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EUAA COI report highlights challenging transition in post-Assad Syria



The EUAA has just published a Country of Origin Information (COI) report on Syria. The report provides an update on the situation in Syria following the ouster of Bashar Al-Assad, with a focus on developments between March and May 2025. It examines the security and socio-economic situation in the country and reviews the latest political and human rights developments, including the treatment of specific population groups.

Following the ouster of President Bashar al-Assad's government, Ahmed Al-Sharaa, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) leader was appointed Syria's interim President. He signed a constitutional declaration covering a five-year transitional period until a permanent constitution and elections are established. The declaration introduced a strong presidential system and **designated Islamic jurisprudence** as the main source of legislation. In March 2025, a new transitional government was formed, **composed of ministers from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds**, though largely dominated by figures with close ties to HTS.

Syria's security landscape remains fragmented, with numerous armed groups operating with varying degrees of autonomy, despite the caretaker authorities' efforts to integrate all armed groups into the Syrian government's army. Notably, **negotiations were still ongoing** regarding the implementation of a March agreement **between the caretaker authorities and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)** —a Kurdish-led group controlling most of northeastern Syria's—aimed at integrating the SDF's civilian and military structures into Syria's state institutions.

The security situation remains volatile, with the new authorities struggling to assert full control in certain areas of the country. **Incidents of lawlessness, criminality and retaliatory violence are reported to be prevalent in central and western Syria**. Large-scale sectarian violence targeting Alawite communities in the coastal areas and Druze communities in southern Syria was reported between March – May 2025. Israel has also continued to launch airstrikes on military facilities and conduct military incursions into southern Syria.

Between March and May 2025, together with the United States of America, the European Union took steps to aid in the economic recovery of the country by lifting almost all Assad-era sanctions. However, according to United Nations sources, 90 % of the population are living in poverty and 16.5 million require humanitarian assistance. Although returns from abroad, as well as of internally displaced persons, increased following Assad's removal, **key challenges to sustainable returns included worsening economic conditions, unemployment, limited access to basic services and widespread infrastructure destruction**.

EU Asylum situation for Syrian nationals

Syrian asylum applications have been on a downward trend since November 2024, with a sharp drop in December reflecting the changed circumstances following the fall of the Assad regime, but have been relatively stable since March. In May 2025, Syrians lodged just under 3 100 applications. Between December 2024 and May 2025 Syrian applications (31 000) **decreased by over three fifths** compared to the previous six months. The main EU+ receiving countries were **Germany**, **Greece** and **Austria**.

Since December 2024 most EU+ countries have suspended (fully or partially) decision making on Syrian cases, which led to a notable drop in first instance decisions: from a monthly average of 12 000 over the preceding six months to 4 200 in December, falling further in January. Since then, the numbers have fluctuated, averaging around 2 600 between March and May 2025. As a result, the number of pending first instance cases were high, standing at 111 000 at the end of May.

Background

The EUAA regularly updates its Country of Origin Information reports, which aim to provide accurate and reliable up-to-date information on third countries to support EU+ asylum and migration authorities in reaching accurate and fair decisions in asylum procedures, as well as to support national policymaking.

Read the Country-of-Origin Information report Syria: Country Focus

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