

Syrian forces besiege former Assad stronghold

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



**Aug 15,
Al Quneines:**
Heavy tank fire

Aug 12: Mass protests
Aug 13: Tanks and troops
move into Ramel district
Aug 14: Warships begin
shelling city

Ugarit Square
Snipers in positions
atop buildings

Main targets: Al Ramel –
poor, mainly Palestinian;
Al Shaab – Sunni district

*Reports say at
least three gunboats
involved in attack*