



Military and Security Developments in Syria Report August 2022



مركز حرمون
للدراستات المعاصرة
Harmoon Center
For Contemporary Studies

Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies

An independent non-profit research institution that produces studies and research on the ongoing Syrian conflict, from its political, societal and intellectual aspects, and on its evolution scenarios. The institution strives to improve the performance of civil society, and to promote awareness about democracy, equal citizenship and human rights. It forms one of the institutions of the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha.

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The Harmoon Observatory hires field monitors that report the most important changes in the actual conflict in Syria, from political, military, economic and societal aspects, from different regions and perspectives, in order to create up-to-date knowledge for researchers, and to provide decision makers with an understanding of the most significant developments.

Military and Security Developments in Syria

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Summary of Military and Security Observations

There was no change in the map of military influence despite a relative rise in the number of security and military events and reciprocated attacks on the frontlines, which remained stable. No ground military action was recorded anywhere.

There was a rise in the number of civilian deaths and Syrian detainees, compared to previous months, perpetrated mostly by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) militia dominated by Kurdish fighters. Chaos and insecurity continued in regime-held areas especially in the governorates of Daraa and Suwayda. There was a major escalation in Israeli attacks against the positions of the Syrian regime and the Iranian militias, especially at the airports of Damascus and Aleppo, the Syrian coast and the city of Masyaf in the province of Hama.

The tension caused by Turkey's threat to launch a military operation against SDF — opposed by Washington, Tehran, and Moscow — was eased. Meanwhile Russian warplanes resumed their sorties and raids against Syrian opposition military camps and Iranian-backed militias launched attacks against the American forces, who responded with air strikes. Moreover, the frequency of ISIS attacks continued to decline as did the deployment of the Iranian-backed militia of more soldiers and weapons.

This report reviews the most notable military and security events that took place in August.

U.S. Forces in Syria

There was no significant change in the U.S. deployment of forces and equipment, while Iranian-backed militias stepped up their targeting of U.S. bases. There were two drone attacks on August 16 and 19 on the al-Tanf base in the eastern countryside of Homs where U.S. military and the Revolutionary Commando Army are stationed. There were no casualties recorded. On August 23, U.S. forces responded with airstrikes targeting positions of Iranian militias. On August 26, Deir Ezzor province witnessed mutual bombardment between U.S.-led international coalition forces and militias loyal to the IRGC.

Turkish Forces in Syria

Escalations between the Turkish army and the SDF decreased this month following two months of significant confrontations. The frequency of Turkish military reinforcements to Syrian territories decreased, as the possibility of the Turkish army launching a military operation against SDF —dominated by fighters of the People’s Protection Units (YPG) militia — diminished. No new reinforcements were recorded except for several armored vehicles and heavy Turkish weaponry, which entered Syrian territory on August 13 from the Bab al-Hawa border crossing towards Idlib province. They were later distributed to various areas of the province’s countryside.

On the other hand, Turkish drone attacks against the leaders and units of SDF and units of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) militia continued. Two PKK leaders were killed on August 1 and 16 in two Turkish attacks in Hasakah. Turkish intelligence announced the killing of PKK leader Mohiuddin Gulu in an operation inside Syria, as reported by the Turkish news agency Sondakika on August 21.

On August 3 and 11, other SDF commanders and operatives were killed in attacks by Turkish drones in Tal Tamr and Qamishli, and on August 24, the Turkish Air Force targeted the city of Tal Rifaat, which is controlled by the SDF militia in northern Aleppo province with an airstrike leaving several dead and wounded.

For its part, SDF launched several attacks against Turkish forces on the Syrian border. On August 6, several Turkish soldiers and defense units were wounded in the village of Anab east of Afrin in the northern countryside of Aleppo as a result of shelling originating from areas controlled by SDF and the Syrian regime in the countryside of Aleppo. One Turkish soldier was killed, and four others were wounded following an attack by SDF units on the Jjikalan border crossing with Syria in Berzhik district.

In an offensive that was the second of its kind in two months, Turkish forces launched three airstrikes targeting positions of Syrian regime forces on the hill of Gargli in Ain al-Arab/Kobani, northeast of Aleppo province killing several units belonging to the regime forces and wounding others.

On August 13, the Turkish Interior Ministry announced the arrest of two Syrians who burned the Turkish flag in demonstrations in northern Syria. They were protesting calls for reconciliation with the Syrian regime made by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut .

Russian Forces and Militias in Syria

Russian warplanes and aircraft escalated their reconnaissance sorties and raids. On August 22, Russian aircraft launched 13 airstrikes on the western outskirts of Idlib and the airstrikes coincided with the overflight of Russian reconnaissance aircraft over the region.

In a rare attack, Russian aircraft targeted positions of the Martyrs of the Two Villages Brigade in the al-Tanf area on August 5. The targeted faction receives training from the U.S. special forces stationed at the al-Tanf base.

On August 23, unknown assailants targeted a Russian military police patrol with an explosive device near the village of al-Mualaqia south of Quneitra province killing one officer and wounding three other patrol units.

Iranian Forces and Militias in Syria

There was a decrease in the pace of Iranian consolidation in Syrian territories. Harmoon observers did not register any new reinforcements, except for the entry of a convoy of military vehicles and units belonging to the Iraqi militia Harakat al-Nujaba. They entered on August 13 from the Albu Kamal border crossing and were deployed to militia positions in Albu Kamal and Mayadeen in Deir Ezzor.

On August 23, IRGC commander Abolfazl Alijani was killed as he was traveling through the Syrian desert in an explosion with a bomb that was planted in his car by unknown assailants. On August 3, several Iranian militia units were killed and wounded by an ISIS attack that targeted the Muhr oil field near the city of Palmyra east of Homs.

Syria Arab Borders

On August 3, a member of the regime forces and another person were killed by a Lebanese citizen who threw a bomb at the Military Security checkpoint at the Lebanese Syrian border. The motive behind the attack is unknown.

On August 27, Jordanian forces clashed at the Jordanian border with armed smugglers coming from Syria. One smuggler was injured while the rest fled back into Syrian territory. Jordanian authorities confiscated more than six million Captagon pills during this operation.

Israeli Operations in Syria

The Israeli army intensified its attacks in Syria while Harmoon observers recorded 4 raids in August. There were attacks on Damascus and Aleppo airports and on sites belonging to the Iranian-backed militia in Masyaf in Hama and in the countryside of Damascus. On August 12, Israeli tank artillery targeted locations belonging to the Lebanese militia Hezbollah in the town of Hamidiyeh in the countryside of Quneitra injuring two people.

As to air attacks, Israeli air bombs targeted positions of Hezbollah and Iranian militias in rural Damascus and Tartus governorate on August 14 killing three military personnel and wounding three others. On August 24, two people were wounded during Israeli missile bombardments that targeted Syrian regime army positions in Masyaf west of Hama. The most notable of these attacks was on August 13, where the Israeli army launched two simultaneous rocket attacks targeting Aleppo airport and military sites in Damascus. The shelling on Aleppo airport caused significant damage to the main runway and destroyed navigation devices.

Syrian Regime Forces

The Syrian regime's security services intensified their arrest raids in the areas under their control targeting fleeing youth wanted for military service. They also continued to target Syrian opposition sites and civilians in those areas causing the death and injury of dozens of civilians. Meanwhile, insecurity and chaos continued to be rampant in southern Syria, Suwayda and Daraa, and the regime reinforced its checkpoints pressuring the residents of the towns of Tafas and Jassim in Daraa. They claimed that the police were searching for wanted persons there.

On August 2, armed clashes broke out in Daraa between regime forces stationed south of the city of Tafas in the west of the governorate and local fighters, following stalled negotiations between the regime's delegation from the Security Committee and the Civil Committee. On August 6, regime forces shelled the vicinity of Tafas with tanks and anti-aircraft following clashes with former fighters from the city during which regime forces tried to advance but were forced to retreat. On August 26, former opposition leader Khaldoun al-Zu'bi and five other units belonging to his faction were assassinated in an ambush in Daraa while he was returning from negotiations with the regime. Activists in Daraa blamed the assassination on the head of the military security branch in Daraa city, Louay al-Ali, who heads the delegation that negotiates with the people and notables of Tafas.

On August 16, Fadi al-Asimi, a former leader of the opposition factions in

southern Syria, was killed in the city of Da'il, and his son was injured in an attack by unknown assailants.

On August 3, Hussam Deifallah al-Abboud, a commander of a local group affiliated with the Syrian regime east of Daraa, was targeted by unknown gunmen who killed him. On August 4, the secretary of the Baath Party squad in Hiraq city was killed by unknown assailants in the city. On August 25, unknown assailants shot dead Yusuf al-Awda, a member of the leadership of the Baath Party's division in Busra al-Sham. On August 21, a member of the security forces was killed when an explosive device exploded in a taxi near the industrial roundabout in downtown Daraa.

On August 8, a person wanted by the Syrian regime was killed under torture several days after he was arrested at a checkpoint in western Daraa governorate on charges of belonging to ISIS.

Landmines continued to claim more and more civilian lives. On August 23, a child was killed and five others, all from the same family, were injured by the explosion of a remnant of war mine in north-eastern Daraa. On August 7, an explosive device exploded in a house in the town of Alma east of Daraa, killing two people, one of them a woman, and injuring two others.

On August 1, local factions and spiritual leaders belonging to the Druze community in Suwayda issued an ultimatum to several local armed militias to dissolve themselves. The purpose of the ultimatum was to avoid armed clashes in the province following combing operations that were conducted by local factions to pursue the remaining Raji Falhout militia. On August 4, the local Men of Dignity movement said that a military group affiliated with it arrested Walid Falhout and Jamal Maarouf from the town of Atil during a search operation targeting those involved in "criminal and terrorist" operations.

On August 11, local factions in Suwayda governorate, led by the Men of Dignity movement, attacked the headquarters and homes of units belonging to the Military Security Forces' Fahd Forces Movement closely associated with the Falhout militia. On the same day, local groups made up of Suwayda residents and led by the Mountain Brigade and the Men of Dignity Movement began besieging the town of Qanawat — in agreement with the notables of the town. Their goal was to exterminate the Fahd Forces group led by Salim Hamid — who is linked to the regime's military security branch. The operation ended with Hamid fleeing and the disbandment of the group.

On August 5, the General Directorate of Military Intelligence issued instructions to change the officer in charge of its branch in Suwayda, Brigadier General

Ayman Mohammed, as well as some other officials in the branch following recent clashes between groups affiliated with the security branch and local factions in Suwayda.

On August 7, several military, religious and community leaders submitted eight demands on behalf of the people of Suwayda Governorate to a Russian delegation that visited the town of Al-Mazraa west of Suwayda. Harmoon observers confirmed that the most notable of the demands were the refusal to serve in the regime's army, the removal of groups affiliated with Iran and Hezbollah from Suwayda, and the release of detainees from Suwayda from the regime's prisons.

There were clashes with heavy and medium weapons between the auxiliary (irregular) National Defense militia and the forces of the Fourth Division in the city of al-Ashara in Deir Ezzor, which is controlled by Syrian regime forces and the Iran-backed militias. The clashes resulted in six injuries on both sides. The clashes erupted because a checkpoint belonging to the Fourth Division had confiscated a shipment of tobacco and sugar smuggled from Iraq and owned by the National Defense.

On the other hand, 15 units of the regime forces, including two officers, were killed and injured after a wanted criminal officer threw two hand grenades in the Al-Midan neighborhood of Aleppo city on August 4. The offensive resulted in the killing of the attacker.

On August 9, unknown assailants shot dead Jamal Masoud Shaaban, a commander of the Syrian regime's militia in the town of Hafir al-Fawqa in the Qalamoun area of Damascus countryside. The cause of this incident was disagreements within the militias that smuggle weapons and drugs.

Jihadist Factions

For the third month in a row, the frequency of attacks by the Islamic State (ISIS) decreased. Harmoon observers recorded only 5 attacks that were carried out by the organization's fighters against checkpoints of the regime army, the Iranian militias, and the SDF in northern and eastern Syria. The most notable of these was a simultaneous attack in 3 locations that took place on August 9. An attack on August 16 south of Hasakah killed 4 units of the SDF militia and 4 others belonging to the Syrian regime forces. On August 24, another attack targeting a regime army convoy in eastern Palmyra resulted in the killing of two units belonging to the Jerusalem Brigade militia.

Two ISIS leaders in Syria were killed. On August 9, Abu Salem al-Iraqi, one of the emirs of the Islamic State in southern Syria, was killed in an ambush of local fighters in Daraa. On August 15, farmers near the city of Tafas found the body of an ISIS leader in southern Syria, Mahmoud al-Hallaq, nicknamed Abu Omar Jababi, who was shot dead.

In western Aleppo, several elements of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra) were killed and wounded on August 3 as a result of the targeting of a vehicle belonging to them by regime forces northwest of Aleppo.

On August 20, two individuals belonging to the Druze community were killed where a man and his wife were shot dead in front of their home in the Druze-majority village of Kaftin in the northern countryside of Idlib. These murders were preceded by the killing on August 1 of a young Druze man from the village of Koko, also in the Idlib area. On August 24, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's General Security Service announced the arrest of the perpetrators of the murders of the elderly couple and the young man. It was revealed that the murderers were two Uzbek fighters.

Militias in the Autonomous Administration (SDF) areas

The SDF militia, which is dominated by fighters belonging to the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), stepped up their scouting campaigns aimed at arresting young men in their areas of control and recruiting them into their ranks. Also, it continued to strengthen its military positions in areas under its control in northeastern Syria and some areas of Aleppo countryside. There were several military strikes against the militia and several of its leaders and units were killed in Turkish drone attacks. This came at a time when the pace of populist protests against violations perpetrated by its security services and the arrest of dozens of civilians in areas under its control had increased.

As to the violations committed by the SDF and its security services against civilians in areas under their control, SDF security forces arrested two girls in Hasekeh on August 1 on charges of spying for Turkey and the Syrian National Army. It also arrested several other civilians on the same charge in Qamishli and Raqqa on August 12 and 15. On August 2, the militia arrested a reporter for the Rudaw Media Network, Barzan Farman, in the city of Qamishli and took him to an unknown location. As mentioned earlier, they continued to arrest dozens of young men for recruitment into their ranks. The largest of these arrests took place on August 3 and 8 at checkpoints scattered in the countryside of Deir Ezzor where they

arrested dozens of civilians including 3 children. On August 13, they mass arrested dozens of young men in the city of Hasakah. On August 24, they surrounded a group of villages west of western Deir Ezzor and carried out a campaign of arrests of civilian activists and young men wanted for recruitment into the militia's ranks.

On August 22, the Autonomous Administration of Northeastern Syria, which is affiliated with the SDF militia, imposed taxes and royalties on some of the merchants, capital owners and industrialists of Qamishli under the pretext of assisting the Administration with confronting the upcoming Turkish military attack on its areas.

On August 1, dozens of civilians demonstrated in the town of Tyre north of Deir Ezzor to demand the release of 27 units of the SDF's Deir Ezzor Military Council following their arrest during a military course at the Omar oil field on charges of communicating with external parties. On August 2, there were protests in the towns of Al-Izba and Al-Daman, north of Deir Ezzor, demanding the release of detainees from the area who are held in SDF prisons. Similarly, the residents of the western towns of Deir Ezzor demonstrated on August 28 demanding the same.

On August 10, the SDF militia brought military reinforcements to the villages and towns of Tal Tamr and Ras al-Ain to fortify their positions against the factions of the Syrian National Army that they clashed with more than once during August. On August 1, several militia units were killed in mutual shelling involving the National Army in Ras al-Ain. Several other SDF units were killed and wounded on August 7, 9 and 10 by Turkish drones in the northeastern Syrian city of Qamishli.

SDF militia forces responded to Turkish attacks by targeting a Turkish military base on August 11 in the northern countryside of Aleppo with a few rockets, some of which landed inside the base. On August 14, the SDF attacked Turkish army and Syrian National Army factions' locations with rockets. This was in the areas of al-Bab and Mare'a in the northern countryside of Aleppo and led to the killing of three units belonging to the National Army forces and wounding two others. On August 18, Turkish army bases and civilian areas belonging to the Turkish cities of Urfa, Gaziantep and Mardin were bombed.

On August 25, SDF security forces began a security campaign called Security and Humanity in al-Hol camp where they are detaining thousands of families of former ISIS fighters. On August 2, Internal Security Forces (ISF) also called Asayish, a group affiliated with the SDF militia, announced that it had thwarted an attempt to smuggle 56 ISIS families from al-Hol camp east of Hasakah.

Opposition National Army Factions in Northern Syria

Areas controlled by the opposition's Syrian National Army (SNA) were subjected to repeated attacks by Syrian regime forces and Russian warplanes and to a series of explosions (IEDs) as well as rocket and artillery shelling by the SDF. The attacks left dozens of civilians and fighters dead and wounded, as repeated shelling targeted opposition areas northwest of Syria with various types of weapons. The shelling included the villages and towns of al-Bara, Ruweih, Harsh Masabin, Harsh Basnagul, Maklabis, Veterin, Ma'arat al-Na'san, Hafsaraja, al-Bab, Mara and Ras al-Ain.

The most notable of the attacks took place on August 22, when Russian aircraft launched 13 raids on the western outskirts of Idlib city. On August 23, regime forces targeted with heavy artillery the villages of Al-Bara and Shanan in the southern countryside of Idlib amid intensive overflights by Russian warplanes over the area. On August 19, more than 14 civilians including 5 children were killed and dozens of others were wounded following a rocket strike on the market of al-Bab city in eastern Aleppo governorate. On August 3, residential neighborhoods in Azaz city north of Aleppo were targeted by rocket shelling originating from regime and SDF areas. Six civilians including 4 women were injured.

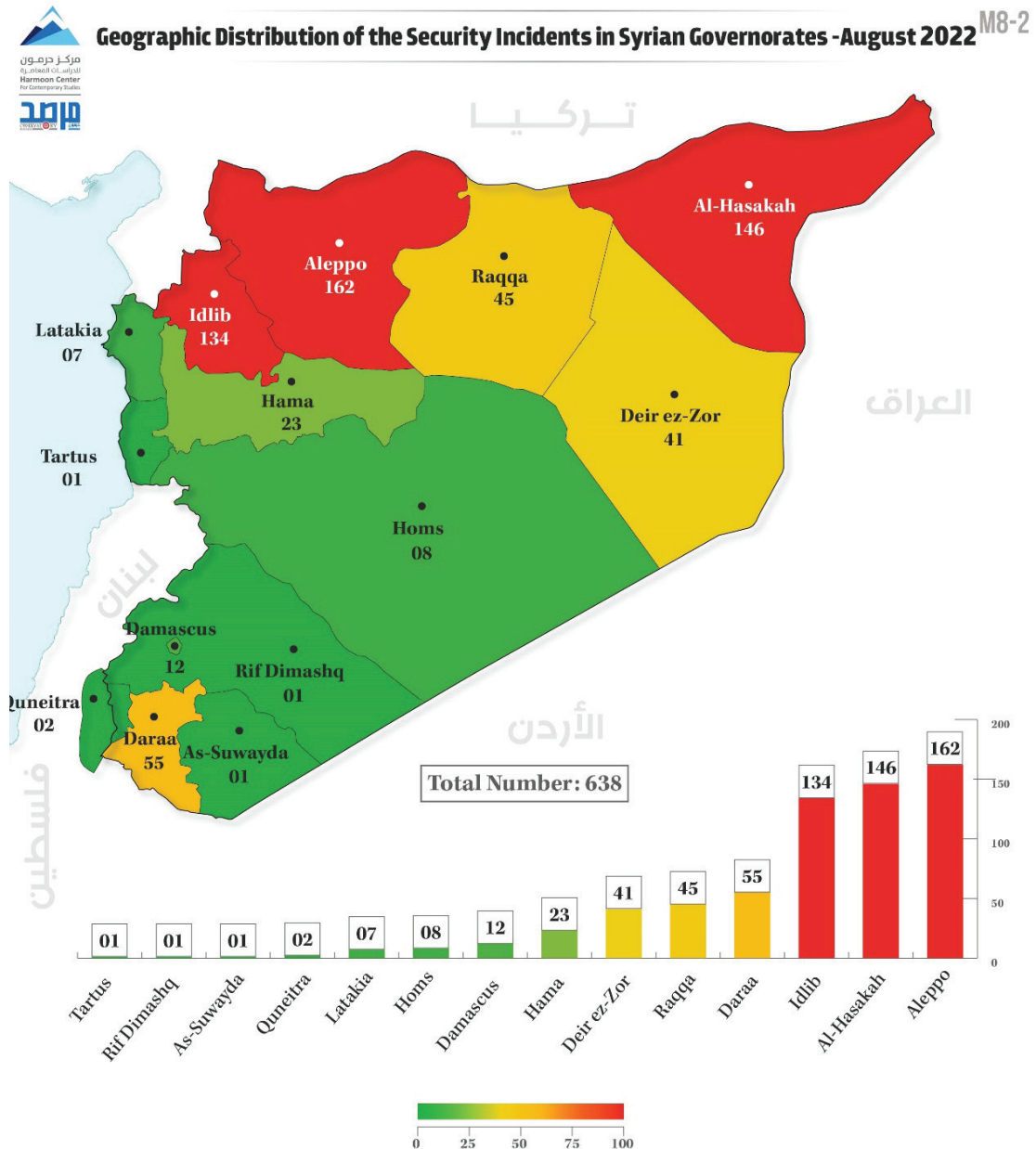
Factions belonging to the Syrian National Army clashed with the regime forces and the SDF several times during August. The most notable of these clashes took place on August 8 when the parties to the conflict exchanged artillery and rocket shelling on the northern countryside of Hama and the northern and western countryside of Aleppo. On August 1, a faction belonging to the National Front for Liberation targeted an anti-armor missile base belonging to regime forces and announced the death of their crew. On August 13, the frontlines adjacent to the town of Tadif in eastern Aleppo governorate witnessed violent clashes between the Syrian National Army and regime forces that resulted in deaths and injuries in the ranks of the regime forces, including some officers. On August 20, Syrian National Army factions announced the targeting of joint regime and SDF posts in response to the shelling of the city of al-Bab.

On August 12, there were demonstrations in cities and towns in northwestern Syria protesting statements made by Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Çavuşoğlu calling for reconciliation between the Syrian regime and the Syrian opposition.

With regards to security incidents, the Syrian National Army's Revolutionaries for Liberation commission announced on August 25 that it had seized more than 1.5 million Captagon pills that came from regime areas and were headed to areas north of Aleppo.

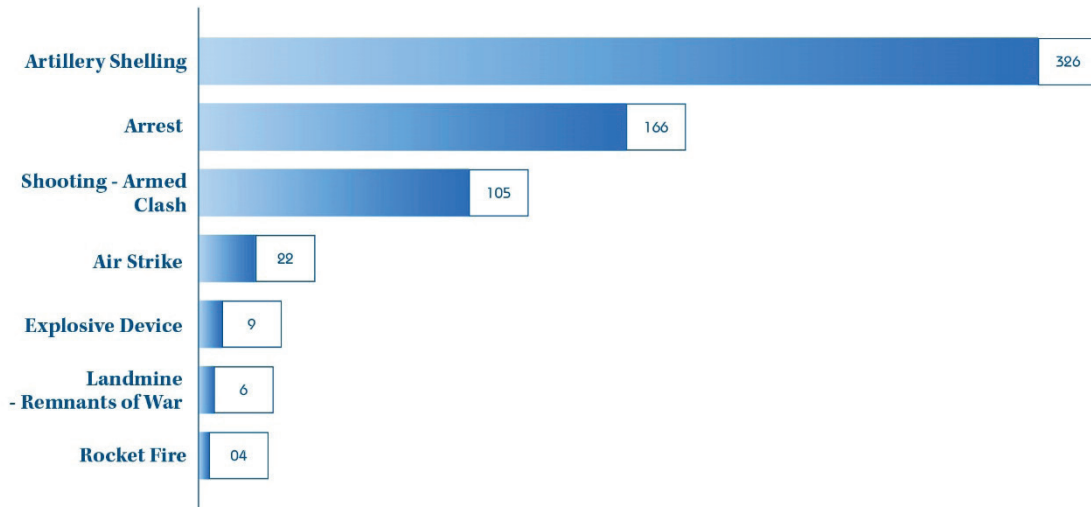
Index of Security Events in Syria

The Security Events Index is concerned with the monitoring of various security events, such as shelling, shootings, explosions, killings, arrests, etc., and documents the place and history of their occurrence in Syria. The index analyzes the frequency of the event and the percentage of its rise and fall compared to previous months. It also classifies events according to type of target, whether civilian or military, the responsible group and the percentage of responsibility for each actor.



- Observers recorded 638 security incidents in various Syrian governorates, an increase of 13% compared to the previous month (566 events) and an increase of 15% compared to the same month last year (August 2021) in which 556 incidents were recorded.
- Despite the significant increase in recorded security incidents in Hasakah governorate by 87% this month compared to last month, Aleppo governorate continues to top the list for the third month in a row registering 162 on the Harmoon security index. This is equivalent to 25% of the total security events recorded during this month despite a decrease of 13% compared to last month.
- Suwayda governorate, Damascus countryside, and Quneitra recorded a slight decrease in the number of recorded monthly security incidents.
- The governorates of Hasakah, Idlib and Daraa recorded an increase in the number of security incidents by 87%, 61%, and 49%, respectively, compared to last month.
- Compared to July of last year (2021), most Syrian governorates recorded an increase in the number of security events recorded within them, with the governorates of Hasakah, Raqqa, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Idlib recording a clear increase compared to the same month last year by 147%, 105%, 86%, 37%, and 22%, respectively. As for the other governorates, Suwayda, Daraa, Hama, and Latakia saw a yearly decrease of 92%, 66%, 59%, and 30%, respectively.

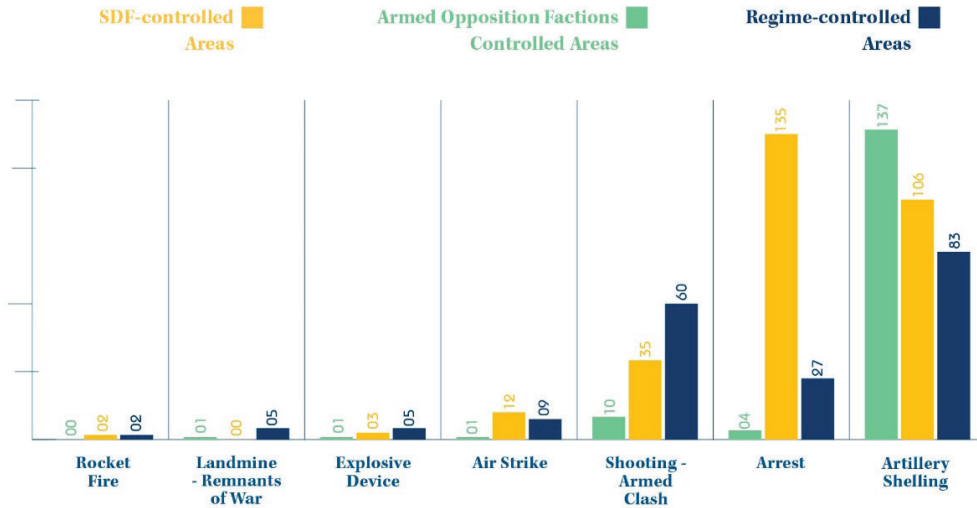
Total Security Incidents by Type – August 2022



- Shootings/armed clashes and artillery shelling accounted for more than 77% of the total security incidents recorded across Syria, up from 72% last month.
- For the fourth month in a row, artillery shelling topped the list of the most recorded security events with 326 events compared to last month (312), an increase of 4%.
- There was an increase in recorded cases of gunfire/armed engagement, with 105 incidents recorded compared to last month (95), an increase of 11%.
- The number of arrests was significantly higher for this month (166) compared to last month (97), an increase of 71%.

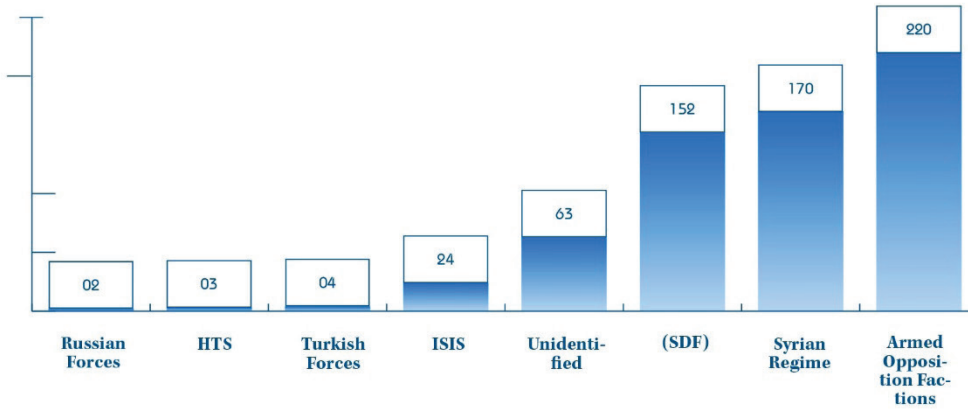
Total Security Incidents According to Areas of Control – August 2022

G8-2



- There was a significant increase in recorded artillery shelling in opposition-held areas by 104% compared to last month.
- Opposition-held areas remain at the bottom of the list of areas that recorded shootings/armed clashes accounting for 9.5% of the total number of cases recorded across Syria. There was a 50% increase in regime-held areas compared to last month.
- There was a clear increase in the number of arrests recorded in the areas controlled by the regime and the SDF, where 27 and 135 cases were recorded compared to 4 and 33 cases recorded last month, an increase of 5 times and 3 times, respectively. Meanwhile, arrests recorded in SDF-controlled areas amounted to more than 81% of the total arrests in all areas of control.

Total Security Incidents per Responsible Body – August 2022

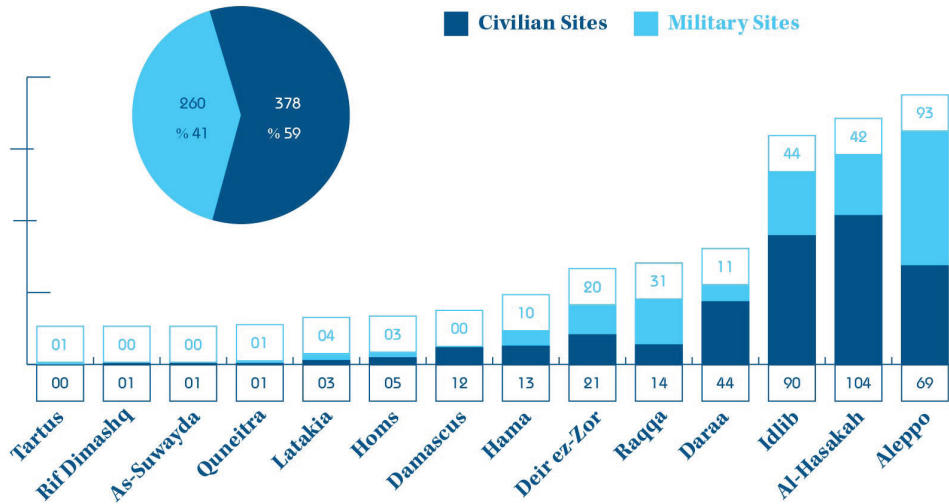


- For the second month in a row, the armed opposition forces topped the list for those responsible for security events, even though they recorded a decrease of 19.7% compared to last month (274 events).
- There was a significant increase in security events caused by regime forces, 254% compared to last month. In the same vein, there has been a 120% increase in the number of security incidents caused by the SDF militia.



Geographic Distribution of Targeted Locations by Type (civilian/non-civilian) in Syria - August 2022

G8-4



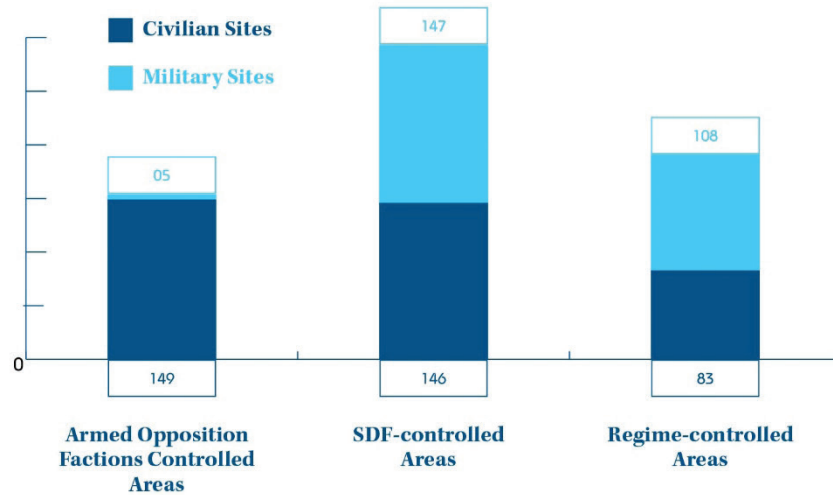
- There was a decrease in the number of targeted military sites in the various governorates. There were 260 targets, a decrease of 20% compared to 324 military sites targeted last month. There was a clear increase in the number of civilian sites targeted in various governorates. There were 378 targets, a 56% increase compared to 136 sites last month.

- The ratio of civilian sites to the total targeted sites in Daraa governorate was 80%, the largest compared to the rest of the governorates except for the governorates of Suwayda, Damascus and its countryside, where the numbers were 100% of the total. The largest percentages of military sites targeted were in Tartus and Raqqa governorate at 100% and 69%, respectively.

- Approximately 36% of the total civilian and military targeted sites throughout Syria were within the governorates of northeastern Syria: Hasaka, Raqqa and Deir Ezzor.

- There was a decrease in the number of targeted civilian sites in Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates. The decreases compared to last month were 70% and 49%, respectively. In Idlib, Hasaka, Hama, Daraa and Aleppo governorates there was an increase in the number of civilian sites targeted. The increases compared to last month were 400%, 197%, 63%, 52%, and 30%, respectively.

**Geographic Distribution of Targeted Locations
by Area of Control in Syria – August 2022**



- Compared to last month, there was a decrease in the number of military sites targeted in areas controlled by the opposition, the SDF and the Syrian regime by 89%, 9%, 7%, respectively. Civilian sites targeted in those areas recorded an increase of 198%, 27%, and 8%, respectively.

- Almost 97% of the targeted sites in opposition-held areas were civilian sites. The percentage last month was 52%. The percentages in regime-controlled and SDF-controlled areas were 43% and 50%, respectively.

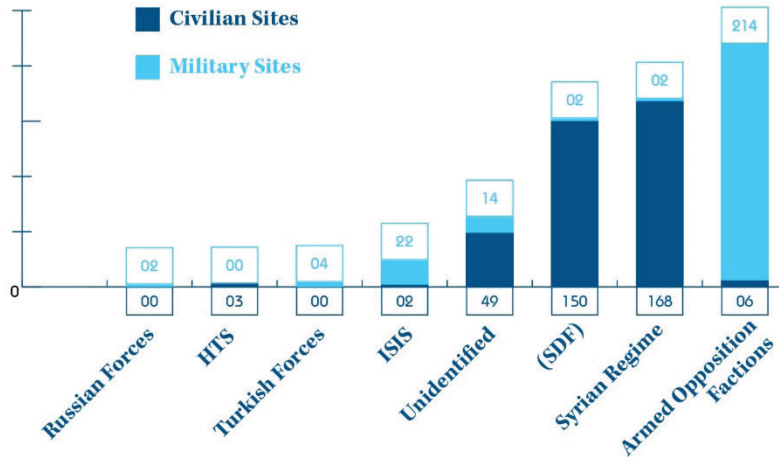
- Of the total civilian sites targeted in various areas, 39% were located in opposition-held areas and 39% and 22% were located in areas controlled by the SDF and the regime, respectively.

- Only 2% of the military sites targeted were in opposition-held areas, while SDF-controlled areas took the largest share at 57%.



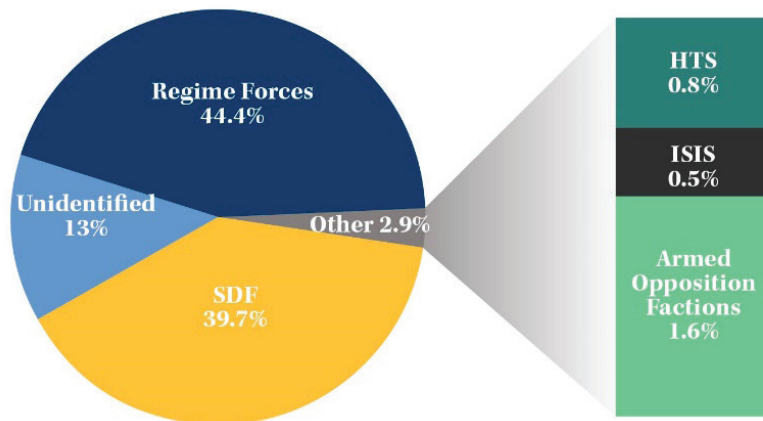
Distribution of Targeted Locations According to Responsible Body in Syria – August 2022

G8-6

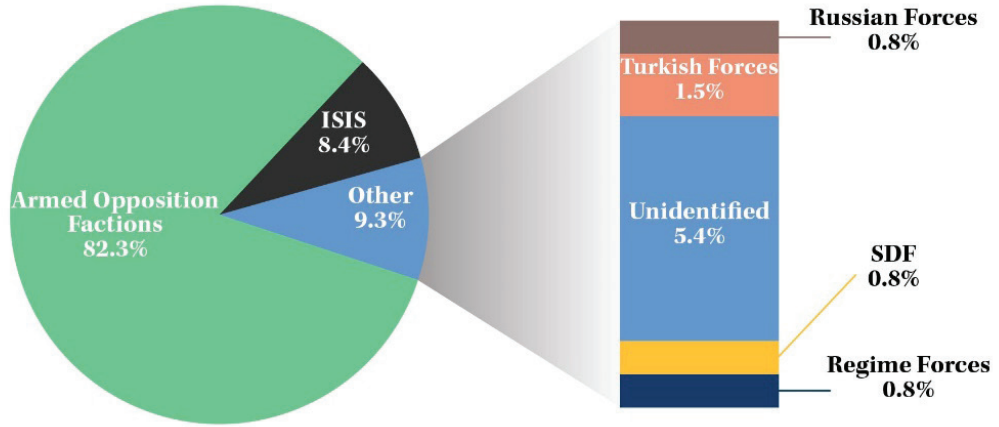


Percentage of Targeted Civilian Sites per Responsible Body – August 2022

G8-7



Percentage of Targeted Military Sites per Responsible Body – August 2022

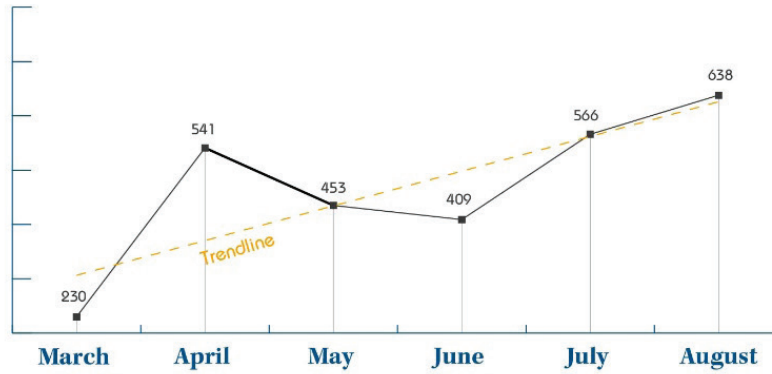


- The SDF and the regime forces were responsible for attacking 84% of the targeted civilian sites, while only 13% of the civilian sites were targeted by unknown parties. The percentage of civilian sites targeted by the opposition forces did not exceed 1.6%.
- Approximately 99% of the sites targeted by the SDF were civilian sites and the same was true for sites targeted by the regime.
- It was noted that 97% of the sites targeted by the armed opposition forces were military sites knowing that there was a decrease of 13% compared to last month in the number of military sites targeted by them.



G8-9

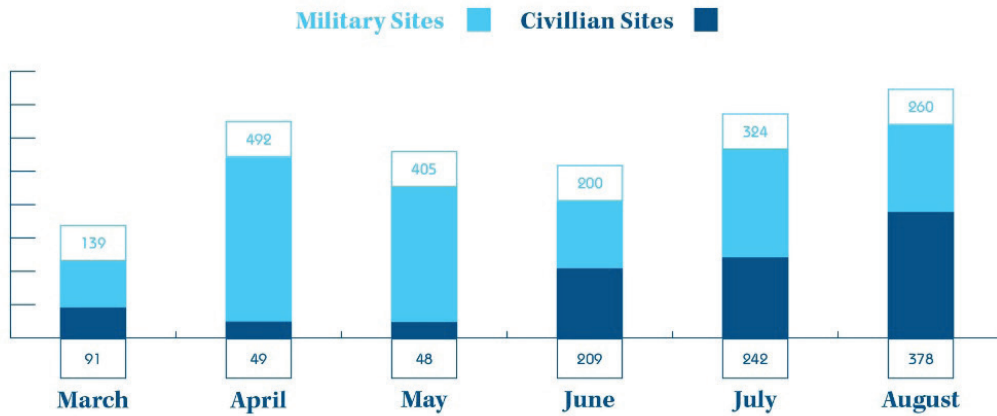
Comparison of The Incident Numbers Throughout Syria from March to August 2022



- With the increase in the total number of security events recorded in August, the overall trend for the last six months shows a continuous monthly rise considering that the average monthly increase rate is now 32%, up from 21% last month.
- The number of security incidents recorded was above the overall average of the past six months (472 events) at a rate of 35%.

**Comparison of Targeted Locations by Type (civilian/non-civilian)
 in Syria from March to August 2022**

G8-10



- The index continues to show a 32% monthly increase during the last six months due to the relative increase in the number of civilian sites targeted this month. Furthermore, the number of civilian sites targeted this month is above the overall average of the last six months (170 events) by 123%.

Victims and Violations

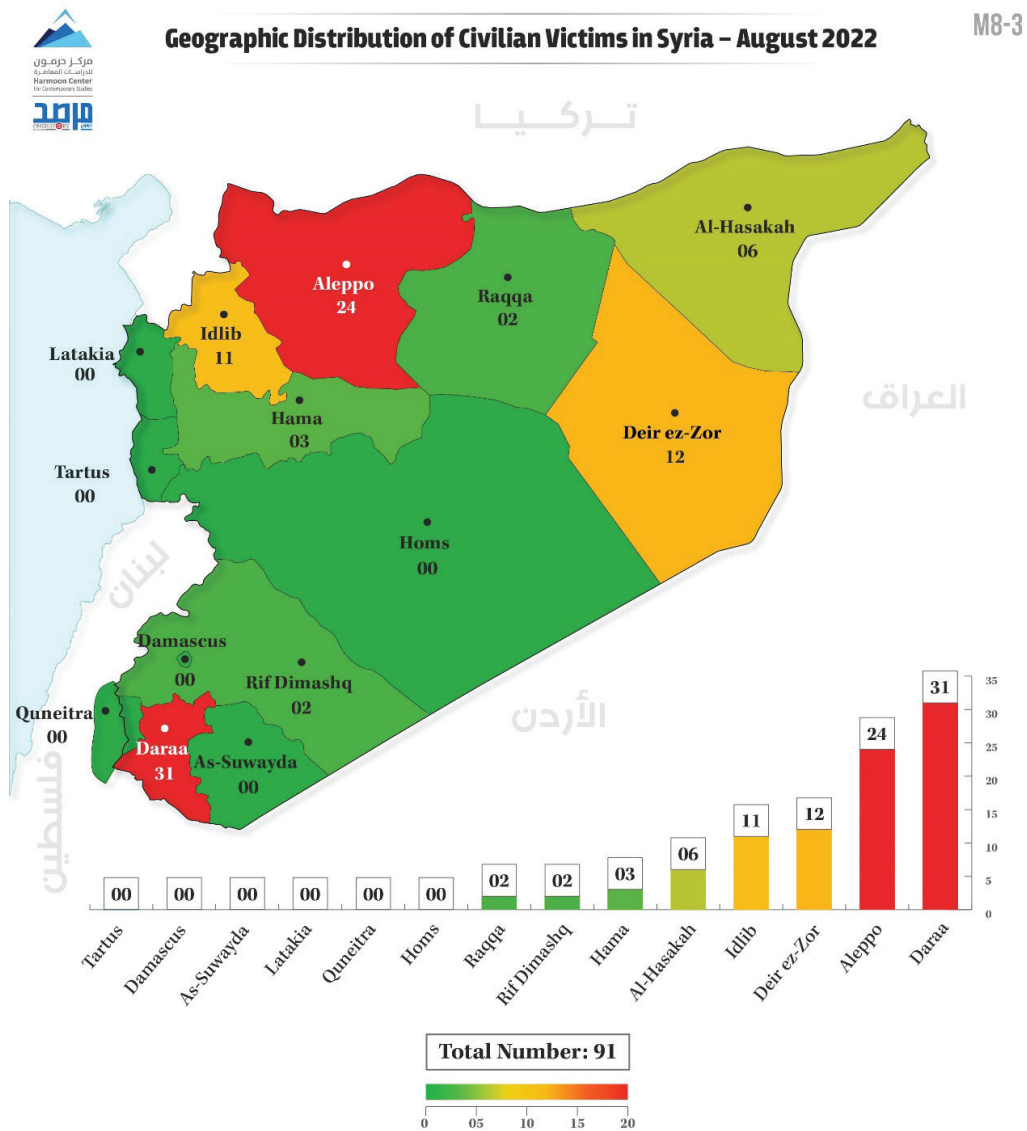
During the current monitoring month (August 2022), the Harmoon documentation team recorded the killing of 97 Syrians, including 91 civilians among which were 23 children, 4 women and 7 people killed under torture.

The deaths according to actors responsible were distributed as follows: 43 were killed by unknown persons, 32 by the forces of the Syrian regime and its militias, 7 by armed civilians, 6 by SDF, 4 by the Turkish army, 2 killed in an explosion (ammunition), and one was killed by the Syrian National Army. The death toll by governorate was as follows: 31 in Daraa, 24 in Aleppo, 12 in Deir Ezzor, and 11 in Idlib.

Regarding arrests in the various areas of control, the documentation team at Harmoon recorded 166 arrests, with a marked increase compared to previous months in the number of arrests in the areas of SDF. Meanwhile, regime forces arrested at least 27 persons, and the opposition forces arrested 4. The SDF carried out the highest number of arrests. Harmoon observers recorded the arrest of 135 persons in areas controlled by the SDF.

Victims and Violations Index

The Victims and Violations Index documents civilian and non-civilian victims killed in military or security operations in Syria and identifies the governorate to which the victim belongs, as well as the place and cause of death. The basic classifications include shootings, clashes, shelling of all kinds, arrests, torture and other causes. The index also classifies victims according to the group responsible for the violation, identifies the category to which the victim belongs to (civilian/non-civilian/man/woman/child) and documents them by name, date of death or violation and photographs along with any other information obtained from reliable sources.

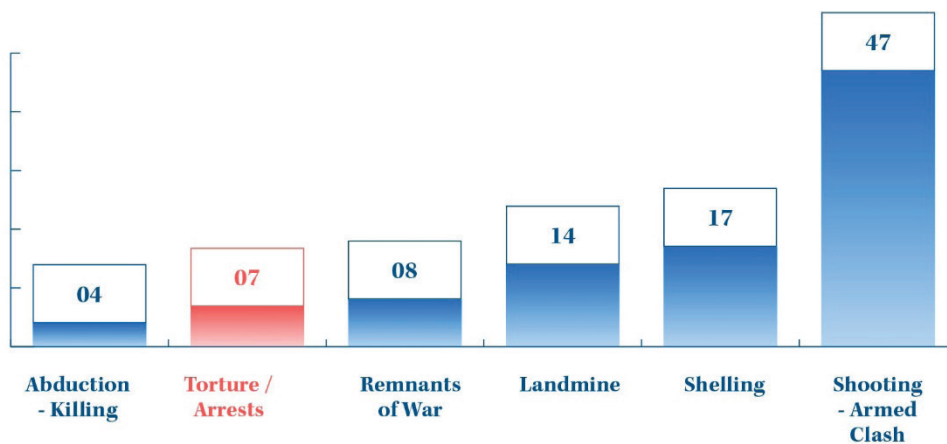


- Daraa governorate topped the list and is marked red on the victims index due to the significant increase compared to last month in the number of security incidents (94%/31 victims) recorded in it.
- Aleppo governorate, which follows Daraa governorate on the list and is also marked red on the victims index, recorded an increase of 50% compared to last month.
- There was a relative increase in the recorded number of civilian victims throughout Syria — 91 victims compared to 78 last month — knowing that for the fourth time in a row since the beginning of the year the total number of victims recorded has been falling below the overall average of the last six months (80).
- Compared to last month, there was a decrease of 33%, 33%, 25%, 20%, and 8% in the number of victims recorded in the governorates of Hama, Homs, Damascus countryside, Deir Ezzor and Idlib, respectively.



Distribution of Victims According to Cause of Deaths in Syria – August 2022

G8-11



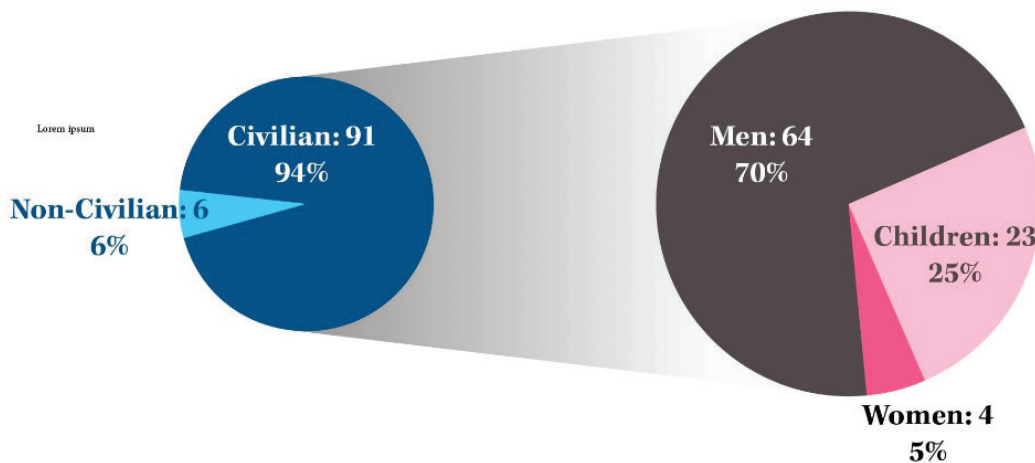
- Shootings/Armed Clashes continue to be biggest cause of casualties across Syria with a 52% increase compared to last month.
- There was a decrease of 20% in the number of victims of kidnapping

and murder compared to last month.

- There was an increase of 75% in the number of victims of detention and torture compared to last month.

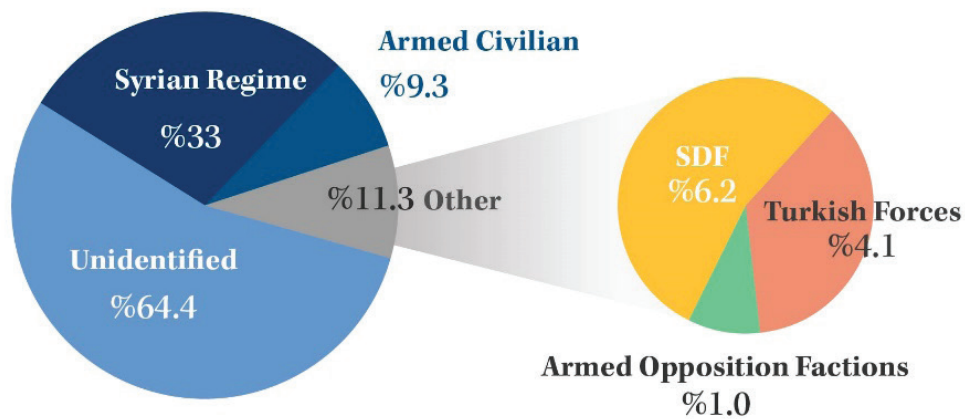
Distribution of Civilian Casualties in Syria by Societal Groups – August 2022

G8-12



Distribution of Victims According to Responsible Body – August 2022

G8-13

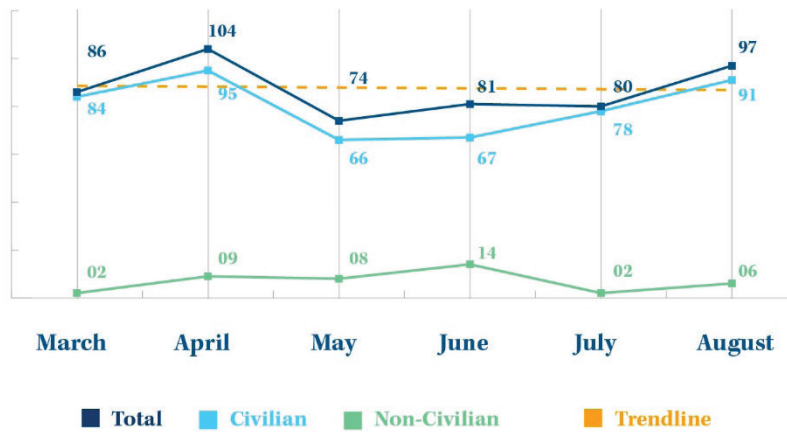


- The unidentified group continues to be the main actor responsible for civilian casualties even though there was a significant increase in the percentage of regime forces' responsibility throughout Syria (33%) compared to last month (13.8%).
- The percentage of responsibility of the armed opposition factions declined. A percentage of only 1% was recorded compared to last month (2.5%).



G8-14

Comparison of The Victim Numbers Throughout Syria from March to August 2022



- With the increase in the total number of victims recorded in August, the general trend of the last six months shows a monthly rise of 4% following a monthly decrease of 3% in July 2022.

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OBSERVATORY
HARMOON

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Harmoon Center for Contemporary Studies

Harmoon Arřtırmalar Merkezi

Doha, Qatar: Tel. (+974) 44 885 996

Istanbul, Turkey: Tel. +90 (212) 813 32 17

Tel. +90 (212) 542 04 05

PO.Box: 34055

www.harmoon.org