

Anti-government protests in Syria

Mar 6: Protests begin in Dara'a following arrest of 15 students for making pro-democracy graffiti

Mar 15: Damascus **Day of Dignity** – first overt protest in Syria since state of emergency declared in 1963

Mar 21-23: Police fire live ammunition in Dara'a. Up to 100 demonstrators reported killed

Mar 25-28: Protests erupt in Damascus, Latakia, Hama, Sanamein. Cabinet resigns, army deployed

Mar 30: President **Bashar al-Assad** portrays protests as conspiracy

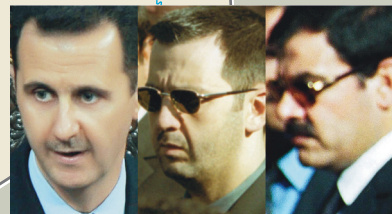
Apr 3: New prime minister **Adel Safar** is appointed

Apr 8-17: Dozens of protesters killed in Damascus, Dara'a, Banias, Talbisseh and Homs. 10,000 people demonstrate in Latakia

Apr 21: Protests spread to at least 20 towns and cities – Syrian forces reportedly shoot dead at least 95 people

Apr 22-25: Reports of 160 demonstrators killed by Syrian forces. Thousands of troops backed by tanks storm Dara'a

Apr 26-27: More than 2,000 security police and hundreds of soldiers in full combat gear deployed in Douma. At least 400 civilians killed since mid-March



President Assad (left), **Maher Assad**, president's brother and commander of fourth tank brigade and Shabiha militia (centre), and his brother-in-law and head of military intelligence **General Assef Shawkat** (right), are seen as responsible for crackdown