



2.2.6. Reaction of pro-government supporters to criticism of the government

The government's security forces have not been able to consistently provide protection to protesters and demonstrators, particularly from supporters of the government, intervening in some cases only after attacks had already taken place.^{[350](#)} On several instances, protesters criticising the government have been attacked by mobilised pro-government supporters, resulting in injuries and, in at least one case, fatalities.^{[351](#)} Examples include the protests organised in Damascus in relation to violations committed in the coastal areas (March 2025)^{[352](#)} and Sweida (July 2025),^{[353](#)} the protests organised in the coastal areas after the bomb attack against an Alawite mosque in Homs (December 2025), ^{[354](#)} and the protests concerning the economic situation in Damascus (April 2026).^{[355](#)} According to Haid Haid, many government supporters perceive criticism of government policies or approaches as a direct threat to the authorities, regardless of the government's own position. The source further noted a lack of progress in holding accountable those responsible for attacks on demonstrators, contributing to a perception among some pro-government supporters that they can act against critics with impunity.^{[356](#)}

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Haid Haid, online interview with EUAA, 28 April 2026; SNHR, Call on the Syrian Government to Prosecute Those who Attacked Civil Activists During a Peaceful Protest in front of the People's Assembly in Damascus, 20 July 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, Deadly protests and clashes in Syria – what happened and what's next?, 29 December 2025, [url](#);

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Haid Haid, online interview with EUAA, 28 April 2026