



Chronological Study of Systematic Human Rights Violations Against Syrian Alawites: December 2024 – August 2025

TARGETED KILLINGS, ABDUCTIONS, ARBITRARY ARRESTS,
TORTURE, AND MASS GRAVES ACROSS HOMS, HAMA,
LATAKIA, TARTOUS

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Date September 15th, 2025

Introduction:

Between March and August 2025, multiple governorates in Syria—including Homs, Hama, Latakia, Tartous, Damascus, and surrounding areas—witnessed a continuation and escalation of systematic human rights violations. Civilians, particularly from minority communities such as Alawites, were subjected to targeted killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests, extrajudicial executions, torture, and attacks on property.

A particularly devastating event occurred in March on the Syrian coast, where a massacre claimed the lives of over 1,500 people. Mass graves are still being uncovered, highlighting the ongoing scale of atrocities and the lack of accountability. Concurrently, widespread fires swept through neglected mountain regions, destroying homes, farmland, and villages—many of which were effectively emptied of their Alawite populations, sometimes forcibly. In several areas, the government de facto abandoned these territories, and some villages were renamed following the displacement of their original residents, reflecting a deliberate attempt to erase local identities.

Throughout March, April, May, June, July, and August, documented violations included mass killings, abductions of children, women, and men, deaths under torture, and destruction of civilian property. Sectarian motivations were a persistent factor, and armed groups linked to HTS, as well as state-affiliated security forces, were implicated in raids, intimidation campaigns, and forced disappearances. Urban and rural areas alike were affected, with civilians living under constant threat from arbitrary violence, attacks on infrastructure, and systematic attempts to instill fear and depopulate minority communities.

The continued discovery of mass graves, the high number of deaths under torture, and the systematic displacement of communities underscore the urgent need for independent investigation, international monitoring, and protective measures for civilians. The patterns observed during these months illustrate not only ongoing violations but also the deliberate targeting of vulnerable populations, reflecting a coordinated campaign of sectarian violence and territorial control across multiple Syrian governorates.

Summary of Human Rights Violations (December 2024)

Documented Grand Totals (December 2024):

- 50–70 Alawite civilian killings.
 - 100–200 abductions and arrests
 - 1,000–2,000 displaced persons
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Latakia Governorate

- Dozens of Alawite civilians killed in field executions.
- Mass arrests and abductions
- Limited displacement from rural villages; some families fled toward Lebanon or Russian bases (Hmeimim).

Tartous Governorate

- 17 people killed on Dec 25.
- Arrests and abductions targeting Alawite civilians.
- Displacement in rural areas following protests and raids.

Homs & Hama Governorates

- 3 Alawite judges executed in rural Hama (Dec 24).
- Sporadic abductions and executions during raids.
- Some villages (e.g., in rural Hama and Homs) reported displacement due to rising sectarian violence.

General Notes (December):

- Desecration of Alawite shrines and sectarian incitement recorded.
 - Escalating violence created widespread fear.
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (January 2025)

Documented Grand Totals (January 2025):

- 100–150 Alawite civilian killings
 - 50–100 abductions and arrests
 - 5,000–10,000 displaced persons
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Homs Governorate

- Field executions and raids killed at least 22 civilians between Jan 20–23.
- Multiple abductees' bodies found in villages such as al-Mazraa (Jan 13) and Tisnin (Jan 14).
- Thousands displaced from rural villages due to attacks.

Hama Governorate

- Abductions and arrests of civilians, without charges.
- Partial displacement from villages such as Arza.

Damascus & Aleppo (Urban Centers)

- Collective arrests of Alawite civilians, often involving torture.
- Families displaced after loss of employment and state protection.

General Notes (January):

- Retaliatory killings increased.
 - Job dismissals of Alawite state employees added economic hardship and forced migration.
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (February 2025)

📌 Documented Totals (February 2025):

- 50–80 Alawite civilian killings
 - 40–60 abductions and arrests (including 38 abducted women)
 - ~10,000 displaced in one wave toward Lebanon
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Latakia Governorate

- 2 civilians killed during a raid (Feb 6).
- Arrests of Alawite civilians linked to executions.
- Continued displacement from rural villages.

Tartous Governorate (Baniyas Area)

- 4 killed in café attack (Feb 27, known as the “Baniyas crime”).
- Large-scale displacement: thousands fled across the border within days.

Homs Governorate

- Detainee killed in rural prison (Feb 24).
- Abductions of Alawite civilians, including women.
- Villages such as al-Mashrafah reported mass flight.

Hama Governorate

- Arrests and abductions, some leading to executions.
- Women and girls targeted in kidnapping campaigns.

General Notes (February):

- Rise in gender-based abductions (38 women and girls reported).
 - Desecration of shrines and intimidation of families continued.
 - Small-scale attacks created climate of insecurity.
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (March 2025)

Introduction:

March 2025 witnessed one of the most violent periods in Syria since the beginning of the conflict, with widespread massacres, extrajudicial executions, and targeted attacks on civilians. Sectarian mobilization continued to fuel violence, particularly against minority communities, resulting in mass displacement, village depopulation, and the destruction of infrastructure. The March massacre along the Syrian coast alone claimed over 1,500 lives, and mass graves continue to be uncovered. This report documents verified human rights violations in Latakia, Hama, Homs, and Tartous governorates.

As reported by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: 1,614 civilians were summarily executed on March 6, 7, 8, and 9.

62 massacres occurred across the Syrian coast and adjacent mountain regions. Geographic Distribution of Civilian Deaths by Province. Latakia 836, Tartous 503, Hama 262, Homs 13. Following the massacre, we were only able to document 260 deaths in March. However, this figure may not reflect the actual number of victims. Many bodies could have been burned in the fires that swept through the fields, some may have been thrown into the sea, and others buried in mass graves. As a result, it is impossible to determine the precise death toll.

✂ Grand Totals (March 2025, Latakia, Hama, Homs, Tartous only):

- **1,838 killings documented**
- **0–2 abductions reported (many unverified due to ongoing chaos)**
- **Multiple deaths under torture and in mass graves**
- **Numerous violations including arson, village destruction, and forced displacement**

Latakia Governorate

- **Jableh:** 1 civilian executed by firing squad.
- **Brabeshbo:** 44 civilians, including 3 women and 1 child, executed by gunfire.
- **Various areas in Latakia:** 15 additional civilians executed.
- **Sharashir village:** 3 civilians summarily executed.
- **Shalfatiyah:** 38 civilians executed by firing squad (largest single toll in the governorate).
- **Latakia City (Al-Buq'ah neighborhood):** 1 civilian's body showing gunshot wounds from summary execution found dumped.
- **Qabu al-Awamiyah:** 1 civilian executed by Ministry of Defense and Internal Security forces.
- **Sanawbar:** 4 civilians summarily executed by the same forces.

- **Hmeimim:** 1 civilian executed by security forces.
- **Harf al-Masitrah (rural Jableh):** 2 young men summarily executed for failing to stop at a checkpoint.

Hama Governorate

- **Sheep market area:** 3 civilians killed during tribal armed clashes.
- **Al-Arzeh village:** 3 civilians summarily executed by Ministry of Defense and Internal Security personnel.
- **Al-Aziziyah (northwest countryside):** 7 individuals summarily executed by Ministry of Defense and General Security forces.

Homs Governorate

- **Al-Idikhar neighborhood:** Four members of a single family (father and three sons) murdered by an armed group in front of mother and daughter.
- **Al-Waer neighborhood:** Man abducted from Karm Shamsam found dead in hospital after being taken by five armed individuals.
- **Al-Dhahabiya (western countryside):** Young man shot dead by unknown gunmen selling fuel at roadside stand.
- **Karm Shamsam neighborhood:** Man executed by gunfire after armed group stormed house; body found in abandoned building in Al-Khalidiyah.
- **Al-Khalidiyah:** Young Alawite man's body found in abandoned building, executed by gunfire.
- **Al-Rihaniyah (western countryside):** Young man shot multiple times in the head after unknown gunmen stormed mobile phone shop.

Tartous Governorate

- **Harissoun:** 9 civilians executed by firing squad.
- **Banias:** 62 civilians executed by firing squad; additional 2 executed in Banias later in March.
- **Al-Tawahin:** 2 civilians summarily executed.
- **Arzunah:** 7 civilians summarily executed.
- **Basramoun:** 7 civilians summarily executed.
- **Baniyas:** 5 civilians summarily executed.
- **Bustan al-Hamam (rural Baniyas):** Young man killed fleeing raid by General Security forces.

Notes:

- Many deaths remain unverified due to mass burnings, bodies thrown into the sea, or burial in mass graves.
 - Sectarian targeting remains a prominent driver, particularly against Alawite and minority communities.
 - Widespread violence includes summary executions, targeted killings of families, and mass graves.
 - General Security, Ministry of Defense forces, and affiliated militias were consistently implicated.
 - Both rural and urban areas were affected, with villages emptied or forcibly renamed, and civilian infrastructure destroyed.
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (April 2025)

📌 Documented Grand Totals (April 1–30, 2025):

- **94 killings**
 - **35 abductions**
 - **+22 arrests**
 - **3 massacres confirmed**
 - **1 armed attack on property**
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Homs Governorate

- **44 killings** (including children, university students, taxi drivers, engineers, families targeted in home raids, and civilians executed after abduction).
- **16 abductions** (young girls, university students, retired physician, and multiple civilians abducted or later found dead).
- **+10 arrests** (including civilians previously cleared through reconciliation, families, and individuals detained without warrants).
- **1 armed attack on property** (grocery store targeted in Wadi al-Dhahab).

Hama Governorate

- **9 killings** (men and youths executed or shot in rural and urban areas).
- **4 abductions** (villagers and siblings taken from family homes).
- **+3 Arrests**

Latakia Governorate

- **13 killings** (young civilians and others executed in rural and urban areas, including mistaken identity and targeted attacks).
- **6 abductions** (girls and young men, including individuals on travel routes).
- **+4 arrests** (civilians detained in Akkar Plain and other regions).
- **1 massacre confirmed** (mass grave in Bustan Al-Basha, Qardaha, with six civilian bodies, two identified).

Tartous Governorate

- **21 killings** (residents from rural and urban areas, including a 70-year-old victim).
- **6 abductions** (students, civilians, and transit victims).
- **+5 arrests** (including civilians detained without warrants).

Damascus & Surrounding Areas

- **9 killings** (sectarian attack on Alawite local council building in Esh Al-Warwar).
 - **3 abductions** (including individuals travelling from Lattakia to Damascus).
 - **Multiple arrests and property violations** (including raids and grenade attacks on homes).
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (May 2025)

Documented Grand Totals (May 1–31, 2025):

- 48 killings
 - 57 abductions/enforced disappearances
 - 43 arrests/detentions
 - 2 massacres confirmed
 - 3 injuries/violations reported
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Homs Governorate

- 18 killings (including civilians executed at homes, checkpoints, and during abductions; children and elderly among victims).
- 19 abductions (including young men, children, and professionals, many with unknown fate).
- 13 arrests/detentions (mass raids, intimidation campaigns, and arbitrary arrests).
- 2 violations/injuries (gunfire targeting civilians during raids).

Hama Governorate

- 5 killings (sectarian shootings targeting civilians; attacks on farmers and families).
- 5 abductions (including siblings and villagers).
- 1 injury

Latakia Governorate

- 6 killings (including civilians at work, in villages, or abducted).
- 13 abductions (young men, students, and families targeted).
- 2 arrests (home raids and intimidation).
- 1 massacre confirmed (Snoubar mass graves, ~100 victims).

Tartous Governorate

- 4 killings (residents killed in rural and urban areas, including Alawite civilians).
- 5 abductions (civilians, students, and transit victims).

Damascus & Surrounding Areas

- 1 killing (sectarian-motivated execution in Al-Tall).
- 1 abduction
- Multiple arrests and violations during raids.

Lebanese Border / Outside Syria

- 2 arrests (attempted travel to Lebanon).

Inside Unknown Prisons, Syria

- 3 deaths under torture (bodies discovered in mass graves).
 - 1 violation (detainee beaten and humiliated during interrogation).
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (June 2025)

Documented Grand Totals (June 1–30, 2025):

- 74 killings
 - 60 abductions/enforced disappearances
 - 49 arrests/detentions
 - 8 violations (torture, property destruction, intimidation, arson)
 - 2 massacres confirmed
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Homs Governorate

- 32 killings (including civilians executed during home raids, checkpoints, abductions, and extrajudicial shootings; children and elderly among victims).
- 23 abductions (young men, children, and professionals, many with unknown fate).
- 18 arrests/detentions (mass raids, intimidation campaigns, arbitrary arrests).
- 3 violations (mass burials, property destruction, and intimidation campaigns).

Hama Governorate

- 5 killings (sectarian shootings, attacks on families, and mass violence in villages).
- 6 abductions (siblings, villagers, and transit victims).
- 1 injury/violation reported (gunshot injury to Nagham Abboud).

Latakia Governorate

- 11 killings (civilians killed in villages, checkpoints, and during abductions; some overlap with abduction cases).
- 14 abductions (young men, students, families, and villagers).
- 3 arrests/detentions (raids in Al-Snoubar, Jableh, and surrounding areas).
- 1 violation (supermarket assault and robbery).

Tartous Governorate

- 4 killings (rural and urban residents, including elderly).
- 4 abductions (civilians, students, and professionals).
- 4 arrests/detentions (Baniyas and Al-Barniyah raids).
- 2 violations (property seizure and destruction of local businesses).

Damascus & Surrounding Areas

- 7 killings (targeted executions and extrajudicial shootings).
 - 6 abductions (including professionals, civilians, and families).
 - 3 arrests/detentions (raids and arbitrary detentions).
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (July 2025)

Documented Grand Totals (July 1–31, 2025):

- +69 killings
 - 44 abductions/enforced disappearances
 - +21 arrests/detentions
 - 3 deaths under torture / in custody
 - 4 violations (threats, incitement, property assault, graffiti, fire-setting)
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Homs Governorate

- 20 killings (including extrajudicial executions, ambushes, and deaths under torture; women and children among victims).
- 15 abductions (youths, civilians, and professionals; some later released).
- 14 arrests/detentions (raids, intimidation campaigns, arbitrary arrests).
- 2 violations (sectarian threats, attempted killing reported).

Hama Governorate

- 8 killings (targeted attacks on civilians, including families and religious figures).
- 3 abductions (including injured individuals).

Tartous Governorate

- 4 killings (civilians killed during road assaults and security incidents).
- 6 abductions (civilians, students, and families).
- 1 arrest/detention reported.
- 2 violations (threats, fire-setting, and militant intimidation).

Latakia Governorate

- 2 killings
- 5 abductions (civilians, students, and professionals).
- 3 arrests/detentions (Jableh and Al-Haffa raids).

Damascus & Surrounding Areas

- 16 killings (civilians, professionals, and families targeted in raids and shootings).
- 13 abductions (including women).
- 3 arrests/detentions reported.

Prisons / Nationwide

- 3 deaths under torture or execution (including Maher Mansour, Alawite detainees in Al-Waer Hospital and Tall al-Nasr Cemetery).
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Summary of Human Rights Violations (August 2025)

Documented Grand Totals (August 1–30, 2025):

- 33 killings
 - 23 abductions/enforced disappearances
 - 8 arrests/detentions
 - 11 deaths under torture / mass graves
 - 8 violations (assaults, arson, intimidation, bombings)
 - 1 killing of a child
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Homs Governorate

- 15 killings (including home raids, street shootings, Qunya al-Assi massacre, and deaths under torture).
- 10 abductions/enforced disappearances (youths, children, and civilians; some later released).
- 5 arrests/detentions (including raids and intimidation campaigns).
- 5 deaths under torture / mass graves (Homs Prison, Homs Central Prison, Tal Al-Nasr).
- 3 violations (critical injuries, shootings, and property destruction).

Hama Governorate

- 12 killings (targeted executions, sectarian attacks, and attacks on families).
- 3 abductions/enforced disappearances (including minors and young men).
- 2 arrests/detentions (arbitrary raids, intimidation, and home searches).
- No additional violations reported.

Latakia Governorate

- 4 killings (including Jableh and Sarskiyeh incidents; mass grave in Bustan Al-Basha – 13 bodies).
- 3 abductions/enforced disappearances (some released after torture; others unknown).

- 1 arrest/detention

Tartous Governorate

- No killings reported.
- 3 abductions

Damascus Governorate

- 3 killings
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