

# Key dates in Syrian uprising

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- MAR** ◆ **Mar 2011:** Police open fire on demonstrators in southern city of Deraa as authorities move to quash protests in five cities calling for release of political prisoners and increased freedom
- APR** ◆ **Mar-Apr:** **President Bashar al-Assad** dismisses government, orders release of political prisoners, and lifts emergency rule – in place for 48 years
- MAY** ◆ **May:** Army tanks enter Deraa, Banyas, Homs and suburbs of Damascus to crush protests
- U.S. and EU tighten sanctions in response to bloody crackdown on anti-regime protests
- JUN** ◆ **Jun:** Troops besiege town of Jisr al-Shughour after government says 120 security personnel have been killed by “armed gangs”. More than 10,000 people flee across border to Turkey
- JUL** ◆ **Jul:** Assad sacks governor of northern Hama province after mass demonstration, later sends in troops to restore order – scores killed
- AUG** ◆ **Aug:** U.S. calls on Assad to step down. Saudi Arabia and Kuwait recall ambassadors from Syria
- SEP** ◆ **Sep:** **Syrian National Council** – unified body of internal and exiled opposition activists – formed to provide alternative to government
- OCT** ◆ **Oct:** Russia and China veto UN resolution condemning Syria
- ◆ **Nov:** **Arab League** suspends Syria, accusing Damascus of failing to implement Arab peace plan. League later votes to impose sanctions
- Army defectors attack military base near Damascus in **Free Syrian Army's** most high-profile attack
- NOV** ◆ **Dec 13:** UN reports death toll in nine months of unrest has risen to over 5,000
- DEC** ◆ **Dec 19:** Syria agrees to let in monitors to oversee Arab League peace plan. **Over 100 people – including many army defectors – reportedly killed on one of deadliest days of uprising**