



مركز الدراسات الاستراتيجية السريانية
NAVENDA YA LEKOLINEN SURYANI STRATEJIK
Syriac Strategic Research Centre

Protecting Syria's Religious and Ethnic Minorities:

The Need for Urgent Action

Incident Report Since 8 December 2024

Christians in Syria continue to face a context characterized by structural vulnerabilities, recurrent violations, and a climate of fear. Documented incidents reveal a pattern of serious breaches of fundamental rights, many of which are inconsistent with Syria's obligations under international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and conventions ratified within the framework of the United Nations.

Violations against the Christian community have included direct attacks on places of worship and cultural heritage, targeted killings and assassinations of civilians, as well as sectarian incitement and intimidation. These practices not only threaten the physical security of individuals, but also undermine the collective rights of religious and ethnic minorities as recognized in international law.

Institutional and political responses to these violations have been inconsistent. While some local actors issued apologies or attempted to repair damages, the absence of transparent investigations and accountability mechanisms has contributed to ongoing impunity. This lack of clarity regarding the identity of perpetrators and their motives constitutes an additional obstacle to justice and reconciliation.

This report seeks to provide a systematic and chronological review of the most prominent documented violations during the specified period. It categorizes the patterns of abuse and presents available data on fatalities, injuries, and affected families, drawing on human rights organizations, journalistic sources, and verified local testimonies.

In 2025, following the fall of the former regime on December 8, 2024, Syria witnessed a series of both systematic and individual violations against Christian citizens. The rapid political and security transformations further exposed vulnerable communities to targeted violence. The report aims to highlight these developments in light of international legal standards, with particular attention to the protection of religious freedoms, minority rights, and the preservation of Syria's pluralistic social fabric.

Date of Attack/incident: 18 Dec 2024

Location: Hama, Syria

Description: Attack on Hama Archdiocese: Gunfire damaged the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, with crosses vandalized and removed.

According to several media reports, armed extremists recently attacked and shot at the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese in Hama, central Syria.

Extremists vandalized its property and religious symbols.

The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)-run security services reportedly issued an apology for the incident, assuring that the perpetrators would be held accountable.

Testimony/source:

<https://x.com/grecolevantines/status/1869362732635672699?s=12&mx=2> **Photos:**



Date of Attack/incident: 11 Dec 2024

Location: Hagia Sophia Greek Orthodox Church, Al-Suqaylabiyah, Hama, Syria **Description:**

The Hagia Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in Al-Suqaylabiyah was vandalized, with significant damage inflicted on its interior. The perpetrators remain unidentified. The church, located on the outskirts of the town, was left unguarded at the time of the incident. The damage was discovered later that day by local residents. Due to the difficulty in providing security, the community has since decided to close the church temporarily.

Testimony Interview / Interview (name and date):

Mr. R. Sefan provided testimony to Syriac Strategic Research Centre regarding the incident, stating:

"The church is situated on the outskirts of town without any guards or nearby residents. The attack was discovered later that day by townspeople, who, given the difficulty of protecting the church, decided to close it for the time being." **Source Confirmation (links):**

<https://x.com/poqanarii/status/1866827916828725634?s=12>

<https://x.com/grecolevantines/status/1866849067545788587?s=12> **Photos:**



<https://x.com/i/status/1869160798146506911>

Date of Attack/incident: 18 Dec 2024

Location: Hama, Syria

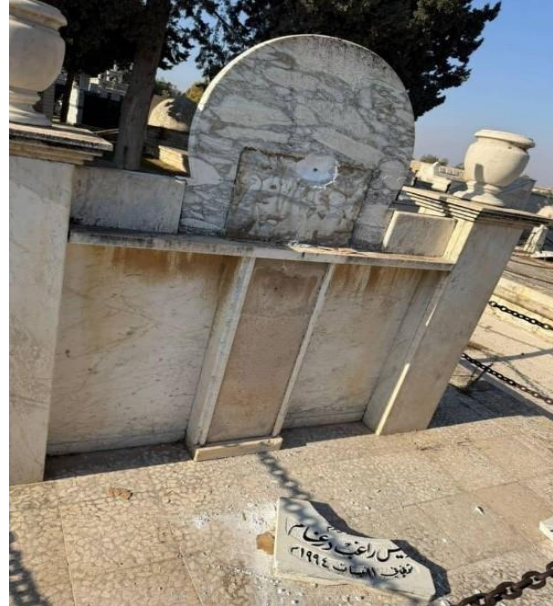
Description:

Armed extremists launched an attack on the Greek Orthodox cemetery in Hama. The assailants fired gunshots at the site, vandalized graves, and desecrated religious symbols, including the removal of crosses. The attack caused significant damage to the cemetery and deeply disturbed the local Christian community.

Testimony/source:

Mr. R. S. provided further testimony on the incident in an interview conducted by the **Syriac Strategic Research Centre**, confirming the details of the attack.

Photos:



Date of Attack/Incident: Dec 2024

Location of incident: Kfarbhum, Hama, Syria **Description of incident in detail:**

Militants targeted multiple shops selling alcoholic beverages in the town of Kfarbo, vandalizing the establishments and destroying their inventory. The attack caused significant material losses to the shop owners.

Following the incident, HTS groups reportedly issued an apology to the affected business owners and provided financial compensation for the damages.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness)

In an interview conducted by the **Syriac Strategic Research Center**, Mr. S E. a resident of Kfarbo confirmed the attack, detailing how militants stormed the shops, destroyed their contents, and later HTS offered compensation to the owners.

Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

Similar incidents happened in alcohol beverage shops in several locations including duty free shops in Aleppo and Damascus airports and others

Date of Attack/incident: 13 Dec 2024

Location of incident: al-Jamasliyye, Homs, Valley of the Christians – Wadi Al-Nasara

Description of incident in detail:

Samaan Satme and Helena Khashouf, a Greek Orthodox Christian couple, were killed during a burglary at their residence. Initial reports suggested that Mr. Satme was beheaded, raising concerns about potential religious targeting. However, a family member later clarified that these reports were false.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness):

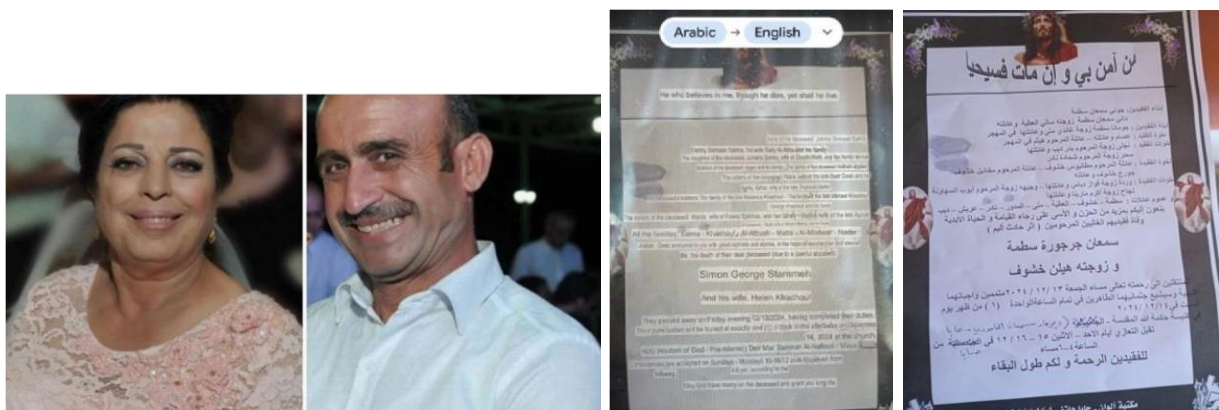
In an interview conducted by the **Syriac Strategic Research Center**, Mr. H. M., a relative of the victims, confirmed that the couple was murdered during the burglary. He also refuted claims that Mr. Satme had been beheaded, emphasizing that both victims were killed in the course of the robbery.

Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

https://x.com/dd_geopolitics/status/1868299105908453426?s=48

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2024/12/16/shot-syrias-valley-of-the-christians/> Photos/films

of incident (credit photo source):



Date of Attack/incident: week preceding 11 Dec 2024

Location of incident: Targeting in Latakia of Alawites and Christians **Description of incident in detail:**

ISIS/SNA rebels searched door-to-door for prominent Christians by name and also looking for Alawites. Had ISIS patches on clothing and some plain clothes.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness):

11 Dec 2024, Charmaine Hedding interviewed MH and confirmed by security on the ground in DAANes of similar incidents. M confirmed 4 Alawites that fled to Lebanon

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Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

<https://x.com/niohberg/status/1866517469822591149?s=12>

<https://x.com/pogannarii/status/1866510104847065170?s=48>

Date of Attack/incident: 24 Dec 2024 Location of incident: Al-Suqaylabiyeh, Syria

Description of incident in detail:

A group of foreign fighters, reportedly speaking an unknown language, approached the town square in Al-Suqaylabiyah where a Christmas tree had been erected. The perpetrators brandished their weapons, set the tree on fire, and prevented locals from extinguishing the flames.

Residents alerted HTS General Security, who arrived at the scene and removed the assailants, allowing the townspeople to put out the fire.

In another incident in Aleppo by HTS they destroyed Christmas trees

(<https://x.com/hananyanaftali/status/1862979956432658730?s=12>)

<https://x.com/mailonline/status/1872101336931536928?s=12>

https://x.com/marijana_petir/status/1873676943046173016?s=48

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness)

In an interview conducted by the **Syriac Strategic Research Center**, a resident of AlSuqaylabiyah confirmed the incident, detailing the actions of the foreign fighters and the response from HTS security forces.

Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

Photos/films of incident:



Date of Attack/incident: 3 Jan 2025

Location of incident: Aleppo, Christian Areas Description of incident in detail:

Videos of radicals entering Christian areas of Aleppo, demanding that women adhere to Islamic dress codes, including wearing the hijab. And that men and woman are separated in public.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness): video sent by Bassam Ishaq on 4 Jan 2025.

Verified by Yvette Isaac on 4 Jan 2025

Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

Photos/films of incident:

<https://x.com/chedding48732/status/1875525156518686842?s=12>

Date of Attack/incident: Jan 2025

Location of incident: AL-Suqaylibyeh, Hama, Syria Description of incident

in detail:

A Christian-owned house, previously belonging to Mr. Nabel Al-Abdallah, commander of the **National Defense**, was seized by HTS forces. Along with his house, several of his properties—including a farm, vehicles, and livestock—were also confiscated.

HTS justified the confiscation by citing Mr. Al-Abdallah's role as a commander in the National Defense forces. Following the seizure, HTS settled a Muslim family, reportedly linked to one of their commanders, in the house.

Local residents expressed strong opposition to the forced resettlement, rejecting the idea of outsiders being imposed on their community against their will.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness):

In an interview conducted by the **Syriac Strategic Research Center**, Mr. G. Y. confirmed the confiscation of Mr. Al-Abdallah's property and the forced settlement of a family associated with HTS leadership.

Date of Attack/incident: 1 Jan 2025

Location of incident:

Published list of amendments to school curriculum published on Syria Education website and social media.

Description of incident in detail:

Christians and other minorities are complaining that in just weeks, Syria's school curriculum has been rewritten to reflect an Islamist agenda, while the constitution is said to take 4 years.

Key changes:

- "Jews and Christians" are labeled as "those who are damned and have gone astray."
- "Path of goodness" is now the "Islamic path."
- "Martyrdom" shifted from dying for the homeland to "dying for the sake of Allah/God."

"Those who are damned and have gone astray" changed to "Jews and Christians"

"Path of goodness" to "Islamic path"

"Martyr" was death for homeland now "for the sake of God"

Some chapters removed totally while others with edits.

Examples of Curriculum Amendments:

- Islamic Education Textbooks (All Grades): Replaced the concept of "martyrdom" from "for the sake of the homeland" to "for the sake of God."
- Ninth-Grade Textbook: Changed the phrase "governed by the law of justice" to "governed by the Sharia of God."

Replaced "principle of human brotherhood" with "principle of faith-based brotherhood."

- First-Year Secondary School Textbook: Altered the phrase "and whoever commits major sins and considers them permissible, their recompense in the afterlife" to "and whoever commits major sins and considers them permissible has disbelieved, and their recompense in the afterlife is Hellfire."
- Second-Year Secondary School Islamic Education Lesson: Removed the word "law" from the phrase "commitment to Sharia and law."
- Third-Year Scientific Secondary School: Deleted the entire unit on "Origin and Evolution of Life."

Removed the paragraph "Evolution of the Brain" from the Science subject, including all related images and graphs.

In the Arabic Language subject, deleted the text "Guardians of the Homeland."

Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Education

الجمهورية العربية السورية
وزارة التربية والتعليم

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البيت القويّ كف خاضعاً دون التأثير في الصفحة	٦٥	الأول	السابع
درس: "أولاد النخيلة" كهرلا	٣٢-٣٤-٣٥	الثاني	
عزارة (حداثة النوار عليكم سلام	٨٦	الثالث	
لنمّن / تشرين (المستقبل /	٣٦	الرابع	
الأشلة في درس (النكرة والمعركة)	٣٥	الخامس	
واسديها		السادس	
درس (مؤال من أحميل إلى تشرين)	٥٣	السابع	
(مستحق)		الثامن	
خضابا شياوية - الحدالة الغربية	٩٠-٩١-٩٢	التاسع	
والنقليل العربي لثيابة شعبان		العاشر	
لفرة شهاده العروبة" مع الأكلنة	١٨٦	الحادي عشر	
واسديها		الثاني عشر	
الأكلنة واسديها	١٨٧	الثالث عشر	
الأكلنة واسديها	١٨٩	الرابع عشر	
درس (مؤال من بلدي)	١٩٠ - ١٩١	الخامس عشر	
المثال الثاني من لفرة الثانية	١٩٢	السادس عشر	
عزارة (وعضما هذه الوحدة بحرب	٤	السابع عشر	
لشربن المعاصر)		الثامن عشر	
عزارة تعرف بطولات السورين في	٦٠	التاسع عشر	
حرب تشرين		العاشر عشر	
قصيدة النورمان: البيت: له عزكها	٨٠	الحادي عشر عشر	
له عزكها (إن ووجد)		الثاني عشر عشر	
درس: مواطن من تشرين	١٠١-١٠٢-١٠٣-١٠٤	الثالث عشر عشر	
لنمّن: الشانين من تشرين	١٠٥-١٠٦	الرابع عشر عشر	
بيت شعر لسليمان العمري	١١٩	الخامس عشر عشر	
السطران الخامس والسادس		السادس عشر عشر	
درس: كتابة المذكرات اليومية)	٢٤١ - ٢٤٢	السابع عشر عشر	
البيت الشرايع	٤٣	الثامن عشر عشر	
السطر ١٦	٤٤	التاسع عشر عشر	
بداء من عزارة (وإن ما واهيته	١٥٥-١٥٦	العاشر عشر عشر	
الأمة العروبة: إلى نهاية		الحادي عشر عشر	
الصفحات من ١٥٦		الثاني عشر عشر	
السطر الخامس من الصفحة ١٥٦		الثالث عشر عشر	
عرب بأداب لهم		الرابع عشر عشر	
وعولك.		الخامس عشر عشر	

الصفحة	١٧	الصفحة	١٧
الصفحة	٣٣	الصفحة	٣٣
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الصفحة	٢٧٦	الصفحة	٢٧٦
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الصفحة	٢٨٠	الصفحة	٢٨٠
الصفحة	٢٨١	الصفحة	

Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

Read more: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/02/middleeast/changes-to-syriasschoolcurriculum-spark-online-outrage/index.html>
https://syriacpress.com/blog/2025/01/02/olaf-taw-association-for-syriac-languageandadministration-of-north-and-east-syria-denounce-controversial-educationcurriculumchanges-proposed-by-htsledgovernment/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR2M1eAayql0VmqQ8bC0XQ1yZ7iZyeI95M13awJIra_gDMC-aqhfvLqL62o7A_aem_vBECGiapGjx0TWc2foD6kw

Comprehensive list of Changes:

https://x.com/maherakraa/status/1874818076648120660?t=3adfwicqGkjHFO2_imJ6FQ&s=09

Bishop Armash Nalbandian

Bishop of the Armenian Orthodox Church of the

Archdiocese of Damascus and its Dependencies

Damascus, January 2, 2025

Amendments to the curricula instead of congratulating the New Year ...

On the official page of the Ministry of Education in the interim government...

Circular: Making amendments to the curricula from the first to the third secondary grade in the Syrian Arab Republic for the academic year 2024-2025, signed by the Minister of Education, Nazir Al-Qadri.

Was the timing of the amendments to the curricula chosen on the first day of the new year?

We had hoped that the first initiative would be to greet teachers and students.

The question is: Will an official statement, decision or law be issued and circulated on social media sites???

The caretaker government is an interim government with incomplete powers, and it is a transitional phase for the purposes of managing affairs, and it does not have the right to decide on fateful matters due to the freezing of the constitution.

We were surprised by the assignment of the committees that approved these amendments, and we wonder about the competence of their members... How long did it take to work on these amendments? Which parties were consulted and what are the foundations on which they relied? And most importantly, do they have the right to approve these amendments?

Every strategic decision, especially the decision to change the education curricula, requires a constitution, and must be made by the elected government submitting a proposal for that, so changing the curricula is considered a mistake that must be reversed because this is the right of the people.

Many of the amendments seem one-sided and do not fit the nature and diversity of the Syrian people... For example, but not limited to:

- Deleting the phrase "Protectors of the Homeland, Peace Be Upon You", as the phrase "Protectors of the Homeland" symbolizes every person who defends his homeland... The soldier protects the homeland, the doctor protects the homeland, the cleaner, the lawyer, the engineer, and the teacher all protect the homeland, each from his position.
- Deleting the phrase "Execution of the leaders of the national movement, the martyrs of May 6, 1916" only because they were executed by the Ottoman authorities, in a move aimed at twisting the truth and canceling the history of 400 years of Ottoman occupation and tyranny.

- Changing the phrase "those who have incurred wrath" to the phrase "Jews and Christians" has paralyzed our minds and tongues because it has disregarded all the values of coexistence that we seek in the twenty-first century. Didn't the governor of Damascus come out yesterday to convince us of the necessity of establishing peace with neighboring countries, in a clear reference to the State of Israel???
- Canceling an entire research paper on the science of evolution in biology curricula is a clear attempt to obscure and reject everything related to scientific research, and to ignore theories of great scientific value that have continued for decades, even hundreds of years. Why is it that our student is refused to be informed about the path of the development of his brain and nervous system, which our Lord distinguished him with from all other creatures on earth so that he can implement his divine will???
- Every human being who sheds his blood for the dignity and freedom of his homeland is a martyr to whom humanity bows, for the nobility of his sacrifice, regardless of his religion or sect. However, here, the honor of martyrdom has been limited only to those who are martyred for the sake of the Islamic religion.
- All of us, as individuals in Syrian society, use in our daily dialect the phrase "the straight path." This phrase is part of our upbringing, which we grew up with, and we raise our children with, and we have never delved into searching for its origins in the Holy Quran or any of the heavenly books, so it does not cause the uprooting of the roots of upbringing and moral values from the courtyards of our brains. - Is the goal to eliminate the image or mention of Queen Zenobia from our curricula? And if that is done, will she be eliminated from the pages of human history? Isn't it enough for ISIS to destroy our great monuments in Palmyra with all the brutality, hatred and malice we saw? Now we have the other side of the same coin that works to destroy the pride and honor we have in our conscience when mentioning this great woman.

On the morning of January 1, instead of moving from 2024 to 2025, we and our children were thrown into the depths of bygone eras, when the ministry decided to replace national education with religious education. If this indicates anything, it indicates your evasion of your duties in laying the foundations of a new national education that places the nation at the top of the list of priorities in the new phase. In turn, we will not consider this a defect, but rather an inability and failure to set the features of this phase, an inability that must be avoided and its effects must be avoided in the future.

Bishop Armash Nalbandian, Bishop of the Armenian Orthodox Church of the Archdiocese of Damascus and its Dependencies

of incident:

Date of Attack/incident: 5 Jan 2025

Location of incident: Kfaram, Homs, Syria

Description of incident in detail:

While traveling from Homs to their home village of **Kfaram**, a Christian man and his father were stopped at a checkpoint manned by armed militants. A foreign militant, reportedly speaking a language resembling Uzbek, demanded that the Christian cross hanging from the car's rearview mirror be removed.

When the father refused, an argument ensued. The militant reached into the vehicle, forcibly removed the cross, and threw it to the ground. The father exited the vehicle, retrieved the cross, and placed it in his pocket. In response, the militant drew his weapon, loaded a bullet, and escalated the situation further.

Fearing for his father's life, the driver removed the cross and handed it to the militant, who threw it on the ground and repeatedly stomped on it in an act of desecration.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness):

Interview conducted by the Syriac Strategic Research Center with Mr. **B. S. B.**, who spoke with the person involved in the incident. The direct witness, a resident of **Kfaram village**, refused to be interviewed directly due to fear of future persecution. **Other Source**

Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

Photos/films of incident:

Audio recording of the interview through voice messages with Mr. B. S. B. who is a relative of the person involved in the incident.

Date of Attack/incident: 16 Jan 2025 Location of incident: Meshtaye, Homs, Syria

Description of incident in detail:

Mr. Ghazi Alias Maqdesi, a Christian man from the village of **Meshtaye**, was lured by an armed group with the intent to steal his belongings. After the group successfully targeted him, they killed Mr. Maqdesi and disposed of his body near Albqea'a village.

Although this incident appears to be a burglary, there was no clear evidence of religious targeting; however, it instilled fear and anxiety within the local Christian community, who felt threatened by the brutality of the act.

Testimony Interview / Interviewer and witness (name and date of both the person who interviewed and verified with the witness):

An interview was conducted by the Syriac Strategic Research Center with Mr. M. G., a neighbor of Mr. Ghazi's family in Meshtaye village.

Other Source Confirmation (links, interviews, media links):

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1DWFYFARzc/> Photos/films of incident:

دعوة عامة
من أمن بي وإن مات قسحيا

والد المرحوم: المرحوم الياس مقدسي
والدة المرحوم: المرحومة ربيعة جنيور
زوجة المرحوم: جوزفين مسوح
أولاد المرحوم: ريمون زوجته نثالي طمسة
سهيون

أخوة المرحوم: يوسف زوجته المرحومة سميرة جريج
مخايل زوجته المرحومة ليندا مقدسي
رامز زوجته أديل مقدسي
أنيس زوجته فتيون طمسة
قزوي زوجته فادي نسطه

أخوات المرحوم: رمزة زوجة ياسر جريج
وعصوم عائلات: مقدسي - جريج - مسنوح - نسطه - طمسة وجميع الأهل في الوطن والمهجر.

يتعنون إليكم على رجاء القياصة والحياة الأبدية وفاة المرحوم

غازي الياس مقدسي

المتنقل عدا إلى الأخدار السماوية يوم الأحد الواقع في ٢٠٢٥/١/١٩ إثر حادث النجم
وسيشيع جثمانه الطاهر إلى مثواه الأخير في تمام الساعة ١٢/ الثانية عشرة من ظهر يوم
الاثنين الواقع في ٢٠٢٥/١/٢٠ وذلك في كنيسة سيدة البشارة في قرية عين العجوز

تسأل الله أن يرحم موتاكم ويحفظ ذوبكم

التجمع في صالة الكنيسة في تمام الساعة ١١/ الحادية عشرة صباحاً

نقل التعازي: في صالة كنيسة سيدة البشارة - عين العجوز - يومى الثلاثاء والأربعاء من
الساعة ٤ حتى ٦

في قرية المشتبة - صالة المشتبة - يوم الخميس من الساعة ٤ حتى ٦
السبح فادى - حفا فام

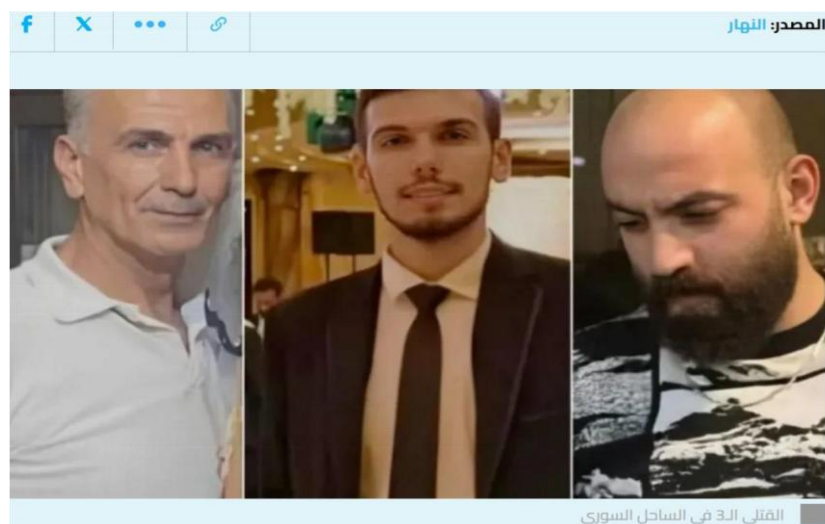
مكتبه لبربرا: عين العجوز - سبطان مركز المختار
٩٣٧٧١٢٠٠



Date of Attack/incident: 09 March 2025

Location of incident: Latakia international highway, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

- Syrian Christians in the crosshairs of coastal fire: 3 killed.
- Tony Boutros and his son Fadi were killed on the Latakia international highway amid clashes between Syrian forces and supporters of the former regime. Tony Khoury was killed inside his home by stray bullets.



Date of Attack/incident: 11 March 2025

- Inciting Syrian refugees abroad against Alawites and Christians in Syria.

- <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=658095250048239>



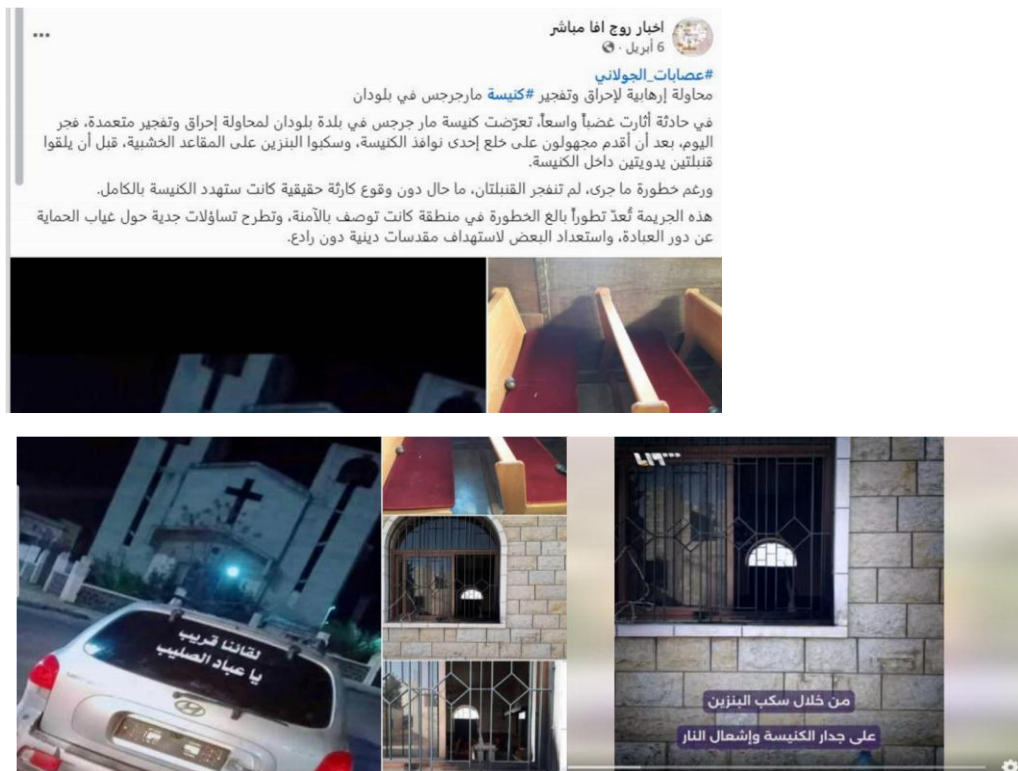
Date of Attack/incident: 22 March 2025 Location of incident: Damascus, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Proselytizing vehicles roam the Christian-majority neighborhoods
- Missionary vehicles occasionally roam the Christian-majority neighborhoods of Damascus, chanting over loudspeakers phrases such as, "God Almighty said: 'The true religion in the sight of God is Islam. And whoever desires other than Islam as religion, it will never be accepted from him.'"

- These vehicles pass through the areas of Bab Touma, Bab Sharqi, and alQassaa, all the way to the al-Duwaileh neighborhood, accompanied by a number of motorcycles. In their most recent appearance, one of these vehicles stopped in front of St. Elias Church in the al-Duwaileh neighborhood adjacent to Bab Sharqi.

Date of Attack/incident: 06 April 2025 Location of incident: Damascus, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Foiling an attempted Molotov cocktail attack on a church in Bloudan, Damascus countryside.
- Terrorist attempt to burn and blow up
- St. George's Church
- Bloudan, Damascus countryside.



■
Date of Attack/incident: 27 May 2025 Location of incident: Syria

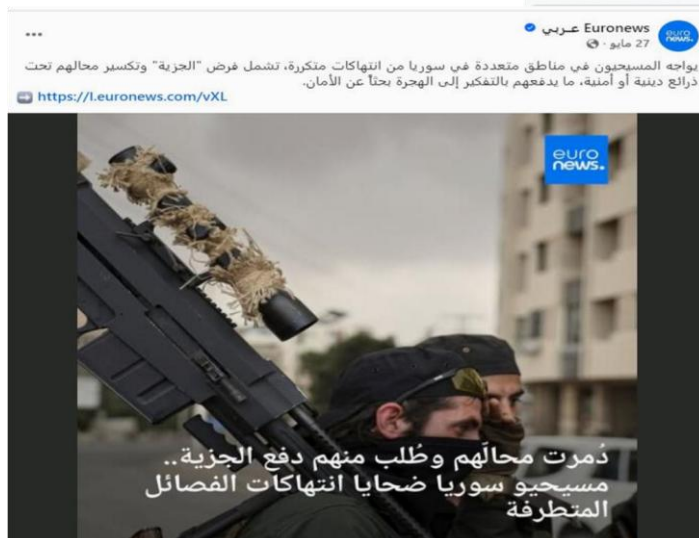
Description of incident in detail:

Christians face in multiple regions in Syria from repeated violations, including the imposition of "tribute" and the breaking of their stores under religious or security pretexts, which leads them to think to immigrate in search of safety

- <https://l.euronews.com/vXL>



فيديو متداول للقيادي الرفيع في الجيش العربي السوري ابو دجاجة التركستاني وهو يهدد الاخوة المسيحيين: "اما ان تسلموا واما الجزية واما الحرب والا فوالله فقد جنتكم برجال...



Date of Attack/incident: 30 May 2025

■

Location of incident: Hama, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

Syrian General Security militias threaten Christians in Hama. Video and audio from the city of Hama indicate that militias from the Syrian General Security have threatened Christian residents.



Date of Attack/incident: 08 June 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria

Description of incident in detail:

Shooting in Homs and the destruction of religious symbols

- Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Homs
- Armed attack on Umm al-Zinnar Cathedral
- Unknown armed group
- Al-Hamidiyah district, Homs city
- The Holy Cross on the church's facade was damaged, sparking a wave of popular and religious condemnation.



Date of Attack/incident: 09 June 2025 **Location of incident:** Damascus, Syria **Description of incident in detail:**

- Gold workshop robbery in Al-Qassaa
- Public Security
- Three General Security vehicles broke into and robbed a gold workshop in the al-Ma'una neighborhood in the al-Qassaa area at approximately 1:30 a.m.

Date of Attack/incident: 22 June 2025 **Location of incident:** Damascus, Syria **Description of incident in detail:**

- Suicide Attack
- Damascus, Al-Duwaileh

- Targeted Mar Elias Church, located in the Al-Duwaileh neighborhood of Damascus, during Mass.
- The attack killed 25 worshippers and injured approximately 60 others, and caused significant material damage to the church and surrounding buildings.
- Responsible Party: ISIS
- <https://snhr.org/arabic/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2025/06/cover-Ar11.jpg>



Date of Attack/incident: 28 June 2025

Location of incident: Al-Suqaylabiyah City, Hama, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

- Members of the Jihadi Public Security Militia

- assaulted young men sitting in a café
- arbitrarily arrested two young men: Bashar Nasab and Hadi Al-Saad.
- They left behind insulting and immoral phrases that reflect their morals, on a wall near the statue of the Virgin Mary.



Date of Attack/incident: 06 July 2025 Location of incident: Safita, Tartus, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Incitement posts against Christians
- Tartous countryside
- <https://jusoormapost.com/ar/posts/62529/almsrd-alsory-mnshorat-thrydydd-almsyhyyn-tthyr-alklk-fy-ryf-trtos>
- <https://www.i24news.tv/ar/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/middle-east/artc-5a536acd>

The city of Safita, located in the countryside of Tartous Governorate, witnessed a state of popular tension and anxiety following the discovery of sectarian and inflammatory leaflets distributed systematically throughout the city.

The leaflets were written with phrases calling for violence, killing, arson, and displacement against Christians in Syria. They were pasted on the walls of several churches and shops, a move described as "provocative and dangerous," especially in an area historically known for religious coexistence and social diversity.

The leaflets explicitly called for attacks on Christian civilians for religious reasons, a "blatant attempt to sow discord" and undermine social stability in one of the most diverse and relatively peaceful regions of Syria.

Local residents reported that these leaflets sparked fear and tension among residents, especially after they were found pasted on the doors of churches and places of worship.



Date of Attack/incident: 11 July 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

- Homs, Al-Mahta neighborhood
- Jeweler George Yashou was assassinated in front of his home
- He was killed in front of his home by a bullet to the head fired by masked gunmen.

Date of Attack/incident: 13 July 2025

Location of incident: Tartus, Syria

Description of incident in detail:

Attempted bombing of a church in Tartous

- Mar Elias Church
- Attempted bombing of a car bomb loaded with explosives
- Local extremist cell
- Thwarted
- <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles/c4gm9vgy9jvo>

وزارة الداخلية السورية تعلن إحباط
"مخطط إرهابي" لتفجير كنيسة في
طرطوس



St. Michael's Church Burned

- July 2025
- Suwayda/Photo
- St. Michael's Church
- Church Deliberately Burned
- 70 People Displaced

- Church Completely Destroyed
- Refugees Taken to a Church in Shahba
- <https://www.erehnews.com/news/arab-world/sl3pcy3>



Date of Attack/incident: 16 July 2025 Location of incident: Damascus, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Ramzi Shalhoub was arrested,
- Damascus, Al-Duwaileh neighborhood
- He was arbitrarily detained without any formal charges, and the reasons for his arrest remain unknown. Meanwhile, church authorities have been continuing their efforts for about a week to secure his release, after receiving promises that have so far not been fulfilled.
- He was released following mediation on July 27.

Date of Attack/incident: 19 July 2025 Location of incident: Swayda, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Father Khaled Mazhar, pastor of the Good Shepherd Church in Swayda
- was martyred along with twelve members of his family, including children and his disabled father.
- His home was stormed by forces affiliated with the de facto government and the so-called Ministry of Defense, which turned the house into a bloodbath.

* Picture taken a few days before the massacre. Most of those inside were martyred.



Date of Attack/incident: 30 July 2025 Location of incident: Damascus, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Fears under the new political regime
- Damascus Countryside / Jdeidet Artuz
- The Christian population of Jdeidet Artuz once numbered more than 25,000. Today, records from local parishes and relief organizations indicate that the number has declined to less than 9,000.

Date of Attack/incident: 07 September 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Homs Countryside, Al-Qusayr
- Mass arrests for forced displacement) Enaam Wakim, Rita Wakim, Amir Kasouha, Haidar Kasouha, Emile Kasouha, Nasser Nassour, Shibli Nassour, Musab Nassour, Talal Haddad, Youssef Haddad, Safwan Jarous, and others whose names were not available).
- Security forces in the area
- Arrest of Christian women and men
- Only the women were released
- <https://icrights.org/index.php>

حملة اعتقالات جماعية في مدينة القصير

وثق المركز الدولي لحقوق الإنسان والحريات بتاريخ 7 أيلول/سبتمبر 2025 حملة اعتقالات جماعية طالت رجالاً ونساءً من أبناء الطائفة المسيحية في مدينة القصير بريف حمص، نفذتها قوات أمنية دون بيان الأسباب القانونية أو توجيه اتهامات واضحة. ومن بين المعتقلين إنعام واكم، ريتا واكم، أمير كاسو، حيدر كاسو، إميل كاسو، ناصر ناصر، شبلي ناصر، مصعب ناصر، طلال حداد، يوسف حداد، أسامة صفوان جروس، وصفوان جروس. وأشارت شهادات السكان إلى أن هذه الاعتقالات تأتي في سياق انتهاكات متكررة يُعتقد أنها تهدف إلى التضييق على الوجود المسيحي في المنطقة ودفعه نحو التهجير القسري.

من منظور القانون الدولي، تمثل هذه الحملة انتهاكاً صارخاً للحق في الحرية والأمان الشخصي المنصوص عليه في العهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والسياسية، كما تشكل ممارسة للاحتجاز التعسفي والتمييز الديني. وترتبط هذه الإجراءات بمحظورات القانون الدولي الإنساني الذي يحظر التهجير القسري للسكان المدنيين على أسس دينية أو طائفية.

مشاركة:   

المصدر: المركز الدولي لحقوق الإنسان والحريات

...

 Swedish_Druze  @DruzeRe 

 HTS/Julani Jihadists Target #Christians in Al-Qusayr, South of Homs

Mass arrests by the extremist regime:

- 1.Amir Kasouha
- 2.Haidar Kasouha
- 3.Emil Kasouha
- 4.Musab Nassour
- 5.Nasser Nassour
- 6.Shibli Nassour
- 7.Safwan Jarous
- 8.Talal Haddad
- 9.Youssef Haddad
- 10.Inam Wakim
- 11.Rita Wakim

No crimes. No charges. Just persecution.

A systematic campaign by the Julani-led jihadist regime (HTS) to terrorize Christians, drive them from their homes, and rewrite #Syria's demographic map through fear, arrests, and forced displacement.

Date of Attack/incident: 13 September 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Homs - Zaidal Village

- Abducted and taken to the Deir Baalba neighborhood
- Abdul Razzaq Hababa, a US citizen
- Internal security forces in Homs managed to free citizen Abdul Razzaq Ibrahim Hababa, who was kidnapped on the Zaidal road.
- <https://x.com/AlekhbariahSY>



September 13, 2025

- Homs/Wadi al-Nasara - Kafra Village
- Arrest, torture, murder, and theft of his internal organs
- Public Security/Balouneh Prison
- On the pretext of a food supply violation
- Milad Aziz al-Farkh
- <https://baladi-news.com/img/original/0b731ac6-3b84-489a-9728-48cd2a777b16.webp?width=2000>



Date of Attack/incident: 18 September 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Homs Countryside: Palace area near the church
- Saleem Wakim's house set on fire
- Three women, an elderly man, and a 13-year-old boy
- Home destroyed
- Those present rescued
- <https://x.com/SyrDemObs/status/1968767783207833748>

- Mrs. Fadia Shahoud Saliba 00963938804042



Date of Attack/incident: 19 September 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

Homs –Qusayr

- The young man, **Alaa Jarous**, was kidnapped in Qusayr in the southern Homs countryside and abandoned after a large ransom was paid.
- The gangs of the de facto authorities opened fire on citizens' homes with the aim of displacing and deporting them from their hometown, Qusayr.
 - The home of Shibli Nassour
 - The home of the late Hafez Nassour
 - The home of Tamer Nassour
 - The home of Hussein Mussawwar
 - The home of Safwan Jarous
 - The home of Marwan Haddad
- [https://www.facebook.com/alahteatea/posts/pfbid024yrHMDVKYMyBW_X7yfnNN2ToCYz74asxbDVgnV4Xfb8mtoedNwVwok8dyovv1ZJzul?_cft_\[0\]=AZW9PePpci9Q7BQd3Aa2SdV5gyfgODjgIMKY06lUrDzE8UpmS3fcltSSQP_UFlvK7h72R0sec5uMmOPk5CnW22zPh98HDYTtlxpQNDKixhvCtDZHSlGpfscX7dny-8OVQSasUAdRdm95GMDDILOegkLKcFEZ6Plung8x1NzWI_7c-Q&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/alahteatea/posts/pfbid024yrHMDVKYMyBW_X7yfnNN2ToCYz74asxbDVgnV4Xfb8mtoedNwVwok8dyovv1ZJzul?_cft_[0]=AZW9PePpci9Q7BQd3Aa2SdV5gyfgODjgIMKY06lUrDzE8UpmS3fcltSSQP_UFlvK7h72R0sec5uMmOPk5CnW22zPh98HDYTtlxpQNDKixhvCtDZHSlGpfscX7dny-8OVQSasUAdRdm95GMDDILOegkLKcFEZ6Plung8x1NzWI_7c-Q&_tn_=%2CO%2CP-R)

Date of Attack/incident: 20 September 2025 Location of incident: Damascus, Syria

Description of incident in detail:

Urgent Public Opinion Statement

Issued by the National Levantine Council

Date: September 20, 2025

Subject: Urgent condemnation and distress call regarding the dangerous escalation of systematic sectarian violence in the city of Qusayr in the Homs countryside, Syria. The

National Levantine Council addresses the public, all civil society institutions, and human rights and humanitarian organizations, to warn of the seriousness of the systematic escalation and brutal targeting of members of the Christian community in the city of Qusayr in the Homs countryside, Syria. During the current week (September 2025), a series of heinous crimes were recorded, clearly targeting individuals and property based on their religious identity. This dangerous pattern threatens the last bastions of livelihood in the region and portends a humanitarian catastrophe:

Last Monday: A Christian family was subjected to an armed robbery and theft of their belongings.

· Tuesday: Young man Alaa Faeq Jarrous was kidnapped and brutally tortured, resulting in a fractured skull. His kidnappers extorted a large ransom for his release.

Wednesday: The homes of Christian families were subjected to gunfire by unknown masked assailants.

Thursday: The violence culminated with the storming and deliberate setting of the home of Salim Wakim, which contained women, an elderly man, and a child. The house was completely destroyed, with those trapped inside barely escaping.

These attacks are not random acts; they are part of a broader context of intimidation and unannounced forced displacement. Given that the state has not taken measures to protect its citizens and hold those responsible for these violations accountable, we suspect that groups within the state are perpetrating these violations, or at least covering them up. While the Syrian government officially denies these accusations and describes them as "rumors," facts and local testimonies on the ground confirm the continuation and escalation of violence, discrediting any official assurances and forcing hundreds of families to flee in fear for their lives. Targeting civilians based on their identity is a crime against humanity and another nail in the coffin of life in Syria. Syria's future depends on its unity and the cohesion of its rich social fabric. Urgent intervention today is an investment in saving lives and preserving the country's future. The National Levantine Council



Date of Attack/incident: 22 September 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria Description of incident in detail:

- Homs Countryside, Al-Mashrafah Village
- Dr. **Pietro al-Deeb's** home raided
- Two armed men on a motorcycle
- Money and gold jewelry stolen
-

https://www.facebook.com/alahteatea?_cft_token=AZWQt5uPweQks9rCGVfvqOj7aGUmuEGtpV4-rxOOwOpikLK3WK9cdoXn0Bqj2WoMte08-RhtkuWAAVlvaCh1tSWqzcMgEfs7YepVlg3wjsfToCzyy8E1dLQsMrIxKiMwVAhH35QFfbBRW2Y80vO8d1NCQ4hi2PiHwZ4GBAedooQ&_tn=UC%2CP-R

Date of Attack/incident: 22 September 2025

**Location of incident: Homs, Syria Description
of incident in detail:**

- Homs/Wadi al-Nasara
- The Education Directorate requested that girls be separated from boys
- The Education Directorate's decision
- Refusal to implement the decision



Date of Attack/incident: 22 September 2025

**Location of incident: Homs, Syria Description
of incident in detail:**

- Homs / Al-Hawash District

- Hab Namra / Al-Barqiya / Jdeidet Hazur Villages

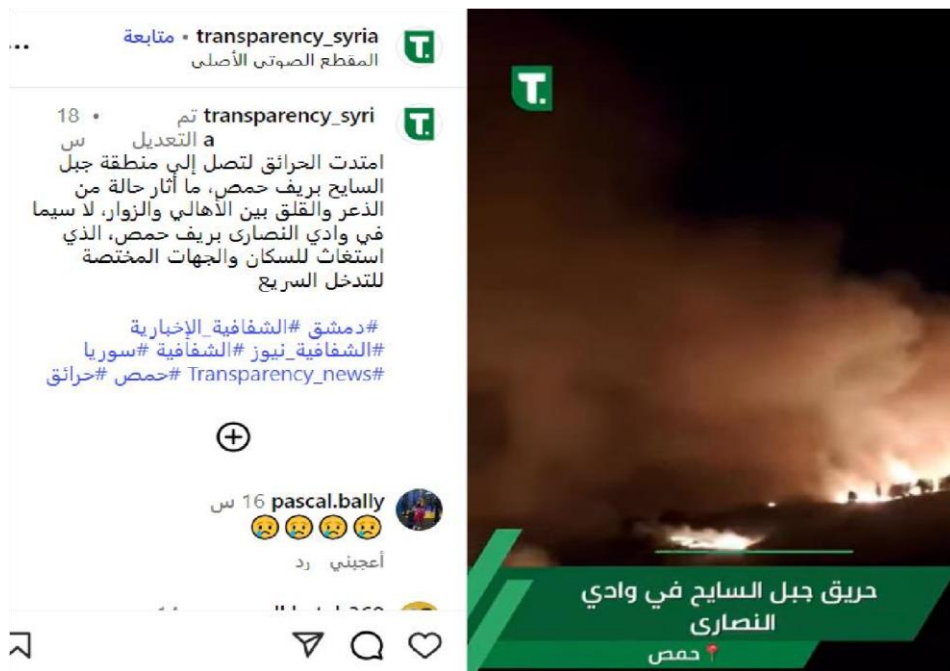
- Fires Set

- Unknown party

- Fires engulfed surrounding trees and homes

- No firefighting equipment

- Cases of suffocation and panic



Date of Attack/incident: 01 October 2025

Location of incident: Homs, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

- Wadi al-Nasara, Homs

- Two Christian Youths Assassinated: Wissam George Mansour& Shafiq Saqr Mansour.

- The young man, Pierre Hariq, was also injured as a result of the cowardly targeting.
- Four masked gunmen riding motorcycles stormed the village of Anaz and opened fire indiscriminately near the mayor's office. Approximately 30 bullets were fired within seconds, killing two young men from the village instantly, while one survivor suffered fractures after attempting to flee. The survivor recounted shocking details to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights:

"One of the gunmen got out and shouted, 'Don't move.' The targeted young man started shouting, 'No, no,' and he opened fire immediately. I tried to jump away but fell and was hit. After confirming the two young men were dead, he emptied his bullets into their bodies before fleeing."

The attackers quickly withdrew toward the village of al-Hosn, leaving behind bloodshed and unprecedented tension among the area's residents.



Date of Attack/incident: 01 October 2025

Location of incident: Swayda, Syria
Description of incident in detail:

- Exhuming Christian Graves
- Al-Soura Al-Kabira Village, Northern Sweida Countryside
- Savage terrorists exhumed Christian graves, destroying, burning, and stealing all their belongings.
- Even the dead were not spared from their terrorism.



Recommendations:

- Calling on the United Nations and international organizations to open independent investigations into the violations.
- Ensuring the protection of Christian places of worship under Syrian and international law.
- Providing urgent humanitarian support to displaced Christians in Aleppo, Sweida, the outskirts of Homs, Hama, and the coastal areas.
- Monitoring inflammatory rhetoric and holding accountable those promoting sectarian hatred.

- [Homs – Al-Adawiya Neighborhood](#)

03/12/2025 – Hand Grenade Attack

Two masked individuals riding a motorcycle threw a hand grenade toward the beverage shop known as “Jeeb Kefak” in the Al-Adawiya neighborhood of Homs.

The explosion resulted in minor shrapnel injuries to the shop owner, who is a



member of the local Christian community, in addition to material damage to the shopfront and several nearby properties.

- [Damascus – Al-Duwaila Neighborhood](#)

05/12/2025 – Panic and Civilian Stampede

During the Christmas tree lighting event in the Al-Duwaila neighborhood of Damascus, two masked individuals raised the flag of ISIS and shouted takbir slogans, causing widespread panic among those present.

The sudden fear led to a civilian stampede, with several people falling while attempting to move away from the area amid concerns of a potential direct threat.



▪ [Damascus–Homs Highway](#)

15/12/2025 – Armed Robbery Incident

Mr. Nidal Adnan Youssef, from the town of Al-Mazina in western rural Homs, was subjected to an armed robbery at 10:30 p.m. while returning from Damascus, on the main road before the Abu Al-Ezz rest stop.

An armed group pursued him and forced him to stop under threat of weapons, then pulled him out of the vehicle by force and seized it, along with his personal ID card, a sum of money, and his mobile phone, before fleeing the scene and leaving him on the side of the road.

martyrs, while some families continue to suffer the effects of previous incidents.

▪ [As-Suwayda](#)

16/12/2025 – Christmas-Related Threats

Several Christians in As-Suwayda Governorate were subjected to threats by individuals from within the area should they proceed with Christmas celebrations.

The threats included warnings of burning Christmas trees inside homes and carrying out physical assaults against those who celebrate.

These threats came after the Church announced the cancellation of public celebrations in honor of the martyrs, while some families continue to suffer the effects of previous incidents.



▪ Homs – Al-Adawiya Neighborhood

17/12/2025 – Burning of a Christmas Tree

A Christmas tree placed on one of the streets in the AlAdawiya neighborhood of Homs was set on fire on the evening of 17 December 2025, as part of a series of recurring violations in the area.

The incident caused concern among residents, though no injuries were reported.

▪ Damascus – Bab Sharqi

18/12/2025 – Theft of a Historical Statue



The statue of Saint Paul the Apostle at the Monastery of Mar Paul in the Bab Sharqi area of Damascus was stolen by unknown individuals. The statue, estimated to be around one hundred years old, is considered a heritage piece of significant religious and historical value.

The incident caused widespread concern among members of the local Christian community due to the statue's importance and symbolism.

- [Sahnaya – Rural Damascus](#)

24/12/2025 – Burning of a Christmas Tree During Celebration

During the Christmas tree lighting event in the city of Sahnaya, four young men used fireworks and directed them toward the tree, causing it to catch fire in front of the attendees.

According to eyewitness accounts, the incident coincided with the presence of a group of strangers who shouted takbir slogans accompanied by laughter and mockery after the fire broke out.

- [Zabadani – Rural Damascus](#)



26/12/2025 – Hand Grenade Attack on a Church

At approximately 2:00 a.m., unknown individuals threw a hand grenade toward the Church of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary in the town of Zabadani.

No injuries were reported, and the damage was limited to the shattering of one of the church windows.

▪ Al-Qusayr – Rural Homs

10/01/2026 – Arson of Private Property

Three masked individuals set two cars on fire after placing rubber tires beneath them, pouring gasoline, and igniting the flames.

One of the vehicles, a Hyundai Enter, belongs to Jad Jrous, while the other, a Kia Rio, belongs to his neighbor Ali Dioub.

The perpetrators fled the scene immediately after carrying out the attack.

- [Al-Qusayr – Rural Homs](#)

18/11/2025 – Desecration of Graves in the Village of Al-Nasra



Information was received indicating that unknown individuals had exhumed graves belonging to Christian residents in the village of Al-Nasra, located in the southern countryside of Al-Qusayr in Homs Governorate.

- [Damascus – Al-Qassa’a](#)

06/11/2025 – Attempted Vandalism of a Statue in Al-Karlis Church

The statue of the Virgin Mary in Al-Karlis Church in the Al-Qassa’a neighborhood of Damascus was subjected to an attempted act of vandalism by unknown individuals. A threatening message was also found written on the church’s interior wall, reading:

“There will be no polytheists left in the land of al-Sham... our meeting is soon, you swine of the cross.”



▪ Mhardeh – Hama Countryside

2026\2\5

The clinic of Dr. Salwa Al_Saloum, located in the center of Mhardeh, was subjected to an armed robbery. A Range Rover stopped in front of the clinic in broad daylight, and two individuals stepped out of the vehicle.

One of them pointed a firearm at the doctor and threatened her, while the other stole the amount of money inside the clinic, estimated at around 17 million Syrian pounds, before both fled the scene.



▪ [Mhardeh – Hama Countryside](#)

2026\1\31



The young man [Elie](#) Simon Teqla, 21 years old and the son of jeweler Simon Teqla, was killed in the city of Mhardeh in the Hama countryside after being shot by masked assailants who were driving a Kia Rio.

▪ [Aleppo – Al-Sulaymaniyah District](#)

2026\2\11

At 2:00 a.m., the Al_Sulaymaniyah district in Aleppo witnessed an attack targeting the **“Happy Family”** liquor shop, after unknown individuals threw a grenade at the location. This marks the second incident against the same shop, following a previous attack with a sound grenade on **1 February 2026**.

The latest explosion resulted in serious injuries to a Christian young man identified as **“Elias”**, who sustained severe wounds to his legs and was transported to a hospital for treatment, in addition to material damage to the shop.



▪ [Qatana – Rural Damascus](#)

2026\2\14

Harassment and provocation of Christian residents through offensive remarks targeting their faith in front of Our Lady of Deliverance Syriac Catholic Church.

▪ [Damascus – Al_Zablatani](#)

18/02/2026

Communication was lost with **Ammar Joseph Samaan** on Wednesday at 9:00 p.m., while he was driving from **Khashkoul toward Al-Zablatani** to reach his grandfather's house. Available information indicates that he was driving a gold **Opel** with the plate number **934629**.



▪ **Wadi al-Nasara – Homs Countryside**

Concerns are rising in **Wadi al-Nasara** following the closure of civil registry offices in al_Nasra, al_Hosn, and al_Hawash, a move activists say undermines the administrative structure of the largest cohesive Christian community in Syria.

Activist Robert Layzig warned that these measures threaten the region's stability and called for coordinated action inside Syria and abroad, noting the launch of a Syrian-American Christian political lobby to safeguard Christian presence and rights.

The "Nasra Online" platform also voiced objections to transferring the al-Nasra and al-Hawash courts to Talkalakh, warning of the impact of relocating services away from an area that includes over 43 towns and around 150,000 residents, stressing that the negative consequences outweigh any stated justifications.

- [Christians in the New Syria: Accepted but at Risk](#)

This article was authored **by Haroun Y. Zelin** and published **on 10 December 2025**. It addresses violations targeting Christians following the fall of the Assad regime.

- [Media Documentation](#)

Alhurra TV aired a video report on (2026/2/11) highlighting a series of violations committed against Christian citizens in the area. The report shows clear overlap between several of the cases it presents and those previously documented in this file, which reinforces the credibility of the information and indicates the persistence of the same pattern of abuses.

The report also provides additional details and alternative angles that shed light on the nature of these violations and their impact on the local community in the affected areas.

- These developments come amid a clear escalation in the violations targeting Christian citizens, accompanied by growing fears within the local community. This issue is no longer confined to individual testimonies or local reports; it has increasingly drawn the attention of international media outlets, reflecting the seriousness of the situation and the widening circle of concern surrounding it. The coverage of these violations by international media, including Alhurra, does not reflect mere journalistic interest; rather, it reveals the magnitude of the shock these incidents provoke and the growing severity of the situation. The fact that the issue has reached this level of media attention confirms that the abuses targeting Christian citizens are no longer a local matter that can be overlooked, but a pressing concern at both the regional and international levels. This expanding attention underscores a deepening awareness of the suffering experienced by Christians and places an ethical and legal responsibility on the relevant authorities to act immediately and put an end to these violations, which leave a profound impact on the social fabric.