



## Syrian Democratic Forces Violate US Sanctions' Caesar Act, Supplying Oil and Gas to the Syrian Regime

Around Six Million Barrels of Oil Annually Make Profits of \$120 Million, Amid Lack of Financial Transparency

Thursday 29 July 2021

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR), founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, independent group that is considered a primary source for the OHCHR on all death toll-related analyses in Syria.

**SNHR**  
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

## Content

I. The Sanctions Stipulated in the Caesar Act Must Be Implemented Against All Its Violators, Especially Allies.....	3
II. Oil Smuggling Operations Still Take Place Despite the Entry into Force of Caesar Act.....	5
III. Providing the Syrian Regime with Approximately Six Million Barrels of Oil Annually Amid Fear of Funds Supporting International Terrorism Represented by the Kurdistan Workers' Party.....	8
IV. Syrian Democratic Forces Kill Six Civilians after Targeting Demonstrations in Which Civilians Protested Increased Fuel Prices.....	10
V. The Spread of Environmental Pollution, Neglecting the Health of Local Communities, and the Resulting Spread of Diseases Due to Toxic Gases.....	11
VI. Conclusions and Recommendations.....	13

## I. The Sanctions Stipulated in the Caesar Act Must Be Implemented Against All Its Violators, Especially Allies:

Since the first months of the popular uprising for democracy in early 2011, the Syrian regime has perpetrated innumerable atrocious violations, many of which amount to crimes against humanity, according to [the first report](#) of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on September 15, 2011; the Syrian regime's sustained perpetration of violations, all documented by the reports issued by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry, have prompted many countries worldwide to impose political, and then economic sanctions, in an effort to stop these violations and to launch a political process to change the state's ruling system from a hereditary dictatorship to a democratic, pluralistic government.

In this context, the United States of America has imposed many sanctions packages on the Syrian regime, most notably [the Caesar Act](#), approved by the US Senate - within the Defense Department's budget for 2020 - on December 17, 2019, and subsequently signed into law by then-US President Donald Trump, [entering into force](#) on June 17, 2020.

The Caesar Act targets individuals and companies in various countries over any direct or indirect dealings with the Syrian regime (in transitive law) in four key sectors: military aircraft; oil and natural gas; construction, and engineering, with sanctions including withholding property in the United States of America, the imposition of bans on visits to the US, the banning of financial and commercial transactions, imposing fines, etc.

Both Russia and Iran have repeatedly violated the Caesar Act, which is only to be expected from regimes under US sanctions, both of which are longtime organic allies of the Syrian regime, with intersecting interests. More surprisingly, however, US allies have also violated the Caesar Act. It is these parties which we are concerned with here, with the report specifically addressing the continuing provision of oil to the Syrian regime by Syrian Democratic Forces (mainly the Kurdish Democratic Union Party forces), even after the adoption and enforcement of the Caesar Act.

We at the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) [issued a report](#) in September 2019, documenting how Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have contributed to supplying the Syrian regime with oil and gas in exchange for large sums of money, none of which were disclosed, expressing our concern at the time over the probability that a large proportion of that money reached the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is classified as a terrorist organization. This implicates the SDF in supporting and financing global terrorism. We expected that trade with the Syrian regime would end after the adoption of the Caesar Act, but the SDF continues to supply oil and gas to the Syrian regime up to the current date, without any serious accountability.

**Methodology:**

This report highlights the continued smuggling of oil between SDF-controlled areas and Syrian regime-controlled areas since our previous report in September 2019, particularly since the Caesar Act came into force in June 2020 up until July 2021, as well as outlining the extent of the massive benefit to the Syrian regime from these operations, which it uses in its continuing perpetration of atrocious violations, including indiscriminate bombardment of residential neighborhoods, arbitrary arrests and the accompanying crimes such as torture and enforced disappearance. Finally, the report refers to the issue of the toxic environmental pollution caused by the primitive oil extraction methods used.

Through field researchers working with SNHR, we have obtained direct testimonies from local people in the area and from the owners of the vessels used to transport oil across the river in Deir Ez-Zour governorate; we obtained these testimonies through speaking directly with witnesses, with none of the testimonies, including the three provided in this report, cited from any open sources. We explained the purpose of these interviews beforehand to the eyewitnesses, who gave us permission to use the information they provided in this report without us offering or providing them with any incentives, as well as providing assurances to the interviewees that we will conceal the identity of any witness who prefers to use an alias. All these procedures are carried out under the terms of SNHR's internal protocols, which we have worked for years to perfect, and which we strive constantly to develop through our experience in order to consistently maintain the highest standards of care and reliability.

SNHR also analyzed videos and photographs that were posted online, or submitted by local activists via e-mail, Skype, or social media platforms. Videos posted by activists show, amongst other things, tankers transporting crude oil from areas under the Syrian Democratic Forces' control toward villages under Syrian regime control.

Furthermore, we retain copies of all the videos and photographs included in this report in a confidential electronic database, as well as keeping hard disk backup copies. We do not claim, however, that we have documented all cases, given the severe prohibitions, restrictions and persecution by Syrian regime forces and some other armed groups. Readers are welcome to find out more about SNHR's [methodology](#).

The information contained in this report only represents the bare minimum of incidents which we have been able to document, and of the severity and magnitude of the violations that occurred. Also, it doesn't include any analysis of the profound social, economic, and psychological ramifications.

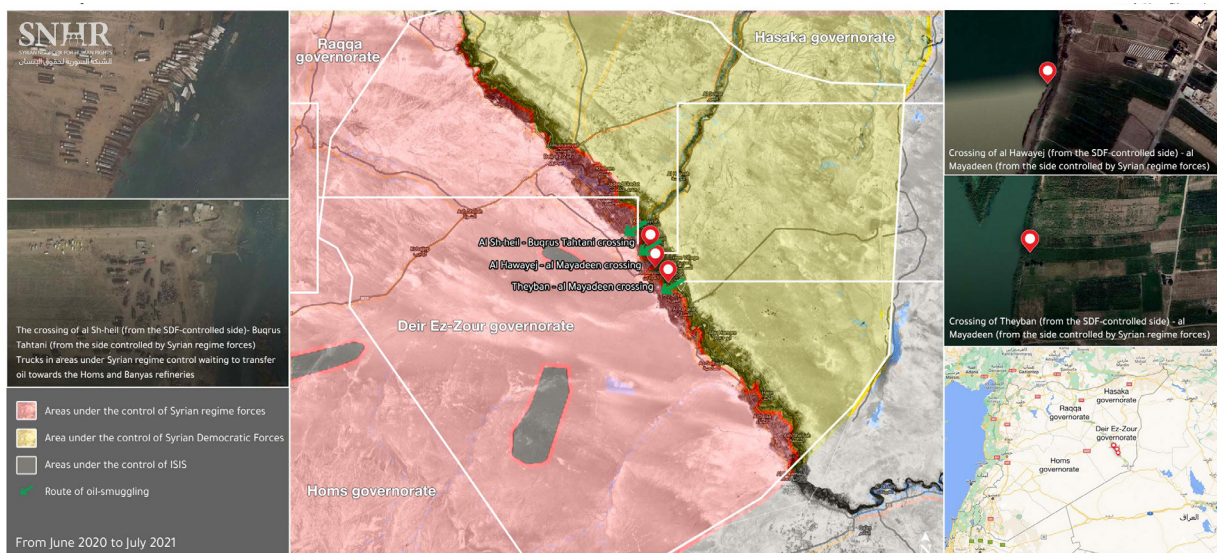
## II. Oil Smuggling Operations Still Take Place Despite the Entry into Force of Caesar Act:

In our last report, we provided information on the sites of oil and gas fields in the governorates of Hasaka and Deir Ez-Zour, which are controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces, numbering 11 fields in all, including al Omar field in Deir Ez-Zour, and al Jabasa and al Rmeilan fields in Hasaka, which constitute the largest fields in terms of production capacity, with al Omar and al Jabasa fields alone producing about half of the oil production in Syria in 2010, according to [a report](#) issued by the Energy Information Administration (EIA)<sup>1</sup> in August 2011.

The Kurdish Democratic Union Party forces (PYD) began supplying oil to the Syrian regime immediately after taking control of al Rmeilan and al Suwaydya fields in Hasaka governorate in mid-2012, in accordance with agreements between the two parties, with the workers at both fields still receiving their wages from the Syrian regime.

In Deir Ez-Zour governorate, meanwhile, the provision of oil and gas to the Syrian regime began after the PYD/SDF took control of the oil and gas fields at the end of 2017 following the defeat of ISIS, with oil and gas supplies to the Syrian regime being transported via overland routes as well as by water crossings on the Euphrates River. Since the beginning of January 2019, the SDF has resorted to developing a new oil transportation mechanism across the Euphrates, laying plastic pipelines via which oil is transported between the two banks of the river. The SDF places tight security at these water crossings and strictly regulates this work.

**Map shows sites of most prominent water crossing in Deir Ez-Zour governorate used for oil-smuggling by Syrian Democratic Forces' personnel:**



<sup>1</sup> The Energy Information Administration is an independent statistical agency of the US Department of Energy, created by Congress in 1977.

On May 7, 2019, we monitored security operations carried out by US-led Coalition forces and Syrian Democratic Forces which launched attacks on several oil crossings dispersed between al Sh-heil city and al Hawayej village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, targeting vessels with heavy machine guns, in addition to confiscating hoses and pipes used to transport crude oil. However, a few days later, we documented the resumption of oil and gas supplies to the Syrian regime, with residents of al Sh-heil village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour telling us that [the oil and gas sales had returned](#) to their previous norm, being restored in full view of [SDF members](#) via the al Sh-heil - Buqrus Tahtani crossing towards the Syrian regime-controlled areas.

Between July 17 and 21, 2020, after the Caesar Act came into force, we monitored a security operation launched by the US-led coalition forces codenamed '[Deterring Terrorism](#)' in which the SDF participated, targeting the villages of the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour in search of ISIS cells; during this operation, the SDF closed all river crossings, and installed a number of posts and checkpoints on the banks of the Euphrates River to prevent smuggling operations.

The SNHR contacted Mr. Hussein Abu Omar<sup>2</sup>, one of the water ferry workers at the al Sh-heil - Buqrus crossing in Deir Ez-Zour governorate, who told us: **"I own a ferry by which I used to transport civilians between the two banks of the Euphrates, but I switched to transporting oil due to the lack of financial income from transporting civilians. I used to transport oil on an almost daily basis through merchants working with al Qatirji Company and some leaders of the SDF's Military Council of Deir Ez-Zour, with the oil being brought from al Omar and al Tanak fields by tankers to al Sh-heil crossing, then we unload it to ferries and transfer it to the other bank, where al Qatirji trucks are lined up, which in turn transport them to the Homs and Banyas refineries.**

**"At the end of July, the US-led Coalition Forces, along with SDF personnel, launched a security campaign on the crossings in Deir Ez-Zour. The SDF personnel demanded that we stop working permanently, and they said that in the coming days we would be informed of the new labor laws, but I learned that smuggling operations were still taking place at midnight to transport oil, wheat and some foodstuffs, though in small and limited quantities. Currently, I have stopped working, and it is expected that we will return to work in the coming period."**

In February 2021, we contacted Mr. Hussein to inquire about the frequency of oil smuggling operations, and he told us that he had stopped working in transporting oil across the two river banks because his name was on the list of people wanted for military service by the Syrian Democratic Forces, but he told us that the smuggling operations are still ongoing as he had learnt from friends who work in transporting oil.

---

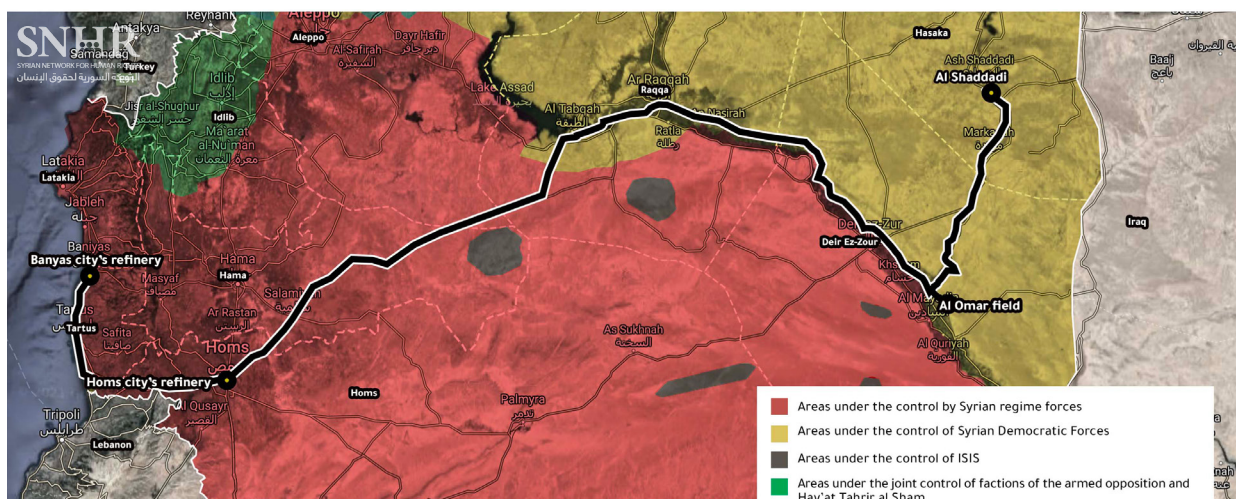
<sup>2</sup> We spoke with him via phone call on August 5, 2020



The SNHR also spoke with Mr. Ahmad<sup>3</sup>, from al Hawayej village in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour. Ahmad said that oil smuggling operations had stopped during the military security campaign led by the US-led Coalition forces, adding that he is a relative of a leader of Syrian Democratic Forces who had notified him of their plans: **“He told me that smuggling and oil transport operations would be resumed within weeks following the campaign, and that there were people affiliated with the US-led Coalition forces participating in the recent campaign to find out how serious the SDF was in preventing the transfer of oil to the regime-controlled areas after the adoption of the Caesar Act.”**

The monitoring processes that we conducted since our last report up until the moment of preparing this report show that the US-led Coalition forces have led several operations to stop the smuggling of oil, but these remain limited and incomplete in nature, with their impact usually lasting no longer than a few days, after which the oil trucks once again return to resume transporting the oil to the areas controlled by the Syrian regime. We have noticed that whilst Syrian Democratic Forces have sought to curb smuggling operations via water crossings, they turn a blind eye to smuggling and sales that take place via the overland route; we believe that the real reason behind this contradictory attitude is that the sales of oil transported via the overland route guarantee twice the profit for Syrian Democratic Forces compared to the oil transported by river crossings, with the SDF able to sell the oil transported overland directly without payments to any intermediaries among the companies that oversee the transportation of oil, such as the regime-affiliated al Qatirji Company. Meanwhile, oil transported via the river crossings is sold from the oilfields to the people of the region, who in turn supervise its transfer via the water crossings to the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

**Map shows the overland route taken by trucks crossing oil fields in areas controlled by Syrian Democratic Forces heading towards refineries in Homs and Banyas in the area controlled by Syrian regime forces**



<sup>3</sup> We contacted him via WhatsApp on August 5, 2020

The SNHR also spoke with Mr. Abu Yousef<sup>4</sup>, from Theyban city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour. He told us:

**“About a week ago, SDF patrols, backed by a US-led Coalition helicopter, carried out a raid on the water crossing in Theyban city and opened fire indiscriminately, killing one of the workers at the crossing<sup>5</sup>; only two days later, the smuggling operations resumed and in the sight of SDF checkpoints in al Latwa neighborhood in Theyban city, which is the checkpoint on the road taken by oil trucks coming from the al Omar oil field. On February 16, I saw three trucks coming from the al Omar field towards the crossing in order to transport oil to regime-held areas.”**

Abu Yousef also revealed that he sees trucks every day which he said belong to the al Qatirji companies leaving al Omar field travelling towards the west (in the direction of Raqqa governorate), further noting that these trucks are often accompanied by one or two cars belonging to Syrian Democratic Forces' personnel to provide protection.

### III. Providing the Syrian Regime with Approximately Six Million Barrels of Oil Annually Amid Fear of Funds Supporting International Terrorism Represented by the Kurdistan Workers' Party:

To estimate the extent and value of the support provided by the Syrian Democratic Forces to the Syrian regime through these oil smuggling operations, we reviewed the incidents of oil sales that we documented in December 2020, through which we estimated the amount of oil sold, and will list those incidents, which represent the bare minimum of the real total, below; there may have been many oil sales in December which we were unable to document due to the great difficulty in obtaining details of all cases, especially since many of the oil sales and smuggling operations take place after midnight.

The following are the incidents of selling and smuggling oil that we were able to document in December 2020:

Between December 1-3, 2020, around 500 oil tanker trucks which we believe belong to the Syrian regime-affiliated al Qatirji Company entered the SDF-controlled area via al Houra land crossing, located near al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of Raqqa, which separates the Syrian regime-held areas and the SDF-held areas in the western suburbs of Raqqa. These vehicles headed towards the al Omar and al Jafra oilfields in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour, which are under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, and then returned by the same route, travelling towards the Homs and Hama refineries.

[https://youtu.be/V\\_7-HGm7YuM](https://youtu.be/V_7-HGm7YuM)

Between December 5-8, 2020, around 300 oil tanker trucks that we believe belong to the Syrian regime-affiliated al Qatirji Company entered the SDF-controlled area via al Houra land crossing, heading towards the al Jabsa and al Rmeilan oilfields in the southern suburbs of Hasaka, which is under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, before returning by the same route heading towards the Homs and Hama refineries.

<sup>4</sup> We spoke with him via his personal Facebook account on February 17, 2021

<sup>5</sup> SNHR: Civilian shot dead by SDF personnel in Theyban town in Deir Ez-Zour suburbs on February 11, <https://news.sn4hr.org/2021/02/13/civilian-shot-dead-by-sdf-personnel-in-theyban-town-in-deir-ez-zour-suburbs-on-february-11/>



Between December 8-10, 2020, around 350 oil tanker trucks that we believe belong to the Syrian regime-affiliated al Qatirji Company entered the SDF-controlled area via al Houra land crossing, and headed towards the al Jabsa oilfield in the southern suburbs of Hasaka, which is under the control of the Syrian Democratic Forces, before returning by the same route heading towards the Homs and Hama refineries.

Between December 21-22, 2020, around 350 oil tanker trucks that we believe belong to the Syrian regime-affiliated al Qatirji Company entered the SDF-controlled area via al Houra land crossing, located near al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of Raqqa, and headed towards the al Jabsa and al Rmeilan oilfields in the southern suburbs of Hasaka, which is under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces, before returning by the same route heading towards the Homs and Hama refineries.

On December 23, 2020, we documented the presence of dozens of [oil tanker tanks](#) in Mouhasan city in the eastern suburbs of Deir Ez-Zour; residents of the city told us that the vehicles were transporting oil via the water crossings to the areas controlled by the Syrian regime.

Based on only these operations in this brief period alone, we can see that at least 1,500 tanker-loads of oil were transported; with the capacity of one tanker estimated at 40,000 liters, this is equivalent to 60 million liters in total, i.e. at least 500,000 barrels of oil per month supplied by the Syrian Democratic Forces to the Syrian regime, that is, 6 million barrels per year; considering that the price for each barrel of oil is \$20, Syrian Democratic Forces get an estimated annual return from selling oil to the Syrian regime of at least \$ 120 million.

The Syrian Democratic Forces mainly consists of the Democratic Union Party, which is the Syrian affiliate of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), an entity classified as a terrorist party in many countries worldwide, with photos and banners of PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan seen extensively in the areas controlled by the SDF. Consequently, there is a well-founded and serious concern that at least some of the funds raised from oil sales will go to support the terrorist party, meaning that the Syrian Democratic Forces is directly involved in funding and supporting international terrorism.

In our previous report, we demanded that the SDF be compelled to prepare and disseminate detailed and transparent financial statements which clarify the mechanisms used for disbursing oil and gas revenues and the recipients of these funds, since this wealth belongs to all the people of the region, rather than being the private property of the Democratic Union Party and the Kurdistan Workers' Party. To this date, neither the Syrian Democratic Forces or the Self-Management authority have issued any financial statements providing details for the local community in the governorates of Deir Ez-Zour, Hasaka, and Raqqa of where these millions are spent, especially in light of the deterioration of already strained basic services in these governorates, including medical facilities, schools, electricity, roads, and so on.

We note that the SDF's [oil sales to the Syrian regime](#) are still continuing up to the present day; on April 6, 2021, we documented the presence of oil tanker trucks which we believe belong to the al Qatirji Company on their way to the oilfields under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces in Hasaka governorate. We also documented on June 26, 2021, at least 150 oil tanks, which we believe belong to al Qatirji Company, heading from al Houra crossing, south of al Tabaqa city in the western suburbs of Raqqa, coming from areas controlled by the Syrian regime towards oilfields under the control of Syrian Democratic Forces in Hasaka governorate.

#### IV. Syrian Democratic Forces Kill Six Civilians after Targeting Demonstrations in Which Civilians Protested Increased Fuel Prices:

According to a study published by the Take-Profit organization , which analyzes the global economy, Syria's oil fields produced approximately 35,000 barrels per day in 2021, meaning an annual total of about 13 million barrels; given that Syrian Democratic Forces control nearly 80% of oilfields, we can estimate the annual production of oil in the areas under the SDF's control at 11 million barrels. As we mentioned in the previous paragraph, the smuggling operations supervised by Syrian Democratic Forces are estimated at 6 million barrels of oil annually, meaning that approximately 50% of the oil produced is smuggled.

This large amount of oil being smuggled out of the area leaves the region in permanent need, with the remaining quantity often insufficient to meet the needs of the regional population, especially since the northeastern region is an agriculture-centered one in which fuel mainly contributes to the operation of agricultural machinery and irrigation tools. This is reinforced by an announcement issued by the Syrian Democratic Forces' Self-Management Authority of Northern and Eastern Syria through its official accounts on [social media platforms](#) on May 17, 2021, regarding the issuance of Decision No. 119, which stipulates increasing fuel prices in areas under its control by between 100% and 350%, with the Self-Management Authority stating that this decision was based on the requirements of the public interest, and in accordance with a proposal from the authority's Hydrocarbons Department calling for fuel prices to be increased in line with its studies.

**Table shows prices for some basic fuels before and after Decision No. 119:**

	Price before May 17	Price after May 17
Household/ commercial gas cylinder	2,500 Syrian Pound "Household gas cylinder" 4,000 Syrian Pound "commercial gas cylinder"	8,000 Syrian Pound 15,000 Syrian Pound
Liter of premium diesel	150 Syrian Pound	400 Syrian Pound
Liter of premium gasoline	1,350 Syrian Pound	1,950 Syrian Pound <small>*equivalent to 65 US cents*</small>

As a result of this decision, the areas controlled by the Syrian Democratic Forces, especially al Nashwa neighborhood in Hasaka city, al Shaddadi city, and al Sab'a Wa'arba'ien "47" village, in Hasaka governorate, as well as al Soor city and its satellite villages (al Ezba, Abu al Neitel and al Hesein) in Deir Ez-Zour governorate saw dozens of demonstrations and protests against the increased fuel prices brought about by the Self-Management Authority's policy; the demonstrators demanded that the decision be rescinded, raising banners denouncing the move, cutting off roads and participating in strike action that affected shops in some cities and towns in Hasaka, such as al Malekiya and Amouda in the suburbs of Hasaka.

Syrian Democratic Forces confronted these demonstrations with gunfire, using live bullets against peaceful protesters in [al Nashwa neighborhood](#), al Shaddadi city, and al Sab'a Wa'arba'ien village in Hasaka governorate. SNHR documented the deaths of six civilians, including one child, [four of them in al Shaddadi city](#), and one in al Sab'a Wa'arba'ien village, with the child being killed in al Nashwa. We also documented the arrest of five civilians in al Shaddadi city and its satellite villages in the southern suburbs of Hasaka.

On May 18, 2021, Syrian Democratic Forces' Internal Security Forces issued [a statement](#) accusing the demonstrators of attacking the SDF's military centers and institutions.

On May 19, 2021, the Syrian Democratic Forces' Self-Management [Authority](#) rescinded the decision of raising fuel prices, restoring the previous prices prior to the issuance of the amendments.

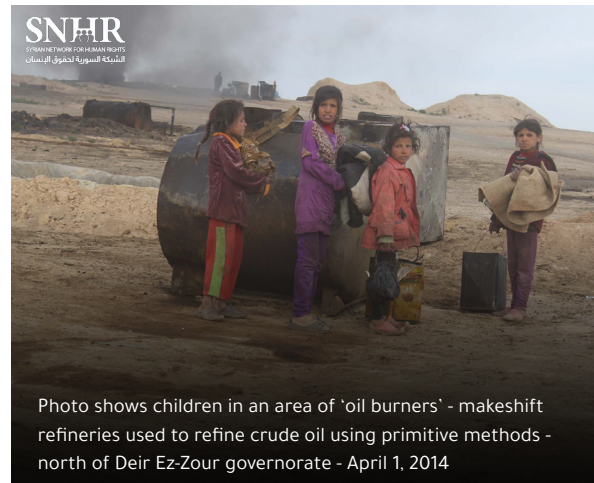
Screenshot of the announcement rescinding the decision on fuel price rises from the Self-Management Authority's official account [on Facebook](#)

## **V. The Spread of Environmental Pollution, Neglecting the Health of Local Communities, and the Resulting Spread of Diseases Due to Toxic Gases:**

The damage to oil facilities as a result of the armed conflict has led to many being forced to cease operations, with crude oil subsequently being extracted using primitive methods that violate the most basic standards of protecting public health and contravene all environmental protection standards. Due to the indifference to human health and the environment and the continued reliance on these primitive oil extraction methods, thousands of liters of highly toxic crude oil have leaked into the agricultural lands surrounding these oilfields, poisoning the land and leaving it completely or almost completely barren and useless for farming, with the farm-owners losing massive sums of money without receiving any compensation from Syrian Democratic Forces.

In addition, the local unavailability of refined non-crude gasoline and diesel has led many locals to rely to on what have become known as 'oil burners', makeshift refineries using primitive processing methods to refine crude oil by heating it at high temperatures, resulting in the emission of many toxic gases into the atmosphere; many residents of local villages and towns in the Eastern Region have told us that they suffer severe harmful effects to their health from breathing in these noxious gases, whose presence is widespread within residential communities and on the outskirts of villages and towns. In recent years, we have documented the spread of many diseases due to the presence of these highly toxic gases emitted from this primitive refining process, which have adversely affected the population, especially pregnant women and children, with the population in general suffering from high rates of respiratory distress, hypersensitivity, asthma and cancer which were not previously documented there.

The damage caused by these oil spills and atmospheric pollution from the emission of toxic gases has not been limited to their impact on agricultural lands, the heavy material losses to the farm-owners, and the spread of diseases among the local people, but has also extended to the livestock and wild animals that graze in these areas, with the Syrian Democratic Forces failing to make any serious investment from the massive oil revenues they obtain into creating a less environmentally toxic oil extraction process, repairing the environmental imbalance and compensating the local people for their heavy losses in land and livestock.



## VI. Conclusions and Recommendations:

- The Syrian Democratic Forces have breached economic sanctions imposed on the Syrian regime by civilized democratic countries worldwide that constitute a near-total international consensus against a regime that has committed crimes against humanity, and is primarily supported by states like Iran and Russia which do not respect international law and which are involved in committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, and in defending and justifying the regime's crimes.
- Supplying the Syrian regime with oil and gas is a violation of the Caesar Act, which imposes harsh penalties without exception on anyone who violates its articles.
- The Syrian Democratic Forces, through their oil-smuggling operations, have supported the Syrian regime which is involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity, knowing that the regime may use that oil in its ground and military operations. Worse, the Syrian Democratic Forces support the Syrian regime with oil owned by the Syrian people, again adding to the crimes and violations against the Syrian people who rose up to demand freedom and an end to the ruling regime's dynastic despotism.
- The Syrian Democratic Forces have treated the oil and gas fields as though these facilities were their own private property and that of the Self-Management and Kurdish Democratic Union Party, which may have transferred some of the funds earned from these sales to its leaders in the PKK, an entity which is on the US terrorism list. This falls into the category of providing financing and support for global terrorism.
- The use of primitive oil extraction methods and techniques rather than investing oil revenues into developing these, has caused tremendous damage to the health of the population in those areas, as well as to agricultural lands, livestock and other animals, and to the environment. The Syrian Democratic Forces bear responsibility for compensating the people and repairing the environmental damage.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **The US government and the governments of countries participating in supporting the US-led Coalition against ISIS:**

- Open an immediate investigation into the involvement of Syrian Democratic Forces in oil-smuggling operations that benefit the Syrian regime, which is on US sanctions lists.
- Hold Syrian Democratic Forces and the Self-Management accountable under the Caesar Act, ban their travel to the United States of America, freeze their assets, and impose all other available penalties in order to deter them from continuing to supply the Syrian regime with oil and gas.
- Request that the leadership of Syrian Democratic Forces disclose all the money it has received from oil and gas since 2012 to date and provide detailed financial statements on where and how the money was spent, noting that it may have been stolen for private accounts or for use in financing and supporting terrorism.
- Establish a pluralistic and impartial body that oversees oil and gas extraction operations and the sale of these resources, and invests their revenues for the benefit of all the people of the region without ethnic or racial discrimination.



- Stop supporting Syrian Democratic Forces and Kurdish Democratic Union Party fully and immediately if it is proven to be transferring funds raised from Syria's oil and gas revenues to the terrorist PKK.
- Make genuine efforts to establish legitimate civilian local governance and democratic elections in Northeast Syria as a positive replacement for the current dominant military forces, placing military forces under the authority of the democratically elected civilian governance, and placing the region's resources under these democratic authorities' control, which would be reflected in positive effects on services and infrastructure.

#### **Syrian Democratic Forces:**

- Open an investigation into all its members involved in oil and gas smuggling operations to the Syrian regime, and hold them accountable by trials conducted by an independent judiciary which is not affiliated with Syrian Democratic Forces or the Self-Management authorities.
- Fully comply with the sanctions imposed on the Syrian regime by the democratic countries of the world, in particular the Caesar Act.
- Use the oil and gas revenues for the benefit of society, restore infrastructure and services, and commit to full financial transparency in this.
- Syrian Democratic Forces must not support the Syrian regime which is involved in committing crimes against humanity, as this could lead to a charge against the SDF and its political and military leaderships of collusion with the regime.
- Allocate part of the financial revenues resulting from the sale of oil to end oil pollution, address its effects, and compensate local people for the material and health losses caused by administrative negligence and corruption.

## **Thanks**

We extend our sincere thanks to the local people and activists without whose contributions we could not have published this report in such a detailed way.



[www.snhr.org](http://www.snhr.org) - [info@sn4hr.org](mailto:info@sn4hr.org)