

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

**Middle East-North Africa: Situation Update as of 1 May 2012**

[Redacted]

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1 May 2012

[Redacted]

(b)(3)

**Syria:** Oppositionists claimed 17 civilians in Idlib city were killed today in a mortar attack, and a London-based human rights group claimed that three civilians and 12 military personnel were killed during security operations in the Provinces of Idlib, Dayr az Zawr, and Rif Damascus, placing today's death toll now at 32 [Redacted] Syrian forces today conducted artillery operations in a Homs neighborhood [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

- Opposition activists claimed that approximately 13 Republican Guard members in Harista defected today under the protection of Free Syrian Army (FSA) members, [Redacted]

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The al-Nusrah Front—a Syria-based al-Qa'ida in Iraq affiliate group—today claimed responsibility for the VBIED attack in Damascus' al-Marjah Square on 24 April that targeted security forces and an Iranian cultural center [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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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 [Redacted]

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The number of UN military observers in Syria is increasing, and progress is being made to send them armored vehicles.

Two observers are stationed in Dar'a Province, and in each of the cities of Idlib, Hamah, Homs with the remainder in Damascus

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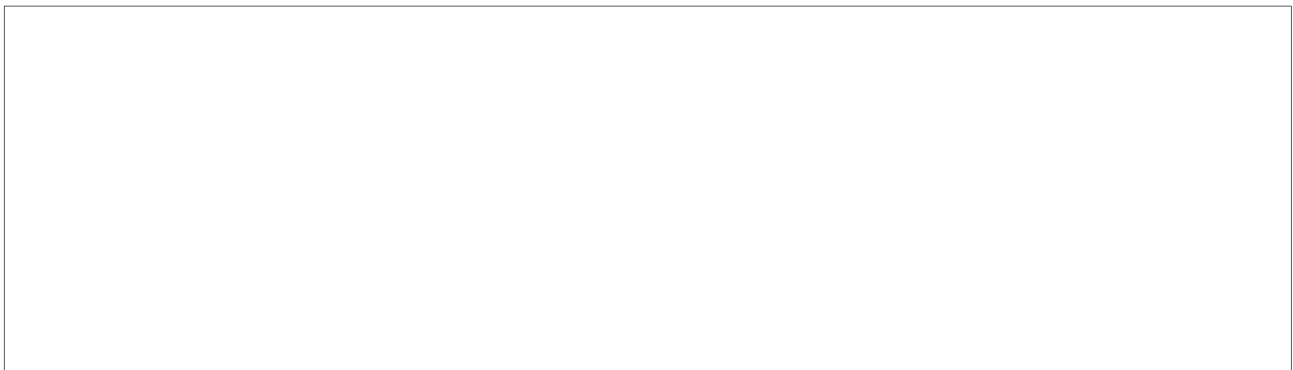
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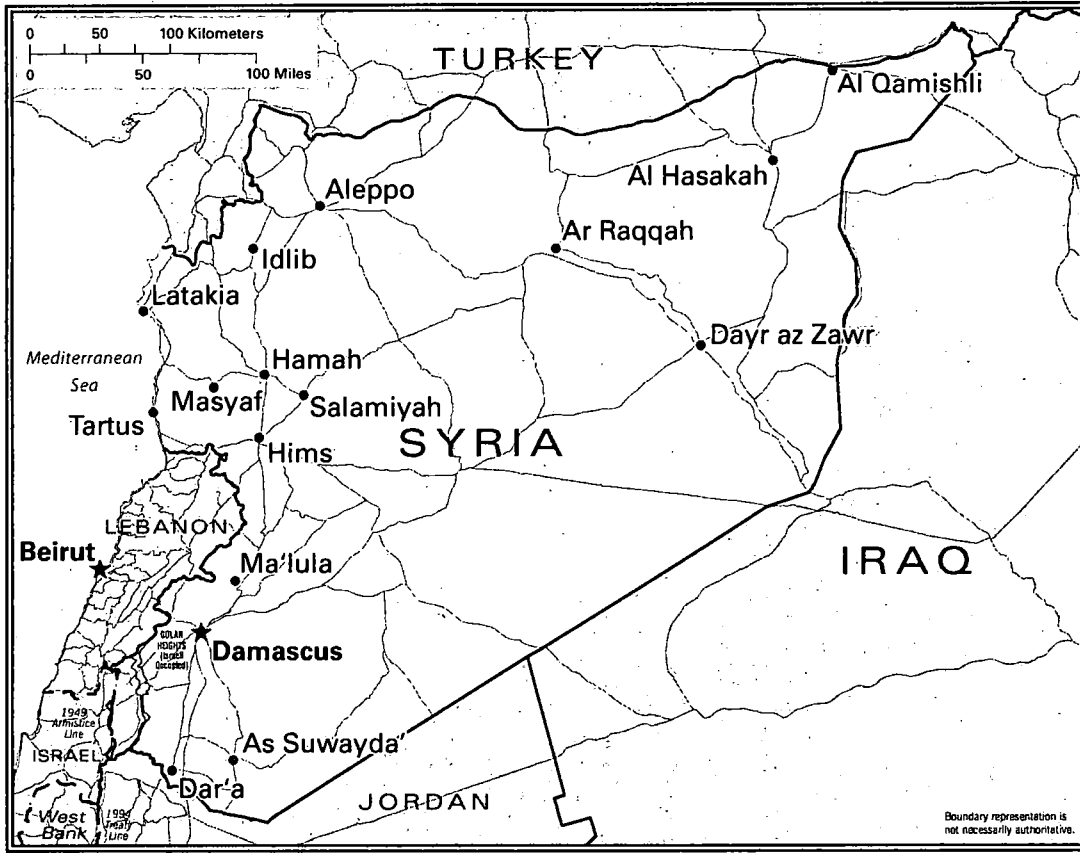




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### North Africa and Middle East Situation Report (U)



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