



The Situation in Daraa since the Government of Syria Took Control of the Province Monitoring of Violations up to 5 July 2019

The situation in southern Syria remains tense as a result of the deteriorating security. Clashes have been recorded at checkpoints and at the headquarters of the Government of Syria (GoS) in some areas, as a result of the ongoing arrests of former members of the Free Syrian Army and persons affiliated with the Syrian government's reconciliation process. The end of the previously agreed settlement period has led to GoS security services tightening restrictions on youths eligible for military service; the deterioration of the health and living conditions of citizens, the spread of rodents and rabid dogs without any countermeasures or medical assets for those injured, as well as the burning and destruction of harvest lands.

The Syrian Civic Platform monitored the overall situation in 23 towns and villages in Daraa Governorate individually, which are detailed in the following sections.

- 1- Glenn:** The town witnessed an attack on an army checkpoint belonging to the Fourth Division of the GoS military at the entrance of the town. Also, the prevalence of stray animals has increased, particularly dog attacks on citizens in areas without health clinics to manage the injuries. The spread of various reptiles has also increased alongside a lack of antibiotics.
- 2- Muzayrib:** The town has been witnessing a conflict between several groups with the spread of gangs looting and assaulting citizens. This situation has been exacerbated due to the absence of services, job opportunities, and international or local organizations. These gangs display elements of the GoS or are made up of individuals associated with the Syrian government. In addition, there was an unidentified body at the northern entrance to the town which is believed to be a resident of Dael.
- 3- Tafas:** The town is still tense due to residents' refusal to extradite defectors and submit to military security orders. There is a visible conflict between loyalists and opponents of the Syrian government's invasion and its security branch. The most significant signs of the conflict have been the sporadic assassinations of reconciliation members associated with GoS security forces, as well as members of the opposition. Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) such as mines have recently led to the injury of two people. There have been clashes between the Haridin and Rawashdeh families, which have resulted in injuries among residents. And the town's crops were burned, by unknown perpetrators. The difficult living conditions for residents, the challenges of providing services, and the spread of weapons in such an anxious and insecure atmosphere, have all compounded the deteriorating situation in Tafas.
- 4- Sahm El-Golan:** The region is still in a state of tension as a result of repeated clashes at checkpoints of the GoS Air Force and the unacceptable violence against the people. The most significant events have been: stripping a group of members of the Fourth Division of their car and weapons by unknown people, assassinations of some people associated with the GoS, and the burning of agricultural lands.



- 5- Daraa al-Balad:** The situation is getting worse in Daraa al-Balad with the deployment of new roadblocks at the entrances to the city. This is restricting the movement of residents between the two parts of the city, making it more difficult for them to access services. Some agencies are working to repair the water networks and sewage lines in order to extend these services. With the end of the settlement period, the burden on the movement of citizens continues, and fears of forced recruitment of young men into military service have increased. The most important events in Daraa al-Balad have been:
- Crops were burned by unknown people in the east and south of the city.
 - The arrest of former leaders of the Free Syrian Army by those loyal to the GoS without justification.
 - Demonstrations in Daraa al-Balad to release detainees and to withdraw new roadblocks, demanding the extension of the settlement and the lifting of the security grip.
 - The release of some detainees from the town.
 - Chaotic proliferation of weapons and clashes among some families in the town.
 - A shell landed on al-Sad neighborhood though its source is not known.
 - There are Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) in Manshia.
 - Funerals for some of those who fell in Idlib battles were prevented by the GoS.
 - A car exploded as a result of a mine in Gharz area
- 6- Dael:** Since the establishment of the GoS's presence at town entrances, the city has witnessed a state of tension due to the checkpoints and its restrictions on citizens, insecurity, killings, kidnappings, burning of crops, and the publication of detainees' death notices who had been killed in GoS detention. The most important events in the city have been:
- Raids on the houses, especially those of former leaders of the Free Syrian Army.
 - Assassination of several individuals in the town by unknown forces.
 - The delivery of death certificates for many detainees from the town, who had been detained for more than five years, has led to tensions among the residents.
 - Authorities imposed a curfew on the city center for several days.
 - Clashes at al-Jawiya Security Agency checkpoint and at Dael roadblock by unknown persons and clashes near the local council.
 - The disappearance of a woman in her twenties, which is the first incident of the disappearance of a woman.
- 7- Sheikh Miskeen:** Two people were injured in an explosion by ERWs, and some detainees were released.
- 8- Yadoudeh:** The town lives in a state of fear and anticipation because of its proximity to the city and suffers from a lack of services and exploitation due to the difficult situation of residents. The Association of Ahbab in Yadoudeh is headed by Abu Bilal Zubani. The association provides some services and relief in the town, but also works in the suburbs



to tighten and harass people, in particular those from the western region. An attempt was made to assassinate one of the residents, and a military soldier belonging to the Fourth Division was injured.

9- Um Walad: The town is witnessing a conflict between people who support reconciliation and those who refuse to reconcile. A car was targeted and burned by a member of the Fourth Division of the Syrian Army, with members of the division then in turn targeted with a bomb. The air intelligence checkpoint was also targeted at the western entrance of the town.

10- Jassim: The GoS checkpoints at the entrances to the town are a great provocation to the citizens. The Syrian Government has reinforced the roadblocks on the road of Inkhil / Jassim, Nawa / Jassim, Nimr / Jassim, Alia / Jassim, demanding citizens' identities and military service documents, which create severe tension. Notable events include:

- Injuring of two members of the GoS.
- The harassment of residents at checkpoints inside the city and the occurrence of clashes, including the injury of a checkpoint soldier, and the removal of a checkpoint.
- Attack on military security patrol and injuries.
- An explosive device was planted near the house of a man who supports reconciliation. The bomb was dismantled after it was discovered.
- Unknown gunmen shot a reconciliation member associated with the GoS military security branch.
- One soldier was killed southwest of Jassim.
- Distributing lists of wanted persons in Jassim and Inkhil at the gates of mosques and through the Mukhtars (elected neighborhood representative).

11- Nasib: The Sixth Division of the Syrian government's military controls the area, and the behavior of this legion has led to complaints by residents against the excesses of its soldiers. It was recorded that a car bomb was exploded by one of the members of the Sixth Division.

12- Ghabagheb: Disobedience, banditry and the burning of tires occurred because of the arrest of a former Free Syrian Army member. Citizens called for the release of the man and the release of an eight-year-old boy who was also arrested.

13- Nawa: The town is witnessing unprecedented tension as a result of the proliferation of roadblocks surrounding the city, the closure of its entrances, and checks on official papers, particularly military service documents. The most important events include:

- Clashes between unknown people and the Directorate of the region.
- The assassination of one of the reconciliation supporters.
- And the presence of raids by the Military Security Branch.



- 14- Karak:** Tensions exist between the supporters of reconciliation and those who reject reconciliation. Barriers in the town were further narrowed reducing the accessibility of citizens when they enter and exit. In the town, a number of soldiers tried to steal a house. Notable residents of the town tried to resolve the dispute.
- 15- Basri al-Harir:** An attack was reported on a checkpoint in the town, and most of the checkpoint's members were killed by an unknown assailant. A bicycle was detonated in front of a mosque that killed three people. Fires have also been recorded on agricultural lands.
- 16- Mahjeh:** An attack on the security agency building by unknown persons caused material damage.
- 17- Al-Harak:** There were a number of worrying issues in the town. There were clashes inside the town. The district building was bombed. There was a shooting on the outskirts of the Brigade 52 area of unknown origin, and a local council meeting in one of the houses was targeted by a bomb. There was continued targeting of those who support settlement with GoS without the provision of services as a perquisite. The town witnessed the emigration of a number of young men to avoid GoS military conscription, and the return of graffiti on the walls against the Syrian government. The burning of agricultural land north of the town was also monitored.
- 18- Bosra:** There were arrests involving a number of leaders of the Fifth Division, and a warrant for the arrest of the commander of the Fifth Division based on personal allegations against him, and six other members.
- 19- Taybeh:** There were night demonstrations denouncing the security situation, poor living conditions, and the arrest of youths for military conscription. In response, guns were fired to disperse the demonstrators. There was also an exchange of fire between the military security checkpoint and unknown assailants.
- 20- Daraa City:** The SCP monitored the intensification of security checkpoints around the city, checking of men's military service documents and giving secondary school students a 24-hour deadline to obtain their military service documents.
- 21- Al-Gharia eastern and western:** There were attempts to arrest a former Free Syrian Army commander by the Air Force Intelligence, which resulted in new graffiti condemning the reconciliation order, as well as the killing of a child and an elderly man due to ERWs in al-Gharia.
- 22- Al-Musayfirah:** Observed events included reinforcing the checkpoint at the entrance of the town, requesting IDs and military service documents, arresting three returnees from Kuwait to the town, raids to search for weapons in the town by military security, writing



on the walls in the town, and organizing a protest to stop recruitment, in addition to the ongoing challenging situation of residents in the town.

23- Al-Sanamain: Tensions continued in the city for several reasons, including the difficulty of the economic situation and the recruitment of young people for military services. Activities by Hezbollah in the city, and other incidents have been monitored:

- There were clashes between reconciliation committee members and former members of the Free Syrian Army following the attempt to arrest some young men.
- A bus carrying GoS soldiers was kidnaped by unknown assailants.
- Two members of the GoS were captured by local popular resistance amidst a new phase of escalation and siege of the city.
- A number of young men fled the area to avoid GoS military recruitment.
- Yasmeen Munawar Alloush was injured as a result of hostilities from Kafr Shams village.

During this ongoing monitoring of the situation in Daraa governorate, the Syrian Civic Platform considers that the current security situation is deteriorating, in addition to deteriorating health and living conditions. As a result, the SCP makes the following recommendations:

1. All parties need to abide by their commitments to the Daraa reconciliation agreement, especially the Russian government.
2. Allow international organizations, United Nations bodies, and the media to access the humanitarian situation in the province.
3. Establish an international committee to monitor the humanitarian and human rights situation in all areas where local agreements have been witnessed to ensure that the parties abide by their commitments.
4. The Russian government should press for increased humanitarian and medical services in the governorate and the need to supply vaccines to immunize against wild animal attacks.
5. There is a need to urgently deal with the Explosive Remnants of War from mines and unexploded shells to others deployed in agricultural fields.