



2.6.3. Security trends

The main security trend in Homs governorate during the reference period were targeted killings, often by unknown gunmen, predominantly targeting Alawite civilians.^{[754](#)} Incidents of civilian killings were recorded mainly in Homs city,^{[755](#)} such as the killing of four Alawite hospital personnel in January 2026,^{[756](#)} but also across the governorate.^{[757](#)} In the context of such attacks, security personnel was often perceived as absent or, if present, not intervening sufficiently to contain the attacks,^{[758](#)} or as otherwise failing.^{[759](#)} The killing of a Bedouin couple from the Sunni Bani Khalid tribe in the town of Zaidal in November 2025, allegedly for sectarian motives, led to an outbreak of violence, with Bedouin tribes reportedly attacking Alawite-majority neighbourhoods in Homs city, causing material damage and assaults on civilians,^{[760](#)} before security forces intervened and contained the situation.^{[761](#)} According to some accounts, 2 people were killed and 18 injured in the attacks.^{[762](#)} While the killing later turned out to have a criminal background, the response was ‘undeniably sectarian’, with a ‘sectarian pattern of targeting’ and ‘systematised attacks’ on Alawite neighbourhoods.^{[763](#)} In the context of these attacks, sources pointed to the uncontrolled presence of arms among tribal groups,^{[764](#)} and described the situation since the fall of Bashar Al-Assad’s government as an ongoing ‘security chaos’,^{[765](#)} or – given the lack of transitional justice institutions – as law being replaced by chaos and revenge.^{[766](#)} STJ similarly noted that the lack of results from investigations and the failure to hold perpetrators accountable contributed to the prevailing impunity.^{[767](#)} At least 8 people were killed and 22 injured in an IED attack in an Alawite mosque in Homs city.^{[768](#)} Saraya Ansar Al Sunna, a non-state armed group, reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. According to Syrian authorities, those responsible for the attack had been detained and identified as ISIL members.^{[769](#)}

Another trend observed in Homs governorate during the reference period was the seizure of property in neighbourhoods or of individuals presumed loyal to the former Assad government,^{[770](#)} as well as forced evictions of former army personnel,^{[771](#)} and members of the Shia and Alawite minorities.^{[772](#)}

US and US-led airstrikes on presumed ISIL positions were reported in December 2025^{[773](#)} and early 2026,^{[774](#)} following a deadly attack on US forces by a suspected ISIL-affiliated gunman in Palmyra in mid-December 2025.^{[775](#)}

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