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# Syria's Civil War

JUN 14, 2012 | [37](#)

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Fifteen months after the start of the uprising in Syria, several experts and at least one top U.N. official are now characterizing the escalating conflict as a Civil War. A wide range of anti-government insurgencies continue to battle official and unofficial Syrian government troops across the country. President Bashar al-Assad's forces have reportedly carried out a series of horrific civilian massacres, involving attack helicopters, shelling, and brutal incursions into rebel neighborhoods. The Syrian government continues to block foreign journalists, but a number of photographs and reports have made their way out of the country. [\[39 photos\]](#)

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Birds fly over a destroyed minaret of a mosque at the northern town of Ariha, on the outskirts of Idlib, Syria, on June 10, 2012. An estimated 14,000 people have been killed since the uprising began in March last year. (AP Photo) ☐



2 The Syrian flag flying next to destruction in the Bab Amro neighborhood of Homs, Syria, on May 2, 2012. (Joseph Eid/AFP/Getty Images) # ☐



3 A Syrian man walks near part of a destroyed military tank with Arabic that reads, "freedom," at the northern town of Ariha, on the outskirts of Idlib, Syria, on June 10, 2012. (AP Photo) # ☐





**4** A view of the heavily destroyed Bab Amro neighborhood of Homs, on May 2, 2012. (Joseph Eid/AFP/Getty Images) # □



**5** People gather at a mass burial for the victims purportedly killed during an artillery barrage from Syrian forces in Houla in this handout image dated May 26, 2012. U.N. observers in Syria have confirmed that artillery and tank shells were fired at a residential area of Houla, Syria, where at least 108 people, including many children, were killed, the U.N. chief said on Sunday in a letter to the Security Council. (Reuters/Shaaam News Network) # □





**6** Members of the Free Syrian Army's Mugaweer (commandos) Brigade pay their respects in a cemetery in the town of Qusayr, that contains around 100 bodies of Syrians killed during the conflict, on May 12, 2012. (AFP/Getty Images) # □



**7** A Syrian man shows his injured back in the city of Rastan, north of the central restive city of Homs, on April 27, 2012, claiming that he was tortured by regime forces. (AFP/GettyImages) # □





**8** Syrian army tanks, stationed at the entrance to Baba Amr neighborhood in Homs, on February 10, 2012. (AFP/Getty Images) # □



**9** This citizen journalism image released by Sham News Network taken on June 9, 2012, purports to show anti-Syrian regime mourners raising their hands as they carry the coffins of Syrian citizens killed by Syrian troops, in Daraa, Syria. According to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, tens died in heavy pre-dawn shelling on Saturday in Daraa, where the uprising against Assad began in March 2011. (AP Photo) # □



**10** A Syrian woman holds an AK-47 during an anti-Bashar Assad protest after Friday prayers on the outskirts of Idlib, Syria, on June 8, 2012. (AP Photo) # □



**11** Syrian boys stand in a building damaged by tank shells in a neighborhood of Damascus, Syria, after a raid by Syrian troops killed several rebels and civilians on April 5, 2012. Syrian troops launched a fierce assault days ahead of a deadline for a U.N.-brokered cease-fire, with activists describing it as one of the most violent attacks around the capital since the uprising began. (AP Photo/Mohammad Hannon) # ☐



**12** This citizen journalism image provided by Shaam News Network SNN, purports to show anti-Syrian regime protesters holding a banner and shouting slogans during a demonstration at the northern town of Kfar Nebel, in Idlib province, Syria, on June 8, 2012. (AP Photo/Sham News Network) # ☐





**13** Syrian anti-regime protestors gather around UN observers in the village of Azzara in Homs province, on May 4, 2012. (Joseph Eid/AFP/GettyImages) # □



**14** A Syrian anti-regime protestor holds a picture of a disappeared relative as people gather around UN observers in the village of Azzara in Homs province, on May 4, 2012. (Joseph Eid/AFP/GettyImages) # □





**15** Smoke rises from Al Khalidieh, near Homs, on June 8, 2012. (Reuters/Sham News Network) # □



**16** A Syrian rebel sits inside a car converted into an armored combat vehicle in Khaldiye neighborhood in Homs province, on May 15, 2012. (AP Photo/Fadi Zaidan) # □



**17** Members of the Free Syrian Army's "Freedom for the River Assi Brigade" run as they take part on an attack on Syrian regime forces in the village of Nizareer, near the Lebanese border in Homs province, on May 12, 2012. (AFP/Getty Images) # □

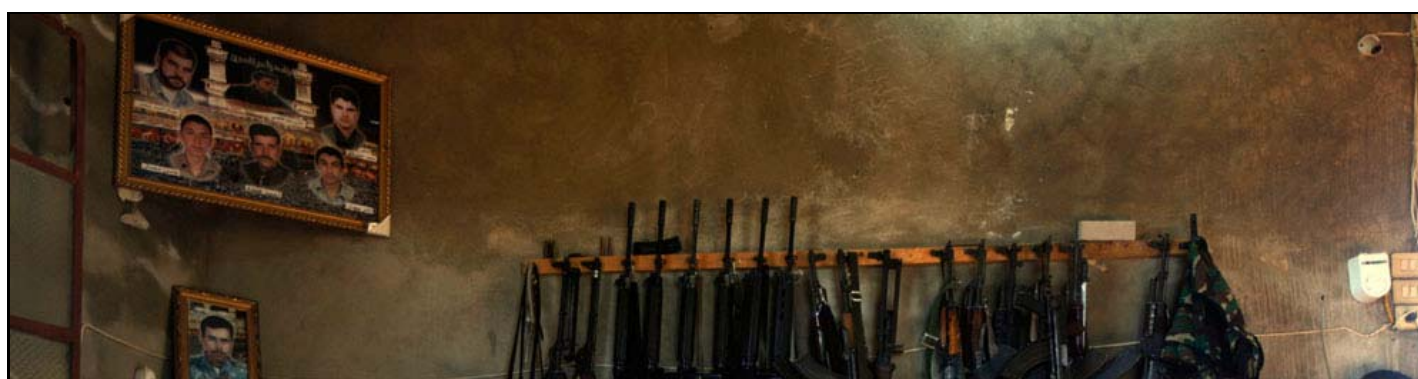




**18** A damaged car from Syrian government forces shelling, overturned on a street in Homs, on April 20, 2012. (AP Photo) # □



**19** A Syrian rebel rides a bicycle through Khaldiyyeh neighborhood in Homs province, on May 14, 2012. (AP Photo/Fadi Zaidan) # □





**20** Free Syrian Army fighters sit in a house on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria, on June 12, 2012. Syrian forces pelted the eastern city of Deir el-Zour with mortars as anti-government protesters were dispersing before dawn, killing several people, activists said. The offensives were part of an escalation of violence in recent weeks that has brought more international pressure on President Bashar Assad's regime faces over its brutal tactics against the opposition. The U.N. accused the government of using children as human shields in a new report. (AP Photo) # ☐



**21** Member of the Free Syrian Army's "Freedom for the River Assi Brigade" return to Qusayr after an attack on Syrian regime forces in the village of Nizareer, on May 12, 2012. (AFP/Getty Images) # ☐





**22** A member of the Free Syrian Army celebrates in front of a burning tank after defeating government troops in Rasten, near Homs, on May 14, 2012. (Reuters/Handout) # ☐



**23** Buildings, which according to the opposition were damaged by Syrian government forces, in Homs May 4, 2012. (Reuters/Shaaam News Network) # ☐



**24** A frame grab made from an amateur video provided by Syrian activists on May 28, 2012, purports to show the massacre in Houla on May 25 that killed more than 100 people, many of them children. The amateur footage showed people running along a street, purportedly just after the attack on Houla started. (AP Photo/Amateur Video via AP video) # ☐

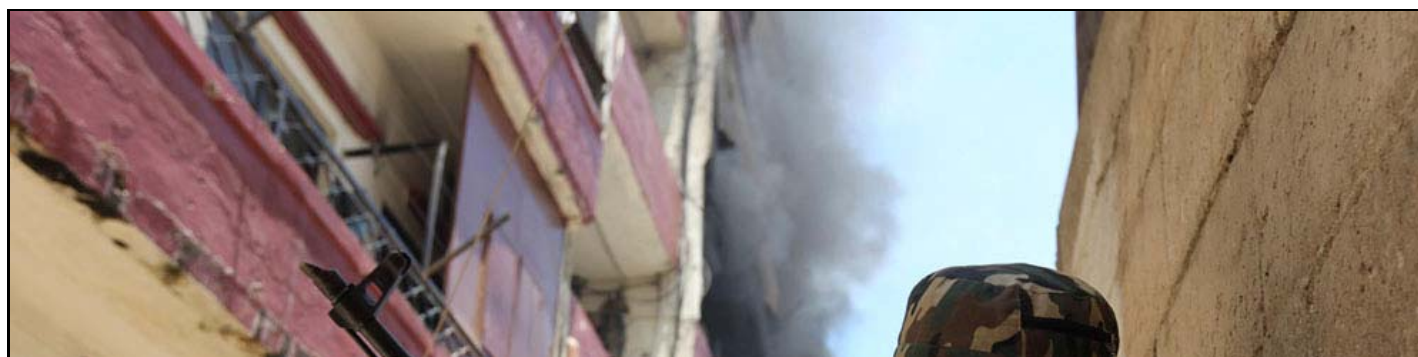




**25** Bodies of people that anti-government protesters say were killed by government security forces lie on the ground at Ali Bin Al Hussein mosque in Huola, near Homs, on May 26, 2012. (Reuters/Houla News Network/Handout) # ☐



**26** Dead bodies of a man and child that anti-government protesters say were killed by government security forces, are placed on a vehicle belonging to the United Nations observers' mission in Syria in Huola, on May 26, 2012. (Reuters/Shaaam News Network) # ☐



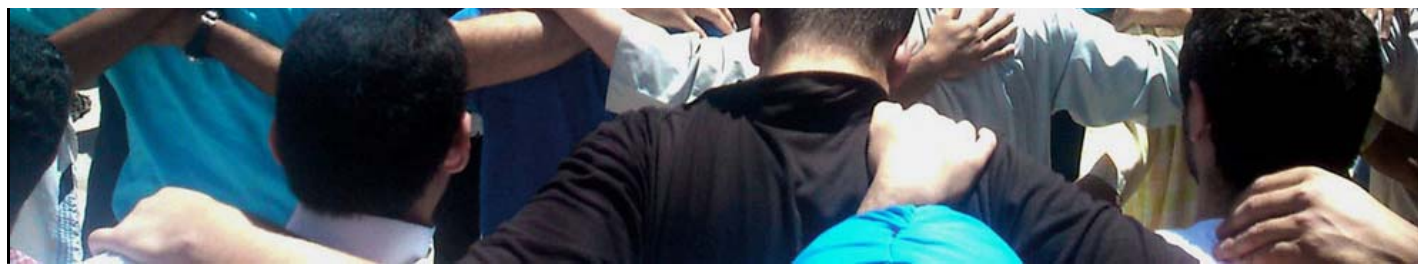


**27** A Sunni gunman, near a burning building during clashes that erupted in the northern port city of Tripoli, Lebanon, Saturday, June 2, 2012. Gunbattles between pro- and anti-Syrian groups in northern Lebanon killed at least one person and wounded nine Saturday, security officials said, as activists reported fresh shelling of a region in central Syria that witnessed a massacre last week that killed tens of people. (AP Photo/Bilal Hussein) # □



**28** A Syrian rebel walks in Khaldiye neighborhood in Homs province, central Syria, on May 15, 2012. (AP Photo/Fadi Zaidan) # □





29 This citizen journalism image provided by Shaam News Network, taken on June 8, 2012 purports to show a Syrians chanting slogans during a demonstration in the eastern city of Deir el-Zour, Syria. (AP Photo/Shaaam News Network) # □



30 A Syrian boy sits in the rubble of house that was destroyed during a military operation by the Syrian pro-Assad army in April 2012 , in the town of Taftanaz, 15 km east of Idlib, Syria, on June 5, 2012. (AP Photo) # □





**32** People gather at the site of an explosion, as seen from a damaged house close to the site in Damascus May 10, 2012. Two large explosions killed 40 people in Damascus, state media said, destroying dozens of cars on a highway and damaging an intelligence complex involved in President Bashar al-Assad's crackdown on a 15-month-old uprising. (Reuters/Khaled al-Hariri) # □



**33** An injured man is carried after an explosion in Damascus, on May 10, 2012. Two explosions shook the Syrian capital Damascus, killing and wounding dozens of people, state media said. (Reuters/Khaled al-Hariri) # □





**34** A damaged building, after shelling of the Talbisah area in Homs city, on June 13, 2012. (Reuters/Sham News Network) # □



**35** Demonstrators protest against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad after Friday Prayers in the neighbourhood of Erbeen, near Damascus, on June 8, 2012. (Reuters) # □







**36** A Syrian man carries a wounded girl next to Red Crescent ambulances following an explosion that targeted a military bus near Qudssaya, a neighborhood of the Syrian capital, on June 8, 2012. At least seven people were killed in blasts near Damascus and in Idlib city in Syria's restive northwest, among them four security forces members, a watchdog group said. (AFP/Getty Images) # ☐



**37** Syrians walk in a destroyed alley, damaged from Syrian army forces shelling, at Bab Sbaa neighborhood in Homs province, on April 21, 2012. (AP Photo) # ☐





**38** Demonstrators protest against Syria's President Bashar al-Assad at Kfr Suseh in Damascus, on June 12, 2012. (Reuters/Shaaam News Network) # [□](#)



**39** A pair of sandals lies on bloodstained ground after shelling at the Talbisah area in Homs city, on June 13, 2012. (Reuters/Shaaam News Network) # [□](#)

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