



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Syria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 16 & Friday 17 July 2015

Information on the current human rights/security situation in Daraa city/governorate

In July 2015 the *Syrian Observatory for Human Rights* states that:

“The regime forces shelled areas in the towns of Da’el and Samlin in the countryside of Daraa, they also shelled Inkhel city after helicopters dropped barrel bombs on areas in the city which damaged properties, no information about casualties” (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (17 July 2015) *Intense shelling and aerial bombardment on areas in Daraa Province, and clashes renew in its western countryside*).

Reuters in July 2015 states:

“...Deraa city is already partially under rebel control and largely surrounded by insurgent-held countryside” (Reuters (9 July 2015) *After gains, Syria rebels face tough fight for Daraa, Aleppo*).

In July 2015 *Voice of America* states:

“A southern rebel alliance is making another a big push to try to capture Dara'a city, and Syrian government warplanes are lashing back with intensive air raids. Rebel commanders and political activists say the raids include the dropping of barrel bombs on predominantly civilian districts. The offensive, which started June 25 on the city and nearby towns including Al-Ghazleh, has seen battlefield advantage seesawing between the insurgents and forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, with early rebel advances reversed. The intensity of the fighting is testimony to the strategic and symbolic importance of Dara'a, where the bloody 2011 suppression of reform protests against the government triggered the four-year-long civil war” (Voice of America (8 July 2015) *Syrian Rebels, Government Forces Renew Fight in South*).

A report issued in June 2015 by *Business Standard* notes:

“Around 70 per cent of Daraa province is under the control of rebel groups, who have made several advances in the region in recent weeks” (Business Standard (25 June 2015) *Rebels attack regime-held parts of Syria's Daraa*).

In June 2015 the *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace* points out that:

“Three months after the fall of Idlib, the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad may be about to lose another provincial capital” (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (25 June 2015) *The Battle for Daraa*).

This document also states that:

“Daraa City was where the Syrian uprising began in earnest in March 2011, when security forces opened fire against demonstrators angered by the arrest of several children as well as a host of other issues” (ibid).

It is also noted in this document that:

“Now, Daraa City itself has come into the rebels’ crosshairs. As Idlib formerly was in the northwest, the city remains connected to Damascus only by a spindly and nearly indefensible supply route along the north–south highway” (ibid).

In June 2016 the *Syrian Observatory for Human Rights* notes:

“In one of the biggest recent victories of anti-regime rebel groups in southern Syria, the Southern Front alliance took over the largest army base in Deraa on Monday (8 June)” (Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (16 June 2015) *Syria: Southern Front rebels seize largest army base in Deraa*).

References

Business Standard (25 June 2015) *Rebels attack regime-held parts of Syria's Daraa*
http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rebels-attack-regime-held-parts-of-syria-s-daraa-115062500455_1.html

Accessed Friday 17 July 2015

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (25 June 2015) *The Battle for Daraa*
<http://carnegieendowment.org/syriaincrisis/?fa=60504>

Accessed Friday 17 July 2015

Reuters (9 July 2015) *After gains, Syria rebels face tough fight for Deraa, Aleppo*
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/07/09/us-mideast-crisis-syria-insight-idUSKCN0PJ29120150709>

Accessed Thursday 16 July 2015

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (17 July 2015) *Intense shelling and aerial bombardment on areas in Daraa Province, and clashes renew in its western countryside*

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/07/intense-shelling-and-aerial-bombardment-on-areas-in-daraa-province-and-clashes-renew-in-its-western-countryside/>

Accessed Thursday 16 July 2015

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (16 June 2015) *Syria: Southern Front rebels seize largest army base in Deraa*

<http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/06/syria-southern-front-rebels-seize-largest-army-base-in-deraa/>

Accessed Friday 17 July 2015

Voice of America (8 July 2015) *Syrian Rebels, Government Forces Renew Fight in South*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/members/country-report/syrian-rebels-government-forces-renew-fight-south>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Friday 17 July 2015

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Regional Surveys of the World
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.