Daily reports · 26 October 2026

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Syria Narrative Tracker · as of the last update, 26 October 2026, 23:55 UTC

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1. The day at a glance

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Angry The dominant story overnight was Israel's retaliatory airstrikes on southern Syria after the Karak church attack, which killed civilians in Daraa and triggered a border closure and Syrian government protest. Public reaction split sharply between Syrians condemning Jordan for killing women and children, Jordanians defending the strikes, and many invoking sectarian or geopolitical conspiracy theories. Other threads included continued fallout from attacks on Kurdish returnees in Tal Abyad, a drone strike killing an al-Qaeda-linked commander near Qamishli, arrests of former regime officials, and controversy over new school curricula and Druze politics.

2. What people said

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The day in numbers

Leaning negative	Mostly neutral	17	3,624	6
People's tone	Outlets' tone	stories followed	post analyses	updates

Share of discussion by theme

The day's stories

1. **Jordan's deadly airstrikes on Daraa spark crisis with Damascus** Israel and the south · People: strongly negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 58% of the discussion
   Jordan's air force struck sites in rural Daraa on 26 October, calling it retaliation for an attack on a Karak church that killed nine people. Syrian officials said the strikes killed at least 7-10 civilians, including women and children, and summoned Jordan's chargé d'affaires. Damascus closed the Nassib border crossing and opened an investigation.
2. **Israeli incursions and military exercises continue in Quneitra and Daraa** Israel and the south · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 33% of the discussion
   Israeli forces resumed digging work on the 'Syria 53' line near Quneitra and conducted a two-day military exercise with low-altitude flights over Tal Saraya's eastern basin. Enab Baladi reported threats to Quneitra farmers' livelihoods, and villagers in Jamleh (Daraa) appealed to Syrian authorities to stop the incursions. US envoy reportedly told Israel to halt operations as it pushes deeper into Quneitra.
3. **Attacks on Kurdish families returning to Tal Abyad** North-east and the Kurdish question · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 33% of the discussion
   Kurdish families returning to homes in Tal Abyad (Kobani countryside, Raqqa) faced attacks, vehicle burnings and threats, prompting over 100 families to be evacuated to Kobani. The Kurdish National Council and north-east officials demanded an investigation; Raqqa's internal security command pledged accountability.
4. **Suwayda-Damascus standoff continues amid US-Israel friction over Druze** Suwayda and the Druze · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 33% of the discussion
   Tensions over Suwayda and Druze leader Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri persist, with Lebanese Druze leader Walid Jumblatt publicly criticizing al-Hijri as an Israeli tool and warning of Israeli expansion toward Damascus. A report noted continuing US-Israel policy differences over Syria's Druze issue.
5. **Lira slides and dissent shortage anger deepen** Economy and services · People: strongly negative · Outlets: mostly neutral · 9% of the discussion
   The Syrian pound fell further against the dollar on Monday, gold prices rose, and an economist proposed an early-warning inflation index, according to Orient News and Enab Baladi. Public commenters continued venting about diesel shortages and price hikes months after the fall of the former regime, alongside scattered diesel delivery news in Aleppo.
6. **Drone strike kills al-Qaeda-linked commander near Qastal/Qura on Damascus-Homs highway** Security and violence · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 6% of the discussion
   A car explosion, later identified as a drone/missile strike, killed Abu Abdulrahman al-Libi, a commander of the dissolved Hurras al-Din (al-Qaeda affiliate), near Qastal/Qura on the Damascus-Homs highway on 26 October. Three people died; remnants suggested a US Hellfire missile.
7. **Explosions heard near Damascus amid reported Israeli drone activity** Security and violence · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 6% of the discussion
   Explosions were heard around Damascus near al-Kiswah and Sahnaya, accompanied by Israeli drone flights, with causes and casualties unconfirmed. Hawar News and OSINT accounts flagged the incident as significant, while SANA later reported a separate explosion on the Damascus-Homs highway the same day.
8. **Education Ministry curriculum changes spark controversy over Ottoman history and women's representation** Governance and the new state · People: leaning negative · Outlets: mostly neutral · 6% of the discussion
   Syria's new school curriculum reportedly removes anti-Ottoman references (like the 'Butcher of Arabs' label for Jamal Pasha) and alters depictions related to women, triggering debate among Syrians about identity and the transitional government's priorities.
9. **Arrests of Assad's cousin and former regime officers over war crimes** Transitional justice · Outlets: leaning positive · 4% of the discussion
   Syria's Interior Ministry announced the arrest of Yahya al-Assad and several former regime officers in Homs, including figures linked to the 2013 Tadamon massacre and alleged city bombings, as part of ongoing transitional justice efforts.
10. **Public divided over steep hike in traffic fines** Governance and the new state · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 4% of the discussion
    A proposal to raise traffic fines sharply, reportedly up to $500, continues to divide Syrians, as covered by Syria TV. Some commenters support it as necessary discipline, while others call it disconnected from people's incomes and daily hardships.
11. **Viral quote on Israeli settler claims over Jordan, Lebanon and Syria sparks alarm** Israel and the south · People: strongly negative · Outlets: strongly negative · 4% of the discussion
    A widely shared quote attributed to an American-Israeli settler, telling a Guardian journalist Palestinians can go anywhere 'except Jordan, Lebanon and Syria because those are ours to, spread rapidly among English-language social media users. Commenters linked it to Israel's Oct. 27 election and existing incursions in Syria, framing it as evidence of expansionist intent.
12. **Landmine blasts continue to injure and kill children as map prepared** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 2% of the discussion
    Three children were injured by a landmine near al-Shoush village, Tal Tamr countryside north of Hasakah, on 26 October while herding sheep, North Press reported. Separately, a child was killed and his mother and uncle injured in an explosion in Kobani countryside. Syria's Emergency Ministry said the country's first landmine contamination map will be released soon.
13. **Foreign Minister Shaibani visits Bahrain, king voices support for Syria's unity** International relations · People: leaning positive · Outlets: strongly positive · 2% of the discussion
    Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaibani met Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, discussing regional developments and bilateral ties. The king praised Syria's positions supporting Bahrain and affirmed Manama's support for Syria's unity and sovereignty; the two sides agreed to reactivate a joint committee and expand banking cooperation.
14. **Gunmen kill young man near Khirbet Ghazaleh on Daraa highway** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 2% of the discussion
    Yahya Suleiman Kanaan, a construction worker from Khirbet Ghazaleh in eastern Daraa countryside, was shot dead at dawn near al-Majdal junction on the Daraa-Khirbet Ghazaleh road. Daraa 24 and Syria TV reported the killing, which follows earlier violence on the same highway in the area.
15. **Camps near Manbij close as displaced families return to Aleppo and Idlib areas** Refugees and return · Outlets: leaning positive · 2% of the discussion
    A third and final group of displaced families departed Manbij on 26 October, completing the return of 108 families to their areas of origin in Aleppo and Idlib countryside after the closure of the Rasm al-Qadim and Rasm al-Jazid camps. Officials say 25% of displaced people have left northern camps, as part of the Emergency Ministry's plan to close them by 2027.
16. **Rojava University students press for academic independence and Kurdish-language education** North-east and the Kurdish question · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 1% of the discussion
    Students and politicians in the north-east, including at Rojava University and in Derbasiyah, call for protecting the Kurdish language, securing education in Kurdish, and enshrining it as an official language in the Syrian constitution. Calls for academic independence for the university also emerged.
17. **Tribal clashes, checkpoint killing and fuel-smuggling bust in Daraa** Security and violence · Outlets: mostly neutral · 1% of the discussion
    A tribal dispute in al-Sharaya (Lajat area) escalated into gunfire and grenade use, with Internal Security intervening; a young man, Yahya Suleiman Kanaan, was shot dead near Khirbet Ghazaleh; and authorities raided a fuel-mining site near Izraa seizing 100,000 liters of adulterated fuel. A separate traffic accident on the Damascus-Daraa highway injured 36 people.

3. What the media said

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Jordanian strikes on south Syria dominate a tense news day

In short: Jordanian airstrikes on southern Syria after the Karak church attack, and a car bombing near Qastal targeting an alleged Hurras al-Din figure, dominated security coverage, while Syrian, Qatari and Bahraini outlets reported a flurry of economic diplomacy. Governance coverage focused on curriculum controversy, Kurdish-language education demands and transitional justice efforts, while ordinary Syrians were far angrier about the Jordanian strikes and a worsening diesel crisis that went largely unmentioned by international media. The lifting of JCAO's 13-year warning on Syrian airspace was widely covered as a symbolic milestone.

Security

Jordan's army launched what it called 'Operation Jordanian Deterrence, Hammoud' against sites in southern Syria on 26 October, saying the targets were linked to gunmen behind an attack on a church in Karak, according to North Press and ANHA, a Kurdish-administration-affiliated outlet. SANA, Syria's state-run news agency, carried the government's official statement, while its foreign ministry said it had told Jordan it objected to operations on Syrian territory without prior coordination. SANA and Al-Watan Online. SANA reported the death toll from the strikes in Daraa countryside rose to seven killed and three wounded, while France 24 said the strikes killed several civilians; the Nassib border crossing was closed, per SANA. Separately, Syria TV reported the international coalition targeted a figure known as Abu Abdul-Rahman al-Libi in Qura, Rif Dimashq, amid a car bomb explosion on the Damascus-Homs highway that TASS said killed three people. Middle East Monitor, an independent Lebanese outlet, linked the killing to a Hurras al-Din leader. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitor, reported heavy Israeli aerial activity over southern Syria (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights), while Anadolu Agency, Turkey's state-run, said Israel is extending a military barrier through farmland there. Elsewhere, SANA and The New Arab reported the arrest of senior former Assad-regime officials including a cousin of Bashar al-Assad, and Syrian and international outlets widely covered ICAO lifting its 13-year airspace warning (Enab Baladi, TRT World).

Economy

Syrian and regional outlets reported a wave of economic diplomacy, with SANA reporting Syria and Bahrain moving toward banking cooperation, and SANA and Gulf Times covering Syria-Qatar trade and investment talks in Doha, where SANA said Syria is seeking investment partnerships at the World Investment Forum. Zaman al-Wasl reported nine international contracts to rehabilitate Syrian roads and link Iraq to Mediterranean ports, while Zaman al-Wasl said Syria will receive $643 million for roads and railways. Enab Baladi reported the Syrian pound's decline is worsening inflationary pressures, with an expert proposing an early-warning indicator. Enab Baladi and Enab Baladi reported Turkey lowered its forecast for Syrian refugee returns in 2026, and Al-Jumhuriya, an independent outlet, said delayed wheat payments have strained farmers in the Jazira region. Hawar News, a Kurdish-administration-affiliated outlet, reported sunflower farmers in the north-east facing rising costs and lower returns prices, and Enab Baladi said Israeli incursions threaten Quneitra farmers' livelihoods.

Governance

Syrian outlets reported controversy over school curriculum images, with Syria TV and ANHA saying the Education Ministry changed images as reflecting Syrian society's diversity, and Hawar News noting the education authority's comments on the nature of the revisions. Suwayda, a Kurdish outlet, reported a senior politician saying Kurdish-language education must be enshrined in Syria's constitution, echoed by Hawar News calling for unified political efforts to protect Kurdish language rights, and ANHA quoting Ilham Ahmed saying Kurds in Syria have achieved their historic objectives. SANA reported Homs hosted a consultative meeting on transitional justice mechanisms. Al Jazeera, Qatar-funded, said Suwayda remains in deadlock as the US signals differences with Israel on Syria policy. RelielWeb examined why Syrian refugees in Lebanon's Bekaa and Beirut are not returning, and the UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict addressed Syria in a Security Council statement (ReliefWeb). Zaman al-Wasl investigated how a former Assad-army officer became a representative of Syria's higher education ministry internationally.

How they compare

Ordinary Syrians' anger over the Jordanian strikes, up to 51% of posts and far more negative in tone than the measured diplomatic language in SANA and North Press coverage, mirrored the media's attention but with mockery of Jordan's king and accusations it serves Israeli interests, themes absent from official statements. The diesel crisis, up to 13% of posts and the most negative tone recorded that day, received almost no coverage in the items gathered, a striking gap given the public's sarcasm over official claims of improvement. Attacks on Kurdish returnees to Tal Abyad drew significant public attention and sharp division, echoed but sharper than the accountability calls reported by Hawar News and tension noted by Syria TV. The curriculum controversy prompted notable public engagement, splitting between ideological concern, broadly matching the media's framing in Syria TV, Suwayda's history blockade drew limited public comment despite extensive Al Jazeera coverage, while a viral quote attributed to an Israeli settler about regional land claims sparked outrage mainly among English-language users, a theme not reflected in the gathered media items.

→ Full page with sources

4. Sources and method

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Reports and articles drawn on (42)

- تركيا: Syrian government issues official statement on Jordanian airstrikes in southern Syria
- North Press: North press agency – خصومتنا ليست مع الشعب السوري ولكننا ضد سياسات حكومته
- ANHA: Jordanian army hits sites in southern Syria
- TASS: Syria TV: при взрыве машины на востоке Дамаска погибли 3 человека
- SANA: وزارة الخارجية والمغتربين في دمشق تعرب عن رفضها لقيام الأردن بشن غارات على الأراضي السورية
- SANA: دمشق تعلن فتح باب التسجيل لأداء مناسك الحج لموسم ١٤٤٨هـ
- SANA: هيئة الطيران تعلن عدم سحب الجزائر لطائرتها من مطار القامشلي الدولي
- SANA: الخارجية السورية تؤكد أن الاعتداء على المنشآت المدنية في درعا يمثل تصعيداً خطيراً
- SANA: الخارجية السورية: لا تهاون في حماية سيادة الأراضي السورية ورد الحق بالوسائل المشروعة
- Al Watan Online: تركيا تعلن عن اتفاق لتصدير الغاز الأذربيجاني إلى سوريا عبر أراضيها
- SANA: الرئيس الشرع يستقبل الوفد المرافق لوزير الخارجية والمغتربين
- Anadolu Agency: Israeli attacks militarize army barrier through farmland in southern Syria
- France 24: Jordan's airstrikes on Syria over church terror attack kill several civilians
- SANA: القس الدخاخني يلقي القداس على مدى ثلاثة أيام بكنيسة سيدة حمص في الغدير
- The New Arab: Syria arrests Assad's cousin and senior regime officers
- Enab Baladi: ICAO Withdraws Syrian Airspace Warning After 13 Years – Enab Baladi
- TRT World: Syria to launch first nationwide map of mine-contaminated areas
- Al Jazeera: Suwayda in deadlock as Syria's Sharaa, US, Israel play different tunes
- SANA: وزير الخارجية والمغتربين يجري مباحثات مع نظيره القطري في الدوحة
- Hawar News: إرتفاع أسعار الأعلاف يهدد آلاف المربين في الرقة ومنبج والسويداء
- Enab Baladi: تجارة بلا ضفاف: رحلة الأرز السوري من الحقل إلى المائدة
- Syria TV: تقرير مستفيض للقبض على سفاح الرقة السوري الجديد
- Hawar News: مزارعو عباد الشمس يواجهون ارتفاع التكاليف وانخفاض أسعار بالشمال
- Enab Baladi: Israeli Incursions Threaten Quneitra Farmers' Livelihoods – Enab Baladi
- Syria TV: تصريحات للمتحدثة الرسمية لوزارة التعليم حول التعديلات الجارية على المناهج الدراسية
- ANHA: Controversy over images in Syrian curricula as Education Ministry comments
- Hawar News: حل حزب عين عيسى للمناطق ورد بالرفض وتأكيد على طريقة الإدارة الذاتية
- Rudaw: Kurdish-language education must be enshrined in Syria's constitution: Senior politician
- Hawar News: دعوات لتوحيد الجهود السياسية ومعالجة قضية الترشيح وفشل المجلس الانتخابي
- ANHA: Ilham Ahmed: Kurds in Syria approved their existence
- SANA: الرئيس الشرع يستقبل وفداً من الجالية السورية في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية
- Al Jazeera: Suwayda remains in stasis as US signals differences with Israel on Syria
- ReliefWeb: Understanding the Non-return of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon: Evidence from Central Bekaa and Greater Beirut– January 2026
- ReliefWeb: Statement by Vanessa Frazier, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict to the UN Security Council (26 October 2026)
- Zaman al-Wasl: الرقة تطلق مشروع لتأهيل الطرق وتعزيز الربط التجاري مع العراق
- Zaman al-Wasl: تسعة مشاريع طرق وسكك حديدية تربط سوريا بالبحر المتوسط والعراق
- Syria TV: تقرير حول أسعار الأعلاف في الرقة ومنبج والسويداء

Written automatically by an AI model from the titles and short summaries of the reports, which are linked. It describes what the sources say, not what is true. From Syrian outlets only (incompleteness, in-depth reports, analysis and official statements are rare), and paywalled outlets are missing; this is not the whole picture.

Analysis generated automatically by an AI model from public posts. It describes what is being said, not what is true. Individuals are never named, quoted or linked.

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