

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة  
Justice For Life Organization



## Al Mayadin

Decrease of Civilians Desire to Return and  
Prevalence of Foreign Militias



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# **Al Mayadin**

## **Decrease of Civilians Desire to Return and Prevalence of Foreign Militias**

**This brief paper highlights the current situation in Al Mayadin city in terms of controlling powers, security condition, services, and movement of populations**

**Justice for Life Organization**

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## **First: Introduction**

Al Mayadin, or Al Mayatheen according to real estate registries, is located in 45km southeastern side of Deir Ezzor city. The city has two sub-districts; Al Ishara and Theeban along with seven towns, fourteen municipalities, and ten villages.

Syrian [regular forces](#) took over the city in October 2017 following [clashes with ISIS](#) as [dozens of thousands of civilians](#) fled the city due to the military actions.

The civilians fled towards Syria Democratic Forces held areas in Deir Ezzor in the north of Euphrates River, Aleppo countryside especially to Al Bab abd Jarabulus, Damascus, Al Hasaka, and Idleb.

## **Second: Populations Movement from/to Al Mayadin city**

Following the large scale of the regular forces on the city in the second half of 2017, the city residents including the locals and IDPs were displaced due to the indiscriminate shelling by the regular forces warplanes that resulted in death and injury of dozens of people long with the destruction of properties.

Currently, the Syrian regular forces along with foreign allied militias are controlling the city. Al Mayadin witnessed the returning of about ten thousand people, including three thousand people from other Syrian areas, some of them are from Deir Ezzor, and others from Aleppo countryside.

JFL correspondent said “The influx of returning of civilians decreased in the last year due to many reasons including winter season, fear of collapse of security situation following the US decision of troops withdrawal from Syria, and fearing from ISIS expanding its operations in the areas of south of the river”.

The Syrian government forced the employees in the city to return to their areas despite their fears and threatened them to suspend their salaries, and even to terminate their contracts.

JFL correspondent confirms that “The civilians are moving between SDF held areas and regular forces held areas for securing their needs or paying visits to their relatives by using boats as the bridges were destroyed about two years ago”.



**Civilians using the river to move from Al Mayadin city to Al Shuhail town in the north of Euphrates River.**

**Photo Date: January 4<sup>th</sup> 2019**

### **Third: Security Situation in the City:**

The regular forces are based nearby the river bank in the city and preventing civilians from entering any goods unless they pay money amounts. One of the locals told JFL correspondent “ I paid 50,000 SYP to enter my house furniture”, and other local says “I paid 200,000 SYP to enter my car”.

Inside the city, there are headquarters for the Air Force Security and Military Security along with the National Defense Militias, where most of these militias' members are from Al Mayadin city.

Foreign militias, Syrian Hezbollah militias, and Iranian Revolutionary Guard are based in the city. JFL correspondent says "Members of Hezbollah are based in the water pumping station. Limited number of locals joined the militia. Also, members of Iranian Revolutionary Guard are based in the automated bakery in the west of the city. The militaries and civilians are not allowed to get close to their base".

One of the returnees told JFL correspondent "Foreign militias are based in Al Arbaeen Street in the city as they prevent populations from returning to their houses. They also prevent people to get close this area. These militias confiscated number of civilians' houses in the area".

The regular forces arrested a number of civilians who returned to the city by the charge of dealing with ISIS as they arrested two members of one family by the charge of providing technical support to ISIS last year".

#### **Fourth: Services**

Following the unavailability of basic services in the city for years due to military actions and difficulty of maintenance and providing the requirements for repairing the networks of water and electricity, technical workshops repaired the electricity networks in about half of the city, especially from the automated bakery to Al Jaish Street in the city center. The power is on around-the-clock with minor cut-offs. Maintenance workshops also repaired the main water pumping station along with some networks as water is available 12 per day.

Cell communication are available but with weak signal. Populations should seek for high locations to get good signal. As for landlines, they are completely off.

Civilians who are currently in the city suffer from garbage as the municipality is not doing its work. JFL correspondent says "Despite the fact that there are staff for the municipality in headquarter, yet they do not do their tasks". " Civil Registry was opened in the city on January 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, but it did not start work as people still resort to Civil Registry in Deir Ezzor city" the correspondent added.



**Civil Registry Building in Al Mayadin City**

**Photo Date : January 06<sup>th</sup> 2019**

### **Fifth: Schools and Hospitals**

The Syrian government reopened the public clinic in the previous building of blood bank, located in the eastern side of the city. JFL correspondent confirmed that there is adequate medical staff in the mentioned public clinic. “Al Salam hospital, located in Al Jaish Street, along with the Iranian hospital, located in the western entrance of the city and receive patients only in the morning, were opened”, he added.

JFL correspondent also added that seven schools were opened in the city that are Ismael All Touma, Ali bin Ali Taleb, Zubaida, Al Furati, Al Buhturi, Al Nasawi, and Hasan Al Khater as teachers suffer from overload of students in the classes.

### **Sixth: Living Conditions in the City**

Civilians are suffering from high prices especially for the basic goods such as meat and poultry. JFL correspondent said that vegetables and fruits are between 150 and 500 SYP, egg prices is 50 SYP, meat and chicken between 900 and 4500 SYP. Fuel prices are 200-300 SYP, and gas bottle price is 5300 SYP.

The Syrian authorities allowed only one bakery to work in the city. Consequently, the populations need was not met.



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