



Ressort: Special interest

## **Druze community in shock after the massacre in Sweida**

Tel Aviv, 19.07.2025 [ENA]

The unrest ignited last week when a Druze merchant was attacked and abducted by members of Bedouin clans after they established an improvised roadblock in Sweida, sparking a series of retaliatory kidnappings and armed confrontations between Druze locals and Sunni Bedouin factions.

Over the weekend, Syrian regime troops moved into the region, allegedly opening fire on civilians, raiding households, and deploying tanks in urban centers. Videos circulated online reportedly show Druze civilians being seized and humiliated by soldiers loyal to the Assad successor administration headed by al-Sharaa. In a widely shared clip, Druze civilians were degraded by having their moustache removed.

Nearly five days of intense conflict rocked the Druze stronghold of Sweida in southern Syria, instigated by assaults from armed Sunni Bedouins against the local populace.

According to Syrian reports, at least 350 lives were lost in the turmoil, including no fewer than 27 who were executed. Combatants loyal to President Ahmad al-Sharaa also engaged in the skirmishes, a critical element in Israel's decision to intervene.

Hundreds perished during the raids and massacres, which have become a grim recurrence in Syria, alongside incidents of women being assaulted.

The violence dramatically escalated following the arrival of governmental forces, as recounted to Reuters by numerous residents of Sweida, two on-site reporters, and a monitoring organization.

Nevertheless, witnesses indicated that the government troops collaborated with the Bedouins in launching assaults on Druze fighters and civilians in a gruesome rampage through the city. Syria's President Ahmad al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Julani, leader of the erstwhile al-Qaeda affiliate that ousted the country's long-standing leader Bashar al-Assad in December, denounced the transgressions and pledged to hold the offenders accountable. "These criminal and illegal actions cannot be tolerated under any circumstances, contradicting completely the principles upon which the Syrian state is founded," he asserted in a statement on Wednesday. It is a fabrication.

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In light of clashes and Israeli strikes in the Druze-dominant region of Sweida, Syria’s interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa on Thursday accused Israel of fostering “chaos and destruction” after conducting airstrikes on his government’s forces with the professed aim of safeguarding its neighbor’s Druze population.

By characterizing Syria’s new rulers as veiled jihadists, Israel has proclaimed it will not permit them to position forces in southern Syria and has committed to protecting the local Druze community from aggression, spurred by appeals from Israel’s own Druze minority.

“We are taking decisive measures to obstruct the entrenchment of hostile elements across the border, protect Israeli citizens, and prevent harm to Druze civilians,” stated the IDF Chief of General Staff, LTG Eyal Zamir, during a situational review at the Syrian frontier.

Israel sustained its bombardment of Syrian government forces, pledging to shield the Druze, as around 1,000 community members in Israel rushed across the border to partake in the confrontation.

The complete medical staff of the Druze hospital in Suwayda, Syria, perished in a massacre executed by Muslim factions. The world is indifferent, but Israel remains vigilant, while Western politicians ostracize the small Jewish state for being the sole entity preventing the genocide of the Druze.

Bericht online lesen:

[https://www.european-news-agency.de/special\\_interest/druze\\_community\\_in\\_shock\\_after\\_the\\_massacre\\_in\\_sweida-91814/](https://www.european-news-agency.de/special_interest/druze_community_in_shock_after_the_massacre_in_sweida-91814/)

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