



Please cite as: EUAA, '[5.8.14. Quneitra governorate](#)' in *COI Report - Syria: Country Focus*, July 2025.

5.8.14. Quneitra governorate

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Map 16: © MapAction, Quneitra governorate[1626](#)

(a) **Administrative division and population estimates**

Quneitra governorate is divided into two administrative districts, namely Quneitra and Al-Fiq, which are further divided into a total of six sub-districts.[1627](#) Its capital is the city of Quneitra.[1628](#) As of March 2025, the population of Quneitra governorate was 111 706, including residents, IDPs, IDP returnees, and returnees from abroad, according to IOM estimates.[1629](#) By comparison, the WHO estimated the governorate's population at 149 374.[1630](#) For further background information on Quneitra governorate, [see section 2.13.1. of the EUAA COI Report Syria – Security Situation \(October 2024\)](#).

(b) **Territorial control and main armed actors**

The Israeli-controlled Golan Heights encompassed roughly the western two-thirds of the governorate. As of the end of May 2025, ISW and CTP showed that the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) controlled several stretches of adjoining territory to the east of this zone, including the area around Quneitra city.[1631](#) In March 2025, Israeli forces entered Tel al-Ahmar al-Gharbi[1632](#) and occupied the area.[1633](#) Most of the remaining territory in eastern Quneitra was under the control of the transitional administration.[1634](#)

□ (c) Security trends

Israeli forces targeted several military sites and units across the governorate with aerial [1635](#) and mortar strikes. [1636](#) There were regular Israeli ground incursions into southwestern Syria, [1637](#) including in Tell al-Mal (situated 16 km from the 1974 disengagement zone), [1638](#) Ruwayhina, [1639](#) Ba'er al-Ajam, [1640](#) Al-Hamidiya, [1641](#) al-Samdaniya, [1642](#) and al-Mashara (central Quneitra), [1643](#) in the Saidah area (southern Quneitra) [1644](#) and at the Mantara Dam, with Israeli forces creating military outposts [1645](#) and checkpoints, [1646](#) conducting patrols, [1647](#) searching homes, [1648](#) and questioning [1649](#) and arresting individuals. [1650](#) As UNOCHA noted, Israeli operations involved the targeting of civilians and posed 'significant risks to civilian lives'. [1651](#)

Meanwhile, an attempted suicide attack targeted an IDF checkpoint in Al-Rafeed, [1652](#) while unidentified assailants killed an MOA member east of Jaba village in the Quneitra countryside. [1653](#)

□ (d) Security incidents

Between 9 December 2024 and 31 May 2025, ACLED recorded 34 security incidents in Quneitra governorate (see Figure 33). For the period between 1 March and 31 May 2025, it recorded 22 security incidents (defined as battles, explosions/remote violence, violence against civilians) in Quneitra governorate. Of these, one incident was coded as battle, 13 as explosions/remote violence and eight as incidents of violence against civilians. [1654](#)

[1655_evolution_security_events_Quneitra_dec24_may25_072025_coi_syria_country_focus](#)

Figure 33: Evolution of security events coded 'battles', 'explosions/remote violence' and 'violence against civilians' in Quneitra governorate between 9 December 2024 and 31 May 2025, based on ACLED data. [1655](#)

All security incidents recorded during the reference period occurred in Quneitra district, while none was recorded in Al-Fiq district. According to ACLED data, military forces of Israel were involved as a main actor (coded as either 'Actor1' or 'Actor2') in around 73 % (16 incidents) of all security incidents recorded in the governorate during the reference period. Eight of these 16 incidents were coded as either explosions/remote violence (of which three also involved the military forces of Syria), while the remaining

eight were coded as violence against civilians. Unidentified armed groups were involved in around 27 % of all security incidents (six incidents).[1656](#)

(e) **Civilian casualties**

The SNHR recorded that one civilian fatality had been caused by parties to the conflict or controlling forces in Quneitra governorate during the reference period.[1657](#) For the period between March and May 2025, UCDP recorded 3 civilian fatalities in Quneitra governorate.[1658](#)

(f) **Conflict-related infrastructure damage and explosive remnants of war**

Israeli operations in the governorate involved the killing of livestock, the destruction of farms, and significant risks to agricultural lands.[1659](#) One civilian was killed in the detonation of a war remnant in Khan Arnabeh town.[1660](#) Information on conflict-related infrastructure damage during the reference period could not be found within the time constraints of this report.

(g) **Conflict-induced displacement and return**

According to UNHCR estimates, as of 12 June 2025, 2 924 IDPs and 794 individuals who had returned to areas of the governorate from internal displacement since 27 November 2024 were living in the governorate.[1661](#)

UNHCR further estimated that as of 15 May 2025, a total of 4 657 individuals who had returned from abroad since the beginning of 2024 were living in the governorate, the vast majority (4 636) having returned to Quneitra district. Since 8 December 2024, 2 880 individuals had returned to Quneitra governorate from abroad.[1662](#)

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