

Iran & Hezbollah drug industry in southern Syria

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Introduction

There is a strong link between drugs and terrorism. Similar to southern Lebanon, also in southern Syria, the activity of the drug platform enables the activity of the terrorist platform against Israel. For example, intelligence gathering for drug smuggling activities will be used as intelligence for terrorist activities in the future. The people involved in manufacturing, distributing and smuggling drugs are the same people who will carry out terrorist activities in the future or will be involved in arm smuggling for terror activity inside Israel as well. In addition, the money from the drug activity is used to fund terrorism.

This report relates to the land corridor of drug smuggling between Lebanon and southern Syria (mainly of synthetic stimulant pills similar to Captagon and its type) and to the air-to-land corridor supplying raw materials from Iran. The report also reviews the various smuggling routes from southern Syria to Jordan, from which the drugs are distributed on to Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the far east, and from there to Africa and Europe. The report details a **number of prominent Lebanese figures related to the production and distribution of the narcotics, and to dozens of local Syrians who serve as traffickers and smugglers.** In this report we identified two Syrian hauling companies collaborating with Hezbollah in transporting the drugs and the raw materials. At the end of the report, we describe the local resident's **struggle against the drug industry in their area including several examples where the smuggling into Jordan was thwarted.** From these examples, we can learn about the sheer scope of the drug industry activity under the auspices of the radical Shiite axis headed by Iran conducted in southern Syria.

Senior Hezbollah figures and Shi'ite clerics speak out against the "drug plague", raising the need to denounce drugs in order to protect civil society. Hassan Nasrallah himself has spoken out on the drug issue quite a bit. For example, in 2016, Nasrallah spoke before the council of the Ashura, emphasizing the growing danger of the drug plague, and the need to combat it and prevent the corruption of society's values; "*People face dangers no less important than the security threat, including drugs*", Nasrallah stated. "*We can wake up to a very big disaster, and the number of drug addicts is terrifying. I appeal to the drug dealers, stop killing and destroying teenagers... the drug issue is one of the hardest to deal with*". In 2018, Nasrallah responded to accusations accusing Hezbollah of drug trafficking. Nasrallah categorically denied the accusations, claiming that; "*Hezbollah has a very clear religious position that drug trafficking is forbidden and it is a great sin. We forbid drug trafficking*". **However, Nasrallah neglected to mention that religious rulings by Shi'ite clerics allow the dealing of narcotics intended for other nations considered hostile.** As far as Hezbollah is concerned, the drug industry is also a vital economic business that contributes to the organization's budget, as well as a religious decree against various peoples, religions and communities, with the recipient of the drugs being, Sunni Muslims (Saudi Arabia, the Gulf nations and in Syria itself), Christians (Europe, South America, the United States) and Jews (Israel).

Hezbollah does not really act against the drug industry, despite its senior figure's statements. The drug industry is an integral part of Hezbollah's activities worldwide and is one of its main financial incomes.

Southern Syria is considered a strategic area for the radical Shi'ite axis headed by Iran in general and for Hezbollah in particular, the development of the drug infrastructure in this region pays off twice: It enables economic maintenance of its proxy in the region (which produces terrorism against Israel) while also increasing the potential smuggling routes and the amounts of smuggling to the east (and from there to other parts of the world, to the African continent and from there to Europe). As a result, financial revenues increase.

Following the reconquering of southern Syria, the radical Shiite axis led by Iran began to establish a military and civilian presence in the region taking control of it. The establishment and takeover also included the development and empowerment of the drug smuggling routes, as well as the development and empowerment of Hezbollah's drug production industry in southern Syria. The narcotics scheme in southern Syria allows the radical Shiite axis to generate a monetary benefit for those who cooperate with it in terms of military and civilian entrenchment. The radical Shi'ite axis has created and empowered economic solutions able to finance its activities in the form of the drug industry, in light of the impact of western sanctions.

There is great financial benefit for the proxies of the radical Shiite axis led by Iran, mainly to the 36 local militias in southern Syria that operate as mercenaries under it. These militias are a central pillar of the drug industry. They deal in smuggling, distribution, manufacturing, trade and security. (See the special report we published regarding the local militias - <https://israel-alma.org/2021/04/06/the-iranian-shiite-axis-expansion-establishment-of-mercenary-local-militias-in-southern-syria/>).

The foreign Shi'ite militias operating under the Quds Force, local Syrians, members of the Golan File proxy unit, as well as Lebanese Hezbollah operatives belonging to hajj Hashem's Southern Command unit are also involved in the drug industry in southern Syria, benefiting greatly both economically and operationally.

Main findings:

There are about 130 illegal border crossings between Lebanon and Syria, including the flow of the Orontes River, which originates near the Lebanese city of Baalbek in the Beqaa valley. As part of our research, we were able to mark four major land routes that are part of the land drug smuggling corridor between Lebanon and Syria (with an emphasis on synthetic pills such as Captagon, (see Appendix A). These routes channel the movement of drugs into southern Syria (see Appendix B).

In addition to the land smuggling corridor from Lebanon to southern Syria, there is also an air-to-land corridor from Iran. The main purpose of this corridor is to boost the importing of raw materials intended for the drug industry. The intermediate station of this corridor is Iraq (see Appendix C).

The production of drugs in southern Syria (see Appendix D) facilitates the distribution of the drugs to their destination through Jordan. The transporting of the drugs to Jordan (see Appendix E) is carried out through the official border crossings commandeered by Hezbollah, such as the Nassib border crossing and many other unofficial border crossings. In addition, the smuggling of drugs is carried out also through a system of drones (The last smuggling attempt using drones took place on October 21. The Jordanian army managed to thwart the smuggling). There even is an intention to dig smuggling tunnels. Recently, Hezbollah operatives, in cooperation with members of the 4th. Division (the 4th Armored Division is an elite formation of the Syrian army, commanded by Maher al-Assad, the president's brother, affiliated with the Iranian-led axis), drew soil samples in order to select suitable locations for digging such tunnels.

In our research, we were able to locate four prominent Lebanese figures working in cooperation with Hezbollah in manufacturing and smuggling drugs, including in the area of southern Syria. We also located the names of 27 local Syrians from southern Syria engaged in the production and smuggling of drug (see Appendix F). All these local proxies cooperate with the radical Shiite axis led by Iran in general and Hezbollah in particular. Many of them belong to the local militias that serve as mercenaries of the radical axis and Hezbollah's Golan File Unit operating in southern Syria against Israel.

We identified two major transport companies that collaborate with Hezbollah in distributing the raw materials and drugs to southern Syria: The first one is the "Alkala Lamarasa and Al-Khamenei Almania" company, the second one is the "al-Shark" company, (See Appendix G.). The transport companies are sponsored by Syrian military officers, who ensure that the transport vehicles are not stopped at military checkpoints along the route.

The drug industry in southern Syria causes a great deal of violence. As a result of rivalries between smugglers, dealers and militias fighting for control, we can witness numerous assassination attempts and murders, which add to the already problematic sense of insecurity of the citizens of southern Syria. Only recently, on June 4th. unknown assailants assassinated one of the most prominent drug dealers, Shadi Mahmoud al-Haji in southern Daraa. Al-Haji lived in the town of al-Mazarib and was known for his collaboration with radical Shiite axis elements.

Some residents of southern Syria are not indifferent to the phenomenon and try to oppose the large drug industry set up in their region by the radical Shiite axis headed by Iran (see Appendix H). The struggle of the local residents focuses on the hearts and minds, expressed by the hanging of threatening posters and on shaming via social media. In addition, some local residents physically harm dealers and people affiliated with the drug industry.

From the beginning of 2020 to mid-September 2021, local forces (supported by the US/Russia) and the Jordanian army thwarted 24 smuggling operations (see Appendix I). We can only speculate the amount of smuggling un thwarted. To our assessment, there are many dozens more.

Appendix A – Captagon - characteristics:

Definition - Synthetic stimulant.

Ingredients - Caffeine, amphetamine and theophylline.

Types - Pills that are distributed at a varying degree of quality; the upgraded tablet is also called "Zombie".

Manufacture - The production of the pills is relatively simple. It only requires a portable manufacturing facility and basic chemical knowledge.

Price - One tablet is currently sold in Syria for up to \$1 – for example: compared to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states one tablet can reach a price of \$20.

Advantage - The small size of the pills allows transport of a very large amount in small containers (e.g., a shoebox can hold thousands of pills).

Upgraded version - The “Zombie” - a powerful and dangerous upgrade of the standard Captagon pill.

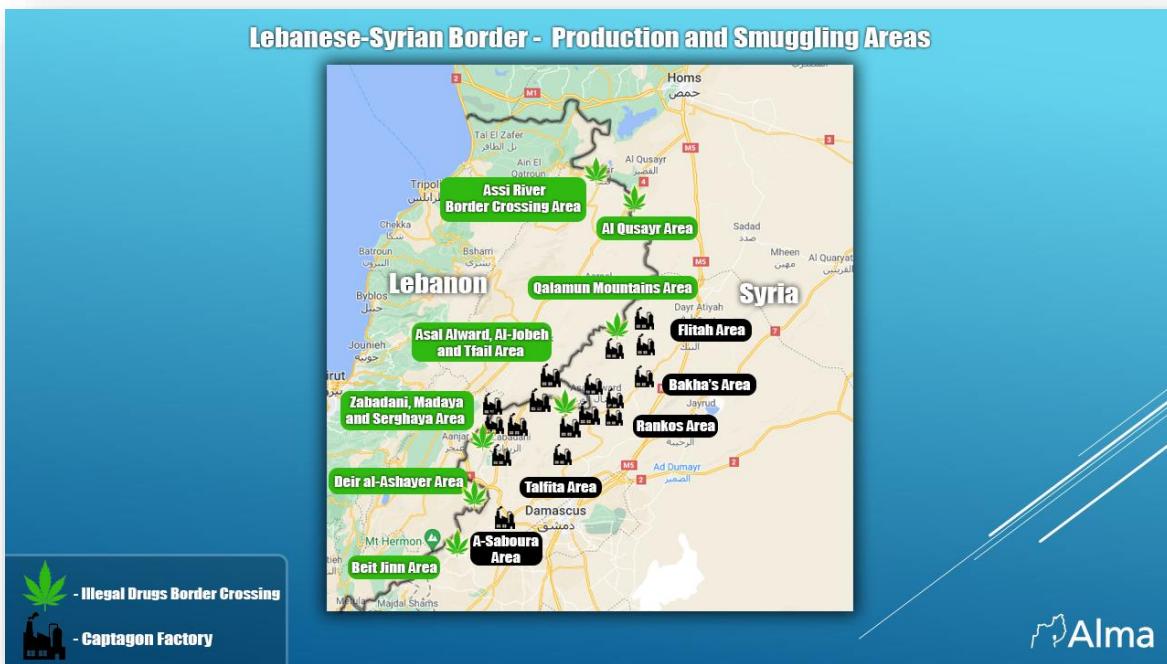


In the images: a smuggling attempt thwarted by the Jordanian Army on May 19th, 2021.

Appendix B - The land smuggling corridor from Lebanon to southern Syria:

The land corridor of the raw materials used to prepare the drugs as well as the drugs themselves - originates in Iran and Lebanon, are transferred to Syrian territory, where there are also many drug factories. Then, they are transported to southern Syria and from there to Jordan. From Jordan the drugs are distributed to Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Far East, Africa and from there to Europe.

There are about 130 illegal border crossings on the Lebanese-Syrian border. Some of the crossings are located in Lebanese towns within Syrian territory, such as the town of Tfail, or in border towns shared by the two countries, such as Deir el Aachayer. For each smuggling point on the Lebanese side of the border is a smuggling point on the Syrian side of the border. For example, Deir el Aachayer interfaces with the towns of Kherbet Rouha, Helweh, Mdoukha and Yanta. Madaya, al-Zabadani, Bloudan and Serghaya, interface with Souairi and Majdal Anjar in the western Beqaa. Lebanese Aarsal interfaces with more than 80 Syrian villages in the area of al-Qalamoun.



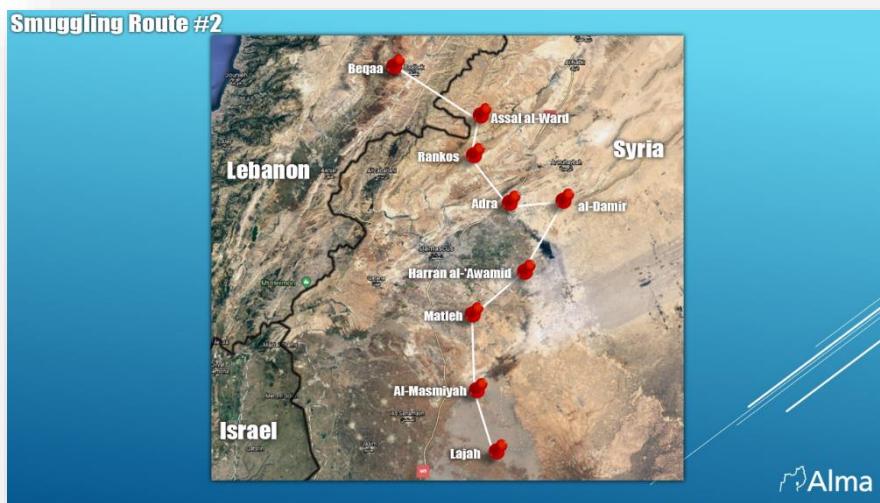
We were able to mark four major routes along the land corridor from Lebanon to Syria. Many of the illegal border crossings used for drug trafficking are located in the Lebanese Beqaa towards southern Syria. These routes are used not only for drugs smuggling but also for illegal transfer of arms to be used by terrorist cells in Jordan and in Israel.



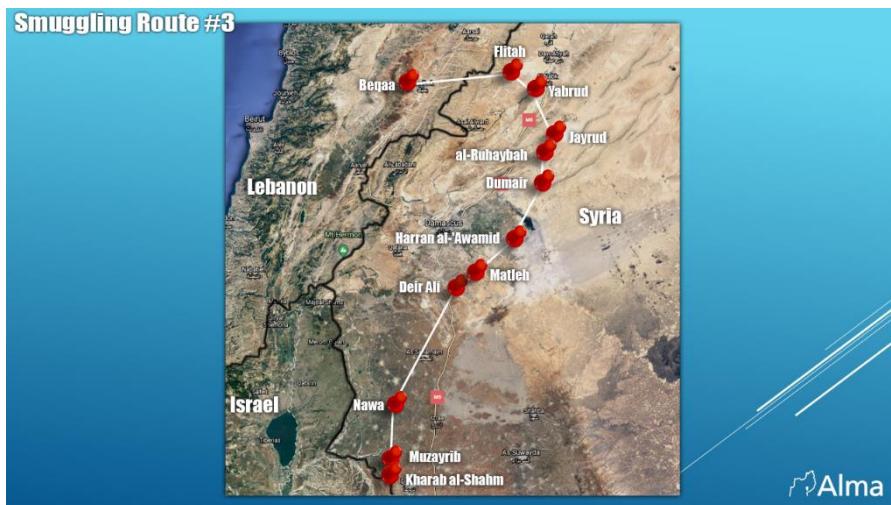
Route 1: Aita el-Foukhar (manufacturing), from there on dirt roads to the town of Jdaidit Yabws in Syria, from there to the town of Al-Dimas to a place called 'Nadi al-Ramaya and Alprosia' belonging to the 4th. Division and the Republic Guard and from there to As'Saboura, Sasa, Khan Arnabah, the western suburbs of Daraa, Tell Shihab and Kharab al-Shahem (border).



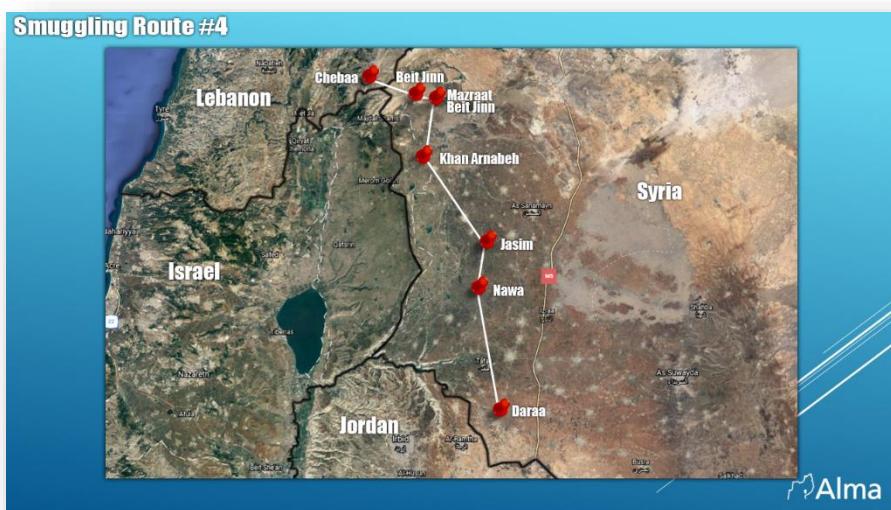
Route 2: Lebanese Beqaa area, Assal al-Ward, Rankous, Adra, al-Ahmadiyah, al-Smeir, Haran al-Umid, al-Matleh, al-Masmiyah, northern Karim base in Lajat.



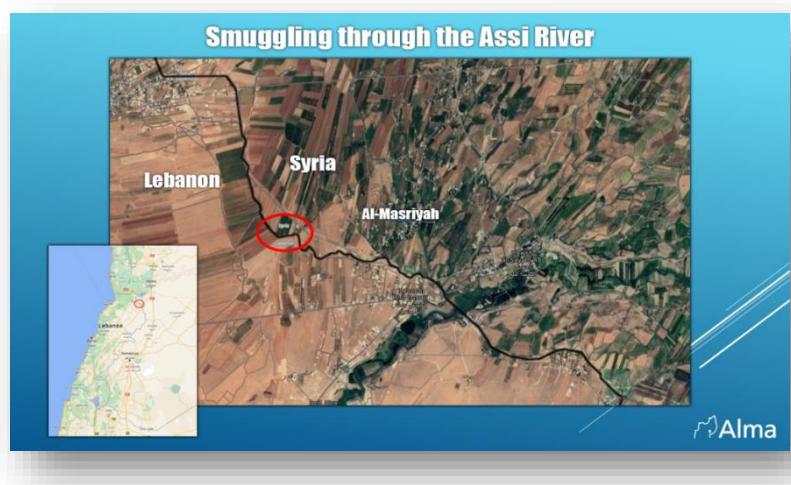
Route 3: The Lebanese Beqaa area, Flitah, Yabrud, Jairoud, al-Rakhiba, al-Smeir, Haran al-Umid, al-Matla, Deir Ali, Tel al-Harra base (West Daraa), Nawa, al- Muzayrib and from there to the border (Jordan) in Kharab al-Shahem .



Route 4: Shebaa - Wadi Shebaa - Beit Jen - Mazraat Beit Jen- Khane Erennbe – Jasim – Nawa – Daraa



The flow of the Orontes River is also used for smuggling. The river originates near the Lebanese city of Baalbek and flows between the Lebanese side and the Syrian side constituting a natural border between the countries in the northern Beqaa region. The smuggled goods are placed in the river on the Lebanese side and are retrieved by Syrian smugglers after floating across the border.



Appendix C – the air-to-land smuggling corridor from Iran (Iran – Iraq – Syria):

Stage 1 - flight from Isfahan air base in Iran to Baghdad airport.

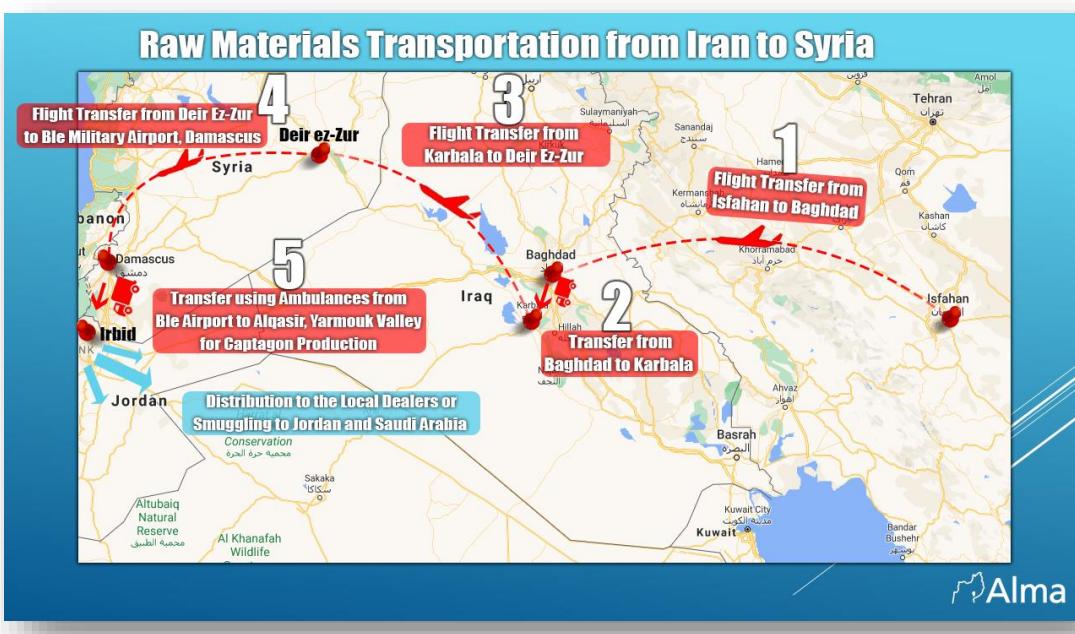
Step 2 - transfer of the cargo from Baghdad to Karbala.

Stage 3 - Transfer of the cargo from Karbala to the airport in Deir ez-Zor.

Stage 4 - Flying the cargo from Dir ez-Zor to Blay Airport in southern Damascus.

Stage 5: Transfer of the cargo from Blay Airport using camouflaged vehicles, such as ambulances, to the town of al-Qasir in the Yarmouk Basin in order to produce various narcotic pills.

The al-Thaala military airfield west of Sweida is also used as a transit point for Hezbollah's drug smuggling, using its management battalion (originally al-Khibah al-Adaria) to handle the cargo.



Deir ez-Zor Military Airport



Alma

Ble Military Airport



Alma

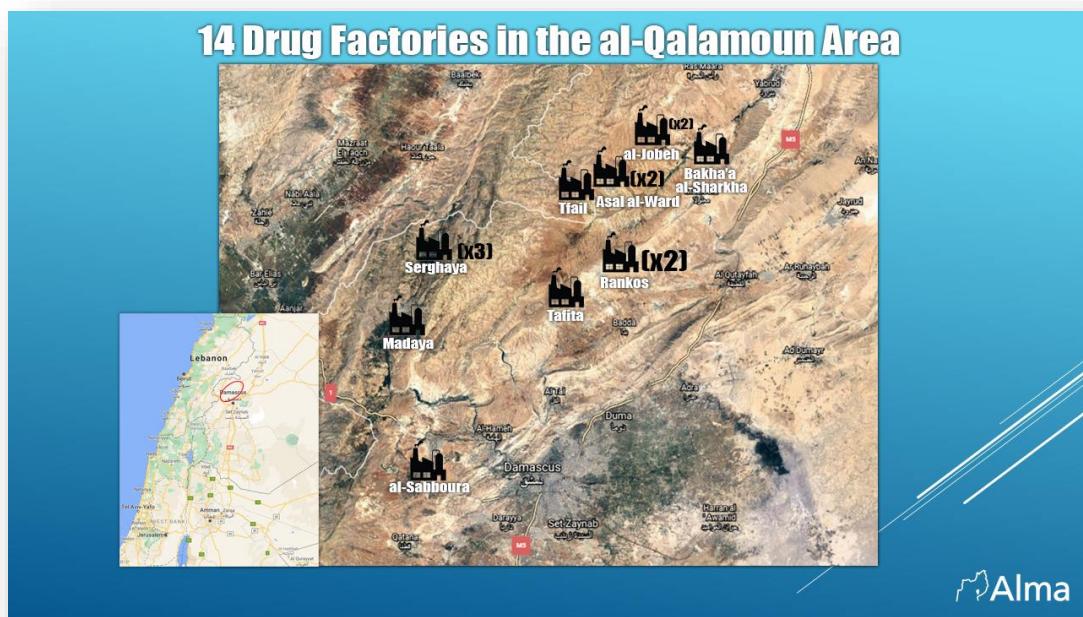
Al Thaala Military Airport



Alma

Appendix D - Drug production in southern Syria:

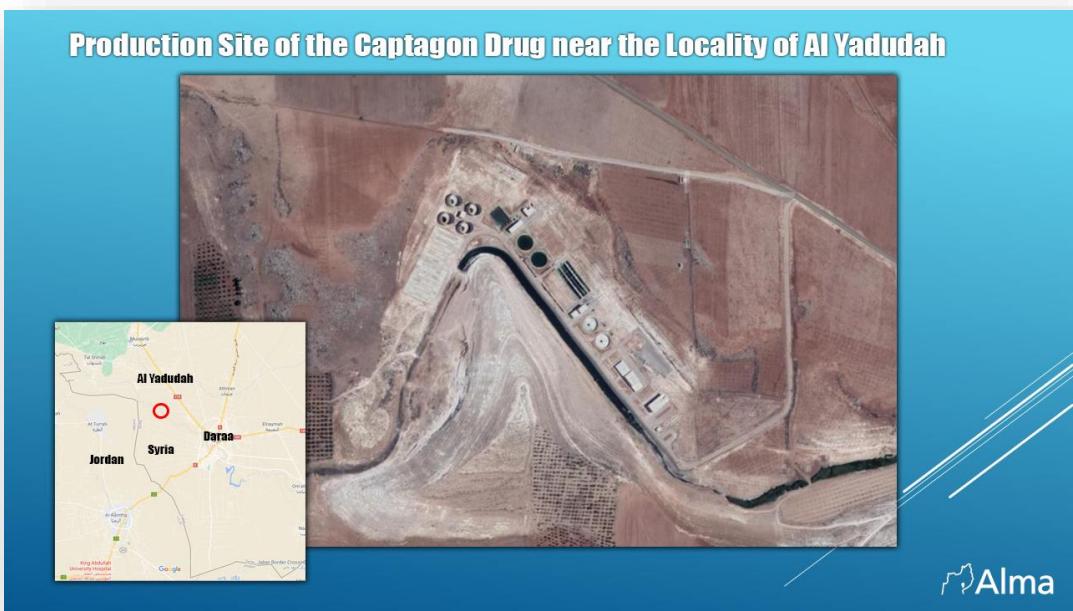
We know of 14 drug manufacturing plants in the al-Qalamoun area that are another point of origin for the drugs smuggled from Southern Syria. These plants are controlled by Hezbollah: 3 factories in Serghaya, 2 Factories in the towns of Rankous, Assal, al-Ward and al-Jobeh and 1 factory in each of the following towns: Talfita, Harrah, al-Tfail, Masa'ayah and al-Tsaburah. We also identified major Captagon production factories located in Homs, the suburbs of Damascus and Latria



Hezbollah has situated equipment in southern Syria in order to manufacture Captagon and Zombie pills. All this with the cooperation of the 4th. Division (the 4th Armored Division is an elite formation of the Syrian army, commanded by Maher al-Assad, the president's brother), and the Air Force Security Intelligence Organization (one of the four Syrian regime intelligence organizations). **the 4th. Division and the Air Force Security Organization are known for their support of the radical Shiite axis led by Iran.**

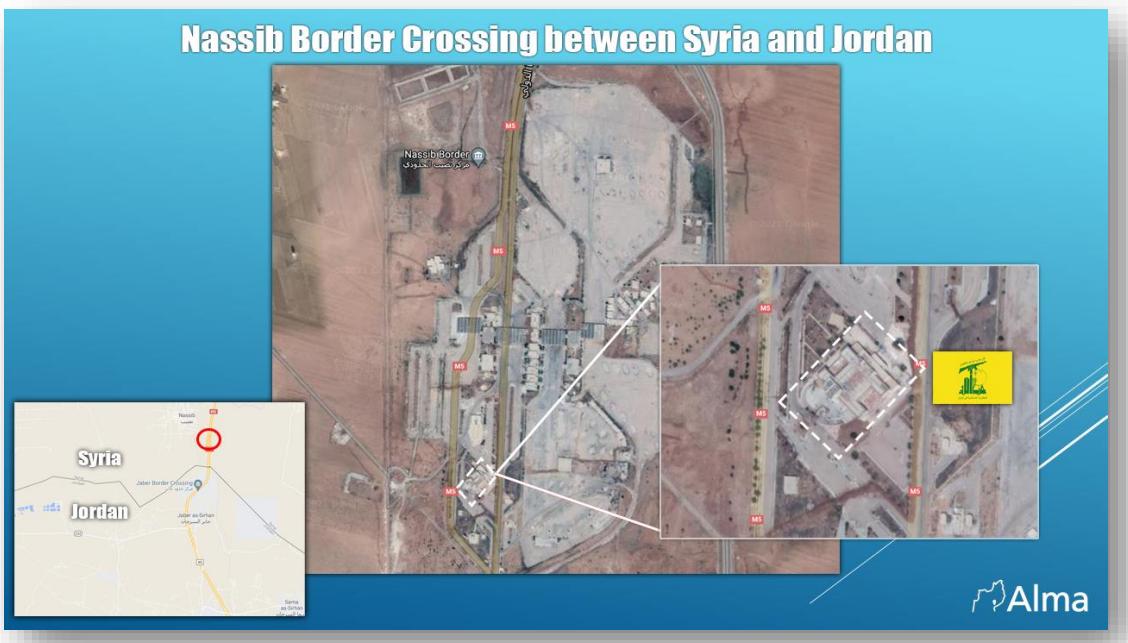
The presence of Captagon production equipment in southern Syria in various locations facilitates the distribution of drugs, for it is sometimes possible to transfer, in the ways detailed above, only the raw production materials and not the end product. The equipment and locations for the production of Captagon are not in need of sophisticated structures, and sometimes the production takes place inside ordinary houses.

Some of the drug-production equipment was brought into the town of Kharab al-Shahem near Daraa by a man named Ahmad al-Khaldi ("Abu Salem"). Another place that we have located as a factory for the production of Captagon is a sewage treatment plant located south of the village of al-Muzayrib near the village of al-Yadudah, northwest of the city of Daraa, located at coordinates: N. 32 39 09.3 E. .36 02 31.1. The factory is run by Mustafa al-Masalma. The local al-Muslima family is known for its ties to the radical Shi'ite axis in general and with Hezbollah in particular. The place is secured by al-Masalma's 4x4 black vehicles and is visited every week by Hezbollah operatives.



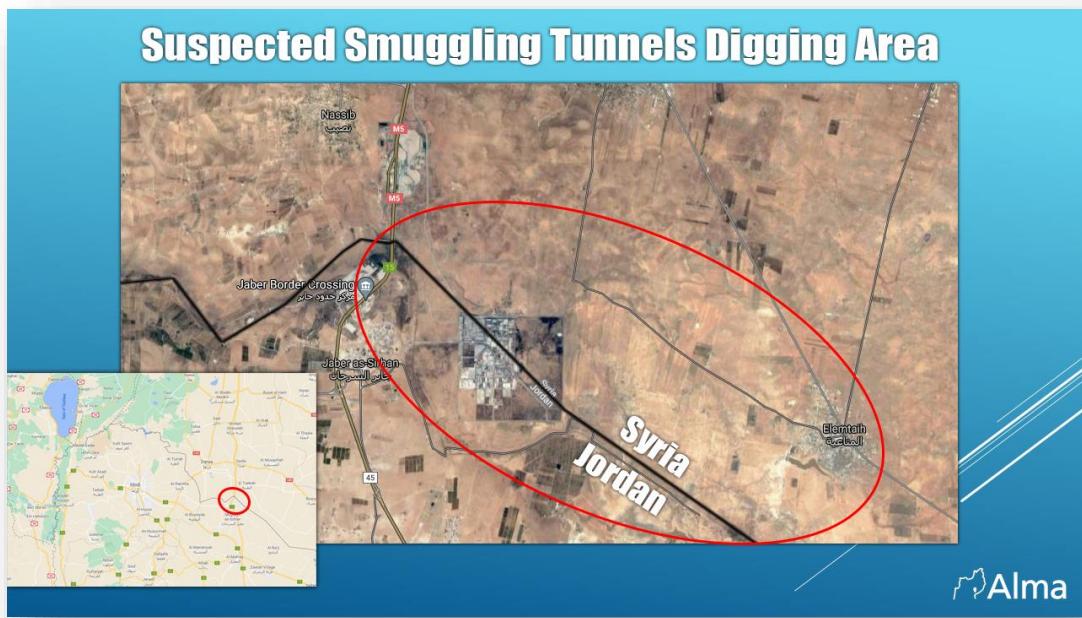
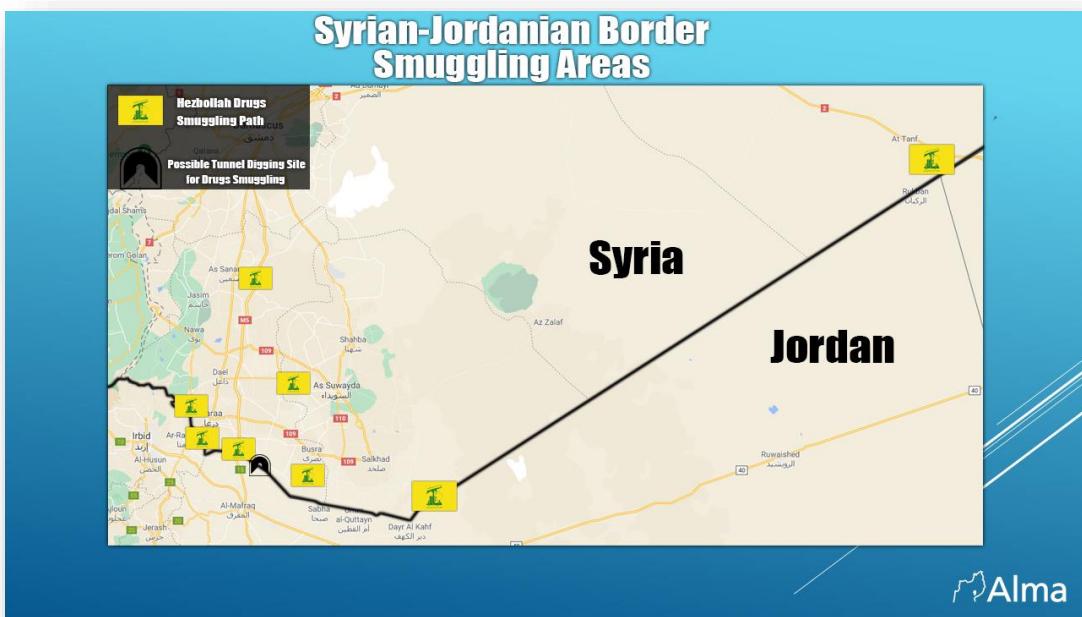
Appendix E - Transfer of Drugs to Jordan:

Under the patronage of the 4th. Division, Hezbollah took over part of the Nassib/Jaber border crossing between Syria and Jordan. (See the presence of Hezbollah members there - coordinates; 32.538785,36.200717). The takeover includes the local customs house. The takeover was carried out after a power struggle with the "Military Security Organization" (who are not sympathetic to the Shi'ite axis to say the least) headed by Imad Abu Zarik.



The Area of the al-Tanf Crossing, located east of the Nassib border crossing, which is under the control of option elements, including the American-sponsored Jaysh Maghawir al-Thawra, is also a strategic point for smuggling drugs into Jordan despite the United States' control in the area.

In addition to the "regular" land crossings into Jordan, Hezbollah is working towards establishing additional smuggling routes. The first route is by air. Hezbollah has set up a drone system aimed at smuggling the drugs from Syria into Jordan. The last smuggling attempt using drones took place on October 21. The Jordanian army managed to thwart the smuggling. **The second route is sub-terrain.** Hezbollah operatives, in cooperation with the 4th. Division recently took soil samples from various locations near the Syrian-Jordanian border. Their objective is to analyze the composition of the land and its nature in order to choose a suitable location for digging tunnels that will be used for the smuggling of drugs. The tests were carried out in various areas, extending from the Nassib border crossing in the west, towards the al-Qsara region and onward to the border town of Elemtaih in the east.



Appendix F - Prominent drug dealers and smugglers:

The drug smuggling is carried out with the help of Syrian local residents from the southern provinces (Sweida, Quneitra and Daraa). Many of them are former local opposition figures - Sunnis and Bedouins belonging to the local militias that serve as

mercenaries of the radical Shiite axis led by Iran. These militias are a major factor in the drug industry in southern Syria. (See our report published April 21 re; Local militias in southern Syria - <https://israel-alma.org/2021/04/06/the-iranian-shiite-axis-expansion-establishment-of-mercenary-local-militias-in-southern-syria/>).

Druze, both in Quneitra and Sweida provinces, are also partners in the trading and smuggling of drugs. Occasionally, the drug smuggling is carried out directly either by Hezbollah members or by members of the foreign Shi'ite militias operating under the Quds Force.

The local traffickers distribute the drugs in southern Syria and transfer a portion of the earnings to Hezbollah's money manager in the area, a local collaborator named Mohammad Jafar known as Haj Fadi. Haj Fadi's father Ahmed Jafar (a well-known drug dealer by his own making - see photo above showing him at the time of his abduction) was executed by a Druze gunman named Wassam Al-Eid, who was later assassinated by Hezbollah.

The following are a number of prominent Lebanese figures working in cooperation with Hezbollah in the manufacturing and drug smuggling industry:

1. **Hassan Muhammad Daqou**, aka "King of the Captagon", from a-Tfail in the Beqaa (a native-born Syrian with Lebanese citizenship-see our report regarding him-published June 2021 - <https://israel-alma.org/2021/05/30/hassan-daqou-the-lebanese-king-of-the-captagon/>).



Above: Hassan Muhammad Daqou

2. **Noah Zaiter**, known to us as a major drug dealer from the Bekaa region, owns a great deal of equipment designed to produce large quantities of quality Captagon pills, which upgraded the production process and smuggling into Syria.
3. **Muqtada al-Hussein**
4. **Iser Shmitli**

The following is a breakdown of local southern Syrians engaged in manufacturing and smuggling drugs in cooperation with Hezbollah:

1. **Abu Hatem al-Masa'ad** (a resident of the town of Taybe,) – leader of Jish al-Ach�ar al-Ashayer, a former opposition group.



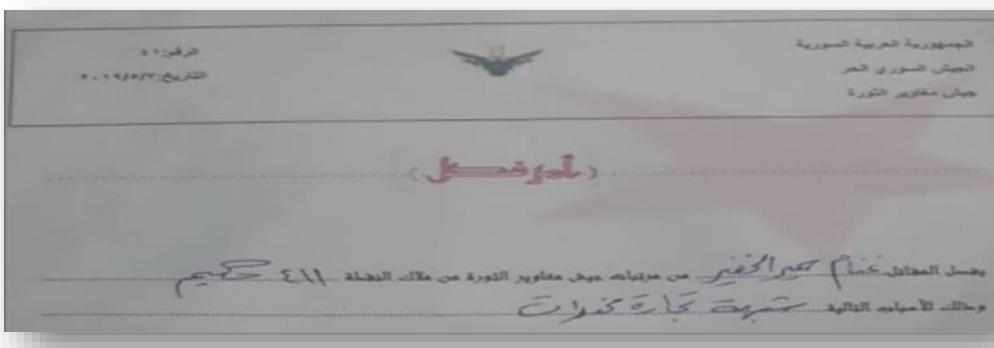
2. **Wajdi Abu Thalith** - (resident of Sweida) - Former opposition figure, the leader of the "Liwa Raya al-Islam faction (102)", and one of the commanders of the largest opposition groups operating in southern Syria, Alawiye al-Omri, and the first commander of the FSA in the region who defected with his men to the ranks of the Syrian Army as part of the reconciliation agreements in the summer of 2018.



3. **Issa al-Makahil Masalmeh** – Transfers the drugs from the al-Khadlat area to Kharba Amud, D'Yabin and south Sweida. He is known to be a collaborator of the radical Shiite axis led by Iran in the city of Daraa, along with members of his family.
4. **Hani Ali Hamed** - Owner of a petrol station located near Daraa stadium.
5. **Kanan Ali Hamed** - His Facebook account was most likely identified (and from there his photo), apparently, he is in possession of a commercial black jeep and fuel trucks. He is a resident of Damascus.



6. **Abu Salem al-Khalidi** - His original name is Ahmed Mahaoush, and it is originally from Khadrab al-Shahm. He heads a militia of about 300 local mercenaries based in the village of Khadrab al-Shaham. His militiamen are also deployed in the communities of al-Ajamei, al-Fouar, Kharba Kis and Nahej. Al-Khalidi is affiliated to the Syrian Army's 4th. Division and operates under The Syrian Hezbollah, an organization operating under Lebanese Hezbollah.
7. **Ghanam al-Khudhair Abu Hamza** - His full name is Samir Ghannam al-Khudhair and his nickname is "Abu Hamza Ashayer". In the past, he was a member of the opposition organization Jaysh Maghawir al-Thawra (U.S.-backed Syrian vetted opposition group which sits in the Tanf area), until he was expelled following the revelation of his dealings in the drug trade (photo of the banishing order below). The opposition allowed him to leave the al-Tanf area with his family in April 2020. Before departing, Abu Hamza stole secret documents from the U.S. coalition's operations room in the area, later handing them over to regime officials. His departure from the opposition appears to have severely undermined Hezbollah's efforts to smuggle drugs from Al-Tanf. However, other indications show that he was smuggled out of the area accompanied by militants, in coordination with Hezbollah and regime operatives.



8. **Fares Simawa**, From the village of Arman, south-east of Sweida, he is considered a major Cannabis dealer.
9. **Hussein al-Wahban**, a Bedouin Arab from al-Harbi neighborhood, north of Sweida. Has close ties to the Assad regime's security organizations.
10. **Gamal al-Balas**, A Bedouin and central figure in the Cannabis and pills trade north of Sweida and in the Laja area. He is described as having close ties to the Assad regime's military security organizations and Hezbollah.
11. **Mer'i al-Ramthan** (possibly nicknamed "Abu Hamza"). A Bedouin from the village of al-Shaab, east of Sweida. He is considered one of the prominent smugglers in the region and a collaborator of Hezbollah.
12. **Mansour al-Radwan** and his son **Hassan al-Radwan**. The father is the head of the al-Masika city council. In the past, the son was a commander in the Jish al-Achraf al-Ashayer opposition organization. The father and son control the narcotics pill trafficking in the Laja sector. The son is linked to Hezbollah and conducts various logistical activities for them. Among other things, he secures drug transfers to Jordan through the eastern suburbs of Daraa.

13. **Mustafa al-Masalmeh** (photo) nicknamed "Al Kassam". A member of the large al- Masalmeh family in Daraa with close ties to the radical Shiite axis led by Iran. Lives in the Manshiya neighborhood of Daraa.



14. The names of **Fares Simawa**, from the village of Arman and **Nasser al-Asoudi** can also be found on the Facebook page called "Fight (against) the drugs in Sweida".
15. From additional information we have, additional names emerge in the context of the drug industry in southern Syria; **Hussein al-Wahban**, **Jammal al-Balus**, **Ahed Saeed**, **Anur al Karydi**, **Assam al Matani**, **Ghassan al Saeed** (Sweida), **Jama'a Abu Thahil** (Laja) and **Wyassin al Halaby**, a well-known Hezbollah collaborator in the narcotics industry. The names **Khalaf al Batama** (Laja), **Ali al Daoula** (Sweida) and **Mammon al-Za'abi** are also affiliated with the drug industry.

Appendix G - Syrian companies engaged in the transportation of drugs:

We know of two major transport companies collaborating with Hezbollah in distributing the drugs to southern Syria. The first is "Al-Klea'a Al-Heresa Al-Khameya Al-Amaniya" (القلعة للحراسة والحماية الأمنية) owned and run by Khadr Abu Ali (his second name is Khadr Ali Taher, also called "Al-Gha'er"- see his photo below). The company is a security company that specializes in securing oil drilling, tourist tours, transportation of goods and energy facilities, employing high-level trained gunmen. The company seems to be in close ties with the Syrian regime and receives various jobs from it.

Khadr Ali Taher, born in 1976, is a wealthy Syrian businessperson. He made headlines following his conflict with Syrian Interior Minister Mohammad Rahmon, who tried unsuccessfully to boycott al Taher's business operations. During the Syrian civil war, he controlled the passage of goods between the territories controlled by the regime and the territories controlled by the opposition. He owns a tourism company called "Ila" and two other companies called "Eliasmin Lamkaulat" (الياسمين للمقاولات) and "al-Syria Ladara Alfandakia" (السورية للإدارة الفندقية). He also owns a communications company called "Emmateel" (إمباي تيل) which is headquartered in the Almaza district of Damascus. Previously it was reported that Taher has trade and smuggling ties on the Turkish border. U.S. sanctions were imposed on him in 2020 as part of the Caesar Act.



The second company is "Al-Shark", managed by Ayman Muhammad Issam. It is our understanding that this company is the "Shark Al-Mutawasat Wa-Al-Tranzit al-Arabi Wa-Al-dawly" company, managed by Ayman Diab Juban and his son Issam Ayman Juban. The company appears to be very active in the Nassib – Damascus - Jediyyeh - Yabous/al-Masnaa route, a major drug smuggling track. The company's office is located in Damascus. Ayman appears to be serving as president of the Borders Delivery Committee as part of the Union of International Commodity Transport Companies in Syria (photo below – the company advertisement on Facebook).

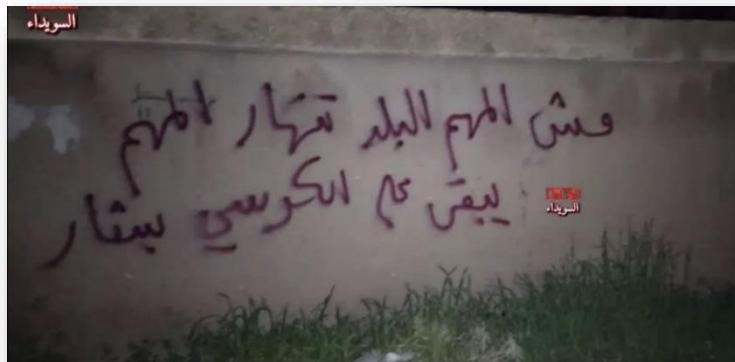


The shipments and transport are coordinated with Syrian military officers who make sure that the carriers are not stopped at checkpoints. According to our data, the "Mysalon" (ميسلون) military school belonging to military intelligence in Damascus, serves among other things, as a transit station on the transport routes. Two prominent Syrian officers from Damascus involved in the smuggling are Maj. Gen. Qassem al-Mahmoud and Major General Jama'a al-Bari.

Appendix H: The local resident's struggle against the drug industry in southern Syria

The local residents are trying to resist the drug industry in their area. In Sweida, local militias raided centers selling hashish trying to prevent them from continuing to sell drugs. In the Druze mountain area, residents expressed their dissatisfaction, spraying graffiti denouncing the spread of drug trafficking in southern Syria under the auspices of Hezbollah, Iran, and the Syrian regime.

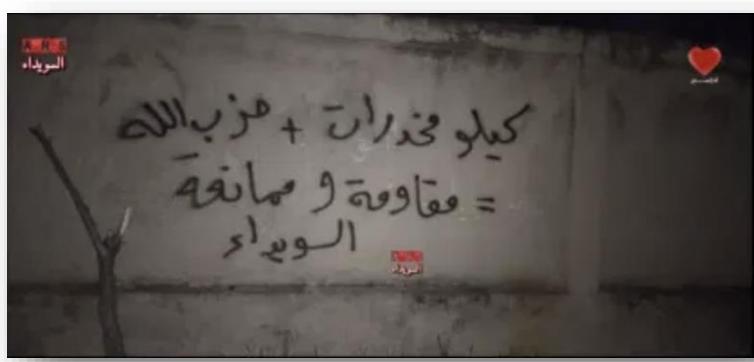
The graffiti declarations: "Gangs + Security Services +Hezbollah=The reason for al-Saida's problems". "Kilo of drugs + Hezbollah= resistance and reluctance of al-Swaida". "Southern Syria is the graveyard of Hezbollah and Iran", and: "It doesn't matter that the country falls apart, the important thing is that Bashar keeps his seat".



"It doesn't matter that the country falls apart, the important thing is that Bashar keeps his seat".



"Southern Syria is the graveyard of Hezbollah and Iran"



"A kilo of drugs + Hezbollah= resistance and reluctance of al-Swaida"

In early June 2021, a group called the "Southern Revolutionaries" began threatening drug traffickers with posters it hung across towns and villages in the Daraa province. The drug traffickers were referred to by them as; "distributors of corruption across Syria". The posters stated that they would not allow them to continue to corrupt the younger generation, nor would they allow them to facilitate the path of the Iranian project, as it is the reason for the distribution of drugs in the Daraa area. They also pointed out that the Syrian regime is responsible for the spreading of the drug trafficking in the province, as it is turning a blind eye to the phenomenon...

Appendix I - Reports of the thwarting of narcotics smuggling in southern Syria (2020/2021):

April 2020 - Thwarting drug smuggling in a-Tanf:

In early April 2020 about 55 km from a-Tanf, opposition forces thwarted the delivery of narcotic pills belonging to Hezbollah. The goods were hidden, among other things, inside the truck's tires.

In total, from the beginning of 2020 till April last year, opposition forces thwarted five smuggling operations and seized hundreds of kg of Cannabis and thousands of narcotic tablets. It should be noted that opposition forces are well deployed in the area, patrolling and training there extensively, and they also appear to be ideologically motivated to a greater extent than the Jordanian army in thwarting such smuggling.



November 2020 - The Jordanian army thwarted an attempt to smuggle 409 kg of hashish and 36,000 Lyrica pills. Later in the month a further attempt to smuggle two tons of hashish, 19,500 Captagon pills and even a small amount of crystal meth was foiled.

February 2021 – Thwarting drug smuggling from the a-Sweida area to Jordan:

More than 10 pickups, each carrying more than 700 kg of Cannabis, arrived in Wadi Khazme, south of a-Sweida. More than 20 people unloaded the merchandise and began crossing the border into Jordan with it. Each person carried between 15-25 kg. The price of each kg of Cannabis ranges from between 250-350 thousand Syrian pounds.

February 2021 – the 8th Brigade belonging to the 5th. Corps thwarts a drug smuggling attempt into Jordan:

The 8th Brigade belonging to the 5th. Corps, which is affiliated and supported by Russia, thwarted an attempt to smuggle drugs into Jordan in the area of Basra a-Sham near Daraa. The forces seized large quantities of narcotics and hashish, which originated from Hezbollah. The drugs passed through the Qalamoun area, onward to Damascus, a-Sweida, eventually reaching Daraa. In July 2020, the 8th Brigade managed to seize large quantities of narcotics originating from Hezbollah in the Daraa district.

March 2021:

In Daraa more than 100 kg of narcotic pills and Cannabis were seized after being found in a pickup and before being smuggled into Jordan.

The Jordanian army foiled an attempt made by the Assad regime and Hezbollah to smuggle a large quantity of drugs. The drugs were loaded on a vehicle trying to cross the border from Syria to Jordan. About 750 kg of Cannabis and about 3 million Captagon pills were seized, alongside smuggled ammunitions.

May 2021:

On May 7, the Jordanian army thwarted an attempt to smuggle drugs from Syria after noticing suspects crossing the border. Large amounts of Cannabis and 100,000 Captagon pills were seized.

On May 19, the Jordanian army stopped a shipment of drugs and weapons from the al-Sweida area of Syria. The shipment included weapons, Captagon and Lyrica pills. Various indications suggest that the thwarting of the smuggling attempt resulted in the killing of three contrabandists associated with Hezbollah.

June 2021:

On June 17, Jordanian authorities seized a shipment of drugs at one of the border crossings between Syria and Jordan. 300,000 narcotic pills hidden inside fruit were seized.

July 2021:

July 05 – The Jordanian army announced that it had thwarted several attempts to smuggle drugs and weapons into the kingdom's territory from the Syrian side. The Jordanian forces seized large quantities of Cannabis, Captagon, Crystal, and several weapons.

July 20 – Jordan announced the seizure of a large shipment of drugs coming from Syrian territory. The smugglers fled back into Syria. The shipment included 1 million and 33,000 Captagon tablets, as well as Cannabis.

July 23 - Saudi authorities announced they had thwarted an attempt to smuggle more than 2 million Captagon tablets, which were found hidden inside cans of tomato paste. The authorities did not specify the shipment's source but released photos of the cans, which read: "Syrian industry." Syrian goods arrive in the kingdom by trucks via Jordan.

August 2021:

August 03 - This drug shipment included 300,000 Captagon tablets and 7 kg of Cannabis. This foiled smuggling attempt comes in addition to a former smuggling attempt in July that included 360,000 Captagon tablets and 273 kg of Cannabis as well as weapons.

September 2021:

September 23. - An attempt to smuggle 2 million Captagon tablets on a truck into Jordan through the Jaber border crossing was thwarted. The truck's final destination was one of the Gulf states. As of August 21, Jordanian customs seized more than 5 million Captagon tablets and 26 kg of Crystal.

Appendix J - Reference:

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