



2.10.3. Security trends

After the fall of Assad, incidents of violence targeting Alawites^{[1025](#)} and Assad regime loyalists were reported - including targeted killings in the reporting period.^{[1026](#)} According to SNHR, 169 people accused of having committed violations during the Assad era were detained by Syrian government forces in 2025, of whom 11 were detained in the month of October,^{[1027](#)} 16 in November,^{[1028](#)} and 7 in December.^{[1029](#)} Two more were arrested in the first quarter of 2026.^{[1030](#)}

Israeli attacks on Damascus reportedly increased during the Gaza conflict^{[1031](#)} as well as after the fall of Assad.^{[1032](#)} During 2025, Israeli airstrikes hit several sites in Damascus.^{[1033](#)} At least 77 Israeli attacks were recorded in Damascus governorate, and at least 20 in Damascus city.^{[1034](#)}

The most fatal security incident in Damascus after the fall of Assad was an alleged ISIL suicide attack at the Greek Orthodox Saint Elias Church in Duweila neighbourhood in June 2025, killing at least 25 and injuring about 60.^{[1035](#)} During the reporting period, no such major incident was reported, although a risk of outbreaks of violence persisted along the route between Damascus and Sweida,^{[1036](#)} where occasional security incidents were reported in the last quarter of 2025,^{[1037](#)} and an alleged Hezbollah bomb attack on a Church in Damascus' historic Christian neighbourhood Bab Touma was thwarted in April 2026.^{[1038](#)} In May 2026, a car bomb attack reportedly killed at least one soldier and injured about 20 people outside a Syrian Defence Ministry building in Damascus' Bab Sharqi district.^{[1039](#)}

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