armed presence and evacuate their headquarters from the town.
- The observatory recorded the killing of two people at the hands of the gunmen of an armed faction affiliated with the Liwa’ Party, one of whom was killed under torture and his body was mutilated. It also recorded the “killing of the young man Daniel Mazyad Baraka” in Libya, one of the young men recruited by Russian forces as mercenaries to fight in Libya.
- Cases of murder were recorded, in addition to 4 cases of suicide.
- Kidnappings of civilians continued in various areas of As-Suwayda. In August, the Harmoon Observatory recorded 9 kidnappings of 8 civilians, and 3 members of the security forces, for ransom. Some of the kidnapped are still under enforced disappearance.

Jihadi Factions:

- A woman was wounded and other civilians were injured, during a raid and arrest operation carried out by a security group affiliated with Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham, in the “Khair al-Sham” camp for the displaced, north of the town of Kali, north of Idlib.

- In the presence of its leader Abu Muhammad al-Julani, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham celebrated the graduation of a batch of military leaders in one of its camps in Idlib.
- "Abu Muhammad al-Julani", the leader of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham, announced that he does not mind merging with the "National Army" and forming a unified administration for the two areas of control, and praised the difference in administration and security control in Idlib, over the National Army's areas.
- A masked group, near a checkpoint belonging to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham in the Jisr al-Shughur area, assassinated a leader called "Abu Farouk al-Mughrabi" who works within the "Sham al-Islam" organization.
- An escalation of the dispute between the "Junud al-Sham" and "Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham" factions, due to accusations against the commander of Jund al-Sham, Muslim al-Shishani, of preparing to launch an attack on the headquarters and officials of the Commission.

Self-Administration - (SDF)

- The commander of the "Syrian Democratic Forces", Mazloum Abdi, announced that his forces are committed to fighting the "Islamic State" organization, along with the forces of the "international coalition" led by the United States, stressing that "its forces will not threaten the stability of their neighbors" adding that the "coordination with Russian forces continues in order to de-escalate tension with Turkey.
- The "Syrian Democratic Forces" called on the government of the Syrian regime, for a permanent solution to the Syrian crisis, and for a dialogue with the Autonomous Administration, and called on Moscow to play a stronger role in order to open the door to permanent political solutions.
- The "Autonomous Administration" in northeastern Syria announced the opening of its "representative" in Switzerland.
- Dozens of civilians demonstrated, on Saturday, August 28, near the "Al-Dalla" roundabout in the town of 5 Abu Hamam in the Deir Ezzor countryside, calling for the "Autonomous Administration" and the "Syrian Democratic Forces" to release the detainees.
- The co-chair of the Department of Foreign Relations in the "Autonomous Administration", Abdul Karim Omar, revealed the mechanism of work of the ad-

ministrations' seven representative offices abroad, stressing that the opening of these representative offices is a recognition of the "Autonomous Administration" by the host countries.

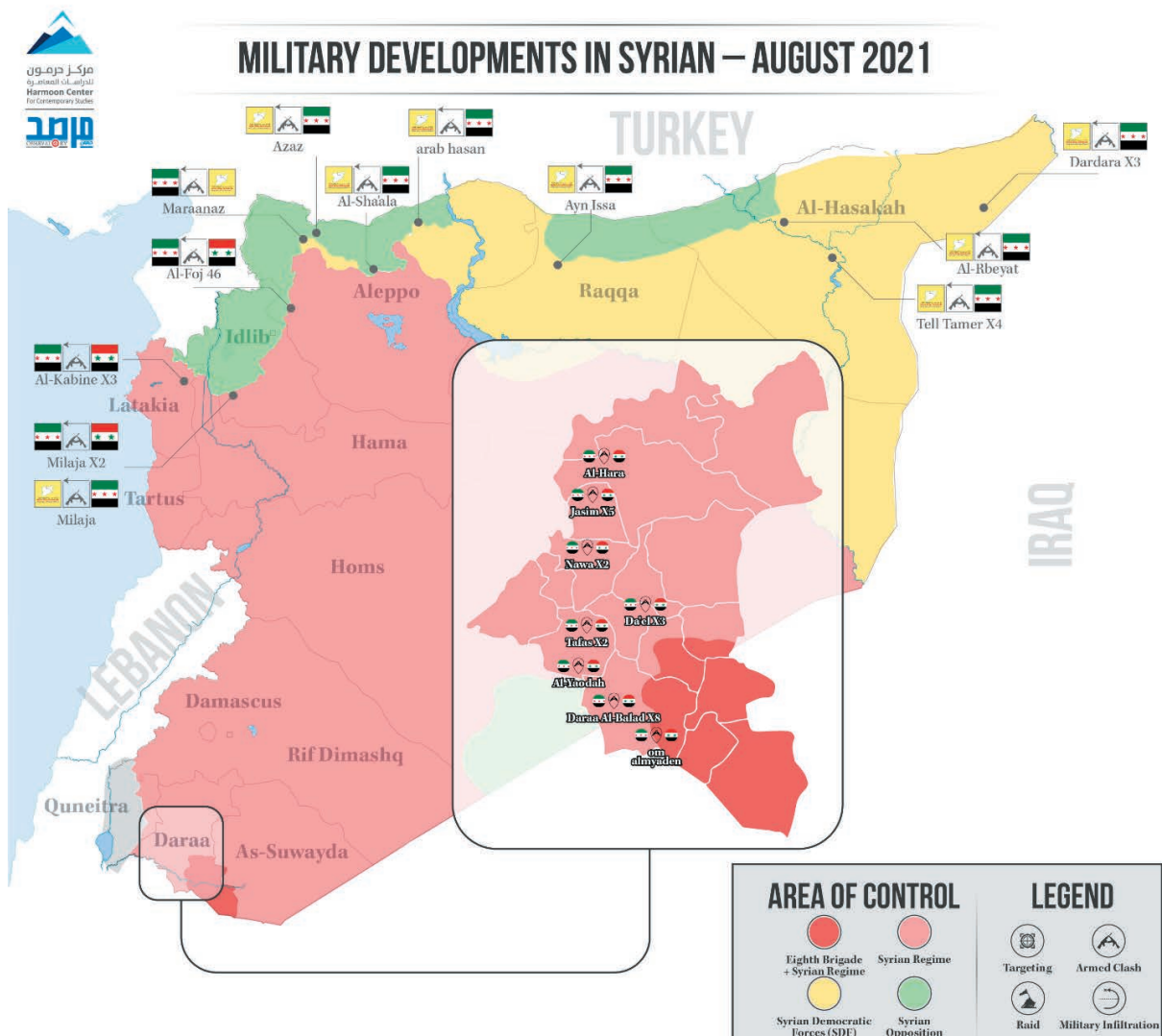
- The Autonomous Administration considered that its intentions in northeastern Syria "was never separatist," noting that its forces "protected the Syrian borders."
- The "Kurdish National Council in Syria" accused the Democratic Union Party of infringement of rights and insisting on rejecting resuming Kurdish dialogue in northeastern Syria.
- For the purpose of recruitment, the Democratic Union Party (PYD) gunmen kidnapped a 14-year-old boy and a girl in the northern countryside of Aleppo, from the village of Qajuma in the countryside of Afrin.
- Intelligence agents of the "Syrian Democratic Forces" (SDF) stormed the house of the engineer "Abdul Ahad Adam", on the night of Friday, August 20, in the city of Al-Malikiyah / Derek, and took him to an unknown destination.
- The "Syrian Democratic Forces" agreed to provide villages in the regime areas, in the western countryside of Raqqa and eastern Aleppo, with electricity from the Euphrates Dam under their control in the city of Tabqa.

The opposition factions:

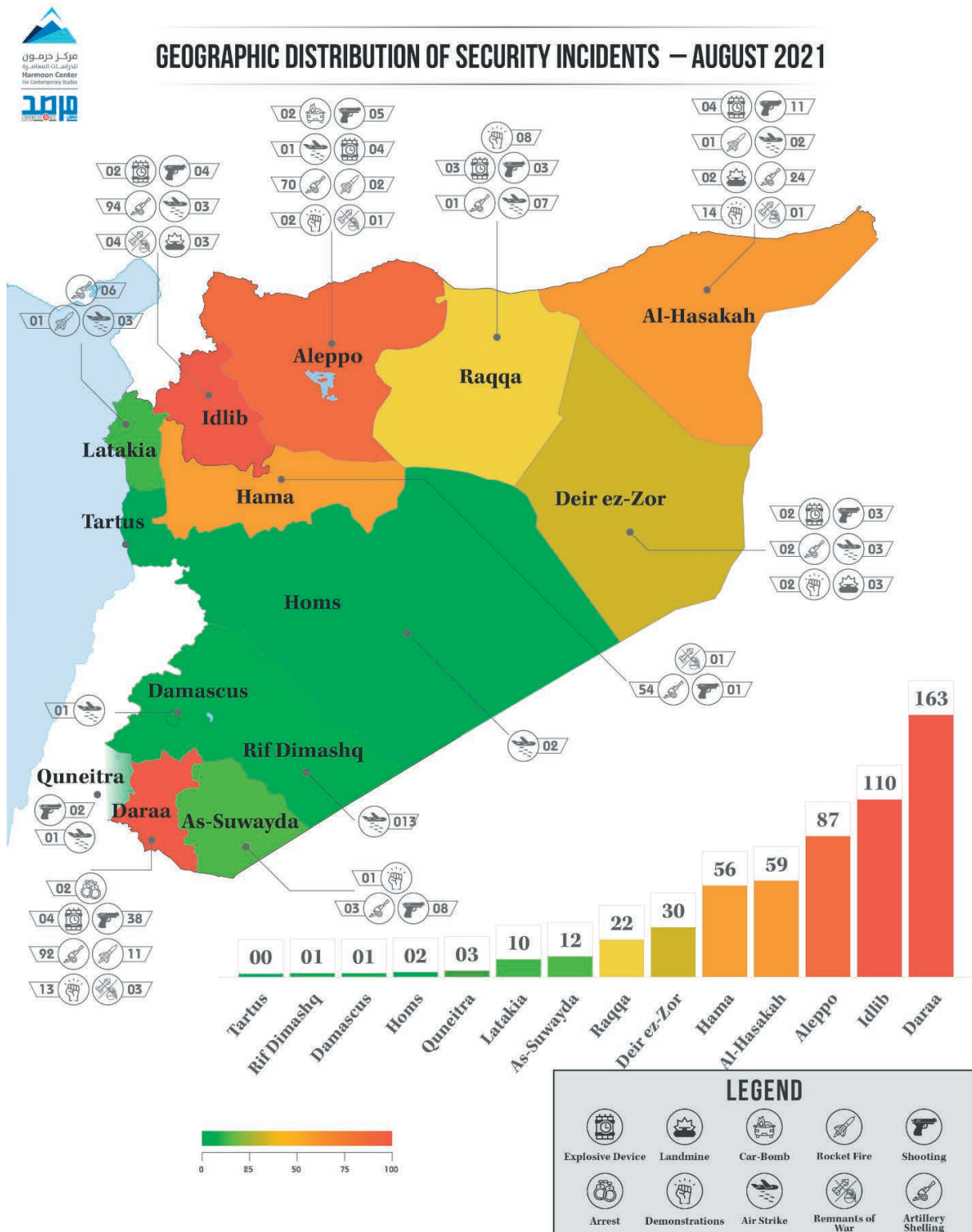
- Fighters and civilians were wounded in clashes with medium weapons between the "Ahrar al-Sharqiya" and "Ninth Division" factions of the Syrian National Army, in the center of Afrin city, before the arrival of "special forces" from the Unified Operations Room (Azm) to dismantle the clash.
- The factions of "Al-Hamza Division - Special Forces, the Sultan Suleiman Shah Division, and the Suqur Al-Shamal Brigade", affiliated with the Syrian National Army, announced on August 25th that they reversed their decision regarding their withdrawal from the unified command room (Azm), and agreed to arbitrate regarding the disputes among them. Azm was founded in mid-July by a number of Syrian National Army factions, for security and military coordination.
- A civilian man, aged 50 years, from the village of Dar Al-Kabeer in the countryside of Afrin, was found dead on his land, with signs of torture on his body. The circumstances and causes of his death were not clear.

- Turkish soldiers “gendarmerie” fired indiscriminately at refugees who tried to enter Turkish territory near the Atma camps on August 22, which led to the killing of the 12-year-old child Radwan Sattam Al-Obaid, from the town of Al-Jeb-reen, in the northern Hama countryside. A few days ago, it killed a 40-year-old man from the Zouf village of Jisr al-Shughur, while he was trying to cross the border into Turkey.
- 7 civilians were wounded in a car bomb explosion in a truck garage in the city of Azzaz in the Aleppo countryside.
- Harmoon monitors recorded the return of about 80 Kurdish families displaced from Afrin to their villages and homes.

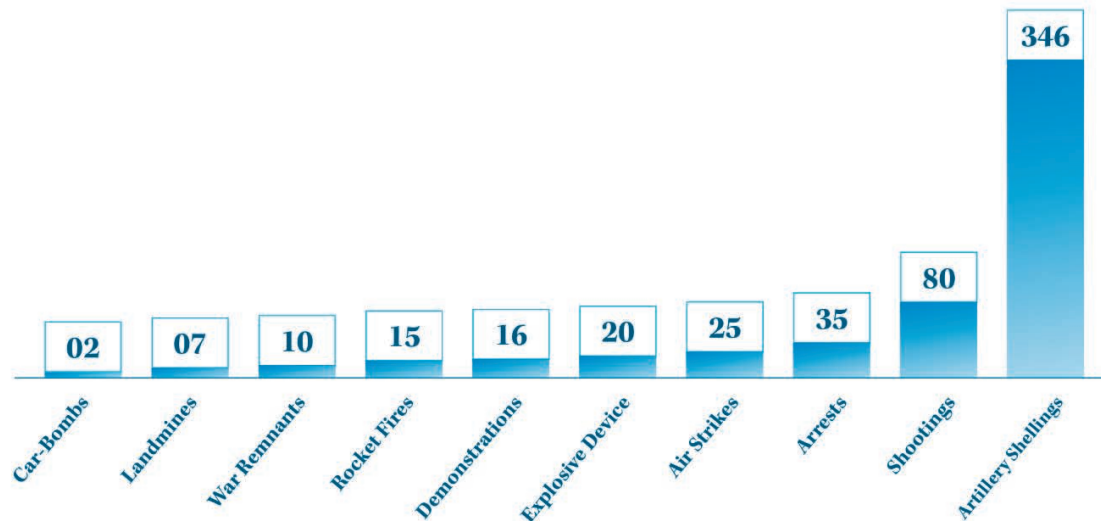
Military Development Index



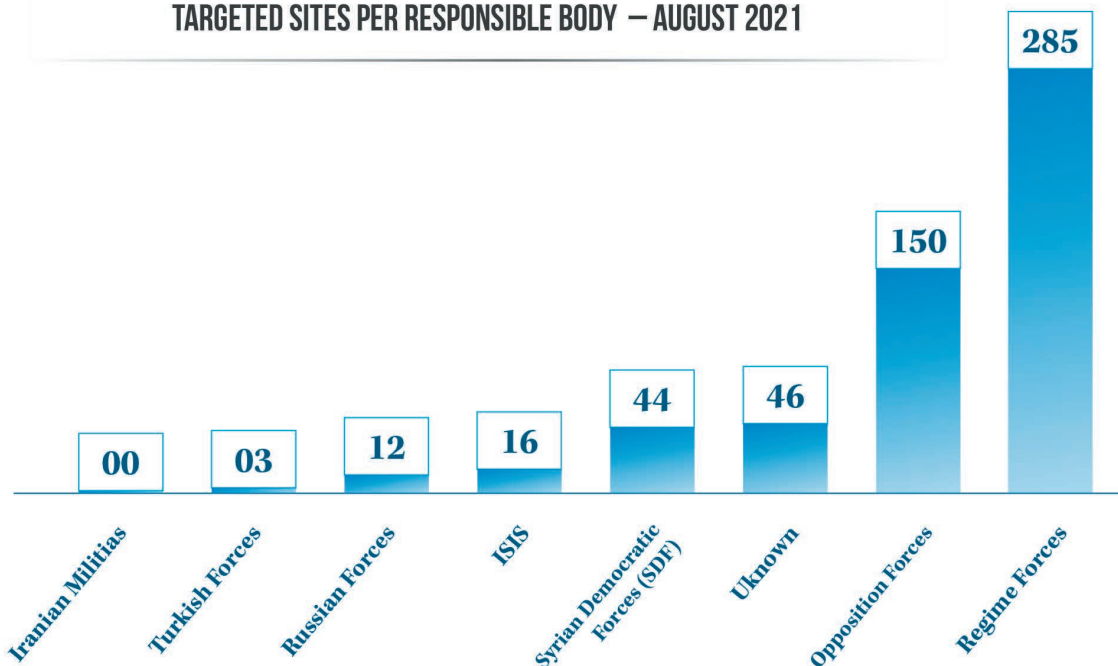
Security events index



SECURITY INCIDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR NATURE – AUGUST 2021



TARGETED SITES PER RESPONSIBLE BODY – AUGUST 2021

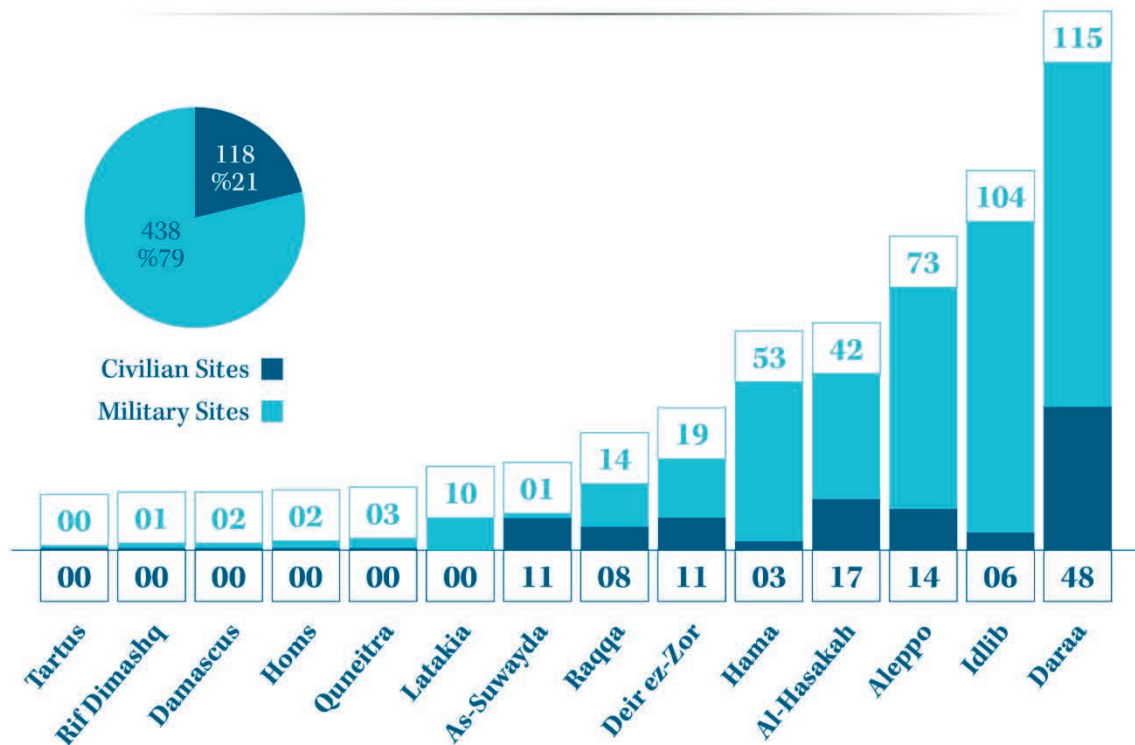


- The besieged Daraa tops the list of the Syrian governorates that witnessed security events, during August 2021, as a result of the escalation in the frequency of shelling and clashes by about 48%. Also, Idlib is still considered among the dangerous areas during the same month of monitoring, despite its decline to the second place on the security events index for this month.

- The observatory recorded a decrease in the percentage of security incidents that were recorded during August 2021, in the governorates of northern Syria, where Raqqa recorded a decrease of 58%, and Deir ez-Zor by about 42%, which led to a decline in both governorates on the security events index for the monitoring month.
- The areas of Center Syria and Syrian coast are still witnessing a low level of security incidents, for three months in a row.
- Artillery bombing is still the most recorded security incident, with a percentage of more than 60% of total incidents, with an increase in the frequency of artillery shelling throughout Syria by approximately 16%, knowing that 75% of this bombing is concentrated in Idlib, Daraa and Aleppo.
- A clear decrease in the shooting rate was observed in all parts of Syria, where a decrease of more than 50% was recorded.
- It was noticed that the number of protests and demonstrations in Syria doubled, noting that more than 90% of them are concentrated in the governorate of Daraa.
- The regime forces are still at the top of the list of those responsible for the security events that were monitored during the month of August 2021, and a 20% increase was noted in the list of events registered on behalf of the Syrian opposition forces.

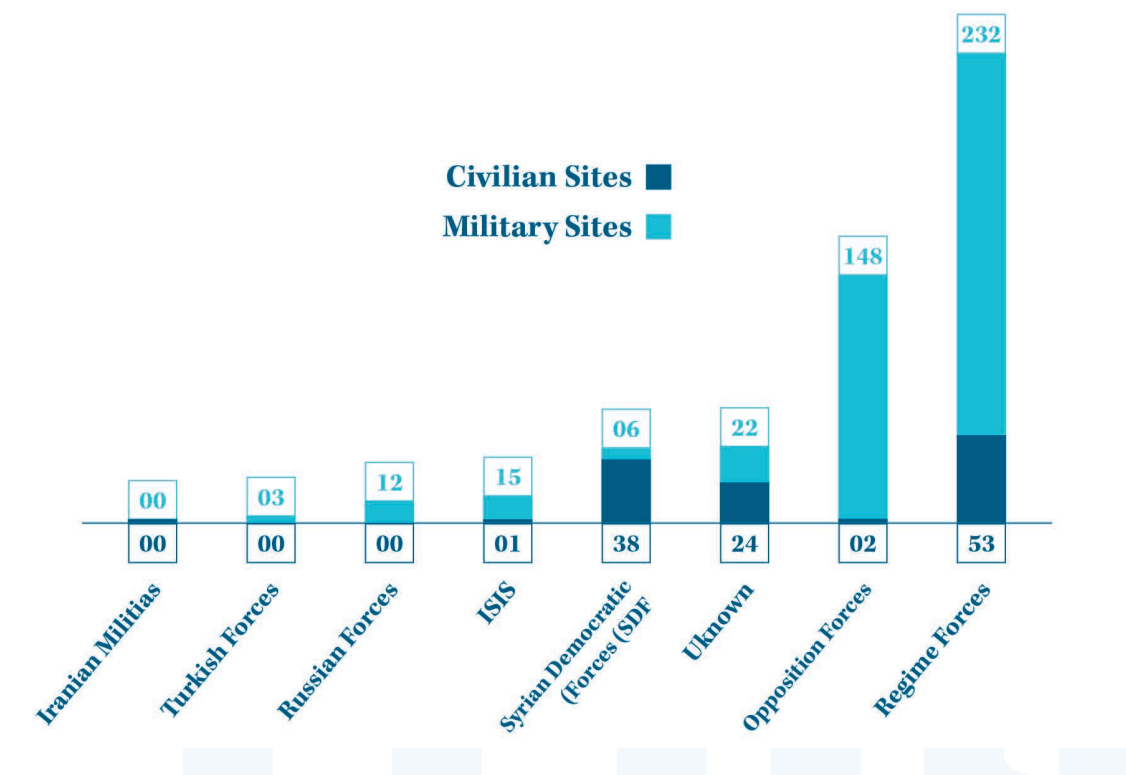


GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF TARGETED SITES – AUGUST 2021

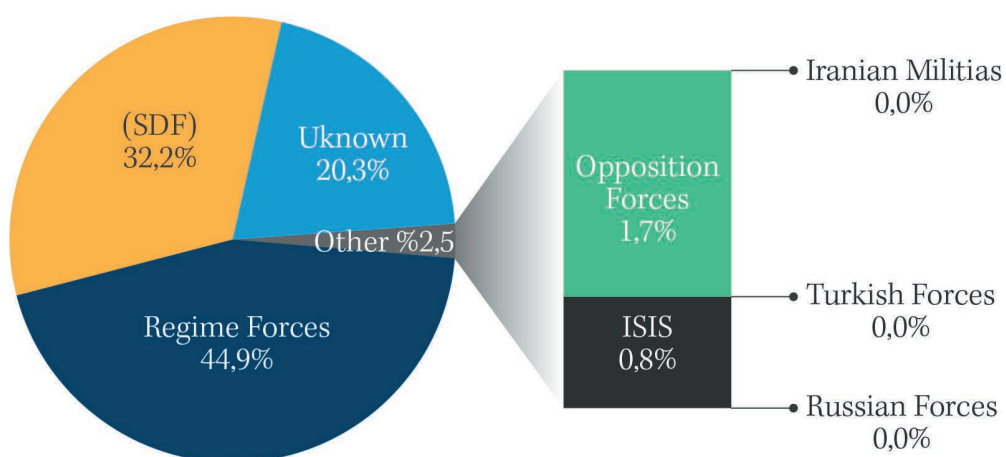


- A decrease of 9% in the security incidents that were recorded throughout Syria, was noted during the month of August 2021.
- A decrease in the percentage of targeting civilian sites compared to last month, by more than 55%, with an increase in targeting military sites by an average of 30%.
- A significant decrease in the rate of targeting civilian sites in the governorates of Idlib and Hama, by 87% and 94%, respectively.
- The percentage of targeting civilian sites still exceeds 90% of the total targets in As-Suwayda Governorate.

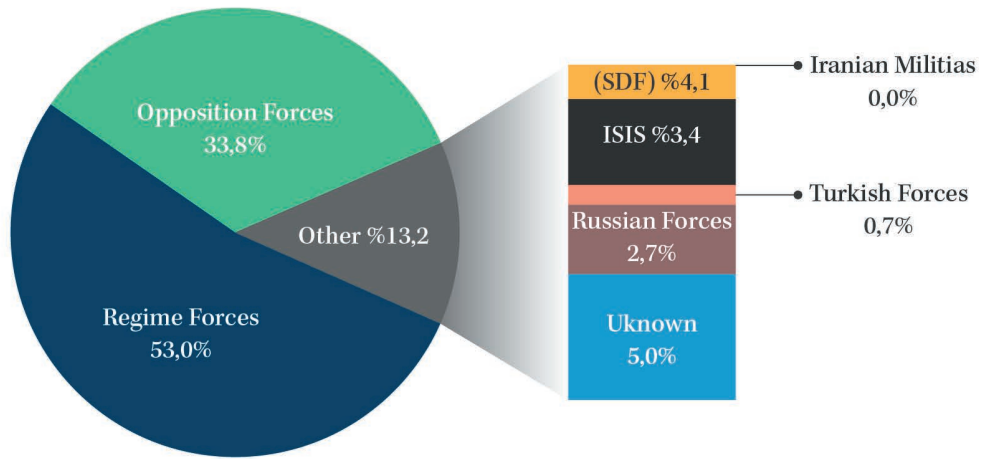
TARGETED SITES PER RESPONSIBLE BODY – AUGUST 2021



PERCENTAGE OF TARGETED CIVILIAN SITES PER RESPONSIBLE BODY – AUGUST 2021

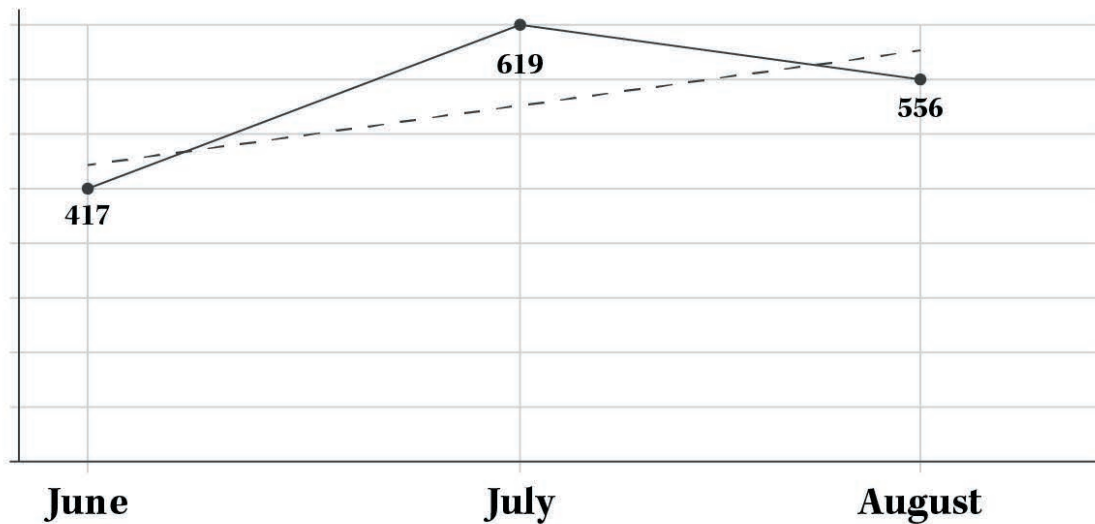


PERCENTAGE OF TARGETED MILITARY SITES PER RESPONSIBLE BODY – AUGUST 2021



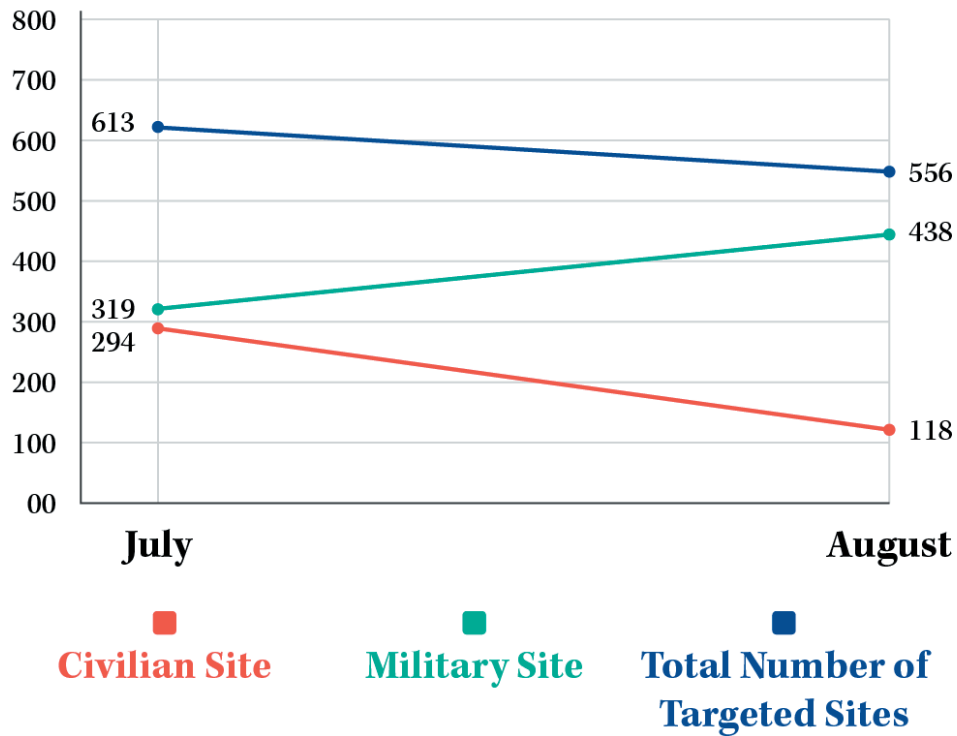
- The regime forces and (SDF) top the list of parties responsible for targeting civilian sites in the whole of Syria, with a rate of 77% of the total civilian sites targeted (118).
- The role of the Turkish army in targeting sites inside Syria decreased, from 4.1% last month to 0.7% during the current monitoring month.

TOTAL NUMBER OF SECURITY INCIDENTS THROUGHOUT SYRIA



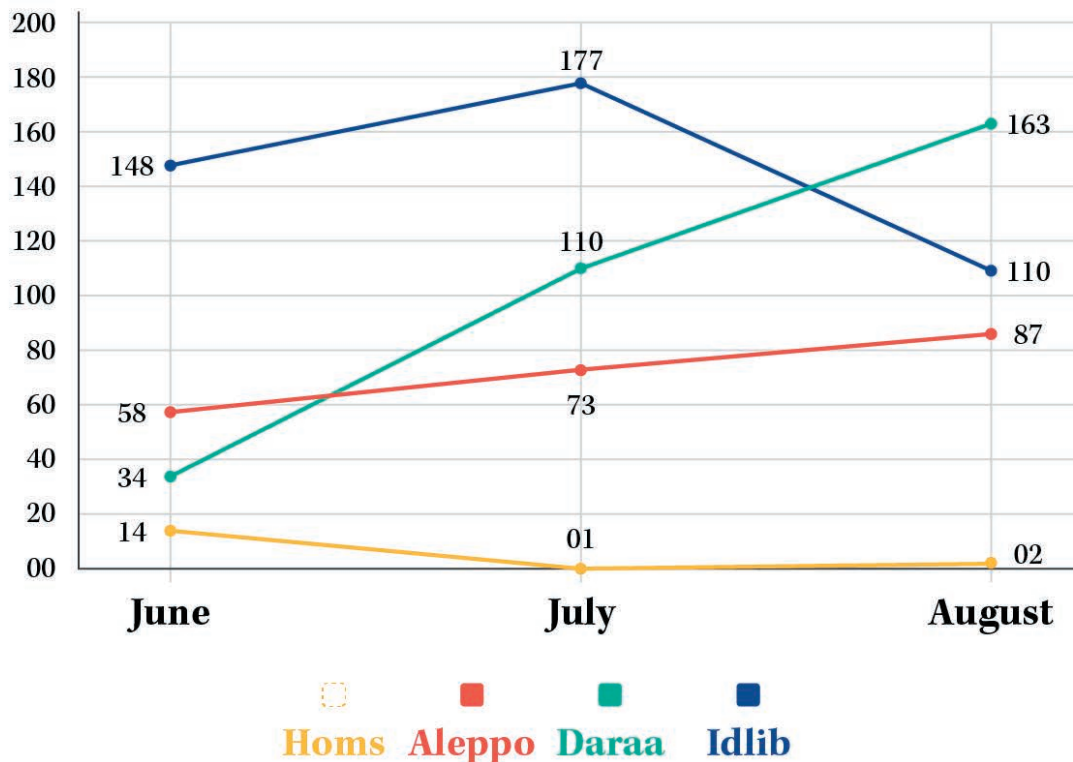
- The trend line of the number of security incidents during one month still suggests a slight increase in incidents, from one month to another, knowing that August 2021 witnessed a decrease, by approximately 10%, of the total recorded security incidents.

NUMBER OF TARGETED SITES BY TYPE THROUGHOUT SYRIA



- A decrease was recorded in the percentage of targeted sites in general throughout Syria, during the month of August 2021, as compared to the previous month. This was also accompanied by a clear decrease in the percentage of targeted civilian sites.

COMPARISON OF SECURITY EVENTS BY NUMBER DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS IN SOME SYRIAN GOVERNORATES



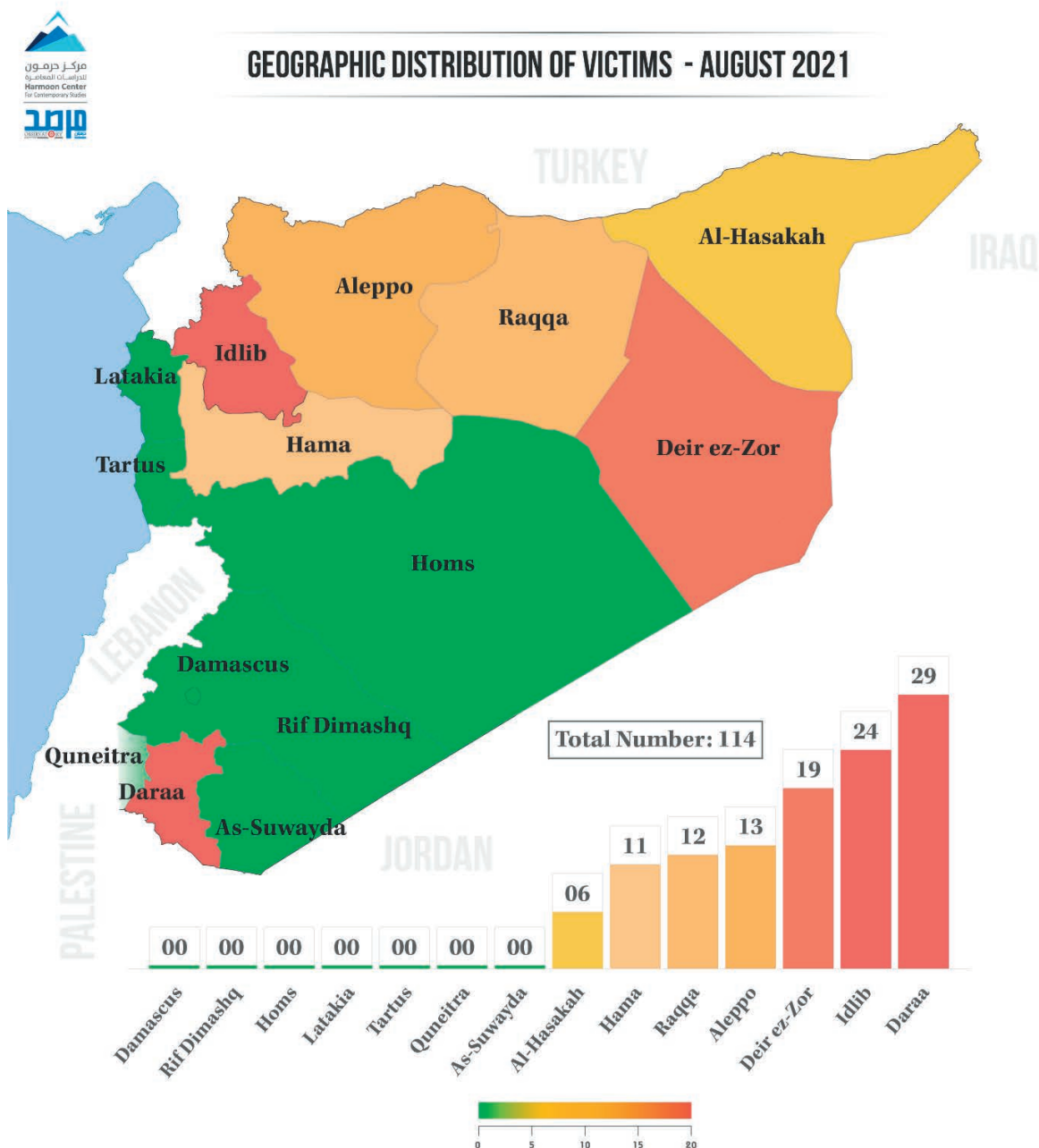
Victims index

- A clear increase in the pace of security incidents, during August 2021, in Daraa governorate, by 38% compared to last June, as a result of the siege and escalation practiced by the regime forces and its militias against the governorate people.
- As a result of the regime forces and their Russian ally directing their military efforts towards Daraa, a decrease in the frequency of security incidents was observed in Idlib governorate, during August 2021, for the first time since the beginning of this year, along with an almost complete decrease in the number of security incidents recorded within Homs governorate during the past two months.
- Escalation of security incidents in Aleppo governorate with a stable increase of approximately 20% per month.

Victims and violations:

- In August, the Harmoon Observatory recorded the killing of at least 114 Syrians, 113 of which are civilians including 42 children, 10 women, and 8 victims of torture.
- Unknown parties caused the largest number of victims, 52 dead, 24 of them in the explosion of remnants of the battles from shells and mines, including 11 children and a woman, while the rest of them died in kidnappings and shootings, including 5 children and 4 women.
- The regime forces caused the death of 26 civilians, including 5 children, 3 women and 6 under torture, as well as a young man executed by the regime's security forces inside a prison; whereas the joint bombing of the regime forces and Russian forces killed 13 children and one woman.
- The "Syrian Democratic Forces" militia killed 8 people, including 7 civilians, of which two children and a woman. The Turkish forces killed 6 civilians, including 3 children, who were killed in shelling on the countryside of Raqqa, and two civilians, one of whom was a child, were killed on the border, north of Idlib.
- 3 children were shot dead by armed clashes, and 3 civilians were killed, one of them under torture, at the hands of the Syrian National Army, one was shot dead by the Iraqi army on the Iraqi-Syrian border, and one was killed under torture in Libyan prisons.

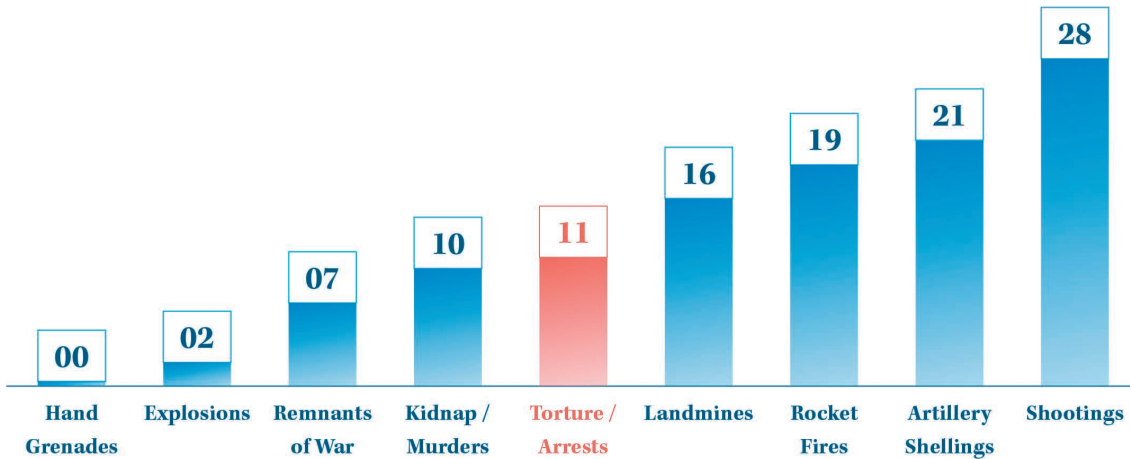
Victims Index



- Daraa, Idlib and Deir ez-Zor are still at the forefront of the governorates in which casualties occurred during the month of August 2021, noting that there was a decrease of approximately 30% in the total number of victims in the mentioned governorates.
- The percentage of victims who died in the governorates of Hama, Aleppo, Al-Hasakah and Raqqa doubled, which led to the rise of these areas on the index of

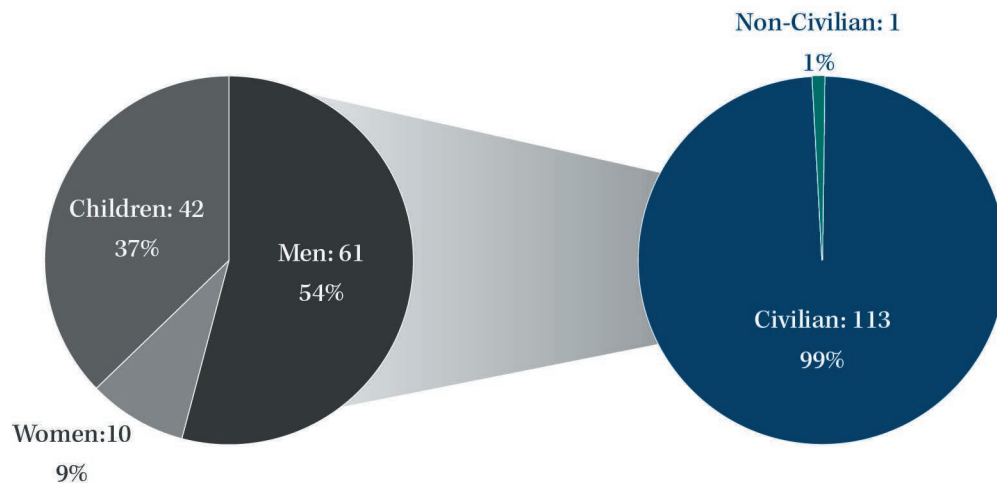
victims at the Harmoon Observatory during August 2021.

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO TYPE OF INCIDENT - AUGUST 2021



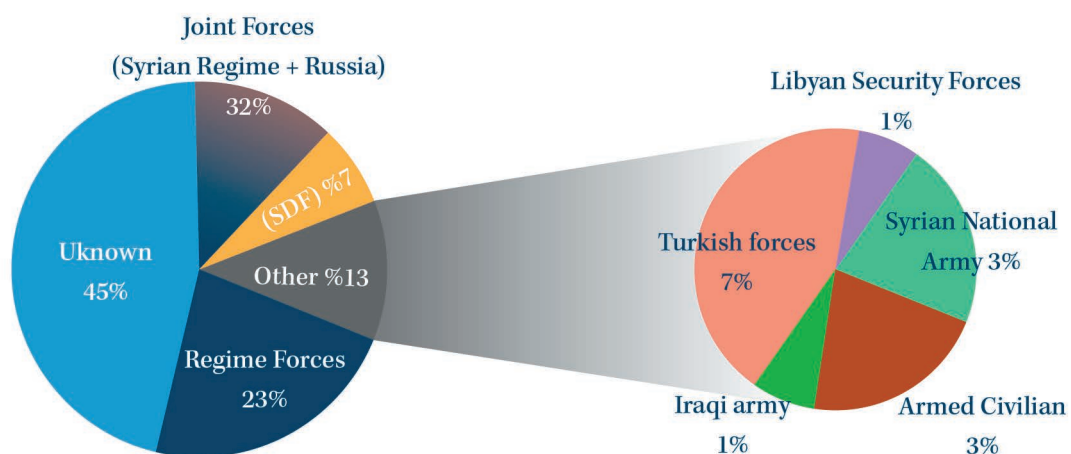
- There is a doubling in the percentage of victims who fell as a result of the explosion of landmines and missile shelling, compared to the previous month.
- It is noted that the number of victims who died under torture has returned to 11, after decreasing to 4 during the last monitoring month, a nearly threefold increase.
- The shooting and artillery shelling are still the biggest cause of casualties, in all parts of Syria.
- It is noticed that there is an increase of more than 60% in the number of victims who died as a result of kidnapping - murder.

CLASSIFICATION OF VICTIMS - AUGUST 2021



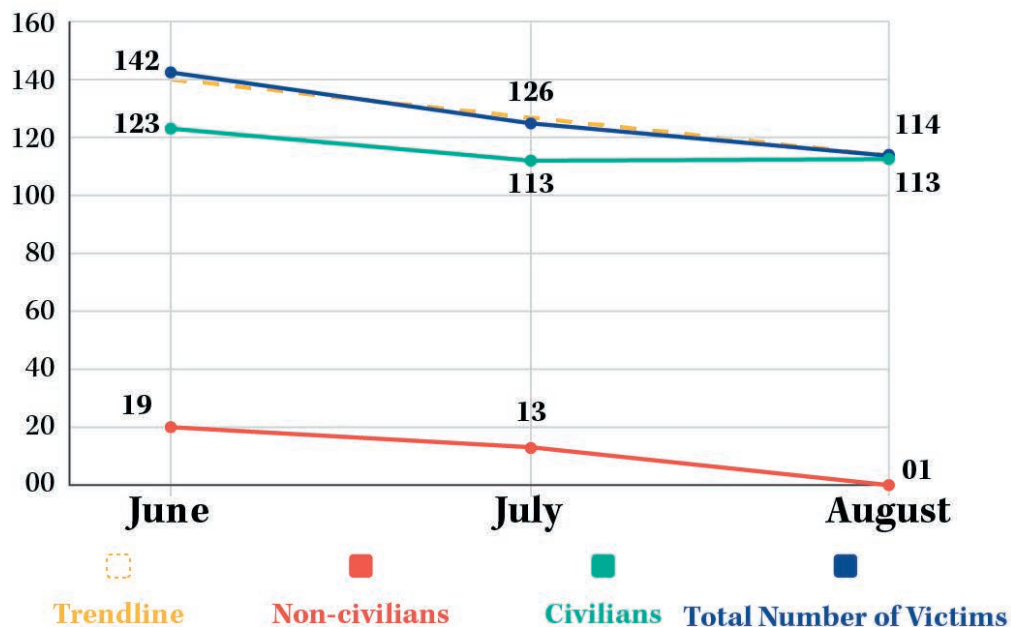
- There is no significant change in the percentages of distribution of victims by categories, within the month of August 2021, compared to the previous monitoring report.

SECURITY INCIDENTS PER RESPONSIBLE BODY – AUGUST 2021



- It is noted that the percentage of unknown parties responsible for causing victims in all parts of Syria has increased, and this is due to problems in investigating the responsible party, as a result of the intensity and concentration of security incidents in certain areas of Syria.

NUMBER OF VICTIMS THROUGHOUT SYRIA FOR THE LAST THREE MONTH



- The yellow trend line shows a decrease in the number of casualties during one month, in all parts of Syria. In fact, a decrease in the number of casualties was recorded by approximately 10% in one month, knowing that the number of civilian casualties is the same in August 2021 compared to the previous month.
- There is a clear decrease in the number of non-civilian victims, due to the existence of a problem in the documentation of official bodies and armed factions in general.

3. Economic and livelihood monitoring

Relief and humanitarian aid

- There is a noticeable decline in the number of UN humanitarian truck convoys to northern Syria from the Turkish “Gilwa Gozo” crossing, where 450 trucks entered the north, while the crossing was usually witnessing the entry of about 1,000 aid trucks per month.
- The Qatar Red Crescent continued its relief work in northern Syria, where it launched on the first of August a project to provide drinking water for displaced Syrians, in Al-Bab area and the surrounding camps, with funding from the Qatari Red Crescent.
- In cooperation with the Turkish government agencies, the Syrian Expatriates Medical Association (SEMA) opened the first dialysis center on August 10 in the Ras al-Ain area in northern Syria.

Living conditions in areas under the control of the Turkish-backed National Army:

- Warnings emerged from several sides that the health sector may collapse in northern Syria, as a result of the increasing number of infections with corona virus. Actually, the medical teams recorded more than 8,000 cases in the month of August, and the death of more than 60 infected. On August 29, 1262 cases were recorded, which is (the highest daily toll since the start of the pandemic), most of them in the Haram region.
- By following up on the bulletins of the Civil Defense Organization, Harmoon reporters documented 217 infections with Corona virus, among the members of the COVID-19 medical sector in northern Syria, during the month of August.
- The results of laboratory analyzes confirmed the discovery of dozens of infections with the transgenic (delta), most of them in Idlib and the regions of Jarabulus and Al-Bab.
- Fuel prices in northern Syria witnessed a significant increase, in late August,

despite their decline in the beginning, after the “Syrian National Army” closed the crossings between the northern countryside of Aleppo and SDF-controlled areas, and prevented the entry of fuel or any commercial goods for that matter.

Monitoring the regime economy

- A number of Aleppo markets went on strike in the last days of August to protest against the deteriorating living conditions and the rise in prices. On August 13, the merchants of Al-Salhiya neighborhood in Aleppo carried out a partial strike for the same reasons especially that the markets are stagnating with almost no purchase by customers as a result of successive decisions by the regime authorities, including imposing fees and taxes, and setting closing times for shops.
- On August 27, the regime’s financial authorities issued decisions to subject the movable and immovable funds of more than 650 people among investors of gas stations and owners of Pullman companies in Aleppo, to preventive detention, under the pretext of guaranteeing an amount of 3 billion Syrian pounds, the value of quantities of diesel fuel illegally used by Pullman buses in the province.
- Asma al-Akhras, the Syrian president’s wife, increased her meetings during the month of August with businessmen in the Follow-up Office in the Republican Palace, and held several meetings with businessmen from Aleppo, Hama and Homs, with the aim of establishing plans for infrastructure projects, reconstruction and industrial zones.
- The areas under control of the regime witnessed an increase in the prices of a number of food commodities, such as tea, milk and olive oil. The real estate market witnessed a stagnation in the movement of buying and selling, and the Syrian coast witnessed a significant increase in prices, in conjunction with the rise in rent prices in various areas of the regime.
- The electricity crisis continued in the regime-controlled areas with long hours of rationing, which caused the closure of a number of dairy, cheese and ice cream factories. The Damascus governorate also raised the prices of public transport fares, attributing the reasons for this increase to the rise in the price of diesel last July, and the increase in the operating costs of “service”/taxi owners.
- The regime’s government modified the mechanism for distributing bread, adopting a distribution based on the number of individuals and days of the week, after the previous distribution mechanism caused discontent among the citizens. One person will get four bundles of bread per week, after his allowance

was limited to one bundle every two days. As for the family of two people, it would get 6 bundles per week, the family of three people 7 bundles per week, the family of 4 people ten bundles per week, and the family of seven or eight people 18 packs a week.

- Electricity cuts continued in the capital, Damascus, in Aleppo governorate, and in regime-controlled areas in Deir ez-Zor, for periods that exceeded 15 hours in a row. The Minister of Electricity, Ghassan Al-Zamil, justified the almost complete absence of electricity by stating that Tishreen and Deir Ali stations were out of service.
- The long hours of power outages caused great losses, affecting dairy and cheese factories, and this led to the closure/suspension of about 20-25% of factories, due to the inability to bear the daily losses.
- As a result of the almost complete absence of electricity, the market for solar panels has flourished. According to news websites, the cost of the smallest system (1000 watts) is about two million and 700 thousand Syrian pounds, and it is able to light an entire house, while operating fans and refrigerators.
- Prices of gas cylinders increased on the black market in As-Suwayda Governorate, and ranged between 40-80 thousand pounds for households, and from 150 to 200 thousand pounds for industrial gas.
- The residents of Quneitra governorate complained about the almost complete absence of water, as they only receive water for half an hour or an hour every 10 days, forcing them to buy water from merchants who raised the price of one barrel to 1500 Syrian pounds, under the pretext of buying transportation diesel and gasoline from the black market.
- Rural areas of Tartous governorate suffer from water scarcity, due to problems of water pumping caused by long electrical rationing or the lack of diesel fuel for the pumping groups. People resort to buying water from private tanks, the price of which is about 50 thousand Syrian pounds per shift.
- The absence of electricity has affected the food habits of Syrians. In fact, the latter are now avoiding buying products that need to be stored in refrigerators, while merchants have complained about the stagnation of their goods, and food storage expenses.
- The prices of olive oil increased in Tartous governorate, with the price of (20 liters) reaching 175,000 SP, despite the fact that the number of fruitful olive trees in Tartous governorate being 10 millions, producing 51 thousand tons of oil an-

nually.

- The price of a liter of olive oil in Hama governorate reached 10,000 Syrian pounds, and the plate weighing 16 kg is sold, at a price ranging between 160 and 192 thousand pounds.
- The production of olives during the current season decreased by 24% compared to the previous season, as the volume of production for this season reached 645 thousand tons, while the production of olives last year amounted to about 850 thousand tons. As for oil production for the current season, it is estimated at 103 thousand tons, after it was about 140 thousand tons last season.
- Vegetable and fruit markets also witnessed an increase in prices during the month of August. The price of a kilo of potatoes reached 1200 pounds, after its price was 700 pounds, and the same was true for tomatoes and the rest of the items.
- The prices of the most common vegetables and fruits in the Syrian markets, as of August 23, were (in Syrian pounds): cucumbers 900, tomatoes 1000, lemons 1900, green peppers 1100, potatoes 1200, green beans 5000, beans 3000, garlic 5000, zucchini 600, peppers Red 1500, banana 8000, sugar apple 1500, medium grape 2000, peaches 3500, pear and peach 1500.
- Food prices, as of August 23, in Syrian pounds: lamb meat 26,000 pounds, chicken 6000 pounds, a plate of 30 eggs 8000 pounds, olive oil 15 thousand liters, a package of bread 2500 pounds, a bundle of government bread 6 loaves 200 pounds, A kilo of coffee 15 thousand, a kilo of tea 22 thousand, unprocessed cheese 9000, cow milk 1500, a kilo of yogurt 2800, labneh 6000 thousand, tomatoes 1000, red peppers 1500, cucumbers 1000 pounds, zucchini 800, apples from 1000 to 1500.
- The General Organization for Feed raised the price of bran from 200 to 600 Syrian pounds, and the price of “ready cow’s milk” rose from 950 to 1100 pounds.
- The Russian “Sputnik” agency published a report, in which it clarified that \$5 million enters Syria daily, through remittances from Syrian expatriates, from which 70% of Syrians live.
- The South Korean “LG” company cancelled the agency contract granted to the “Akrim United Electronics” company, without providing explanations, but economic estimates attributed the decision to the company’s attempt to avoid losses due to the low demand for electronics and household appliances in the Syrian market.

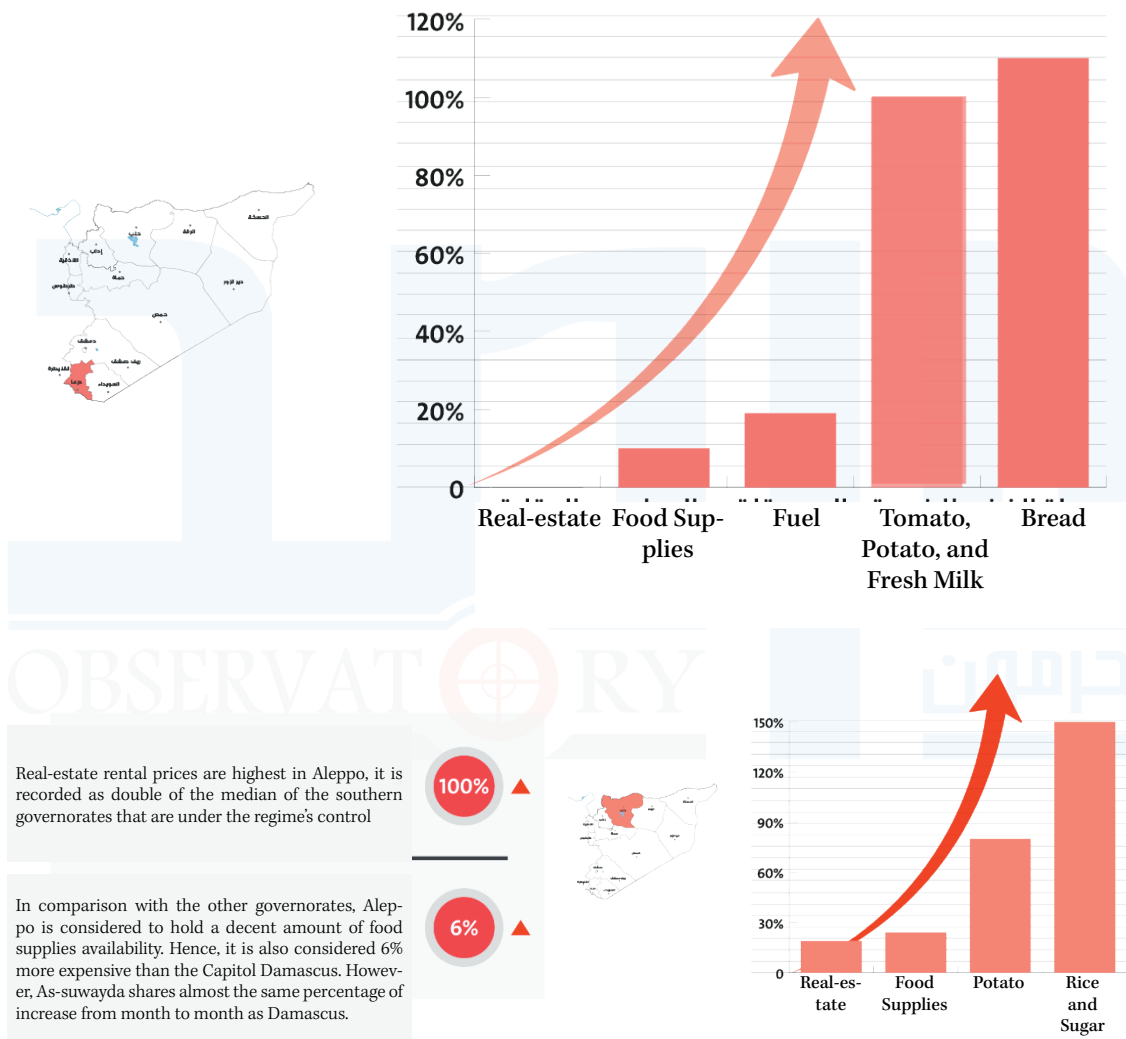
- Ralph Mobeta, CEO of the South African “MTN” group for cellular communications, announced the final exit from Syria, explaining that “working there has become untenable.”
- The Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection raised the tariff for transporting passengers in the governorates by 100%. The fare for short lines up to ten kilometers for buses and minibuses is set at 150 SP per passenger, and the fare for long lines above ten kilometers for buses and minibuses is set at 200 SP per passenger.
- Farzan Biltan, Director General of the Office of Arab and African Countries in the Iranian Trade Promotion Organization, said that his country’s exports of non-oil products to Syria rose by 36% during the first four months of 2021.
- As part of the regime’s efforts to supplement its treasury, the Financial and Economic Criminal Court in Damascus confiscated billions of pounds from exchange companies, after withdrawing their licenses. The court claimed that “most of the illegal money transfers come from the Gulf countries and Turkey.”

Real estate properties

- An economist said, in an interview with Al-Watan newspaper, that the real estate market in Syria is currently characterized by stagnation of buying and selling, compared to previous periods, due to low demand and high prices. He pointed out that 80% of real estate buyers are currently buying them for the purpose of selling or saving, most of them being expatriates. He stressed that rents have increased by 100% during the current year, especially in the vicinity of Damascus, where there is a demand for rent, such as in Jaramana, Qudsaya suburb and Sahnaya.
- In Aleppo, rents increased by 100%, especially in the western neighbourhoods, and the price of renting an apartment consisting of a room and a salon without furniture reached 250 thousand SP per month.
- The Real Estate Bank raised the ceiling of the housing restoration loan, to 20 million pounds, instead of 6 million pounds, more than three times what it was.
- A report by Al-Araby Al-Jadeed newspaper stated that due to the closure of the crossings and the ban on imports, war profiteers resort to buying real estate lands, especially commercial ones, to invest in oil, drug and other funds.
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4. Economic and living conditions index

Daraa



- Fuel is barely available in Daraa governorate, with a 19% increase in its prices.
- Essential medicines are available, with a relative decrease in their prices, compared to the previous month.
- Real estate prices in Daraa are within the average prices throughout Syria, and there is no significant change in rental or sale prices.

- With the exception of bread, all basic commodities of food and supplies are available in Daraa governorate, with an increase in their prices by 10% compared to last month, noting that the prices of tomatoes, potatoes, bread and fresh milk have doubled compared to last month.

Aleppo:

- Fuel is available in little and intermittently, with an increase in its prices by 19% compared to the previous month.
- The Harmoon Observatory recorded a 150% increase in the prices of rice and sugar in Aleppo, compared to the previous month, knowing that the price of burgul and flour remained the same.
- A clear increase in the price of potatoes by more than 80% compared to the previous month.
- An increase in the prices of basic food and supply commodities by 24%, compared to the previous month in Aleppo.

As-Suwayda

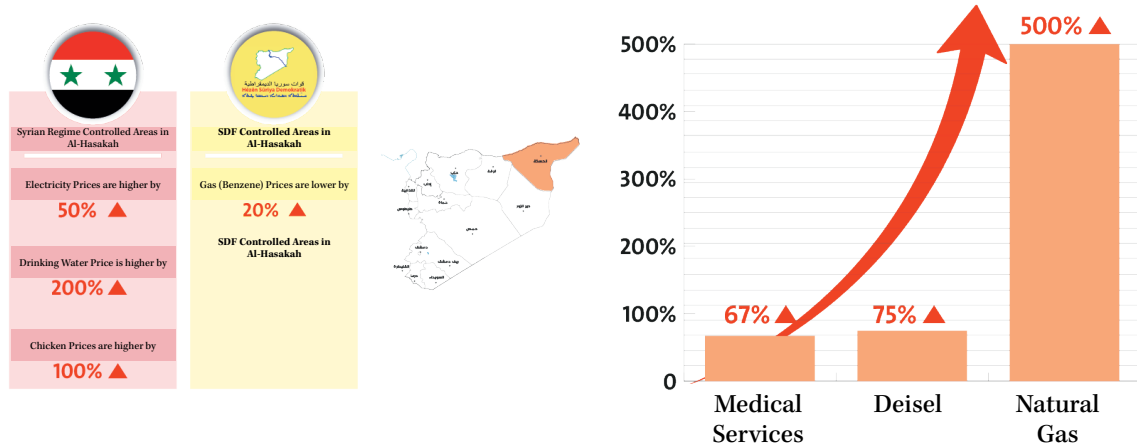
- A decrease in the prices of medicines in As-Suwayda, in August, compared to the previous month, by an average of approximately 27%.
- An 11% increase in prices of food supplies (such as sugar, rice) and vegetables, and a 31% increase in meat prices in As-Suwayda Governorate, compared to last month.
- An increase in the prices of basic foodstuffs and supplies by 16%, compared to the previous month.

Comparison of Damascus / Aleppo / As-Suwayda / and Daraa:

- The price of gas is fixed in Damascus, Aleppo, Daraa and As-Suwayda.
- A six-fold increase in diesel prices is observed in Daraa, compared to the prices of Aleppo, Damascus and Suwayda governorates, and this is due to the suffocating siege that the people of Daraa are suffering from.

- It is noted that Internet services are reasonably available in the governorates of Aleppo and Daraa, while there are interruption in the governorates of As-Suwayda and Damascus, bearing in mind that the price is almost uniform within the mentioned governorates.
- An increase in the prices of medical care (doctors' fees) was noted in Aleppo, by more than double, compared to the capital, while a decrease of 20% is recorded in Daraa.
- The level of availability of medicines in regime-controlled areas, in the governorates of Aleppo, Damascus, As-Suwayda and Daraa, is good, noting an increase of no more than 12% in the prices of basic medicines in Daraa governorate.
- Aleppo governorate is the most expensive governorate, in terms of house rent prices, with an increase of twofold, compared to the average of the rest of regime-controlled governorates in southern Syria.
- Increase in the price of a bundle of bread to more than a double was recorded in Daraa governorate, as a result of the siege imposed on it, bringing the price of a loaf of bread to 450 Syrian pounds.
- Aleppo governorate is one of the governorates that enjoys a good level of food and supplies, compared to the rest of the Syrian governorates, but it is also 6% more expensive than the capital, Damascus, a percentage shared by As-Suwayda governorate.

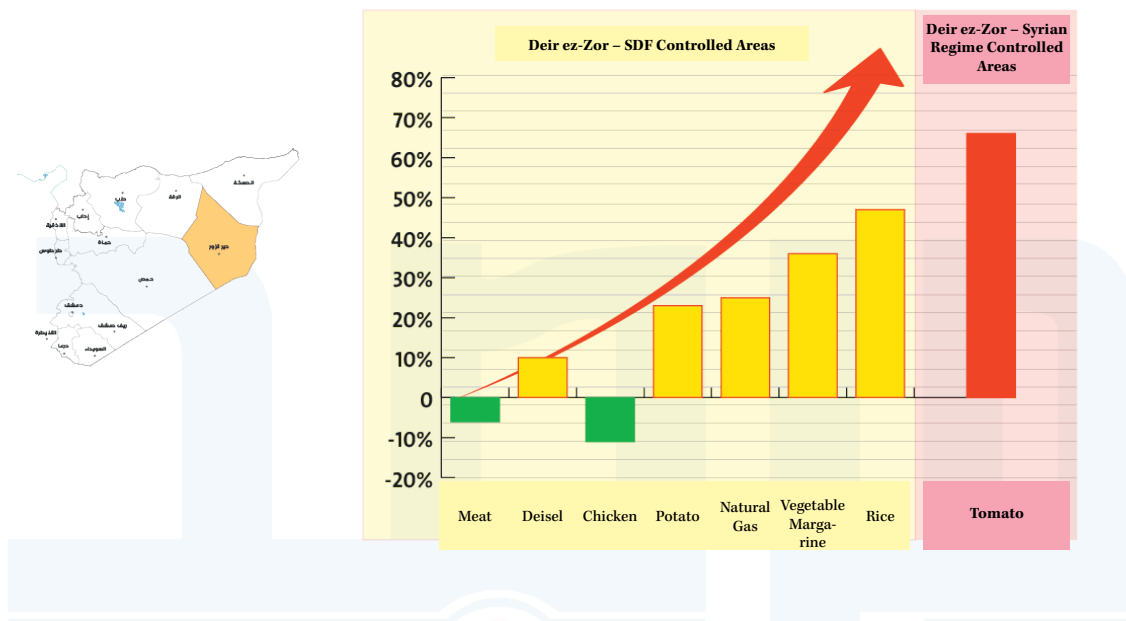
Al-Hasakah / the Syrian regime - (SDF):



- We notice a problem in the availability of fuel, in the areas controlled by the Syrian regime in Al-Hasakah Governorate, where gas and other petroleum products (diesel) are available on the black market only, at prices five times higher than the normal price for gas, and 75% for diesel.
- The price of a litre of gasoline is 20% cheaper in regime-controlled areas in Hasaka, compared to gasoline prices in SDF-controlled areas.
- The Harmoon Observatory recorded an acceptable level of availability of electricity services in Al-Hasakah Governorate, bearing in mind that the price of electricity in regime-controlled areas is 50% higher than its duplicate in SDF-controlled areas.
- There is a problem with drinking water and sanitation services in the regime-controlled areas, compared to the SDF-controlled areas in Al-Hasakah, where prices in the former are about 200% higher than their counterparts.
- Prices of basic medical services are high by 67% in regime-controlled areas.
- The Harmoon Observatory recorded a difference of about 45% in the prices of rice in Hasaka, as the price of a kilo in the regime-controlled areas is 1900 SP, and 3500 SP in the SDF-controlled areas.
- There is a clear difference in the prices of meat, between the regime-controlled areas and the SDF-controlled areas in Al-Hasaka governorate, where the price of chicken doubles, and the prices of meat (lamb and veal) converge.
- The regime-controlled areas are more expensive, at an average rate of 56%,

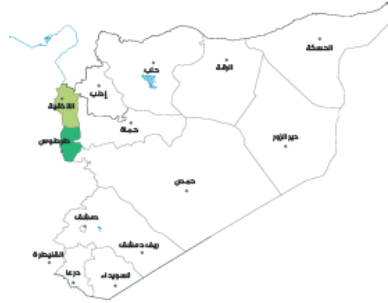
than the SDF-controlled areas in the city of Al-Hasaka, based on the prices of basic goods and services recorded by the Harmoon Observatory for the month of August 2021.

Deir ez-Zor / the Syrian regime - (SDF):



- An increase of 25% in the prices of gas cylinders, and an increase of 10% in the prices of a liter of diesel.
- A 47% increase in the price of rice, 14% in the price of burgul, a 36% increase in the price of vegetable ghee, a 23% increase in the price of potatoes, and a doubled price of tomatoes, compared to the previous month.
- A decrease of 6% in meat prices and 11% in chicken prices was recorded, compared to the previous month, within SDF-controlled areas.
- It was observed that the prices of cucumbers, onions and sugar were stable. No difference was noted in the prices of fodder (barley and straw), and there are no changes in the availability and prices of electricity services.
- An increase in tomato prices was recorded, by 66% compared to the previous month, in the regime-controlled areas in Deir ez-Zor Governorate.

General Notes:



Tartus, a city on the Syrian Coast, is considered one of the most expensive Syrian areas, as it is considered 8% more expensive than the average Syrian Governorates.



Power Cuts in Coastal Areas (Tartus and Lattaqia) where electricity is available for an average of 4 hours per day only (A 5 hour-cut between each of the four hours of electricity).



Homs is considered the cheapest Syrian governorate, and the most stable in terms of availability of basic food supplies; they are considered 15% cheaper than their average price all over Syria.



Drug industry and trade:

- The media reported that the “Hezbollah” militia planted more than 70 dunums of agricultural land, on the outskirts of the city of “Al-Mayadin” east of Deir Ez-zor, with the “cannabis” crops, under the supervision of the so-called Husam Jadid, a Lebanese national and a leader of the “Hezbollah” militia.
- The Jordanian Narcotics Control Department thwarted the smuggling of a large quantity of narcotic pills, through Jaber crossing, opposite Nassib border crossing with Syria, hours after it was reopened. Half a million narcotic pills were found hidden in secret caches inside an industrial machine.
- The Jordanian authorities thwarted an attempt of infiltration from Syrian territory to Jordanian territory, and large quantities of narcotic substances were found.
- The Spanish authorities confiscated a drug shipment valued at about 400 million euros, which was on board a ship coming from Lebanon, and led by a Syrian crew of 11 sailors.
- Homs city police seized large quantities of drugs, inside a shipment of “cheese” packages. The amount of drugs, according to the Ministry of the Interior, amounted to more than 255,000 Captagon pills. A man and a woman were arrested during the operation.
- The spread of drugs in al-Nairab camp in Aleppo:
- Harmoon monitors recorded an increase in popular protests in Al-Nairab camp area in Aleppo, as a result of the spread of the drug phenomenon, as well as hashish and arms trade in the camp. The people accused the Iran-backed “Liwa al-Quds” militia of manufacturing and packing narcotic pills inside its military headquarters, especially by recruiting children to transport and distribute drugs while the militia ensures protection to its dealers by force of arms. They also blamed the weak security measures taken by the regime’s Ministry of Interior, despite the confiscation during August of large quantities of drugs and large sums of money, during a raid and search operation (or a stormed search operation) that is not frequently repeated.

5. Displacement and asylum

- The Harmoon Observatory recorded the displacement of tens of thousands of civilians from the areas of Daraa Al-Balad, Al-Sedd neighborhood and the camp, during the month of August, towards the city of Daraa and the surrounding areas, as a result of the continued bombing of the regime forces and of the siege imposed for nearly two months.
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs revealed the displacement of 38,600 people to the city of Daraa and its surroundings, most of whom fled from Daraa al-Balad. Among the displaced were about 15,000 women, more than 3,200 men and the elderly, in addition to more than 20,400 children. .
- 79 displaced people from Daraa have arrived in northern Syria, according to (Syrian Civil Defense), after an agreement between the “Central Committee” negotiating on behalf of the people of Daraa, and the “Security Committee” in the province, to submit a list of people to be deported to northern Syria.
- Bab al-Hawa border crossing documented the deportation of 1,054 Syrians from Turkey during the month of August, without mentioning the details and reasons for their deportation.
- Turkish Interior Minister, Suleiman Soyly said: The situation of Syrian refugees in Turkey is different from the situation of Afghans, pointing out that their return to Syria is linked to the possibility of a “safe” life.
- Lawyers from the international law firm Guernica 37 are preparing to sue the Danish government, at the European Court of Human Rights, after its attempts to return Syrian refugees to the Syrian capital, Damascus.
- A report issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees stated that Syria is the main source of refugees, since 2014, and estimated their number at 6.7 million. The report said that nearly 80% of Syrian refugees live in countries neighboring Syria.
- The Tunisian army arrested 52 Syrians, who were trying to cross the border illegally.
- The Lebanese Army Navy stopped a boat carrying Syrian refugees off the coast of Akkar, it was coming from the Syrian side and its destination was Cyprus.

- Cyprus returned 88 Syrian refugees to Lebanon, after they were trying to reach the island on two boats.
- The Altindag area in the Turkish capital, Ankara, witnessed, on the evening of Wednesday, August 11, riots and attacks against Syrian refugees in the region, after a quarrel broke between Turkish and Syrian youth, which led to the killing of a Turkish youth and the injury of another. The Turkish police announced the arrest of 76 people, according to the Ankara Security Directorate. 38 people were accused of involvement in these attacks.
- Turkish cities witnessed a strike by the owners of Syrian grocers, about buying Syrian bread, because the bakeries responsible for producing it constantly raised its price.
- Five people were injured as a result of the explosion of a cluster bomb in a house inhabited by Syrian refugees, in the Nabatieh region, south of Lebanon, on Monday, August 16th, without clear reasons.
- Japan announced providing a long-term financial loan of \$410 million to Turkey for Syrian refugees.
- The Republic of Vanuatu in the South Pacific withdrew its citizenship from Abd al-Rahman Khiti, a Syrian businessman close to the Syrian regime, and stripped him of its “golden passport”, after the Guardian newspaper revealed that the aforementioned businessman is subject to sanctions, among more than 2,000 people who bought citizenship and Golden Vanuatu passports.
- The Syrian-Danish politician Nasser Khader was expelled from his party, after accusations of sexual harassment. He was known for his hostility to immigration policy, and described the new Syrian immigrants as militants, and he was asking Denmark to return them to where they came from.
- International human rights organizations confirmed that they had received distress calls from witnesses and families of migrants, about more than 200 Syrians being detained in the Ghout al-Shaal detention center in Tripoli (Libya), which is supervised by the “Migration Control Agency” of the Ministry of Interior of the Government of National Unity. The detainees are treated inhumanely. They are subjected to torture and deprivation of food and medicine, with confirmation of the death of one of them under torture.
- The German authorities arrested in Berlin the Palestinian/Syrian Muwafaq Al-Dawah, who was a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command, and then joined the Free Palestine Movement. Al-Dawah

was arrested on charges of committing war crimes and murder in seven cases, and causing grievous bodily harm in three cases.

- The Administrative Court in the German city of Kassel decided that a Syrian refugee is not entitled to the right to full protection, if the reason for his asylum was failure to perform military service in Syria.
- 5 Syrians were killed, and others were missing, because their boat capsized while heading from the Libyan coast to Italy.



6. Monitoring social conditions

- The Hermon Observatory counted the occurrence of dozens of crimes in the Syrian regime-controlled areas, the most serious of which was in Tartous, where the “Radar” neighborhood, south of Tartous, witnessed a security incident that resulted in the death of 3 wanted men, one of whom is Lebanese. The men blew themselves up after being surrounded by the police, in a house for a wanted militia member accused of murder, kidnapping and theft at gunpoint. Three other men were injured in the incident, two of them are in critical condition.
- The popular voices raised to demand the Ministry of Interior in the regime government to arrest the so-called Shuja al-Ali, one of the leaders of the armed militias known for the crimes of kidnapping, torture and extortion of civilians in Homs governorate. Al-Ali is wanted in dozens of criminal cases, without the security authorities implementing any arrest warrants against him, despite the fact that his location and his residence are known to the authorities.
- Street anger is increasing at the government’s poor performance and the deteriorating living conditions in the regime-controlled areas. Several areas on the Syrian coast have witnessed protests against the poor living conditions and the deterioration of services. The residents of the village of Zarqat and Yahmour, in the countryside of Tartous, cut off the Safita-Tartus road, with protest stops, due to lack of water, and to the contamination of drinking water as a result of the Wadi al-Hada dumpsite. Also, dozens of residents of the village of Jaririn in Jableh demonstrated on August 12, due to the deteriorating living situation and the scarcity of bread.
- The number of traffic accident victims, until August, in the current year reached 687 deaths, in 10 governorates in which cases were documented. The Director General of the General Authority for Forensic Medicine indicated that Tartous governorate recorded the highest death rate in traffic accidents, reaching 121 cases, whereas the lowest rate was In Quneitra, where only three deaths were recorded.
- Minister of Health, Dr. Hassan Al-Ghubash stated that there is a steady increase in the number of coronavirus infections, but the matter has not reached the “peak stage”, as he put it. According to the data of the Syrian Ministry of Health, the number of injuries until mid-August reached 26,000.

7. Families of ISIS

- Security incidents are still occurring in al-Hol camp, where the “Syrian Democratic Forces” are holding thousands of family members of ISIS fighters. During the month of August, the camp witnessed several killings of Iraqi refugees, the killing of a Syrian man and woman, and a case of kidnapping of two girls, amid accusations by the Kurdish security forces “Asayish” of deliberate neglect to control security in the camp, and the detention of civilians in catastrophic humanitarian conditions.
- A number of Albanian citizens, from families of the “Islamic State” organization, arrived at Beirut airport from Al-Hol camp in northeastern Syria, in preparation for their transfer to their country, under the supervision of the Lebanese General Security.
- The Harmoon Center recorded the kidnapping of two sister girls, less than 5 years old, while they were sleeping, in al-Hol camp in al-Hasakah.
- The Palestinian Consul in the Kurdistan Region, Nazmi Al-Hazouri, received two Palestinian children from Al-Hol camp in the city of Al-Hasakah, after reaching an agreement with the Office of Foreign Relations in the Autonomous Administration region in northeastern Syria, to return them to the Palestinian territories.

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