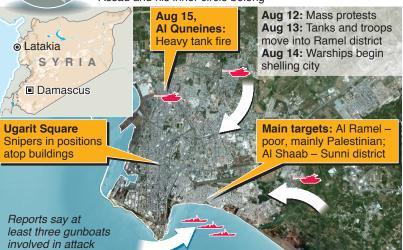
## Syrian forces besiege former Assad stronghold



Source: Wire agencies

International condemnation against Syria appears to have done nothing to ease the offensive against anti-government unrest, with warships bombarding the coastal city of Latakia, described before the last five months of protests as "Assad's fortress"

**Latakia:** Heartland of Alawite Muslim minority to which Assad and his inner circle belong



Picture: Google

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