

TLP CLEAR – DISSEMINATION UNLIMITED



In Obscura

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UPDATED 11 JUL 2026

TLP-C ///FLASH/// ATTACK DAMASCUS HOTEL FRENCH PRESIDENT 7 JULY 2026

KNOW THE TARGET – WATCH THE TARGET – LOOK DEEPER -EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

Matthew 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

IN OBSCURA THEAT LEVEL – IMMINENT

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UPDATE

Syria arrests IS group-linked suspects over Damascus bombings during Macron visit

Syrian authorities said on Thursday they had arrested several suspects accused of carrying out a series of bombings in Damascus including attacks during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit this week. The interior ministry said security forces dismantled the entire cell, while an official blamed the Islamic State group, which has not claimed responsibility. Issued on: 10/07/2026 - 01:00 Modified: 10/07/2026 - 09:17

<https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20260709-syria-arrests-isis-suspects-damascus-bombings-macron-visit>

Syrian officials on Thursday said the country had captured an IS group-linked cell responsible for two bomb blasts during French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Damascus earlier this week. "The cell responsible for the terrorist bombings that targeted Damascus two days ago is now in our custody," Interior Minister Anas Khattab posted on X.

"Once the investigations are completed, we will reveal to the public the identities of the cell's members, their roles, and all of their affiliations and connections," he added.

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Why the Damascus blasts during Macron's visit are a blow to al-Sharaa
Ahmad Dalati, head of interior security for the Damascus region, said on Syrian state television that preliminary investigations indicated "the cell was affiliated with the IS (Islamic State) group".

The interior ministry said in a statement that the cell had been captured following a series of raids "carried out at the same time against the suspects' different locations across Damascus and its countryside".

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FIRST FLASH MESSAGE OF 7 JUL 2026

Two explosions shook Damascus on Tuesday near a hotel where French President Emmanuel Macron was staying, wounding at least 18 people, including 4 police officers, during the French leader's landmark visit to Syria. The president was not inside the hotel when the blasts hit, having already left for Syria's presidential palace, where an AFP team saw him arrive for a meeting with counterpart Ahmed al-Sharaa. Syria's interior ministry said one bomb had been placed inside a car parked on the side of a road, while the second was planted in a garbage container. **It said they exploded "while preparations were underway" to dismantle them.**

The blasts came moments before Syrian state television announced Macron's arrival at the palace. Macron is meeting with Sharaa to discuss post-war reconstruction of Syria and reiterate his call for "unity" and "plurality", having also met with civil society representatives. The French president had postponed announcing the date of his visit until his plane landed on Monday, for security reasons.

POSSIBLE RELATED ATTACK

The explosions are the second in the Syrian capital since Thursday, when 10 people were killed in a bombing in a Damascus cafe.

A bomb blast tore through a crowded cafe in central Damascus on Thursday, killing at least nine people and wounding 22. ***It is viewed by analysts as a major security breach in the heart of the Syrian capital, but one that was not entirely unexpected*** due to the number of opponents to Syria's new government.

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The explosion hit a popular cafe on al-Nasr Street in the al-Hijaz area of Damascus, about 100 metres (328 feet) from the main entrance of the Palace of Justice.

Security sources told Al Jazeera that **a person entered the cafe, placed an improvised explosive device (IED) under a table and left the building, possibly intending to reach the courthouse to carry out further attacks.**

The cafe is popular with lawyers, courthouse employees and visitors, said Al Jazeera's Obaida Hitto, reporting from the scene. "The casualties are higher because it is such a busy area," he said. Officials have warned that many of the wounded being treated in al-Mouwasa Hospital have severe injuries, so the death toll could rise.

SOURCES

Video shows bomb rock Damascus hotel where French President Macron is staying during Syrian state visit, Macron met with President Ahmed al-Sharaa after 18 people were injured by IEDs near the hotel, By Robert McGreevy Fox News Published July 7, 2026 10:07am EDT <https://www.foxnews.com/world/video-shows-bomb-rock-damascus-hotel-french-president-macron-staying-syrian-state-visit>

What's behind the deadly bombing of a crowded Damascus cafe?

The blast near Damascus's main courthouse killed nine and wounded 22 as Syria's new state battles to impose security. Al Jazeera, 2 Jul 2026 (FOREIGN)
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/2/whats-behind-the-deadly-bombing-of-a-crowded-damascus-cafe> **///END///**

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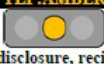
TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISSEMINATION

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Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) Definitions

Color	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
 TLP:RED For the eyes and ears of individual recipients only, no further disclosure.	Sources may use TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon without significant risk for the privacy, reputation, or operations of the organizations involved.	Recipients may therefore not share TLP:RED information with anyone else. In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP:RED information is limited to those present at the meeting.
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