Daily reports · 25 October 2026

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Syria Narrative Tracker · as of the last update, 25 October 2026, 19:39 UTC

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1. The day at a glance

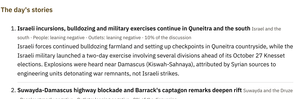
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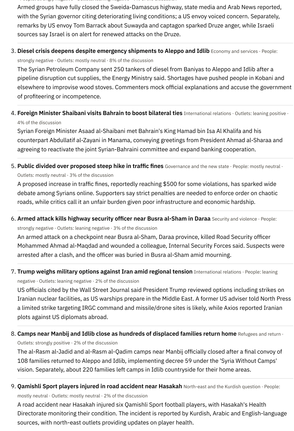
Frustrated Outlets this period mix routine government and diplomatic news (Bahrain visit, FORTIX expo, displaced families returning) with recurring crises: a deepening diesel shortage, continuing Israeli incursions and explosions near Damascus and Quneitra, and unresolved tension around Suwayda after Barrack's remarks. Ordinary commenters are far angrier and more sarcastic than official coverage, mocking fuel promises, debating new traffic fines, and voicing sharp sectarian and political divisions over Suwayda and the south. Kurdish-language posts continue to stress separate grievances (Kobani Mayday University autonomy, north-east identity) and solidarity with Palestine.

2. What people said

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The day in numbers





The day's stories

1. **Israeli incursions, bulldozing and military exercises continue in Quneitra and the south** Israel and the south · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 50% of the discussion
   Israeli forces continued bulldozing farmland and setting up checkpoints in Quneitra countryside, while the Israeli military launched a two-day exercise involving several divisions ahead of its October 27 Knesset elections. Explosions were heard near Damascus (Kiswah-Sahnaya), attributed by Syrian sources to engineering units detonating war remnants, not Israeli strikes.

2. **Suwayda-Damascus highway blockade and Barrack's captagon remarks deepen rift** Suwayda and the Druze · People: strongly negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 9% of the discussion
   Armed groups have fully closed the Sweida-Damascus highway, state media and Arab News reported, with the Syrian governor citing deteriorating living conditions; a US envoy voiced concern. Separately, remarks by US envoy Tom Barrack about Suwayda and captagon sparked Druze anger, while Israeli sources say Israel is on alert for renewed attacks on the Druze.

3. **Diesel crisis deepens despite emergency shipments to Aleppo and Idlib** Economy and services · People: strongly negative · Outlets: mostly neutral · 8% of the discussion
   The Syrian Petroleum Company says 250 tankers left Banias to Aleppo and Idlib after a pipeline disruption cut supplies, the Energy Ministry said. Shortages have pushed people in Kobani and elsewhere to improvise wood stoves. Commenters mock official explanations and accuse the government of profiteering or incompetence.

4. **Foreign Minister Shaibani visits Bahrain to boost bilateral ties** International relations · Outlets: leaning positive · 4% of the discussion
   Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani met Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and his counterpart Abdulatif al-Zayani in Manama, exchanging greetings from president Ahmad al-Sharaa and agreeing to reactivate the joint Syrian-Bahraini committee and expand banking cooperation.

5. **Public divided over proposed steep hike in traffic fines** Governance and the new state · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 3% of the discussion
   A proposed increase in traffic fines, reportedly reaching $500 for some violations, has sparked wide debate among Syrian online. Supporters say strict penalties are needed to enforce order on chaotic roads, while critics call it an unfair burden given poor infrastructure and economic hardship.

6. **Armed attack kills highway security officer near Busra al-Sham in Daraa** Security and violence · People: strongly negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 3% of the discussion
   An armed attack on a checkpoint near Busra al-Sham in Daraa province, killed Road Security officer Mohammed Ahmad al-Maqdad and wounded a colleague, Internal Security Forces said. Suspects were arrested after a clash, and the officer was buried in Busra al-Sham amid mourning.

7. **Trump weighs military options against Iran amid regional tension** International relations · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 2% of the discussion
   US officials cited by the Wall Street Journal said President Trump reviewed options including strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities, as US warships prepare in the Middle East. A former US adviser told North Press a limited strike targeting IRGC command and missile/drone sites is likely, while Axios reported Iranian pilots against US diplomats abroad.

8. **Camps near Manbij and Idlib close as hundreds of displaced families return home** Refugees and return · Outlets: strongly positive · 2% of the discussion
   The al-Rasm al-Jadid and al-Rasm al-Qadim camps near Manbij officially closed after a final convoy of 1,058 families returned to Aleppo and Idlib, implementing decree 5/2026 under the 'Syria Without Camps' vision. Separately, about 220 families left camps in Idlib countryside for their home areas.

9. **Qamishli Sport players injured in road accident near Maabah** North-east and the Kurdish question · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 2% of the discussion
   A road accident near Hasakah injured six Qamishli Sport football players, with Hasakah's Health Directorate monitoring their condition. The incident is reported by Kurdish, Arabic and English-language sources, with north-east outlets providing updates on player health.

10. **Church attack in Kerak, Jordan, sparks condemnation and sectarian debate** International relations · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 1% of the discussion
    International condemnation grew after a deadly shooting at a church in Kerak, Jordan, which killed nine and wounded 25. Malaysia, Tunisia, France, Spain and India condemned the attack, reaffirming solidarity with Jordan. Funerals were held with official, Arab and security presence, and some Syrian commenters debated the religious permissibility of condolences.

11. **Rojava University students press for academic independence and Kurdish-language education rights** North-east and the Kurdish question · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 1% of the discussion
    Students and academics at Rojava University called for the university's administrative and academic independence and for constitutionally guaranteed Kurdish-language education at all levels, Hawar News reported. The push comes amid broader integration talks between Damascus and the Autonomous Administration.

12. **Turkish-Syrian naval cooperation roadmap advances amid skepticism** International relations · People: leaning negative · Outlets: mostly neutral · 1% of the discussion
    Syria TV reported on a Turkish roadmap for rebuilding Syria's navy, covering ship maintenance, new vessel construction, port development and training, amid Syria's aging fleet and damaged infrastructure. The report links this to eastern Mediterranean gas dynamics. Public commenters expressed doubt about Turkey's sincerity and capacity.

13. **Education Ministry defends curriculum changes amid online criticism** Governance and the new state · Outlets: mostly neutral · 0% of the discussion
    New edits to primary and middle school textbooks, including removal of images of sculptures, artworks, and depictions of women and children, drew criticism on social media, North Press reported. A Education Ministry source told Syria TV only one modification has been made since 'liberation' and the curriculum reflects society's diversity.

14. **Businessman Musa al-Omar denies Yasar Ibrahim returned to Syria under settlement** Governance and the new state · Outlets: mostly neutral · 0% of the discussion
    The Sovereign Fund denied any settlement with Yasar Ibrahim, after rumors spread on social media that he had returned to Syria. Businessman Musa al-Omar, close to the presidency, publicly denied the news, saying Ibrahim's

15. **Rankous security operation sparks controversy over ISIS claims and information blackout** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 0% of the discussion
    Syrian security forces raided an alleged ISIS cell in Rankous near Damascus, killing two officers and five militants and arresting six, according to TV. Local outlet Sawt al-Asima reported the Interior Ministry deleted its own statements and images about the operation from social media after protests erupted in the town, and Telegram channel The Tele denied any link to the bloodshed.

3. What the media said

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Israeli escalation in south dominates coverage amid fuel crisis

In short: Media and think tanks focused heavily on Israeli incursions, bulldozing and killings in Quneitra and Daraa, with Amnesty International demanding accountability as reported by SANA and Arab News. Education curriculum changes and Syrian-Bahraini diplomacy also drew extensive coverage, while economic reports highlighted diesel shortages and Gulf investment talks. Ordinary Syrians, however, centred their anger on the blocked Suwayda-Damascus highway and worsening fuel shortages, topics that received comparatively less analytical depth from outlets that.

Security

Multiple outlets reported continued Israeli military activity in southern Syria: SANA said occupation forces advanced into Quneitra and bulldozed farmland, while Syria TV reported digging near Hanouta farm and Zaman al-Ward documented an incursion into northern Quneitra. Arab News and The New Arab reported a checkpoint being set up and a Daraa officer killed. Rights groups were vocal: Amnesty International called for accountability per SANA, while the Syrian Network for Human Rights demanded an independent probe into a killing west of Daraa, per Syria TV, and Al-Watan Online reported condemnation over the killing of a disabled civilian. Analysts weighed the strategic risk: the Israeli think tank INSS examined unusual protests against Israel from Daraa to Idlib, while Le Monde argued Israel uses 'buffer zones' to extend regional dominance, and Enab Baladi said Israel is maintaining rather than ending its presence. Separately, SANA reported a Syrian security officer killed in an armed attack in Daraa countryside, and Iranian state media IRNA reported explosions near Damascus coinciding with Israeli reconnaissance flights.

Economy

Economic coverage focused on diesel shortages and investment talks. Al-Araby Al-Jadeed and Al Arabiya reported the energy ministry addressing a fuel crisis in Aleppo and Idlib, while Enab Baladi detailed urgent measures involving 250 fuel tankers and Al-Modon said poor families await government support. North Press reported rising prices shrinking winter food stocks on the coast, and Al Akhbar said poor-quality gasoline is damaging engines. On investment, SANA and SANA reported Syrian-Saudi talks on economic cooperation, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported a rush of Gulf investment, and Syria and Oman discussed bus manufacturing per Arab News and Syria TV. Independent outlet Al-Modon raised questions about the structure and oversight of Syria's sovereign fund, while Zaman al-Wasl reported the fund planning a settlement with Yasar Ibrahim. Enab Baladi said attacks on energy facilities threaten investment with losses worth millions of dollars.

Governance

Governance coverage was dominated by education curriculum controversy and Syrian-Bahraini diplomacy. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group, reported curriculum changes and gender segregation raising concerns, while North Press, Syria TV and Al-Araby Al-Jadeed reported controversy over amended textbooks, and Al-Quds Al-Arabi published an opinion piece arguing the aim is removing Baath content. On diplomacy, SANA, Al-Watan Online and Arab News reported Foreign Minister al-Shaibani's talks with Bahrain on boosting ties and reactivating a joint committee, with Syria TV noting agreement on expanding banking cooperation. Enab Baladi examined why diaspora communities applaud each new ruler, and in an opinion piece Enab Baladi argued Syria needs substantive action, describing the country as 'on the operating table'. Syrian academic Bishan Dahham defended criticism as necessary for state-building per Syria TV, while Al-Watan Online reported Syria needs 7,500 judges to fill a judiciary shortfall, and Syria TV said parliament and the judiciary discussed judicial reform. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported Damascus home demolitions and education protests in Suwayda.

How they compare

Ordinary Syrians' biggest concern that day, the blocked Suwayda-Damascus highway amid the Barrack-Hijri rift, received only glancing coverage in the professional outlets. Instead, mainly by Asharq Al-Awsat on 'outlaw groups' blocking the road and Al Akhbar on Barrack's warning that the Suwayda file is 'heating up', far less attention than people devoted to it with starkly negative, sectarian-tinged reactions. The diesel crisis drew strong public anger, accusations of government lies and hoarding, a tone notably harsher than the more procedural outlet coverage of ministry measures. Israeli incursions were covered extensively by media, and people expressed mixed alarm and frustration, showing rough alignment there. However, Syrians' debate over a proposed hike in traffic fines, the road accident injuring Qamishli Sport players, and Kurdish demands for constitutional language rights were topics the professional coverage largely did not address that day.

→ Full page with sources

4. Sources and method

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Reports and articles drawn on (46)

- تسلا: Israeli occupation forces advance into Quneitra, continue bulldozing farmland
- تسلا: Amnesty International calls for Israel to be held accountable for attacks on Syria
- تسلا: מדריגא עבד אלרחמאן: התראה בדבר פלישה לשטחי הסורית ומכתב לאו"ם
- تسلا: Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: Curriculum changes and gender segregation raise concerns over education in Syria
- تسلا: North Press: North press agency — أسعار المازوت تخنق أهالي مدينة عين العرب/كوباني
- تسلا: Syria TV: تعديلات في كتب التربية تثير الجدل في الداخل السوري | نبض سوريا
- تسلا: Syria TV: تعديلات في كتب التربية تثير الجدل في الداخل السوري | نبض سوريا
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: 250 صهريجاً.. إجراءات لمعالجة أزمة المحروقات في سوريا
- تسلا: Syria TV: وزارة الطاقة السورية: إجراءات لمعالجة أزمة المحروقات في حلب وإدلب.. الغضبة الشعبية أربكت الحكومة
- تسلا: Syria TV: الاحتلال الإسرائيلي يستأنف العمل بقاعدة الدفاع الجوي في الشيخ حسين
- تسلا: Arab News: Amnesty International calls for Israel to be held accountable for attacks on Syria
- تسلا: Syria TV: الاحتلال الإسرائيلي يستأنف العمل بقاعدة الدفاع الجوي في الشيخ حسين
- تسلا: Zaman al-Wasl: تواتر إسرائيلي في ريف القنيطرة الشمالي
- تسلا: Arab News: Israeli forces set up checkpoint, bulldoze farmland in Syria's Quneitra
- تسلا: The New Arab: Israeli forces advance in Syria's Quneitra, Daraa officer killed
- تسلا: Syria TV: الشبكة السورية تطالب بتحقيق مستقل في مقتل مهند الجعفري بالاحتلال على درعا
- تسلا: Al-Watan Online: غارة إسرائيلية على مستودع للذخائر بالقرب من بلدة كفر شمس في ريف القنيطرة الجنوبي
- تسلا: Le Monde: A Gaza, au Liban et en Syrie, comment Israël utilise tour à tour zones tampons « pour étendre sa domination régionale
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: Israeli Presence in Syria: Managing, Not Ending Occupation - Enab Baladi
- تسلا: Syria TV: "صهريجا محملين بالوقود".. أبرز ملفات عمل وزير الطاقة السوري في أول مقابلة له
- تسلا: Highway security officer martyred, another injured in armed attack in Daraa countryside
- تسلا: Syria TV: الاحتلال الإسرائيلي يستأنف العمل بقاعدة الدفاع الجوي في الشيخ حسين
- تسلا: IRNA: انفجارات في دمشق وهجمات بأربعة طائرات مسيّرة في سوريا
- تسلا: Syria TV: أزمة المحروقات في سوريا.. أزمة تاريخية أم مفتعلة؟ الخبير الاقتصادي أيمن عبد النور يجيب
- تسلا: Al-Modon: فقر الأسر يتفاقم مع اقتراب الشتاء في سوريا
- تسلا: North Press: North press agency — أزمة المحروقات تخنق أهالي مدينة عين العرب/كوباني
- تسلا: Al Akhbar: أزمة البنزين الرديء.. من يحمي السيارات في سوريا؟
- تسلا: SANA: مباحثات سورية-عمانية لتعزيز التعاون الاقتصادي والتجاري
- تسلا: Syria, Saudi Arabia explore cooperation in economic, customs, and logistics sectors
- تسلا: Arab News: Syria and Oman discuss bus manufacturing and transport services
- تسلا: Syria TV: مباحثات سورية-عمانية لتعزيز وتنسيع التعاون وتطوير طرق نقل جديدة
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: Syria's Gulf Investment Talks Signal Economic Shift
- تسلا: Zaman al-Wasl: بعد تأجيل دام سنوات.. مجلس الشعب يقر قانون الصندوق السيادي السوري
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: Syria's Sovereign Fund Law: Between Economic Ambition and Political Risk
- تسلا: Al-Watan Online: مجلس الشعب يقر قانون الصندوق السيادي السوري
- تسلا: Zaman al-Wasl: بعد تأجيل دام سنوات.. مجلس الشعب يقر قانون الصندوق السيادي السوري
- تسلا: Arab News: Al-Shaibani and Al-Zayani meet to boost Syrian-Bahraini relations
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: لماذا تتنقل الجاليات السورية حول العالم بين الأنظمة؟
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: الرئيس الشرع: البلد على طاولة العلاج
- تسلا: Zaman al-Wasl: بعد تأجيل دام سنوات.. مجلس الشعب يقر قانون الصندوق السيادي السوري
- تسلا: Arab News: Al-Shaibani and Al-Zayani meet to boost Syrian-Bahraini relations
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: لماذا تتنقل الجاليات السورية حول العالم بين الأنظمة؟
- تسلا: Enab Baladi: الرئيس الشرع: البلد على طاولة العلاج
- تسلا: Al-Watan Online: بعد تأجيل دام سنوات.. مجلس الشعب يقر قانون الصندوق السيادي السوري
- تسلا: Syria TV: رئيس اللجنة "الاستثنائية" لـ"الأشبال" و"الوطن": سوريا بحاجة لـ 7500 قاضٍ لسد النقص في القضاء
- تسلا: Al-Watan Online: رئيس اللجنة "الاستثنائية" لـ"الأشبال" و"الوطن": سوريا بحاجة لـ 7500 قاضٍ لسد النقص في القضاء
- تسلا: Syria TV: مجلس الشعب يقرّ قانون الصندوق السيادي السوري
- تسلا: AGENSIA: Al-Akhbar English: Syrian Govt Accuses Tlaitlaa Group of Attacking Sweida-Damascus Highway
- تسلا: Al Akhbar: بعد تأجيل دام سنوات.. مجلس الشعب يقرّ قانون الصندوق السيادي
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