

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة  
Justice for Life Organization



**A sheet on the current situation in the city of Deir-ez-Zor  
from September 2017 to April 2018**

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## Summary:

After three years, ISIL lost control on the most of the governorate of Deir-Ez-Zor where GOS (Government of Syria) regained control of the three cities in the governorate: Deir-Ez-Zor, Mayadin-Abu Kamal, towns and villages south of the Euphrates River, while SDF (Syria's democratic forces), supported by the USA-and the international coalition, controlled the villages on the north of Euphrates river.

from **5-1-2015** to the end of September in **2017**, ISIL besiege the neighborhoods which were under the GOS control, these neighborhoods witnessed the death of **43** people because of malnutrition and disease in addition to power cuts, Lack of water, doctors and medicines, as well as rising of food items prices.

The security systems, their supporting militias and traders made benefit of the siege by raising the food items prices and obstructing the movement of civilians out of the besieged neighborhoods, which contributed to the suffering of civilians.

Justice for Life organization has documented the death of **308** civilians from the beginning of **2015** to the end of 2017 because of mortar and planes shelling, out of them **86** children and **67** women.

The siege began in Jan **2015** and didn't end till ISIL withdrew from Deir-Ez-Zor.

The number of civilians who live in the populated neighborhoods of Deir -EZ-ZOR is estimated at **200,000**, distributed among the neighborhoods of Jourah, Qosour, Harabesh and parts of al-Jubaila. The rest of the neighborhoods restored by the regime forces in Deir -Ez-Zor are still empty of civilians.

**The sheet highlights the humanitarian, security and service conditions in the civilian neighborhoods of Deir-Ez-Zor.**

Firstly: the security situations in Deir -Ez-Zor after GOS forces and their allies restored the control on some areas of Deir -Ez-Zor:

In addition to GOS forces, there are Russian forces and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, there are also military groups, where each of them receives orders and financial support from a different side.

Each force and military group controls a particular area and sets up a series of checkpoints to protect its headquarters, there is no a supreme authority capable of imposing its authority over all these forces and groups. Each one has the leadership which direct it without coordination or consultation with other forces.

Conflicts of interest and the desire to expand influence led to a conflict among these military groups which caused the killing and injury of civilians. JFL documented the death of 10 old children because of shooting between AL Quds brigade and the National defense in AL Wadi street which is near AL Joura neighborhood , A reporter for the Justice Organization reported that an exchange of fire took place between members of the State Security Branch and the "Martyr Muhammad al-Nuri" militia in the street near the civilian prison, resulting in the injury of civilians and killing of a member of the State Security Branch.

GOS leaderships attempted to control the security situation by forming a periodical force to impose security, this force is established by an order of the Commander of the military and security forces in the eastern area. This force consists of the Military Security Service - State Security - Political Security - Civil Police - Military Police - National Defense, but AL Quds brigade clashed with members of common forces which caused the injury of some of the civilians' police members out of them an officer.

Secondly: military groups in Deir-Ez-Zor beside GOS forces and its security systems:

1. Iranian revolutionary guard: it is about **200** members in the form of humanitarian aid associations with unknown leaderships in Deir-Ez-Zor governorate.
2. Russian forces: it is about **1000** members are led by a general who stays in villas neighborhood.
3. National Defense: is about **400** to **600** members who are led by Firas Jeham (Iraqi Firas) under the management of national defense in Damascus, all the members are from Deir-Ez-Zor governorate.
4. Hezb Allah: it is related to Lebanese Hizb Allah under a Lebanese leadership who their real names are unknown (AL Haj Taher), they are about **100** or **150** members, some of them are Syrian who were undergone training in Lebanon and the rest are from Deir-Ez-Zor.
5. Leader Khaled Lions: they belong to Military Security Branch under the leadership of AL Haj Qadmous who took the command of the group after the death of his brother AL Haj Radwan who is the group founder, they are about **100** members from Deir-Ez-Zor governorate, their leaders have been trained in a camp in Tadmor city.
6. Clans forces: they belong to Syrian Republican Guard under the command of people from Deir-Ez-Zor clans such as Mehana Faisal AL Faiad, they are about **300** members of Deir-Ez-Zor countryside.
7. AL Baker forces: they are funded by Iran under the command of Ragheb Nawaf AL Bashier, they are about **400** members from Aleppo and Deir-Ez-Zor countryside.
8. AL Quds brigade: It belongs to the Syrian Military Intelligence and is financed by Iran. It is headed by the engineer Sa'eed from Aleppo countryside, they are about **800** members from Aleppo, Palestinians and former members of armed opposition factions in Rural Damascus who engaged with the reconciliation processes with the GOS.
9. Fatimids: they are about **1000** members and financed by Iranian Revolutionary Guard under unknown command, all of them are Iranians, Afghans or from other foreign nationalities in the eastern countryside of Deir-Ez-Zor and Abu Kamal city.

10. Mihammad AL Nouri: they belong to military Intelligence under the leadership of Mohammad Al Nouri, they are about 50 members, all of them are from Deir-Ez-Zor city.
11. Self-protection forces: they belong to AL Ba'ath Party in Deir-Ez-Zor commanded by Secretary Party Branch, they are about **500** members in the governorate's districts and villages. All of them are the sons of these areas.

#### Thirdly: Violations by military groups against civilians in Deir-Ez-Zor:

The mentioned military groups spread in different areas of Deir-Ez-Zor with their heavy and light weapons and interfere in the work of many departments and institutions such as schools, hospitals and even bakeries and make headquarters of these departments.

The members of these groups intercept civilians in streets without any accusation or reasons, check and insult them and taking over some houses under the pretext that their owners are outside the governorate. JFL documented the taking over **3** houses by military groups under Iranian command and they refuse to give them back to their owners unless the owner of the house is present with title deed, it is mentioned that these militias lease these houses.

Harassment and sexual exploitation cases by members of the military groups were recorded in Deir-Ez-Zor city in exchange for money, humanitarian aids and protection, in addition to abortion cases of minors at gunpoint.

#### Fourthly: obligating the employees in the state institutions to return:

Lot of employees, who displaced because of siege, returned to Deir-Ez-Zor after they were obligated by government under the threat of suspension their salaries or dismissing.

Employees returning to Deir-Ez-Zor shall be subject to a security survey by the security branches in order to obtain an approval allowing the employee to perform his duties. Most employees suffer blackmailing by security members and delaying the issuance of security approval, particularly by the officers who interrogate employees to get money.

Most returnees suffer from lack of accommodation where the local authority didn't offer centers for this significant number of employees which obligate them to stay with relatives or with more than family in one house.

#### Fifthly: Education:

Ministry of High Education in Deir-Ez-Zor obligated university students to who have joined other universities to return to Deir-Ez-Zor, particularly, law, Economic, literature and Agriculture engineering faculties which are the restarting colleges.

On the other hand, there are more than **120** schools in Deir-Ez-Zor including the city and the eastern and western countryside. The number of teachers is about **7700**, UNICEF oversees most schools and finances rehabilitation projects.

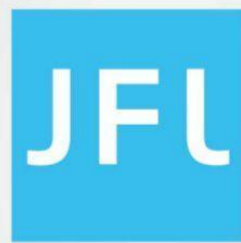
#### Sixthly: Health:

There are **3** hospitals in Deir-Ez-Zor (AL Assad hospital, the Military hospital and the Complimentary Iranian hospital), the Iranian hospital which is recently opened and equipped with the latest equipment, in addition to AL Thawra dispensary in AL Jorah neighborhood and Khaled Ibn AL Waleed dispensary in AL Qusour neighborhood and other dispensary supported by many churches.

#### Seventhly: the humanitarian aids:

There are a lot of humanitarian associations in Deir-Ez-Zor which distribute food, health, cleaning materials and house tools aids, some of these associations are: Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society - Al Ber Association - Syria Al Yamamah Association - Mar Faram Association - Syrian-Iranian Friendship Association - Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Association.

The distribution of aids is done according to dates assigned by each association, where the quotas distributed to the families in the city have increased.



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