

SYRIA CRISIS HORIZON (08 Feb - 05 Apr 2022)



KEY EVENTS

2 Lessons From Syria, Now Helping Ukraine

2022-03-23 Russian attacks on Ukraine bear many similarities to those witnessed in Syria. In both countries, Russian bombs have hit civilian infrastructure, schools and kindergartens, hospitals and markets. Some of these incidents may qualify as war crimes under international humanitarian law. In Ukraine and ... [DEUTSCHE WELLE](#)

3 Syrian Mercenaries Deploy To Russia En Route To Ukrainian Battlefields

2022-03-31 BEIRUT, Lebanon -- Hundreds of Syrian fighters are en route to join Russian forces in Ukraine, effectively returning the favor to Moscow for helping President Bashar al-Assad crush rebels in an 11-year civil war, according to two people monitoring the flow of mercenaries. A first contingent of sold... [NYT](#)

4 Ramadan Kicks Off In Much Of Middle East Amid Soaring Prices

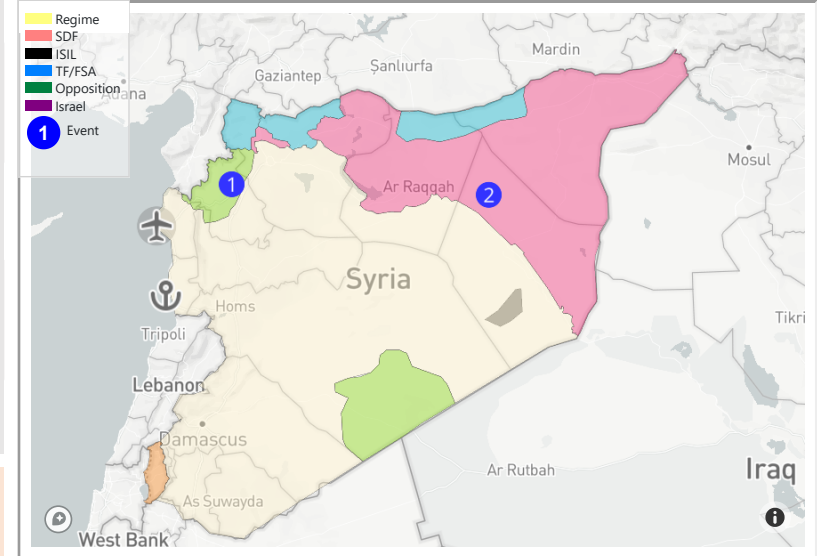
2022-04-02 CAIRO (AP) -- The Muslim holy month of Ramadan -- when the faithful fast from dawn to dusk -- began at sunrise Saturday in much of the Middle East, where Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent energy and food prices soaring. The conflict cast a pall over Ramadan, when large gatherings over meals and... [AP NEWS](#)

ASSESSMENT

The Syrian regime has been one of the strong supporters of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Syria did not vote in favour of a UN resolution at the General Assembly condemning Russia. In different Syrian streets, Russian flags were carried by the supporting Syrians. This is seen as a way to show gratitude to Moscow following its unconditional support to the government in Damascus. Assad needs an economically stable Russia in order to preserve the gains achieved in the civil war. A declining Russian interest or will in the Middle East may decrease the external leverage provided by Moscow to Damascus, hence risks further attacks by the opposition, SDF or ISIL to the detriment of current regime gains in the country.

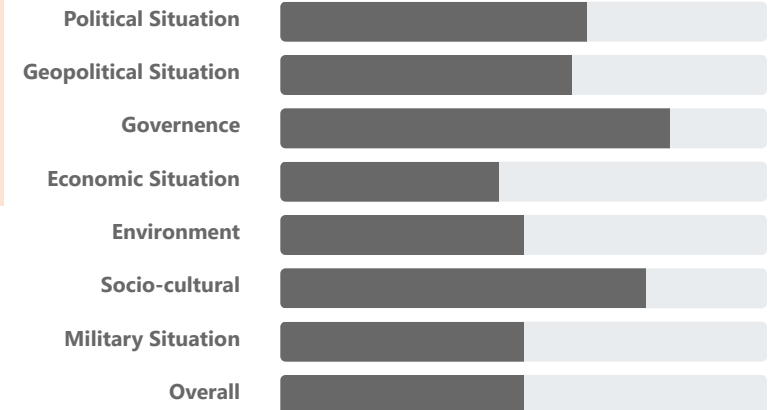
There are also unconfirmed reports about Syrians being recruited by Russia to fight in Ukraine. This is likely correct looking at the dire economic conditions in Syria. Nevertheless, the extent and content of Syrian support to Russian operations in Ukraine are not certain and will not likely contribute a lot to the current Russian military efforts on the Ukrainian battlefield.

All in all, the security situation is quite stable in Syria. The battlefronts are mostly static with occasional clashes between the conflicting sides. The US and the coalition forces continue supporting SDF's efforts to maintain stability in north-eastern Syria while Turkish-backed opposition forces enjoy fragile stability in north-western Syria thanks to Turkey's continuing military and political support. Overall, the protracted conflict situation is likely to continue in the medium to long term unless the key stakeholders do not change their existing policy on Syria.



AI Powered Crisis Situation

This product is prepared by a group of subject matter experts using a number of open sources with a hybrid methodology that merges both traditional methods and AI-powered, data-driven approaches.



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