

8.1.1. The Syrian intervention in the Lebanese civil war and presence in Lebanon (1976 – 2005)

Following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, this document has been reviewed and updated. Please consult '[Interim Country Guidance: Syria \(2025\)](#)'

COMMON ANALYSIS

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In June 1976, Syria intervened in the Lebanese civil war sending a force of 25 000 soldiers to Lebanon to prevent the defeat of its Maronite Christian allies. It maintained military presence in Lebanon for the next three decades and exerted significant influence on Lebanese politics. During its presence in Lebanon, Syria maintained up to 30 000 soldiers in the country. It had clashes with Israeli forces and various Lebanese factions. Syria lost thousands of soldiers. During Syria's military presence in Lebanon, excludable crimes such as enforced disappearances and torture were carried out against Lebanese nationals, Palestinian refugees, and others by the Syrian military and intelligence branches. In 2005, following the assassination of the Lebanese premier Rafiq al-Hariri, who was a critic of the Syrian presence in Lebanon, Syrian forces withdrew from Lebanon under international pressure. [[Security 2020](#), Annex II, pp. 242, 243]

See other relevant circumstances (Exclusion):

- [8.1.1. The Syrian intervention in the Lebanese civil war and presence in Lebanon \(1976-2005\)](#)
- [8.1.2. The Muslim Brotherhood Uprising in Syria \(1979-1982\) which comprised the Hama Massacre \(February 1982\)](#)
- [8.1.3. Current conflicts \(2011-ongoing\)](#)
- [8.1.4. Criminality](#)
- [8.1.5. Violence against women and children](#)