



2.10.2. Territorial control and main armed actors

Since the city's 'liberation' [1020](#) by HTS-led forces [1021](#) and the fall of Bashar Al-Assad in December 2024, [1022](#) Damascus remained under the control of the Syrian Transitional Government under President Ahmed Al-Sharaa. [1023](#) Army divisions operating in Damascus governorate as of November 2025 were the Republican Guard, presumably assigned to protect the government, and the Damascus Division, assigned to protect Damascus and the capital region, both under HTS commanders. The 70th Division was assigned to the suburbs. [1024](#)

- [1020](#)

Al-Abdeh, M., Damascus re-born: The Syrian capital is embracing its newfound identity, April 2025, [url](#), p. 7

- [1021](#)

Shtuni, A., From Insurgency to Statecraft: Al-Sharaa and Syria's Foreign Fighters Test, 19 February 2026, [url](#), p. 1

- [1022](#)

Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Syria, 30 January 2026, [url](#), p. 8

- [1023](#)

Netherlands, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, General Country of Origin Information Report on Syria, 30 January 2026, [url](#), p. 9; ISW and CTP, Assessed Control of Terrain in Syria, February 16, 2026 at 2:00 PM ET [Map], 16 February 2026, [url](#); ACAPS, Humanitarian Access Overview - Spotlight on fragmented contexts: Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Yemen, December 2025, [url](#), p. 14

- [1024](#)

ISW and CTP, The New Syrian Army: Order of Battle, 14 November 2025, [url](#), pp. 19, 25-26, 44-45