



## Syria - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 14 July 2015

### Information on the current human rights/security situation in the Golan Heights region

In May 2015 an article published by the *Agence France Presse* states that:

“Two UN peacekeepers were wounded on Monday when mortar shells fired from Syria hit their base in the Israeli-held sector of the Golan Heights, an army spokesman said” (Agence France-Presse (4 May 2015) *2 UN soldiers hurt as Syria fire hits Israeli-held Golan: army*).

*Reuters* in June 2015 notes that:

“Enraged by rumors Nusra fighters might be among the hundreds of Syrians admitted for medical treatment on the Israeli-held Golan Heights, Druze groups last week attacked two ambulances bringing in civil war casualties, killing one. Druze Arabs in Syria have long been loyal to President Bashar al-Assad, and their brethren in Israel and the Golan, captured in 1967, have been lobbying the government to safeguard the community” (Reuters (29 June 2015) *Israel says asked Syrian rebels not to harm Druze*).

An article published by the *Associated Press* about the Golan Heights states:

“The U.N. Security Council is condemning the fighting and use of heavy weapons by Syrian armed forces and opposition fighters in the area that has separated Syrian and Israel forces since 1974” (Associated Press (30 June 2015) *U.N. condemns fighting by Syria and rebels in Golan Heights*).

This document also notes that:

“For nearly four decades U.N. monitors from the force have helped enforce a stable truce between Israel and Syria. But the Golan Heights has increasingly become a battlefield in the Syrian conflict” (ibid).

In July 2015 the *German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees* notes that:

“Despite repeated attacks on UN soldiers the Security Council extended the mission on the Golan Heights until the end of the year. On 06 July 2015 the 15 members of the UN body unanimously adopted a resolution extending the UNDOF mandate (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) on the Israeli Syrian border until the end of the year. At the same time it voiced its concern about the deteriorating security situation and strongly denounced the attacks on UN soldiers. After the 1973 Yom Kippur war UN soldiers had been deployed to the Golan Heights to monitor the ceasefire between Syria and Israel. But the roughly 1,200 soldiers are constantly dragged into the Syrian civil war” (German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (6 July 2015) *Briefing Notes vom 06.07.2015*, p.2).

### References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

#### Sources Consulted

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