Daily reports · 28 October 2026

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Syria Narrative Tracker · as of the last update, 28 October 2026, 18:36 UTC

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1. The day at a glance

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Anxious Public attention split between the high-profile Iraqi PM visit to Damascus (widely welcomed but mocked by some over donations amid poverty), continued anger over Jordan's deadly strikes on Daraa, Israeli incursions in Quneitra, and severe flooding disrupting Raqqa, Hasakah and Deir ez-Zor. Kurdish and Turkish-language commenters are sharply divided over SDF integration with Damascus, with many blaming it for attacks on Kurds. Outlets largely stress diplomacy and reconstruction, while ordinary commenters focus on economic hardship, security incidents and distrust of official narratives.

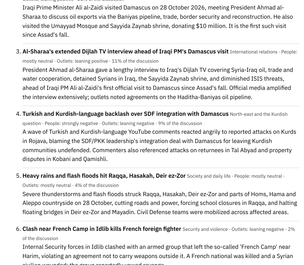
2. What people said

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The day in numbers

Leaning negative	Mostly neutral	19	4,017	5
People's tone	Outlets' tone	stories followed	post analyses	updates

Share of discussion by theme



The day's stories

1. **Fallout from Jordanian airstrikes on Daraa continues** International relations · People: strongly negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 78% of the discussion
After Jordanian airstrikes on Daraa and Suwayda countryside killed civilians including children, Syria's Foreign Ministry summoned Jordan's ambassador Sufyan al-Qudah and handed a protest note. Damascus and Amman organized a joint security committee; the Nassib border crossing, closed briefly, reopened.

2. **Iraqi PM Ali al-Zaidi makes historic first visit to Damascus** International relations · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: leaning positive · 21% of the discussion
Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi visited Damascus on 28 October 2026, meeting President Ahmad al-Sharaa to discuss oil exports via the Baniyas pipeline, trade, border security and reconstruction. He also visited the Umayyad Mosque and Sayyida Zaynab shrine, donating $10 million. It is the first such visit since Assad's fall.

3. **Al-Sharaa's extended Dijlah TV interview ahead of Iraqi PM's Damascus visit** International relations · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: leaning positive · 11% of the discussion
President Ahmad al-Sharaa gave a lengthy interview to Iraq's Dijlah TV covering Syria-Iraq oil, trade and water cooperation, detained Syrians in Iraq, the Sayyida Zaynab shrine, and diminished ISIS threats, ahead of Iraqi PM Ali al-Zaidi's first official visit to Damascus since Assad's fall. Official media amplified the interview extensively; outlets noted agreements on the Haditha-Baniyas oil pipeline.

4. **Turkish and Kurdish-language backlash over SDF integration with Damascus** North-east and the Kurdish question · People: strongly negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 9% of the discussion
A wave of Turkish and Kurdish-language YouTube comments reacted angrily to reported attacks on Kurds in Rojava, blaming the SDF/PKK leadership's integration deal with Damascus for leaving Kurdish communities undefended. Commenters also referenced attacks on returnees in Tal Abyad and property disputes in Kobani and Qamishli.

5. **Heavy rains and flash floods hit Raqqa, Hasakah, Deir ez-Zor** Society and daily life · People: mostly neutral · Outlets: mostly neutral · 4% of the discussion
Severe thunderstorms and flash floods struck Raqqa, Hasakah, Deir ez-Zor and parts of Homs, Hama and Aleppo countryside on the 28 October, cutting roads and power, forcing school closures in Raqqa, and halting floating bridges in Deir ez-Zor and Mayadin. Civil Defense teams were mobilized across affected areas.

6. **Clash near French Camp in Idlib kills French foreign fighter** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 2% of the discussion
Internal Security forces in Idlib clashed with an armed group that left the so-called 'French Camp' near Harim, violating an agreement not to carry weapons outside it. A French national was killed and a Syrian civilian wounded; the group reportedly vowed revenge.

7. **Syrians react to tight Israeli election results** International relations · Outlets: mostly neutral · 2% of the discussion
Partial results from Israel's Knesset election showed Netanyahu's bloc and Eisenkot's camp in a tight race, with Arab parties securing a notable share of seats. Syrian outlets and public commenters followed the results closely, largely from the angle of how outcomes might affect Israeli policy toward Syria.

8. **Security forces announce drug and arms trafficking busts in Homs and Deir ez-Zor** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning positive · 1% of the discussion
Syria's Anti-Narcotics Department dismantled a network in Homs smuggling 200,000 Captagon pills from Lebanon, while Internal Security forces in Deir ez-Zor arrested eight people and seized weapons and drugs near Abu Kamal. Authorities report roughly 3 million Captagon pills seized nationwide in October 2026.

9. **Attacks on Kurdish returnee families in Tal Abyad continue** North-east and the Kurdish question · Outlets: leaning negative · 2% of the discussion
Kurdish outlets and activists report continued attacks on displaced Kurdish families returning to Tal Abyad (Girê Spî), drawing condemnation from a Qamishli civic initiative and the US State Department, which urged Damascus to ensure accountability and safe returns.

10. **Israeli incursions and shelling continue in Quneitra** Israel and the south · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 2% of the discussion
Israeli forces shelled farmland near Saida al-Jolan in southern Quneitra countryside on 28 October, after earlier detaining and releasing a young man during an incursion into Abu Mathra village. North Press and Qatar News Agency also reported separate incursions and a temporary checkpoint near Majdoliya.

11. **Transitional justice court sentences former security officer** Transitional justice · Outlets: leaning positive · 1% of the discussion
Syria's Fourth Criminal Court in Damascus sentenced Mohammed Islam Anwawout, a former Assad-era political security volunteer, to 15 years for arbitrarily detaining civilians without warrants. The ruling, covered by official and independent outlets, is part of around 63 cases the court is examining under the new transitional justice process, with the Justice Ministry stressing judicial reform.

12. **University mergers and school curriculum controversies continue** North-east and the Kurdish question · People: leaning negative · Outlets: leaning negative · 1% of the discussion
Syria's Higher Education Council ordered Aleppo University merged with Euphrates University and Kobani University with Aleppo University, provoking student protests and rejection by Kurdish institutions. Separately, feminist group Femena criticized newly revised Syrian textbooks for removing images of women and lessons on citizenship.

13. **Electricity company explains worsening power rationing** Economy and services · Outlets: mostly neutral · 1% of the discussion
The Syrian Electricity Company said increased rationing hours stem from maintenance work, generation units at Tishreen plant remaining offline, and a shortage of Azerbaijani gas suppliers needed to run power stations. The explanations were widely circulated by independent outlets.

14. **SalamAir launches first Oman-Damascus flights** Economy and services · Outlets: leaning positive · 1% of the discussion
Oman's SalamAir began operating flights between Muscat and Damascus on 28 October, with two flights weekly, following a technical inspection of Damascus airport in late September. Syria's civil aviation authority head confirmed the agreement with the airline.

15. **Assassinations and unresolved violence in Deir ez-Zor and Hama countryside** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 1% of the discussion
Separate violent incidents were reported in eastern and central Syria: an interior ministry member was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Deir ez-Zor, an armed robbery attempt in Hama countryside left one man seriously wounded, a drive-by killing near Qara in rural Damascus, and an old blood-feud killing in a village near Qamishli.

16. **Landmine explosion kills three civilians in Hasakah countryside** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 0% of the discussion
A landmine left over from war exploded in Umm Zar village, Shaddadi area, southern Hasakah countryside, on 27 October, killing three people and injuring two children. North Press and Enab Baladi reported the incident, highlighting the ongoing danger of war remnants in the north-east.

17. **Displaced families return from Jarabulus camps under 'Syria Without Camps' plan** Refugees and return · Outlets: leaning positive · 0% of the discussion
A convoy of 111 displaced families left Jarabulus's Bunyan 2 and Yousef Beik camps on 27 October, heading to original areas in Aleppo, Idlib, Hama, Homs and Deir ez-Zor provinces. Aleppo's social affairs directorate said the move implements Decree 59 and the 'Syria Without Camps' vision.

18. **Arrests made in killing of driver Qais Sanufa near Damascus** Security and violence · Outlets: leaning negative · 0% of the discussion
Internal Security forces in Qudsaya, rural Damascus, arrested four suspects accused of killing driver Qais Sanufa after luring him under pretext of robbery; his body was found in Wadi Basima the day after he disappeared. Investigations pinpointed an abandoned farm as the crime scene.

19. **Israeli incursions and detentions continue in Quneitra** Israel and the south · Outlets: leaning negative · 0% of the discussion
Israeli occupation forces conducted a ground incursion with military vehicles into the village of al-Mu'allaqa in Quneitra countryside, searching homes and detaining at least one person, while separately Israel arrested three young men in rural Quneitra. Levant24's tracker also logged continued Israeli strikes, checkpoints and property destruction across Syria.

3. What the media said

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Daraa Fallout and Iraqi PM's Historic Damascus Visit Dominate

In short: Coverage on 28 October split between the aftermath of Jordan's deadly strikes on Daraa and the first visit by an Iraqi prime minister to Damascus since Assad's fall. The media reported a reopened Nassib border crossing, a joint Syrian-Jordanian investigative committee, and extensive economic and security pledges between Damascus and Baghdad. Ordinary Syrians were far angrier about the Daraa strikes than the media's measured diplomatic framing suggested, while Kurdish-related grievances barely registered in outlet coverage.

Security

The media extensively covered the fallout from Jordanian airstrikes on Daraa that killed civilians, with Asharq Al-Awsat reporting Syrian mass funerals for victims while Zaman al-Wasl expressed regret, and Al Jazeera, the Qatar-funded broadcaster, reporting the border reopened amid a joint probe. The Syrian Observer said the strikes put Syrian-Jordanian relations to a difficult test, while Foundation for Defense of Democracies and Enab Baladi framed the strikes exposed a security vacuum in southern Syria, and Asharq Al-Awsat cited a Jordanian source calling areas outside government control a haven for traffickers. Syrian outlets pushed back: Zaman al-Wasl, independent, noted that Jordanian journalists and their government could not provide evidence of alleged "terrorists," and Syria TV, independent, questioned who identified the targets in the Syrian-Jordanian coordination. Enab Baladi, independent, and Hawar News, affiliated with the Kurdish-led administration, both reported formation of a joint investigative committee. Separately, Enab Baladi reported one killed in clashes between Syrian security forces and French fighters in Idlib, and Syria TV and Zaman al-Wasl reported continued Israeli incursions and an abduction in Quneitra.

Economy

The media gave heavy attention to the Iraqi prime minister's visit, with L'Orient-Le Jour reporting economic matters dominated the trip and The New Region saying discussions covered oil exports through Baniyas. Syria TV, state-adjacent independent, announced trade and passenger movement through Nassib had returned to normal, while Al-Watan Online cited an expert saying the dollar trading at 20,000 reflects unclear monetary policy exercising a cash market. Enab Baladi reported Syria remains burdened by more than 23 billion dollars in inherited debt, and L'Orient-Le Jour said the period is under pressure with dollars short of banks. Hawar News reported farmers in the Jazira region are cutting cultivation due to lack of support and rising prices, while Syria TV examined whether Syria's banking sector could revive via Visa, Mastercard access and a $100 million initiative.

Governance

The Iraqi prime minister's visit dominated governance coverage: The National called it the first high-profile trip since al-Sharaa took power, while Al-Watan Online reported al-Sharaa and al-Zaidi affirmed commitment to cooperation, and Al Akhbar offered a more skeptical analysis of "complicated cooperation." Enab Baladi reported al-Sharaa outlined ties with Iraq covering oil, water and security. The New Arab reported Syria summoned the Jordanian ambassador over the Daraa strikes, and Independent Arabia gave background on Syria's political committees. Syrian Network for Human Rights examined INTERPOL's role in accountability efforts, while Hawar News reported a dialogue meeting in Qamishli to institutionalize justice, and Syria TV reported a German state official urged expedited protection reviews for 16 Syrians after violent incidents.

How they compare

Ordinary Syrians were far angrier about the Daraa strikes than the media's framing conveyed, with up to 91% of posts expressing overwhelming anger and mockery of Jordanian officials, some accusing Jordan of colluding with Israel, a tone far harsher than the measured diplomatic language in outlets like Asharq Al-Awsat. The Iraqi PM's visit drew milder, mixed reactions online, some welcoming it with hope while others criticized donations as out of touch given poverty, roughly matching the media's largely positive diplomatic framing. Strikingly, Turkish and Kurdish-language backlash over SDF integration with Damascus and attacks on Kurdish families returning to Tal Abyad, both carrying strongly negative tones, received almost no coverage in the items reviewed. Syrians also discussed heavy rains and flash floods in Raqqa, Hasakah and Deir ez-Zor, and reacted to tight Israeli election results, neither of which featured in the media material gathered here.

→ Full page with sources

4. Sources and method

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Reports and articles drawn on (29)

- سوريا تشتري سيارة إسعاف.. وقالون يُسقط على سفوحها حنين الشوق للأبد
- Al Jazeera: Syria-Jordan border reopens amid probe into deadly air strikes
- The Syrian Observer: Daraa Airstrikes Put Syrian-Jordanian Relations to a Difficult Test
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies: Jordanian Strikes Lay Bare Security Vacuum in Southern Syria
- Zaman al-Wasl: لا يمكننا تأكيد صحة أو نفي ادعاء الأردن.. الموقوفون في درعا مدنيون لديهم أسر
- Syria TV: القطارات على وشك إنهاء انتظار عشرات السنين في السوق الكبير.. من هنا تنطلق الـ8:30
- Enab Baladi: اتفاق أمني بين دمشق وعمّان لتأمين الحدود
- Hawar News: لجنة سورية أردنية تحقيق مشترك بشأن الغارات على درعا
- Enab Baladi: One Killed as Syrian Security Forces Clash With French Fighters in Idlib - Enab Baladi
- Syria TV: مطار دمشق الدولي يطلق أول الرحلات المباشرة بين دمشق ومسقط
- Zaman al-Wasl: الاحتلال الإسرائيلي يعتقل شابًا خلال توغل في ريف القنيطرة الجنوبي
- L'Orient-Le Jour: L'économie au cœur de la première visite du chef du gouvernement irakien à Damas
- ASHARQ AL-AWSAT English: Jordanian Source: Areas Outside Govt Control in South Syria Are Haven for Terrorists, Drug Traffickers
- The New Region: PM Zaidi, Sharaa discuss oil exports through Syria's Baniyas
- سوريا تعلن عودة حركة المسافرين والشاحنات عبر معبر نصيب الحدودية مع الأردن
- Syria TV: انطلاق أول رحلة مباشرة بين دمشق ومسقط على متن طائرة سلام إير
- Enab Baladi: تقرير: 23 مليار دولار ديون الحكومة السابقة.. ثلثا السوريين تحت خط الفقر
- L'Orient-Le Jour: En Syrie, la livre sous pression, les dollars rois des banques
- Hawar News: غياب الدعم وارتفاع الأسعار يخنقان مزارعي الجزيرة في الشتاء
- Syria TV: هل تُعيد واحة دمشق الروح إلى 300 مليون مغترب؟ الصرافون السوريون في حيرة
- The National: Iraq's Al-Zaidi begins visit to Syria in first high-profile trip since Al Sharaa took power
- Al-Watan Online: الرئيس الشرع والزيدي يؤكدان التزامهما على تحقيق أمن حدود البلدين المشتركة
- Al Akhbar: الشرع في بغداد: الزيدي إلى دمشق
- Enab Baladi: Oil, Water and Security: Sharaa Outlines Ties With Iraq - Enab Baladi
- The New Arab: Syria summons Jordanian ambassador over deadly Daraa airstrikes
- Syrian Network for Human Rights: Beyond the Judicial Rulings: The Role of INTERPOL in the Efforts of Syria to Achieve Criminal Accountability
- Hawar News: لقاء حواري في القامشلي يناقش واقع العدالة الانتقالية وسبل الدعم
- Syria TV: هيئة حماية المستهلك تعلن تشديد مراقبتها على 14 سوبرماركت

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