**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 its evolution scenarios. The institution strives to improve civil society performance, and to promote awareness on democracy, equality and human rights. Harmoon Center is one of the Doha based Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies institutions.

**Harmoon Observatory:**

Harmoon Observatory monitors the most important developments of the various aspects of the conflict in Syria, from political and military, to economic and societal aspects, covering different areas and regions through a network of field monitors. This is in order to create an up-to-date knowledge for researchers and provide decision makers with a reflection of the most significant developments.
Harmoon Observatory
September 2021 report
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Executive Summary

- The month of September saw Arab political moves towards the Syrian regime, the most prominent of them were the Jordanian-Syrian government meetings, which led to the opening of common borders for daily movement of individuals and goods. Also, several meetings took place at the ministerial level, in the halls of the United Nations, most notably the meetings of the regime's foreign minister, Faisal Miqdad with foreign ministers of both Egypt and Tunisia.

- Political activity related to the Syrian issue focused on the meetings of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which were held by US officials between the delegation of the National Coalition and the Negotiating Body, and the delegation of the Syrian democratic forces.

- On September 28, the UN Special Envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, briefed the Security Council on the agreement of the Syrian parties to hold a new meeting of the Constitutional Committee in Geneva, as of October 18.

- The United Nations resumed dissemination of the number of casualties in Syria, after a hiatus of seven years, announcing the deaths of more than 350 thousand Syrians, since the outbreak of the revolution in March 2011.

- UN organizations continued to pressure the Syrian regime regarding its chemical program, coinciding with calls to hold the regime accountable for using chemical weapons against Syrians.

- The International Criminal Police Organization “Interpol” has re-granted the Syrian regime the right to access its communication network. This initiative prompted activists from the Opposition and Syrian human rights activists to denounce the move, and warn of its repercussions on Syrians’ asylum requests and on the safety of the Syrians abroad. According to them, it allows the Syrian regime to track Syrian opponents and refugees around the world and to list them on the Red Notice for wanted persons.

- The United States renewed its denial of reports that the withdrawal of its forces from Syria is imminent, similar to Afghanistan.

- The central committees representing the people of Daraa reached a settlement agreement with the Syrian regime, under the auspices of Russia, after more than two months of the regime’s continuous bombing of the city. The same terms of
the agreement were applied to a number of areas in the western countryside of Daraa.

- ISIS fighters continued their attacks against the regime forces and militias. Clashes and bombardments also occurred between the SDF forces and the “National Army”, with the return of improvised explosive devices in opposition-controlled areas, and the continuation of violations and arrests by both the regime and (SDF). There were also casualties.

- No change worth noting in the control maps in the Syrian inside during the month of September 2021, with continuous shelling on the areas of Idlib from Russian troops and the regime’s army and militias.

- The pace of Israeli bombing of Syrian sites went down, for the third consecutive month, as only one attack was recorded during the month of September.

- The Putin-Erdogan meeting in Sochi did not result in agreements regarding Idlib. Forces of both Russia and the Regime continue to mobilize.

- The Turkish army has reinforced its positions in the military observation points on the eastern and southern lines of the Jabal al-Zawiya area with heavy artillery, tanks, armored vehicles and soldiers. These events followed Erdogan’s meeting with Putin in Sochi.

- There was a significant increase in infections and deaths from the Corona virus, in Northern Syria, where the Harmoon monitors recorded 31820 infections, 148 deaths, and hundreds of infections with the “delta” variant, amid poor preparations from the medical sector, whereas the Syrian regime and the “Autonomous Administration” continued to conceal the truth about the number of infections and deaths in their areas of control.

- “The United Nations World Food Program” announce the reduction of the amount of food in a basket of humanitarian aid, in the area north-west of Syria, starting from October. The Harmoon Center monitoring team recorded a noticeable decline in the number of UN humanitarian relief truck convoys entering the Syrian north from the Turkish border, for the second month in a row, as the team recorded the entry of about 400 relief trucks, while the number was about a thousand trucks per month.

- The citizens continue to suffer from their living conditions, as a result of the economic policies of the Syrian regime, the rise in prices and the lack of services, despite the stability of the exchange rate of the Syrian pound.
• Syria markets saw a decline in commercial traffic, despite stability in the prices of basic materials.

• A significant increase was noted in the number of migrants and asylum seekers among Syrians during the month of September, especially in regime-controlled areas, by sea towards Europe, and by land towards Syrian opposition-controlled areas.

• Increasing numbers of businessmen who migrate to other countries, due to the unfavorable conditions for investment and production, and due to the regime constantly blackmailing them.

• A remarkable increase has been recorded in the number of factories of Capta-gon pills and narcotics in Syria. The factories manufacturing this substance are concentrated in Western Qalamoun, Aleppo, Al-bukamal and Daraa.
Monitoring Report for the month of September 2021
1. Political Report:

**United nations:**

- In an interview with Russian “Novosti” agency on September 17, UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez said that the strategic interests of Russia and the United States regarding Syria are identical, and he hoped that there would be more cooperation between the two countries.

- On the Second of September, the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Izumi Nakamitsu, called on the Syrian regime authorities to “fully cooperate” with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons so as to expose the toxic weapons stockpile, at a time when Washington called on the Security Council to take long overdue measures, under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter to punish the Syrian regime, a suggestion which Moscow quickly rejected.

- On September 23, The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, announced, in an oral intervention before the Human Rights Council during the forty-eighth session meetings of the Council in Geneva, that 350,209 people have been killed in the Syrian war, between March 2011 and March 2021, including 26,727 women and 27,126 children, noting that the largest number of killings was recorded in the Aleppo governorate, followed by the Damascus countryside, then Homs, Idlib, and Hama.

- The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria submitted a report on the human rights situation in Syria to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. The report stated that the war against civilians in Syria is still ongoing, and that the time is not appropriate for the refugees to return.

- Starting September, the World Food Program WFP reduced the contents of the food basket provided to the displaced Syrians in all regions, including northwest Syria, and the new caloric value of the basket is 309 calories per day.
United States:

- On September 28, US State Department Deputy Spokesman Jelena Porter confirmed in a statement that the US administration is reviewing the Jordan decision to announce the resumption of commercial flights to Syria.

- White House officials assured to the delegation of the “Syrian Democratic Council” visiting Washington, that President Joe Biden’s administration is committed to its partnership with the “Syrian Democratic Forces”, and that the administration supports the forces’ stay in the region until the final elimination of (ISIS) and its remnants, as well as the stability of the region.

- In a statement carried by Russian media agencies, the US Department of Defense denied Iranian media reports that talked about the withdrawal of US forces from some of their military bases in Syria, at a time when talk has become popular about the possibility of an American withdrawal from Syria, similar to what happened in Afghanistan.

- The Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haynes, considered that the greatest threat to her country from international terrorism stems from countries such as “Yemen, Somalia, Syria and Iraq”, not Afghanistan, following the international controversy over Washington’s sudden withdrawal from Afghanistan and the Taliban’s control of the country.

- Following the Kurds’ fear in Northern and Eastern Syria of an American withdrawal from the country, the spokesman for the International Coalition, Colonel Martin Maroto, said: The mission of the coalition in Syria and Iraq has not changed, and it is to cooperate with partners to fight the ISIS organization.

- The US Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Joey Hood, said in an exclusive interview with Al-Hurra channel that his country’s mission in “Afghanistan has been completed”, while the US military presence in Iraq and northern Syria “will remain.”

- On September 25, the US ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas Greenfield, called on the international community to put pressure on Russia and Iran, until the Syrian regime is held accountable for its crimes committed against Syrian civilians since 2011.

- The international coalition led by the United States of America against ISIS in Iraq and Syria has warned that the “Al-Hol” camp, located in the eastern countryside of Al-Hasakah, will become an “incubator” for extremists supporting the terrorist organization.
European Union:

- On September 9, a French appeals court upheld the 4-year prison sentence imposed by the Correctional Court against Rifaat al-Assad (Bashar al-Assad’s uncle) in a case of fraudulently collected assets, valued at 90 million Euros, between apartments, palaces and horse farms.

- The European Union unveiled a new financial aid package to support Turkey in facing the refugee burden, as part of its efforts to extend the migration agreement and readmission of refugees signed with Turkey, on March 18, 2016.

Turkey:

- President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Sochi, on September 29, to discuss joint files, especially those related to the Syrian issue and the bombing escalation in Idlib. No concrete results were announced.

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan considered the Syrian regime a threat to his country’s southern borders, hoping the Russian President would change his approach in this regard.

- Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said that Turkey is currently witnessing better cooperation from the international community for the safe return of refugees.

- The Turkish University of Gaziantep intends to open a group of engineering faculties in the regions of northern Syria, to train Syrian engineers who will contribute to building their country in the future.

Russia:

- Russian President Vladimir Putin received Bashar al-Assad in the Russian capital on an unannounced visit. Putin said he was doing his best to establish a dialogue between political opponents.

- During their meeting in Sochi, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan renewed their commitments to the previous agreements on Syria.
The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the Russian President’s Special Envoy to the Middle East and Africa, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov, received a delegation from the “Syrian Democratic Council”, headed by the leader, Ilham Ahmed, amid the “Kurdish Autonomous Administration’s” concern of an imminent withdrawal of US forces from Syria, similar to what happened in Afghanistan.

In a session of talks with his Israeli counterpart, Yair Lapid, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov revealed the formation of a “military mechanism” to resolve differences between the two countries regarding the Iranian presence in Syria.

**Iran:**

On September 22, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met in New York with Syrian Foreign Minister Faisal Miqdad, and extended an invitation to Miqdad to visit Tehran, with the aim of developing economic relations and discussing regional and international issues of common interest.

Major General Gholam Ali Rashid, a commander in the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, said that the former commander of the Revolutionary Guards, Qassem Suleimani, confirmed, three months before his assassination, in a meeting with commanders of the armed forces, that he had organized 6 armies outside Iranian territory, including an army in Syria.

Dozens of Iranian fuel tanks from Iraq arrived in Deir ez-Zor Governorate, to be transferred to the “Hezbollah” militia in Lebanon, after some of them were distributed to the “Fatimiyoun” militia.

Attempts by the Lebanese “Hezbollah” militia to buy lands in the western Qalamoun, specifically the Tufail and Assal al-Ward area. The attempts coincided with news of an Iranian goal that “Hezbollah” seeks to implement, which is to shift the Masnaa border crossing with Lebanon to the Tufail area, a Gateway to the Shiite region between Lebanon and Syria.

Adviser to the Minister of Defense and Chairman of the Iranian Economic Cooperation Council, Eng. Mustafa Dhabbi, held several meetings with the Syrian Minister of Internal Trade, Amr Salem, in Damascus, to discuss economic cooperation and exchange trade relations between the two countries.

The deputy head of the Syrian-Iranian Chamber of Commerce described eco-
nomic relations with Syria as “slow”, blaming the Syrian side for this, saying that “the economic benefits of Syria go to Russia, and to other countries.”

**Arab countries:**

- The Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, stressed that the Arab countries did not agree on the return of the Syrian regime to the Arab League, at a time when Russia is actively trying to pass the return of the regime, to restore Arab legitimacy to the Syrian regime.

- Jordan announced the reopening of the Jordanian - Syrian border (Houdoud Jaber point) as of Wednesday September, 29.

- Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hala Zawati revealed that the Syrian regime will obtain gas and electricity (and not financial return), in exchange for facilitating the project of bringing Egyptian gas to Lebanon through Syrian territory.

- The Jordanian Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Major General Yousef Al-Hunaiti, met in Amman, the Syrian Defense Minister, General Ali Ayoub, in the first visit of its kind since the revolution outbreak.

- The Syrian Foreign Minister, Faisal Miqdad, met the foreign ministers of Egypt and Tunisia, in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings. This is the first meeting of the Syrian Foreign Minister with some of his Arab counterparts.

- UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrou’i affirmed his country’s readiness to contribute to the reconstruction of Syria. This was during the opening of the Fifth Arab Water Forum, which was held in the UAE.

- The Iraqi Security Media Cell announced the arrest of 21 people, near the Syrian border, who were in possession of weapons and ammunition, after they infiltrated Iraqi territory.

- During a meeting with a delegation from the Foreign Affairs Committee of the US Congress, headed by Senator Christopher Murphy, in Beirut, the Lebanese Parliament Speaker, Nabih Berri, called for excluding Lebanon from the ban on import and export through Syria.
Israel:

- On a September 9 visit to Moscow, the Israeli Foreign Minister confirmed that there will be no stability in Syria as long as Iran remains in it, noting that Iran’s nuclear program is a serious problem in the region. He added that Israel will not stand idly by regarding Iran’s positioning at its northern borders.

The regime:

- The Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, met with Russian President Vladimir Putin, on Tuesday, September 14, in Moscow, in a visit that was not previously announced. The meeting failed to produce any tangible result. During the meeting, Putin stated that the foreign forces that are being deployed in Syria without a UN resolution is an obstacle to the unification of the country.
- Brigadier General Hussein Jumaa, Director of the Criminal Security Department in the Syrian regime, revealed that a delegation from the General Secretariat of Interpol to Damascus will visit Syria next month, stressing that one of the most important advantages of lifting the ban on the Damascus office services is that the office can now provide Interpol services to other Syrian state institutions, notably immigration, passport procedures, general customs and border crossings, all related to the issue of car smuggling and to the fingerprints database for the most wanted in the world.
- The Syrian Foreign Minister, Faisal Miqdad, called on Turkey to immediately withdraw its forces from the northern Syrian lands, considering that the main reason for the recent escalation in Idlib governorate is “the Turkish presence and Ankara’s support to the armed groups on the ground.”
- Media sources loyal to the Syrian regime revealed that Syria’s Board of Commissioners of the Securities and Financial Markets Authority issued decisions imposing penalties on 6 companies for their delay in submitting financial statements.
- A newspaper affiliated with the Syrian regime, quoting Zubaida Shammout, head of anesthesiologists in the Syrian Doctors Syndicate, reported that there are only 4 anesthesiologists left under the age of thirty, with all the new graduates emigrating from the regime-controlled areas.
- Regime-controlled areas are witnessing the migration of a large number of Syrian industrialists to many other countries, due to the unfavorable investment
climate, the lack of various production requirements, especially energy and foreign exchange, and the Ministry of Finance ramping up pressure on them by imposing higher taxes, in addition to the narrowness of the Syrian market, due to widespread poverty and exporting difficulties.

- The emigration of young people from regime-controlled areas has increased, as Harmoon monitors recorded the opening of offices by people close to the Syrian regime to ensure entry visas to several countries, including Egypt. These offices are witnessing hundreds of young people crowding to travel, in addition to the increase in illegal immigration trips across the sea, mediated by offices opened by Al-Assad family relatives in Lattakia and Tartus.

**Syrian opposition:**

- On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, First Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Joey Hood and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ethan Goldrich met in New York with a delegation from the Syrian Opposition that included the head of the Syrian National Coalition, Salem al-Maslat, and the head of the Syrian Negotiations Committee, Anas Al-Abdah, and the two Vice-Presidents of the Coalition, Ruba Habbush and Abdul-Ahad Astifu, as well as Badr Jamous, member of the Political Committee of the Coalition and Head of the Foreign Relations Office of the Negotiations Committee.

- The head of the Syrian coalition, Salem Al-Maslat, called on the United States to further escalate against the Syrian regime, to force it to make a political transition.

- The delegation of the Syrian National Coalition to the United States of America met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, and his accompanying delegation, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings. The two sides discussed the latest events and the political process in Syria.

- A joint delegation of the Syrian National Coalition and the Syrian Negotiations Committee held intensive meetings with delegations of Arab and foreign countries in the United States of America, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly, to discuss the latest developments in Syria’s situation.

- The General Secretariat of the “Kurdish National Council” said that the peaceful protests that it organized in the city of Qamishli, northeastern Syria, were attacked by security elements of the “Asayish” militia affiliated with the “Syrian
Democratic Forces”, and restrictions were imposed on the participants’ freedom of voicing up their concerns about their livelihood.

- The Kurdish National Council in Syria condemned, in a statement, the “Autonomous Administration” disregard for the people and their demands, and requested/demanded the annulment of an “undeclared” decision to raise fuel prices in the region, revealing “the greed of those who take the administration as a cover for monopoly and control of people’s power and destiny. “

- The “Syrian Interim Government” stated that it had recently stepped up its efforts with the aim of imposing strict measures on the “National Army” to bring it into compliance with international humanitarian law; mainly by implementing a set of decisions taken in cooperation with the Violations Documentation and Human Rights Department, since it is the body responsible for Coordination of human rights issues in the Syrian Interim Government.

- The Prime Minister of the Syrian Interim Government, Abd al-Rahman Mustafa, accepted the resignation of Major General Salim Idris from his position as Minister of Defense and Chief of Staff of the Syrian National Army.
2. Military and Security report

**United States:**

- The United States of America claimed responsibility for an air strike near Idlib, on September 20, targeting “Salim Abu Ahmed”, the leader of “Al-Qaeda” organization.

- In Al-Jasmi village in the northern countryside of Deir Ez-Zor, a force of the International Coalition carried out an airdrop operation, during which it raided what are known as “Salloum Houses” in the Al-Hawi neighborhood.

**Russia:**

- The Russian forces and the Syrian regime army continued their daily bombardment by air strikes and artillery of areas in Idlib, Aleppo countryside, Hama and Lattakia. The bombing resulted in civilian casualties and in the displacement of dozens of families from the villages of Jabal al-Zawiya in the southern Idlib countryside.

- In a new development, Russian warplanes targeted, during the month of September, the vicinity of Afrin several times, which led to the killing of fighters of the “Syrian Liberation Front” supported by Turkey.

- Russian media revealed that a Russian reconnaissance drone ZALA 421-16E5G has been tested above Idlib, and published pictures of accurate monitoring operations over Turkish military bases, and military vehicles of the factions stationed on the contact lines in Jabal al-Zawiya.

- The Russian Ministry of Defense announced the killing of a soldier in its forces in Syria, following an explosion targeting an armored vehicle in Homs Governorate.
Iran and its militias:

- On September 14, unknown aircraft bombed sites and ammunition vehicles belonging to the “Sayyid Al-Shuhada Brigades” militia, near the vehicle garage in the village of Al-Here, on the outskirts of Al-Bukamal city, killing 4 members of the militia affiliated with the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

- "Qais al-Khazaali", leader of the “Aasa’ib Ahl al-Haq” militia in Iraq, accused “Israel” of attacking points belonging to the “Popular Mobilization” militia in the city of al-Qaim on the border strip between Iraq and Syria, and criticized the Iraqi official silence towards these attacks.

- The Iranian Revolutionary Guards appointed the Iranian leader, nicknamed “Hajj Hussein”, as a new commander of the "Fatimiyoun Brigade" militia, in the city of Deir Ez-Zor and its countryside. The "Fatimiyoun Brigade" is a militia made up of Afghan mercenaries recruited by Iran.

- The Afghan “Fatimiyoun Brigade” militia transported dozens of its members, in addition to weapons and ammunition, from its warehouses in Aleppo Governorate, to its headquarters in Deir Ez-Zor, using means of transportation belonging to the Syrian regime’s internal transport company.

Turkey:

- Turkish Defense Minister Halousi Akar, along with other leaders, arrived at the border with Syria, hours after two Turkish soldiers were killed in an explosive device explosion in Idlib province.

- A Turkish officer was killed and others wounded, in a bombing targeting a Turkish base in the vicinity of Al-Bab city, east of Aleppo. Ankara accused the “Syrian Democratic Forces” (SDF).

- Two Syrian young men died as a result of being severely beaten by Turkish border guards, while trying to cross the Syrian-Turkish border, north of the Suluk area in the northern countryside of Raqqa.

- Turkey announced the targeting of a member of the Central Committee of the Kurdistan Workers’ Party, Engin Karaslan, with a drone, in the center of the city of Qamishli.
Israel:

- On September 3, Israeli warplanes bombed sites of the Syrian regime army and its militias, in Jemraya in the Damascus countryside, thus causing a number of dead and wounded.

- The Israeli army announced the downing of an Israeli reconnaissance drone, in Syrian territory, during a “routine” operation.

The Regime:

- The Syrian regime and Russian forces continued their mobilization and bombardment of areas in Idlib, Hama countryside and Lattakia countryside, in a continuous escalation for more than two months.

- The regime forces deployed in the countryside of Homs a number of “flying” patrols and checkpoints, and arrested eight young men in the vicinity of Talbiseh. Reasons for the arrest remained unknown.

- On Wednesday, September 8, Syrian security forces carried out a campaign of arrests that included a number of merchants in the city of Aleppo, northern Syria, after some of them closed their businesses and factories.

- Violent robberies and murders using firearms and bombs have remarkably increased in the Syrian regime-controlled areas, the most prominent of which was the explosion of a bomb on “Mulham Muhammad”, a lawyer close to the regime, at the door of the Justice Palace in Tartus, due to family disputes between him and the regime, which led to the death of the lawyer and wounding of the bomb thrower and a number of people, including police officers.

- Seven soldiers of the Syrian regime forces were killed, and three others were wounded, after they were attacked by unknown gunmen in the Yarmouk Valley in the western countryside of Daraa.

- Al-Assad forces continued their deployment in the countryside of Daraa, after the “settlement” agreements they had concluded with the central committees representing the people of Daraa governorate.

- One person was killed and nine others were injured, in a fire that broke out in the “Pearl of the Orient” hotel, in the Sayyeda Zeinab suburb, south of Damascus.
The regime authorities continued their campaign to stifle voices criticizing the government’s performance, as the security services arrested a number of tweeters and journalists, including Waheed Yazbek (Radio City correspondent) in Homs, and Younis Suleiman, because of his Facebook posts.

Daraa’s security situation:

- After more than two months of escalation, siege and bombardment in Daraa, representatives of the city’s residents reached a settlement agreement with the Syrian regime, under Russian auspices. The agreement was implemented on the first of September 2021, when dozens of wanted men began handing over light weapons, and allowing those who rejected the settlement to leave Daraa al-Balad city. The settlement expires in April of next year.

- The agreement stipulates that those who have failed to serve in the regime army should turn themselves in, provided that they get enrolled in the Eighth Brigade in Russia’s Fifth Corps. The agreement also stipulates the deployment of 9 regime checkpoints, four of which to be located inside Daraa al-Balad, and five points in its vicinity, provided that the number of members, at each checkpoint, be between 15 and 20, and that the task of the checkpoints is to maintain security only, not arrest or carry out raids. Also, the inspection process will be limited to identities only, meaning there will be no inspections of homes or building. According to the agreement, visible weapons will not be allowed in the area, and the manifestation of support to the Syrian revolution, such as flags, slogans, writings, and demonstrations, will be prevented.

- During the month of September, Russia resumed its efforts to conclude settlements in the western countryside of Daraa similar to the one of Daraa al-Balad. As a result, the process of “settling the statuses” of those wanted by the Syrian regime took place in the towns of Mzayrib and Tafas, and negotiations are still ongoing to include the same terms in Al-Jassim and al-Naima agreements.

As-Suwayda Governorate:

- Hundreds of fighters of the “Men of Dignity Movement” with an anti-regime orientation blocked the roads leading to the regime’s military security branch in the city of As-Suwayda, following disputes between members of the movement and the pro-Syrian government Raji Falhout faction.
Security chaos continues in As-Suwayda governorate, which witnessed during September clashes and kidnappings between local armed factions and armed groups considered by the local factions to be loyal to the regime. The clashes resulted in the killings of 8 people, 7 of them are civilians, including two women; the eighth victim belongs to the armed groups.

On September 12, the city of Al-Qurayya witnessed an armed clash between fighters from local militias and members of the Military Security, against the background of mutual kidnappings between the militia of the Syrian Brigade Party and a group affiliated with the Military Intelligence Division in the village. No casualties were recorded.

Jihadist Factions:

According to private media sources in Deir Ez-Zor, a man going by the nickname “Al-Hajj Abdul-Azim” has been appointed as a field commander for the Islamic State “ISIS” in Deir Ez-Zor, with the aim of coordinating the organization’s operations in the region. The city has recently witnessed a decline in ISIS operations, as a result of mass arrests carried out by the international coalition forces supported by the “Syrian Democratic Forces”.

A number of members of the Syrian regime forces were killed in clashes and attacks launched by the “Islamic State” organization (ISIS) in separate areas of the Syrian desert.

The “Islamic State” organization claimed responsibility for detonating the gas pipeline, near Damascus, between the Tishreen and Deir Ali thermal stations and two electricity towers belonging to the Deir Ali station, which led to a power outage in the entire southern region.

Eleven fighters of the Russian-backed “Palestinian Al-Quds Brigade” militia were killed in an ambush carried out by the “Islamic State” organization in the Syrian desert, east of Homs.

The prominent leader of Al-Qaeda «Salim Abu Ahmed”, was killed in an air strike from a drone, in the Idlib region, targeting his car on the (Binnish) road.
Autonomous Administration (SDF):

- The Kurdish National Council in Syria announced the kidnapping of “Nashat Zaza”, one of the council’s cadres, at the hands of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) gunmen while he was entering Syria. The Council also announced that its office in the city of Ad-Darbasiyah was attacked by armed militants of the Democratic Union Party (PYD).

- A device exploded in the car of «Mahmoud Hussein Alito», the former head of the local council in Tal Rifaat, which led to his injury.

- A group of the “Revolutionary Youth” affiliated with the Democratic Union Party (PYD), along with the Democratic Society Movement, attacked with sticks and stones a demonstration that took place in the city of Qamishli against the rise in fuel prices in the “Autonomous Administration” areas. They also beat media professionals and demonstrators.

- The SDF has transferred the third batch of Iraqi ISIS members from Al-Sina’a prison to security detention centers in the city of Al-Shaddadi in the southern countryside of Al-Hasakah.

- The spokesman for the People’s Protection Units, Nuri Mahmoud, said that their military forces and (the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria) are ready to establish good relations with all political parties as well as with international and regional powers, including Turkey.

- The statements of Aldar Khalil, a member of the co-chair of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) sparked angry reactions by Kurdish activists, after describing the displaced people returning to the Afrin region as “Turkey’s political mercenaries.”

- The Autonomous Administration issued a decision on September 4, in which it determined the births required for recruitment into the ranks of the “Syrian Democratic Forces / SDF” and its police and intelligence, in the regions of northern and eastern Syria, while exempting an age group of children under the age of 1998 from serving the “duty of self-defense “. 
National Army Factions in Northern Syria:

- Factions in the Syrian National Army/Opposition announced their complete merger, and the formation of the “Syrian Liberation Front”, which is constituted of the following factions: Al-Mu’tasim Division, Al-Hamza Division, 20th Division, Suqur Al-Shamal Brigade, Sultan Suleiman Shah Division. Other factions also declared their merger under “Tha’iroun Movement” and they are: The Sultan Murad Division, the Sham Legion - the North Sector, the Levant Revolutionaries, the Muntasir Billah Division, in addition to the First Division, with its components: the North Brigade, the Ninth Division, and 112th Brigade.

- Clashes took place on the outskirts of the city of Afrin, between the Hamza Division and a military group affiliated with a former leader of this very Hamza Division.

- The city of Aazaz witnessed clashes between gunmen from the “Al-Mawali” clan and the Levant Front faction, but no casualties were recorded.

- A number of civilians were killed and others injured, in explosions with improvised explosive devices and car bombs, in Atarib, Aazaz, Jarabulus, Al-Bab and Afrin, in Aleppo.

- A media source from the Kafr Losin camps in northern Idlib said that the security apparatus of “Tahrir al-Sham” arrested the two brothers (Mohammed and Bashar al-Sheikh), without disclosing the reasons for the arrest.

- In September, artillery and missile shelling, originating from the countryside of Aleppo, mainly, the areas controlled by the “Syrian Democratic Forces” and the regime forces, targeted other areas of the countryside of Aleppo, most notably Baysh Jurn, Saab, Yaran and the village of Sheikh Nasser, near Al-Bab city.

- The Anti-Narcotics Agency in the city of Aazaz in the northern countryside of Aleppo announced the arrest of 3 people in possession of 80,000 narcotic pills.

- A report by the Syrian Network for Human Rights said that the young man, “Ahmed Hussein Satouf,” aged 30, was killed under torture in the prisons of the “Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham” group, which is classified on the Western terrorist lists, after he was arrested for seven months on charges of belonging to the “Syrian Democratic Forces».

- The “Syrian National Army” arrested a cell, which it described as a “terrorist party affiliated with (PKK), on charges of smuggling weapons from the areas of influence of the “National Army” to the areas controlled by the “Syrian Demo-
ocratic Forces” (SDF).

- “The Unified Operations Room (Azm) announced the arrest of a cell affiliated with the “Islamic State”. Azm described the cell as “one of the most dangerous terrorist ISIS cells, in the areas of northwestern Syria”. It also said “The cell carried out more than 30 assassinations and bombings in the northern countryside of Aleppo.”

Military Development Index:
Security Event Index:

- Security incidents include all kinds of bombing, shooting, car bomb explosions, landmines, assassinations and arrests.
• Idlib returned to the top of the security events index, with 193 security incidents recorded during the current monitored month.

• There is a clear decrease in the pace of security incidents recorded in Daraa governorate in southern Syria.

• Aleppo maintains an almost constant level of security incidents being recorded per month.

• There is a clear increase in the frequency of security incidents recorded in Northern Syria,

• The central and coastal regions of Syria still record a low level (within the green areas on the index) of security incidents, for the fourth month in a row.
Artillery shelling is still the most recorded security incident, with more than 45% of the total incidents during the month, knowing that 80% of this bombing is concentrated in the governorates of Idlib, Aleppo and Hama.

A 94% decrease is observed in the number of protests registered during the month of September, compared to the previous month.

There was an increase of 32.5% in the shooting rate in all parts of Syria, compared to the previous month.
Artillery shelling is the most recorded security event in areas controlled by the regime and areas of the armed opposition factions, during the current monitoring month, while arrests are the most recorded security event in SDF-controlled areas with 54 arrests, or approximately 70% of the total arrests recorded throughout Syria for the month of September 2021.

A relative decrease is observed in the number of shooting cases recorded during the current monitoring month, in the areas controlled by the armed opposition factions, with a total of 13 cases, compared to 46 and 45 cases of shootings recorded in the areas controlled by the Syrian regime and SDF control areas, respectively.

The areas under the control of the armed opposition factions are the most vulnerable to aerial bombardment, as 49 cases of aerial bombardment were recorded there during the month of September 2021, or approximately 70% of all aerial bombardment events in Syria.
Regime forces are still at the top of the list of those responsible for the security events that were monitored during the month of September 2021, and a 31% increase in the number of incidents for which the armed opposition factions are responsible was noted during the current monitoring month, compared to the previous month.

Increase of more than double the percentage is observed in security incidents, during the current monitoring month, for which unknown parties are responsible.
There is a 16% increase in the total security incidents recorded during the current monitoring month, compared to the previous month.

There is a clear increase in the number of civilian sites targeted during the current monitoring month, 308 buildings, compared to 118 civilian sites targeted during the previous month.

There is a noticeable decline in the number of military sites targeted in Daraa governorate, where only 15 military sites were targeted during the current monitoring month, compared to 115 sites last month, in conjunction with a slight increase, by about 10%, in the number of civilian sites targeted in Daraa.
There is a clear increase in the number of sites targeted by the regime forces throughout Syria, by more than 200%, compared to last month.

There is a clear increase in the percentage of armed opposition factions targeting civilian sites during the current monitoring month, compared to the previous month.
• The trend line of the number of security incidents during one month still indicates a clear increase in number of incidents, from one month to another, knowing that August 2021 recorded a decrease of about 10% in the total security incidents, compared to the previous month, with September recording an increase of about 16%.

• The observatory recorded an increase in the percentage of targeted sites, in general, throughout Syria, during the month of September 2021, compared to the previous month. In fact, September’s percentages returned to what they were approximately in July. There was definitely an increase in the number and percentage of targeted civilian sites during the month of September.
It is noted that more than 65% of the total civilian sites targeted are located in the areas controlled by the armed opposition factions, bearing in mind that the percentage of civilian sites for the targeted military sites in these areas does not exceed 17%.

**Victims and violations:**

- Harmoon Observatory recorded in September the killing of at least 77 Syrians, including 71 civilians, including 20 children, 6 women, and 4 victims of torture.

- Unknown parties killed the largest number of victims, amounting to 32 victims, 19 of them, including 11 children and two women, succumbed to the explosion of battle remnants from shells and mines, while the rest of them died in kidnappings and shootings. The documentation team was unable to determine the responsible party.

- Eleven people, including two children, were killed in the Russian forces’ bombings on the countryside of Idlib and Aleppo. The regime forces killed 10 civilians, including 3 children, one woman and a detainee under torture. Also, 5 civilians,
including two women and a child, were killed in a joint bombing of Al-Assad forces and Russia on the city of Idlib.

- The “Syrian Democratic Forces” militia killed 8 civilians, including a child and a detainee under torture, while the International Coalition forces and the “SDF” militia, killed 3 civilians during airdrops in Deir Ez-Zor countryside.

- Three civilians were killed by the Turkish border guards. Also 3 civilians were killed by Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham, including a girl and a detainee under torture. Add to them, two civilians, one of whom was killed under torture at the hands of the Syrian National Army. Moreover, a child and a woman were shot by armed men, and a man was killed by the “Islamic State” organization “ISIS.”
**Victims Index:**

- For the month of September, we note that Deir Ez-Zor governorate has risen on the civilian casualties’ index, as it is the only governorate within the red index of casualties for this monitoring month.

- A clear decrease is observed in the number of victims who died in Daraa governorate, during the current monitoring month, with a decrease of approximately 70%, compared to the previous month in which 29 victims were recorded in Daraa.
• A decrease of more than 65% is noted in the number of victims recorded in the governorates of Hama and Raqqa during the current monitoring month, compared to the previous month.

• There is a noticeable decrease in the number of victims who were killed by artillery shelling (9) during the current monitoring month, as the number was 21 victims in the last month, so a decrease of 57% was recorded.

• There is no significant change in the ratio of the victim distribution by categories, within the month of September 2021, compared to the previous monitoring report.
• The number of child victims fell to less than half, compared to last August.
There is a decrease in the number of civilian casualties in all Syria, by 37% compared to the previous two months, and by 42% compared to June of 2021.
3. Economic and livelihood report

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

- Harmoon monitors recorded a significant increase in the number of infections and deaths from the Corona virus, in the areas of northern Syria and camps for displaced people, where Harmoon monitors recorded 31820 injuries with 19174 in Idlib, and 148 deaths, and hundreds of injuries with the “delta” variant, amid warnings of collapse in the medical sector, a severe shortage of oxygen cylinders, and the full occupancy of beds in hospitals and medical centers.

- The United Nations World Food Program has announced a reduction in the amount of food in the humanitarian aid basket in northwestern Syria, starting next October.

- The Harmoon Center monitoring team recorded a noticeable decline in the number of UN humanitarian relief truck convoys entering into northern Syria from the Turkish border, for the second month in a row, as it recorded the entry of about 400 relief trucks, while the number was about a thousand trucks per month.

- The Qatar Red Crescent continued to send the medical convoy for general surgery and oncology surgery, for the benefit of displaced Iraqis and Syrian refugees, at Rizgary Teaching Hospital, in Erbil Governorate, Iraq.

- The Kuwaiti Red Crescent continued its campaign of dialysis and the distribution of loaves of bread to Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

- The Turkish Relief Agency İHH announced the resumption of its campaigns to distribute bread in the cities of northern Syria: Afrin, Aazaz, al-Bab, Jarabulus, Tal Abyad, Ras al-Ain and Idlib.

- Humanitarian organizations operating in northwestern Syria issued a statement to warn about the imminent collapse of the health sector due to the Corona pandemic, and called for the imposition of preventative measures.

- On September 14, the firefighting teams of the Syrian Civil Defense put out a number of fires in camps for the displaced and in the forest areas in the village
of Goran in the Jindires district, north of Aleppo. The fires devoured dozens of forest trees within an area of 20 hectares.

- The “Salvation Government” affiliated with Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham announced the launching of a project to build the “Bab al-Hawa Industrial City”, near the border with Turkey, on an area of 5 hectares, already divided into 258 parts and subject to increase. The area of one subdivision ranges between 600 and 2000 square meters, and is constituted of roads whose width ranges between 14 and 20 meters, and where the length of a paved road network is estimated at 8 km.

**Living conditions in the regime areas:**

- The levels of salaries and monthly wages for workers in the Syrian state are still low, and are not sufficient to cover the basic living needs of the Syrian family. The salary of a university graduate employee is 79,875 Syrian pounds, which is equivalent to less than 23 US dollars per month.

- The prices of vegetables and fruits in most Syrian markets have reached high levels.

- Most of the cities in the regime’s areas witnessed a great sugar shortage with its price hike, days after a decision was issued to allocate “Syrian Trade” halls to sell non-subsidized “free sugar” for 2,200 Syrian pounds, at a rate of 3 kg per month for each family, as well as 400 grams of tea at 7,200 pounds, and 600 grams of tea at 10,800 pounds, every month.

- In Damascus markets, the price of one kilogram of sugar ranged between 3,500 and 4,000 Syrian pounds. On June 27, the “Syrian Trade Establishment” raised the price of one kilogram of rice and sugar through the “smart card” to 1,000 Syrian pounds, from the previous price of 600 Syrian pounds. (1)

- Markets in the regime areas witnessed the loss of baby milk, which led to an increase in the price of a bottle of baby milk (Nan) to 12,500 Syrian pounds, after its price was 9 thousand Syrian pounds.

- The price of a bowl of eggs in the market increased to 10,000 Syrian pounds, while the price, according to the bulletin pricing issued by the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection, reached 8300 Syrian pounds. (2)


(2) [https://alwatan.sy/archives/272961](https://alwatan.sy/archives/272961)
• The prices of milk and dairy products increased in the city of Homs. The price of a kilo of milk ranged between 1,400 and 1,500 Syrian pounds, while the price of a kilo of yoghurt ranged between 1,600 and 1,700 Syrian pounds.\(^{(3)}\)

• The Konserwa Company for the production of canned foodstuffs in Damascus raised the prices of its products for the second time, in two months. The Company attributed the increase to cost supplies and raw materials increasing added to the difficulty of securing them, as well as to the increase in transportation and production costs\(^{(4)}\).

• The Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection added mineral water to the list of smart card commodities, so, water will be sold without registration or messages at a price of 3150 Syrian pounds for a large pack of 6 1.5-liter bottles, and 4200 pounds for a small pack, which includes 12 small bottles of half a liter.\(^{(5)}\)

• The Syrian Telecom Company and communications companies “MTN” and “Syrtel”, raised the prices of calling minutes in Syria, bringing the price per minute for prepaid cellular lines to 18 Syrian pounds, up from 13 pounds, while post-paid lines increased from 11 to 15 Syrian pounds. \(^{(6)}\)

• The price of the monthly subscription fee for a landline home phone has increased from 200 to 500 Syrian pounds, and the fees for installing a fixed phone, transfer or assignment of a gateway, from 4,500 to 10 thousand Syrian pounds. The fees for assignment of a fixed line raised from 500 to 3000 Syrian pounds, and transferring a phone line from 2500 to 5000 pounds. The increase included the monthly internet subscription fees for ADSL depending on the speed.

\(^{(3)}\) https://2u.pw/SssbK

\(^{(4)}\) https://www.syria.tv/131667

\(^{(5)}\) https://www.syria.tv/131113

\(^{(6)}\) https://www.syria.tv/130967
• The Syrian Telecom Company has raised the fees for international minutes on land lines, to double the previous price, under the pretext of continuing to secure the service.

• The fares of internal transport buses in Lattakia Governorate increased from 150 to 200 Syrian pounds.

• Residents of Lattakia Governorate suffer from lack of gas, as the price of a domestic gas cylinder on the black market has reached 100,000 Syrian pounds, and the price of an industrial gas cylinder has reached 200,000 Syrian pounds.

• Aleppo governorate witnessed a shortage of gasoline, during the month of September, which led to a rise in its prices on the black market, reaching more than 5,000 Syrian pounds per liter.

• In Homs, the price of one liter of gasoline exceeded 5,000 Syrian pounds, and the price of a liter of diesel reached 3,600 Syrian pounds on the black market.

• The Technology Industries Corporation has launched a new product (alcoholic gas), with the aim of reducing the use of natural gas. It is valid for two hours and the price of a single package of 100 grams is 2200 SP,
Residents of Damascus and Hama continue to suffer due to the crisis of petroleum products, where the daily production does not exceed 40 gas cylinders, and hardly every family gets one cylinder every two or three months, in conjunction with the rise in the price of a liter of diesel to 3,500 Syrian pounds, and the price of petroleum oil to 4000 Syrian pounds, after it was 1500 pounds. The price of a domestic gas cylinder amounted to 130,000 Syrian pounds, and the cost of refilling the small gas cooker to 45,000 pounds. Several cities witnessed the return of long queues in front of gas stations, and observers explained these practices as the regime’s desire to compress the import bill as much as possible, in order to stabilize the exchange price of the Syrian pound against the dollar.

With the advent of winter and the scarcity of fuel, many Syrians turned to wood-burning heaters, as an alternative to diesel and to the almost-absent electricity as well. The price of a kilo of firewood ranged between 300 to 400 Syrian pounds, or 400 thousand per ton. As for electric heaters, their prices ranged between 80,000 and 500,000 pounds, while the prices of fuel heaters ranged between 100,000 and up to one million pounds for large sizes. (7)

The General Company for Wool and Carpet Industry raised the prices of woolen carpets by 15-20%, and the price per square meter of carpets in retail reached 55 thousand Syrian pounds.

The Ministry of Higher Education in the regime government raised the fees for registration of private universities for the academic year 2021-2022, by 50 percent, so that the registration fee for the faculties of medicine and pharmacy became 300,000 Syrian pounds, after it was 200,000 Syrian Pounds, and the faculties of engineering and fine arts 225,000 Syrian Pounds, from 150 thousand Pounds.

Monitor the regime economy:

A report issued by the Central Bank of Syria revealed inflation rates in May of last year 2020, and the annual inflation rate (Y0Y) reached 71.51 percent. The report stated that the governorate of Hama is the most affected by inflation, and that Damascus is the least.

The Central Bank of Syria has allowed traders and exporters to exchange 50% of the foreign exchange earnings resulting from exports on the black market rate. (8)


(8) https://www.syria.tv/128977
adding as an “incentive bonus” 20 Syrian pounds per dollar.

- The value of the funds that the regime demanded to be collected, through the issuance, in the past six months of 2,000 decisions of precautionary seizure of the transferred assets of hundreds of traders and companies, amounted to approximately 5.5 billion Syrian pounds.\(^{(9)}\)

- The Ministry of Commerce and Consumer Protection has charged businessman Tarif al-Akhras (Asmaa al-Assad’s cousin), with monopolizing hundreds of tons of sugar, falsification of documents and abuse of powers and manipulation. The ministry published documents on the referral of “Trans Al-Sharq” company, owned by Akhras, to the Central Commission for Control and Inspection.\(^{(10)}\)

- The Air Force Intelligence branch and the State Security branch in Aleppo arrested 21 merchants, who closed their shops and tried to leave Syria. Their passports and money were confiscated from their houses. Among the arrested traders are thread dealer Mahmoud Demlkh, detergents manufacturer Abdul Karim Alabi, and shoe-making dealer Faris Turkmani, in addition to a number of other traders.\(^{(11)}\)

- The Ministry of Agriculture stated that the citrus season fell below the general average, during the period 2016-2021, as the total production from Lattakia decreased by 31.7%, Tartus by 12.5%, and Syria’s production decreased by 27.3%.

- Wheat production decreased significantly, compared to last year, by about 200 thousand tons, according to statistics from the Directorate of Agricultural Affairs of the General Union of Farmers. Wheat production this year reached 400,000 tons, compared to 600,000 tons last year.

- A media report stated that the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps is seeking to seize control of the cotton crop in Raqqa. Under the control of the regime, it purchased through its merchants in the eastern areas of Raqqa, cotton crops from farmers at attractive prices, compared to the regime prices, in order to transport them to Iraq.\(^{(12)}\)

- The Minister of Oil stated that the regime would obtain quantities of gas, in re-

\(^{(9)}\) https://2u.pw/gd6D0
\(^{(10)}\) https://2u.pw/vzqIQ
\(^{(11)}\) https://2u.pw/Vbd4X
\(^{(12)}\) https://www.syria.tv/128813
Syria ranked fifth in the list of importers of Turkish goods, with exports worth 924 million and 175 thousand US dollars, according to statements by the Turkish Ministry of Trade.\(^{(14)}\)

The markets and shops in Aleppo witnessed an open strike, in protest against the deteriorating living conditions, and the stifling policies of the regime, which led to a complete stagnation in the markets.\(^{(15)}\)

Majd Shashman, a member of the Federation of Chambers of Industry in Syria and a member of the Board of Directors of the Aleppo Chamber of Industry, revealed that thousands of Syrian industrialists left Aleppo and Damascus during the month of September to search for new investment opportunities in Egypt and Erbil.\(^{(16)}\)

### Real Estate:

- Hama Governorate witnessed a significant increase in house rents. In fact, (Al-Watan) newspaper reported that rents increased twice during this year, the first from 50,000 pounds to 75,000 pounds at the beginning of the year, and the second from 75 to 100,000 pounds starting the 6\(^{th}\) month.\(^{(17)}\)

- A local newspaper, quoting an economist, stated that the prices of building materials increased. The price of a ton of iron reached about 3.5 million pounds, after it was about 3 million a month ago. As for the assembled concrete, the price per cubic meter has reached 170,000 pounds, which led to a state of stagnation in the real estate market.\(^{(18)}\)

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\(^{(13)}\) [https://syria.news/9bcf1f7c-11092112.html](https://syria.news/9bcf1f7c-11092112.html)

\(^{(14)}\) [https://2u.pw/VSDjT](https://2u.pw/VSDjT)

\(^{(15)}\) [https://2u.pw/J7MYM](https://2u.pw/J7MYM)

\(^{(16)}\) [https://www.syria.tv/131541](https://www.syria.tv/131541)

\(^{(17)}\) [https://alwatan.sy/archives/272633](https://alwatan.sy/archives/272633)

• The regime raised the price of cement for the second time in 2021. Therefore, the price of a ton of 32.5-caliber Portland cement packed to the consumer was priced at 211,250 Syrian pounds, and the extra at 181,300 pounds; whereas the price of a 42.5 caliber packed Portland cement is 255 thousand and 100 Syrian pounds, and the extra 222 thousand and 450 pounds.(19)

• A report published by the government newspaper “Al-Baath” stated that the rise in rent prices in Damascus was caused by population pressure from the countryside and the rest of the governorates. The rent price in Al-Maliki area ranged from 1.5 million to two million Syrian pounds per month, and in random housing areas, it ranged from 150,000 to 300,000 pounds per month for a house of 100 square meters.(20)

**Drug industry and trade:**

• Elements of the Lebanese “Hezbollah” militia set up new factories for Captagon and narcotics in Syria. Actually, Harmoon monitors recorded the establishment of two new factories in Western Qalamoun, in the Tufail area, on two residential properties that were recently purchased from local brokers, and a new factory was also established in the Neirab area of Aleppo, and is run by a person close to the local Al-Bari militia; in addition to two new factories in Al-Bukamal area, run by elements of “Sayyid Al-Shuhada” militia of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, and another in the Lajat area of Daraa, run by elements of “Hezbollah” guarded by a detachment of military security.

• The director of customs at the Jaber Jordanian border crossing with Syria, Colonel Ahmed Al-Qar'an, confirmed that 9 cases of drug smuggling were seized at the Jaber border center, during the months of August and September.

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(19) [https://www.syria.tv/131345](https://www.syria.tv/131345)

(20) [https://2u.pw/E7a3O](https://2u.pw/E7a3O)
4. Displacement and Asylum

- In a report issued on September 7, Amnesty International detected 66 cases of refugees returning to Syria, who were subjected to arrest, torture and rape at the hands of the Syrian security forces. 13 of them are minors, 17 are still missing so far, and 5 died under torture. These cases are of refugees who returned from Germany, France, Turkey, Jordan, the Emirates and Lebanon.

- The United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry issued a report saying that Syria is not fit for the safe and dignified return of Syrian refugees.

- The Director of Lebanese Public Security, Major General Abbas Ibrahim, confirmed in an interview with the website The Cradle, that the Syrian regime arrested a Syrian refugee after his return from Lebanon to his country, and indicated that those who wish to return bear the responsibility for this choice themselves. (21)

- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Program and UNICEF expressed their deep concern about the rapid deterioration in the living conditions of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, noting that almost all Syrian refugees are unable to provide the minimum expenditure necessary to ensure survival. Nine out of ten Syrian refugees are still living in extreme poverty today.

- The Harmoon Observatory recorded the displacement of dozens of families from the villages of Jabal Al-Zawiya in the southern countryside of Idlib, as a result of the renewed bombardment of Russia and the regime forces on the area.

- The Syrian provinces under the control of the Syrian regime are witnessing a wave of “new migration,” and according to what an official in the latter’s government said, the economic elites are at the forefront along with craftsmen and professions. The head of the General Union of Craftsmen, Naji al-Hadawa, said: “We have noticed in the recent period a large number of requests for craftsmen who asked for the issuance of literal proof documents or literal certificates for the purpose of traveling”.

- The Turkish Directorate of Immigration issued a number of decisions related to the presence of Syrian refugees in the Turkish capital, Ankara, including stopping the registration of temporary protection applications, and returning those

(21) https://thecradle.co/Article/interviews/2067
registered in other states to their place of registration, in addition to placing those who do not have a temporary protection card or residence, in administrative detention in deportation centers until deportation procedures are carried out against them. Also, penalties are applied to workplaces belonging to foreigners who do not have tax plates and are not licensed.

- Five “empty” trucks entered the al-Rukban camp on the border with Jordan, in order to evacuate families to areas controlled by the Syrian regime, according to the head of the local council in the camp. Amnesty International published a report, in which it said that it had received information that the United Nations plans to transfer families from the al-Rukban border camp to the regime-controlled areas soon. The spokesman for the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Farhan Haq, denied the existence of a “UN plan” to transfer the residents of the al-Rukban border camp to the aforementioned areas, noting that the entry of trucks has one purpose, and it is to transport families wishing to return voluntarily.

- The UAE issued a 10-year prison sentence against the Syrian human rights activist Abdul Rahman Al-Nahhas, founder of the Human Rights Organization, which documents the crimes and violations of the Syrian regime. According to the Emirates Detainees and Advocacy Center, he was charged for two crimes; the first being contact with terrorist groups and the second, “undermining the prestige of the state”, because of his emails to the French embassy.

- The authorities of the port of Chornomorsk in Ukraine found Syrian citizens who had been smuggled from Turkey by sea, in a ship carrying trucks.
5. Families of ISIS

- Incidents of security violations are still continuing in al-Hol camp. The Harmoon Observatory recorded more than 6 killings of unknown perpetrators, among the displaced people inside the camp, during September. The (Washington Post) newspaper reported on September 20 that recent violence has included ambushing forces, throwing stones at aid workers, looting a gold store in the outskirts of al-Hol camp, and kidnapping children.

- Save the Children said in a report on September 23 that 62 children died in al-Hol camp, in the Kurdish forces-controlled areas in northeastern Syria, from several causes; an average of two children per week.

- Security forces affiliated with the “Syrian Democratic Forces” allowed the release of more than 90 families (about 300 people) from the families of ISIS members who are being held in Al-Hol refugee camp in the countryside of al-Hasakah, according to the tribal sponsorship system, which is a system whereby Arab tribal notables in the region intercede on behalf of members of their tribes detained by the “Syrian Democratic Forces”, on charges of collaborating with the Islamic State, in order to release them.

- The families of 24 Canadians suspected of links with ISIS, who are detained in the detention centers of the Syrian Democratic Forces in Al-Hasakah, filed a judicial complaint against the Government of Canada, accusing it of failing to return them to their country.