

Statement

Israeli ground incursions continue in southern Syria Amid Escalating Violations against Civilians

At Least **22 Ground Incursions** by Israeli Forces Have Been Recorded Since June 9, Resulting in the Death of One Civilian, the Arbitrary Detention of **13 Others**, and Attacks on Civilian Property

Tuesday 08 July 2025



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 analyzes in Syria.

The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) documented that the Israeli occupation forces carried out at least 22 ground incursions into areas within the governorates of Quneitra, Rif Dimashq, and Daraa in southern Syria, during the period from June 9 to July 5, 2025. Israeli forces entered the areas without prior announcement, sparking a state of anticipation and anxiety among the local population. These incursions are an extension of repeated Israeli military operations aimed at imposing a new security reality through ground incursions that threaten civilian stability. SNHR regularly documents these operations and records the actions taken during these operations.

The incursions included the entry of Israeli military units, most of them backed by heavy machinery. The forces carried out several actions, **most notably: the killing of a young civilian, the arbitrary arrest/detention of approximately 13 civilians**, the establishment of temporary military checkpoints and the inspection of residents and passing vehicles, the demolition and search of civilian homes, and the assault and vandalism of a school.

Areas targeted by Israeli forces' incursions during the period from June 9 to July 5, 2025:

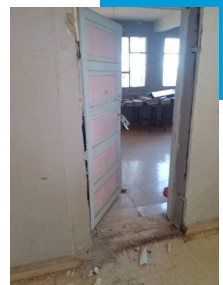
- Manshiyat Suwaysa village/Quneitra:** We documented an incursion into residential areas and the arbitrary detention of three civilians (a man and his two sons). They were released several hours later.
- Al-Rafid town/Quneitra:** A military force entered the town and established a temporary military checkpoint, where its personnel searched residents and passing vehicles.
- Khan Arnabeh town/Quneitra:** A military force penetrated and stationed itself around the village, setting up a military checkpoint and restricting the movement of civilians.

Beit Jinn Town/Rif Dimashq: We recorded two ground incursions during the period covered by this statement.

The first, on June 12: saw forces enter residential neighborhoods in Beit Jinn. The operation resulted in the killing of one civilian and the arbitrary arrest of seven others, who were taken into Israeli-occupied territory. SNHR issued a [statement](#) documenting the entire incident.

The second, on June 27: Israeli forces entered the outskirts of the village, targeting a tourist area frequented by local residents for recreation. The entry of the forces prompted families to hastily leave the area, fearing any escalation.

Al-Hurriya Village/Quneitra: An Israeli occupation force carried out a ground incursion into Al-Hurriya Village. We documented their [attack on a school](#). The force headed to Al-Hurriya School in the center of the village, [broke its doors](#), and ransacked its contents and furniture.



Vandalism of the contents and furniture of Al-Hurriya School in Al-Hurriya village in the Quneitra countryside after an incursion carried out by the Israeli occupation forces on June 15, 2025

Al-Hamidiyah Village/Quneitra: Israeli occupation forces, backed by heavy machinery, carried out an incursion into Al-Hamidiyah Village, demolishing [at least 15 civilian homes](#). SNHR issued [a statement](#) documenting the details of the incident.

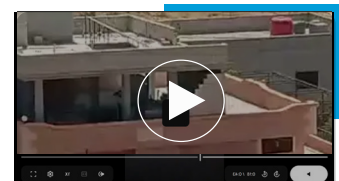


Homes after they were demolished by Israeli occupation forces in the village of Al-Hamidiyah in the Quneitra countryside - June 17, 2025

Ma'araba village/Daraa: Forces entered residential neighborhoods and searched four civilian homes.

Jabata al-Khashab town/Quneitra: We recorded two ground incursions during the period covered by this statement.

The first, on June 19: saw forces enter the town entrance without any significant activity or direct confrontations with residents.



A video clip showing the incursion of Israeli occupation forces at the entrance to the town of Jabata al-Khashab in the Quneitra countryside on June 19, 2025

Second, on June 27: An Israeli patrol penetrated the road between the villages of Jabata al-Khashab and Ufaniya in the northern Quneitra countryside, and forces were recorded searching a number of civilians at the entrance to the village of Jabata al-Khashab.

Al-Samdaniya al-Sharqiya/Quneitra: We recorded two ground incursions during the period covered by this statement.

The first, on June 18: An Israeli military force penetrated the village of Al-Samdaniya al-Sharqiya, reaching the area of Tal Krum Jaba, while another force penetrated a temporary military checkpoint between the villages of Al-Samdaniya al-Sharqiya and Al-Ajraf.

The second, on June 27: An Israeli military force consisting of a tank, an armored personnel carrier, and several four-wheel-drive vehicles, accompanied by approximately 30 soldiers, penetrated. The forces searched several homes and deployed on the roofs of some. These forces withdrew approximately two hours after their incursion.

Al-Buhuth Road and Jaba-Umm Batinah Road/Quneitra: Four armored vehicles, accompanied by two military vehicles, infiltrated the Al-Buhuth Road toward the town of Mashara. Additional Israeli forces patrolling the area also established a new military checkpoint on the Jaba-Umm Batinah Road, supported by several tanks and heavy machinery.

Al-Samdaniyah Al-Gharbiyah Village/Quneitra: Forces entered residential neighborhoods and searched several civilian homes.

Al-Mu'allaha Village/Quneitra: An Israeli military force entered the village without any significant activity or direct confrontations with residents.

Taranja Village/Quneitra: Forces entered residential neighborhoods and searched several civilian homes.

Al-Mantara Dam/Quneitra: An Israeli occupation army patrol infiltrated near Al-Mantara Dam in the central Quneitra countryside. No significant actions were recorded.

Kodna Village/Quneitra: Israeli occupation army forces, estimated at approximately 20 soldiers supported by military vehicles, carried out an incursion into the village streets. No significant actions or direct confrontations with residents were recorded.

Ruwaihinah Village/Quneitra: A military force (two tanks and 20 soldiers) entered the village. The tanks were positioned on the outskirts of the village, while the soldiers infiltrated into residential neighborhoods. No significant actions or direct confrontations with residents were recorded.

Madinat al-Salam/Quneitra: An Israeli military patrol, consisting of three vehicles carrying eight soldiers, carried out a limited incursion near the governorate building in the city, the center of Quneitra Governorate. No significant actions or direct confrontations with residents were recorded.

Al-Basali Farm/Quneitra: Forces entered the area south of Al-Mu'allaha village in the southern Quneitra countryside and conducted raids, resulting in the arbitrary detention of two civilian brothers, Amer and Malek Al-Ahmad. They were released hours later.

Umm al-Luqas village/Quneitra: Forces entered the village and raided homes, resulting in the arbitrary detention of civilian Salem Mustafa al-Ahmad. According to information we obtained through field sources, Salem Mustafa al-Ahmad was in the city of Nawa in the Daraa countryside during the raid on his home in Umm al-Luqas village. He was contacted via his daughter's phone and forced to return after being threatened with the arrest of his family members. He was subsequently arrested and forcibly taken to an unknown location. He was also released hours later.

Information indicates that while most of these Israeli incursions did not result in direct confrontations with residents, they did create a state of fear and unrest among the population, especially in light of the escalation in violations and practices committed by these forces following their incursion, amid fears of further escalation of tensions in the region. It should be noted that the targeted areas are under the control of the transitional government in Syria and have been administered by civilians since the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime on December 8, 2024.

Legal Conclusions:

- These operations constitute a clear violation of the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and a breach of international law, including Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter, which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity of any Member State, as well as the Disengagement Agreement signed between Syria and Israel in 1974. The continued Israeli incursions into the border areas pose a direct threat to the security of the civilian population and raise the possibility of forced displacement or the imposition of illegal military arrangements in the area.
- Under the disengagement agreement signed between Syria and Israel, Israeli forces are prohibited from entering specific areas near the contact lines in the Golan Heights. These incursions constitute a direct violation of the terms of the agreement, undermining any existing framework for de-escalation.

- The entry of military forces into territory under the control of another state without a declaration of war or the existence of an active confrontation, with the implementation of practices such as killing, arrest, searches, and the demolition of homes, constitutes a violation of Articles 49 and 147 of the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Populations in Time of War.
- The killing of a civilian by direct fire by invading Israeli forces, without any legal justification, constitutes an extrajudicial killing and constitutes a grave violation of Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which stipulates that the right to life is inherent in every human being and that no one may be arbitrarily deprived of it.
- The implementation of house searches and searches of local residents in some villages, along with the heavy military presence and the imposition of temporary field control, threatens the imposition of a new demographic and security reality by force, which may amount to forced displacement practices prohibited under international humanitarian law and the Rome Statute (Article 7).
- The absence of any direct confrontation or immediate threat undermines any possible justification for the Israeli operations under the right of self-defense enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter and shows that the incursions were provocative and violated the principles of proportionality and necessity.
- The sudden military deployment, entry into residential areas, and detention of a number of residents directly violated the rights to personal security, movement, and freedom from intimidation, rights guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Articles 9 and 12).
- The detention of 13 civilians without a warrant, clear security necessity, or charges, and without respect for fair trial guarantees, constitutes arbitrary detention under Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibits deprivation of liberty without legal basis.
- According to Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (Article 75), all detained persons must be treated humanely, with respect for their legal rights, which was not respected in this incident, neither in terms of the legal basis for detention, nor in terms of its duration or place.
- Schools and educational facilities in general are purely civilian facilities that may not be targeted or attacked.
- The attack on a school, attended by local students pursuing their primary education, falls under the grave breaches that prohibit attacks on “objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population”.

Recommendations by SNHR:

- Clear condemnation from the UN Security Council and General Assembly, considering the Israeli incursions as aggressive acts that violate the sovereignty of a member state, and an immediate call to halt these violations.
- Clear international condemnation of the killing, unlawful detention, searches, and home demolitions by the Israeli occupation forces, considering them a violation of the Geneva Conventions and the UN Charter, requiring legal accountability.
- Calling on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) to open an urgent field investigation into all incursion sites and submit an official report to the Security Council on Israeli violations.
- Calling on the Security Council and the UN Human Rights Council to investigate the incidents documented in the statement, through mechanisms such as the International Independent Mechanism (IIIM), and document them within the pattern of Israeli violations in southern Syria.
- International pressure is being exerted on Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions, and to ensure that these incursions, which threaten the security of the local population, are not repeated. Demand that Israel disclose details of the detention process, provide public legal justifications, and compensate the detained civilians for the violations they suffered, including material and moral harm.
- Providing legal and humanitarian support to affected civilians, particularly those subjected to interrogation or arbitrary detention, with full documentation of the incident within the framework of international accountability mechanisms such as the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM).
- Demanding that the International Criminal Court open an investigation into serious Israeli violations, particularly those that may constitute crimes against humanity or war crimes, such as extrajudicial killing, unlawful detention, or possible displacement.
- Activate international criminal accountability tools, especially the International Criminal Court (ICC), to consider classifying these practices as war crimes related to unlawful detention in occupied or disputed territories.
- Strengthen the humanitarian and human rights presence in the southern governorates of Syria by deploying non-governmental human rights monitoring teams and providing psychological support and legal services to those affected by these operations.



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No justice without accountability

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