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Middle East-North Africa: Situation Update as of 30 January 2012

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30 January 2012

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Syria: The regime launched security operations over the weekend following the Arab League's (AL) suspension of its observer mission. Activists claimed that violence killed at least 80 people throughout Syria yesterday, half of them civilians

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- Activists claimed that security forces yesterday fired heavy artillery and mortar rounds in the Damascus suburbs and were locked in close combat with armed oppositionists while armored forces took control of the eastern suburbs of Damascus

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The Syrian National Council yesterday called for protests outside unspecified Russian diplomatic missions in response to Moscow's opposition to the draft Moroccan UN resolution backing the AL plan that would require President al-Asad to step down

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- About 70 Syrians demonstrated outside the Russian Embassy in Jordan yesterday,

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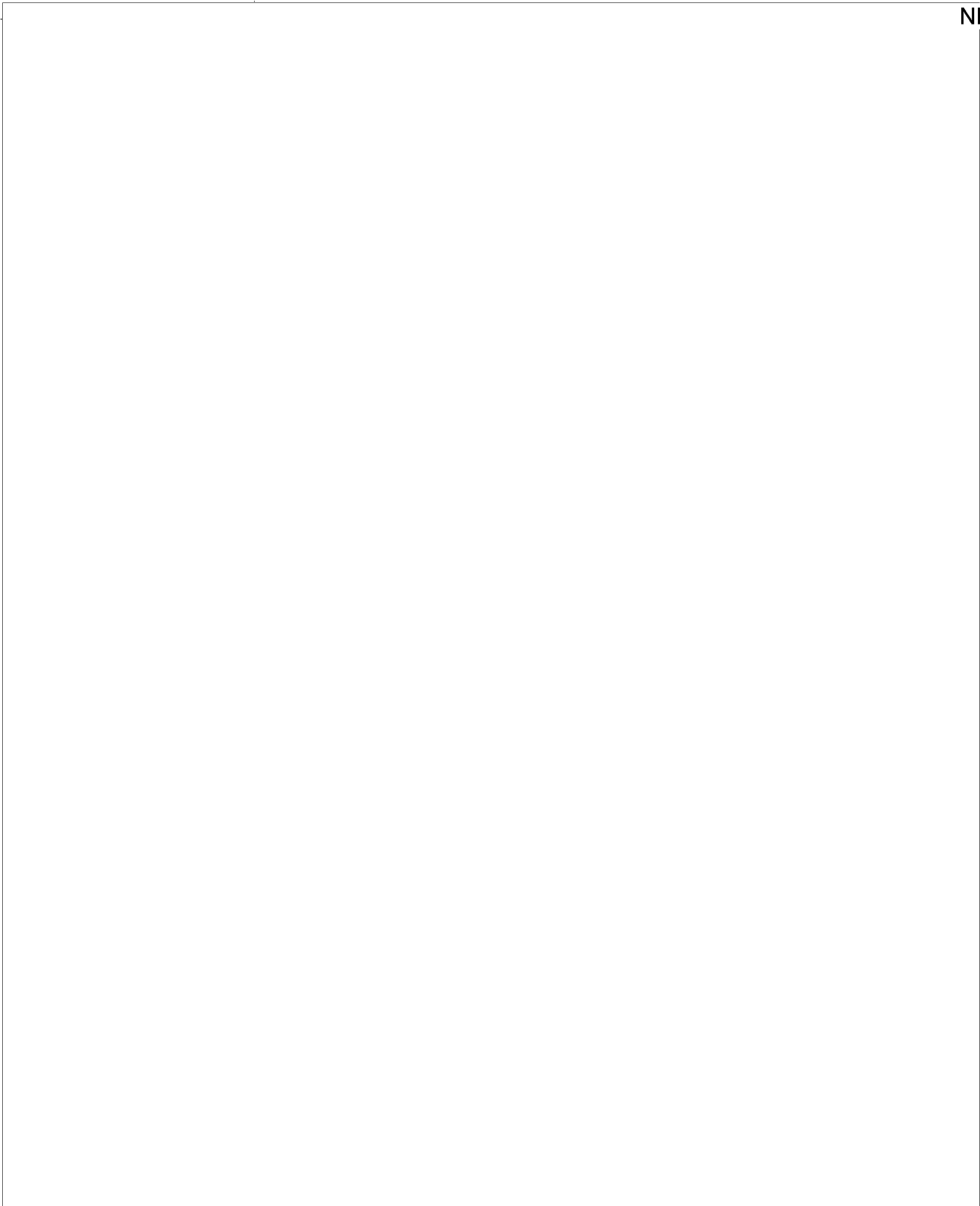
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This report was prepared by the CIA Middle East Task Force. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Task Force

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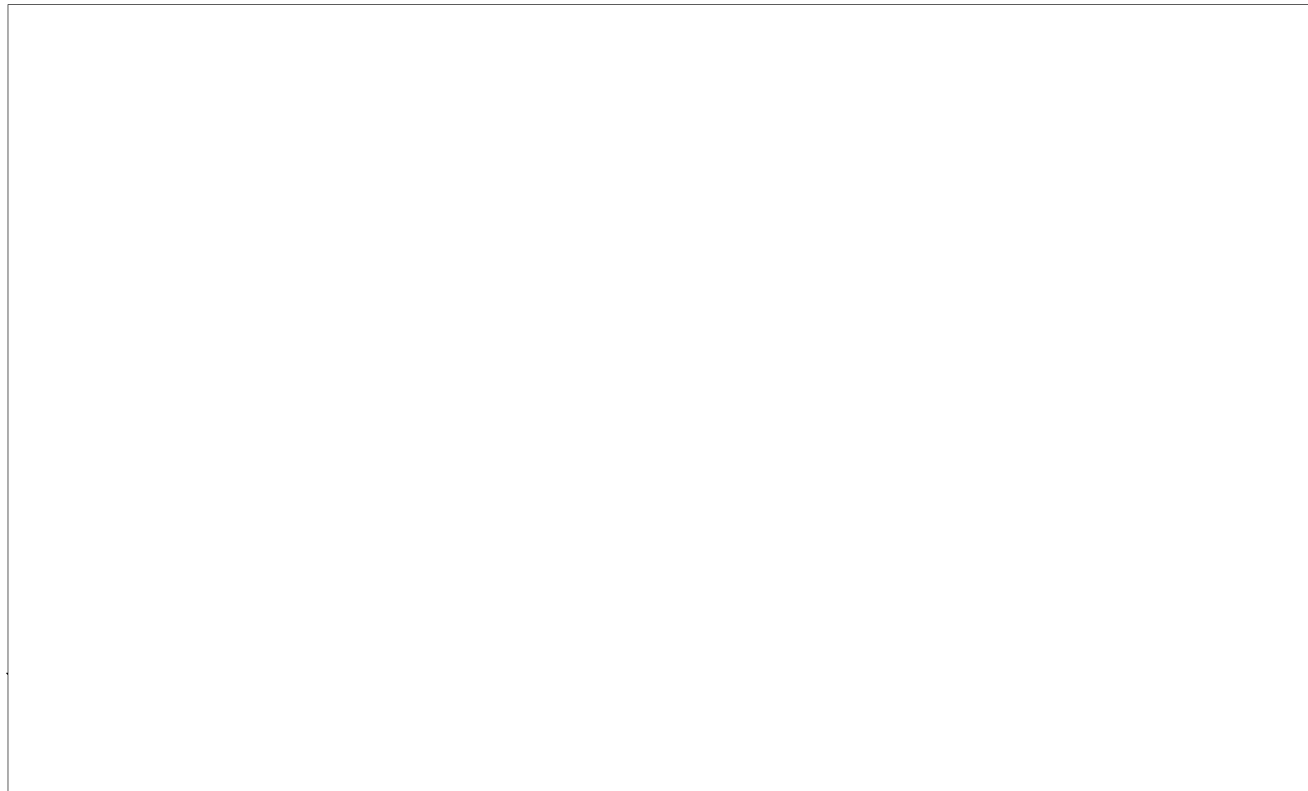
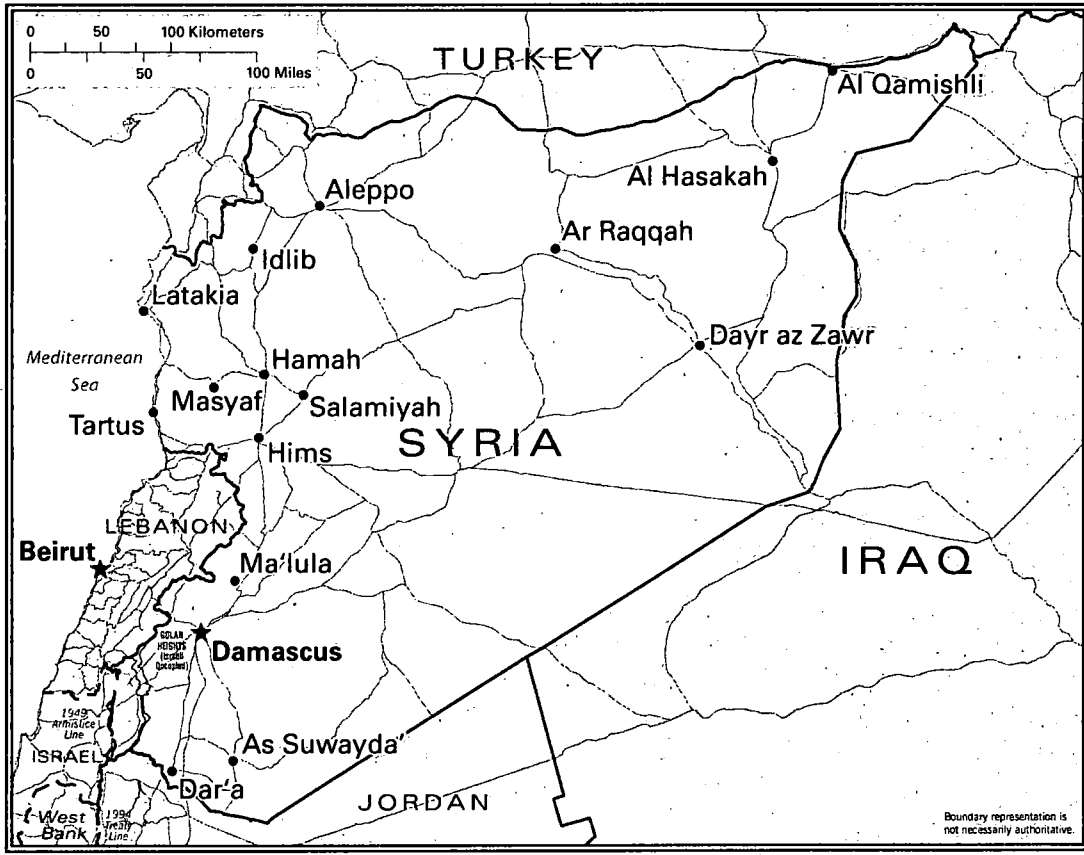


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North Africa and Middle East Situation Report (U)



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