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**Syria: Military Targeting Civilians**

OFFICE OF MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA ANALYSIS

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[REDACTED]

The regime has gradually relaxed its rules of engagement, progressing from its initial avoidance of civilian casualties to now actively targeting civilians. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

During the past month, Damascus has used increasing firepower to combat insurgents and has begun implementing collective punishment tactics against civilians—airstrikes and artillery barrages—in insurgent hotspots throughout the country.

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[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Damascus is using these tactics in areas where regime forces have struggled most to reverse insurgent gains—including in Aleppo, Dayr az Zawr, and Idlib. [REDACTED]

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[redacted] Syria: Military Targeting Civilians...

Continued

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[redacted]

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[redacted] ***The regime's strategy of targeting civilians provides an opportunity for oppositionists to channel antiregime sentiment into support for the insurgency.***

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— [redacted] Collective punishment risks deepening antiregime sentiment among the segments of the population being targeted. Previously neutral Syrians, incensed by violence, have vowed to join the opposition, [redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

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