



CASE STUDY: 2011 SYRIAN UPRISING

The Syrian protests began in mid-March 2011 following the arrest of youths in Daraa for anti-regime graffiti. Their arrest caused an eruption of protests and events that led to the on-going Syrian uprising. Figure 1 displays the number of mentions of specific events throughout the measured 6-month period. The event data is consistent with reports of the Syrian Revolution. In this time period the largest protests took place in April. Protests dropped off in May when the Syrian government increased crackdowns against protests, and then picked back up in June.

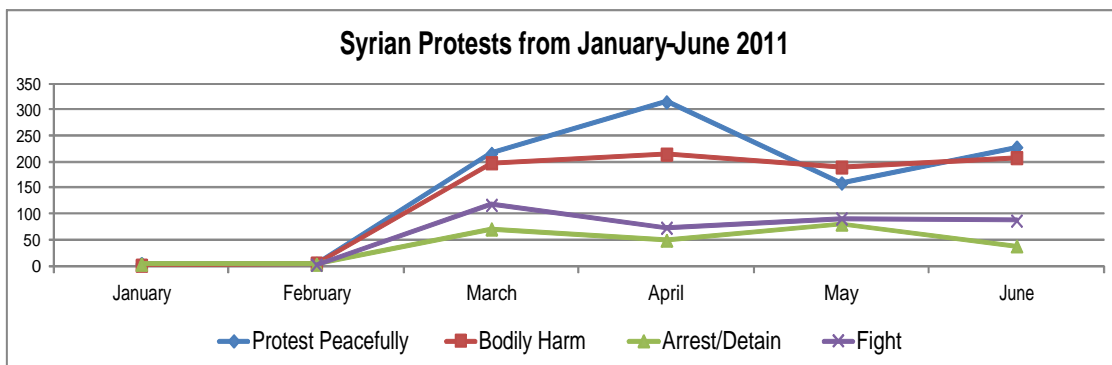


Figure 1: Syrian protest data from a six month period; data from BBC News, Reuters, and the New York Times

Figure 2 breaks down a single month of the protests using documents from Reuters.

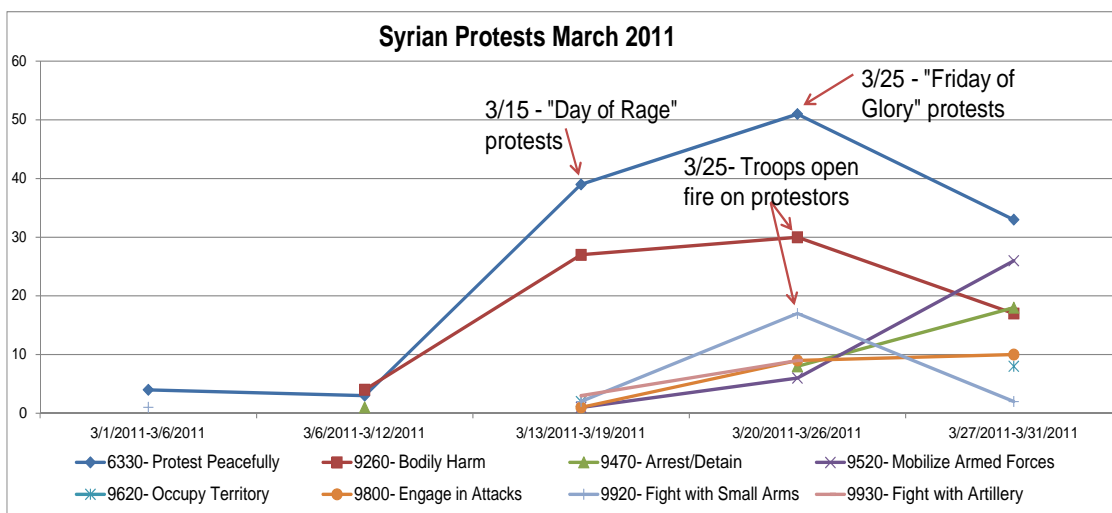


Figure 2: March results from Reuters

Figure 2 displays the data for March by week and corresponds with the major events that took place. Two upticks in the category of Protest Peacefully match the dates of the two largest

protests of the month, known respectively as the Day of Rage protests, and the Friday of Glory protests. The category of Bodily Harm shows the first date Syrian troops clashed with protestors and, in combination with the Fight with Small Arms category, shows the large amount of violence that took place during the Friday of Glory protests. To demonstrate use of locations with BEN events, the Syrian protest results are broken down by location in Figures 3-6. In the month of March Daraa is the location of the most protests and violence. This is expected, as it was the starting point of the uprising.

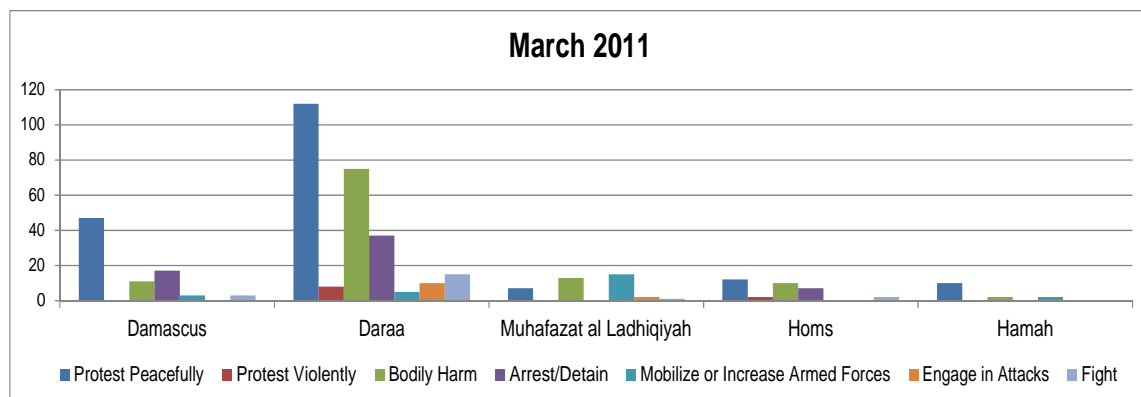


Figure 3: Syrian protest data from BBC News, Reuters, and the New York Times in March 2011 by location

In the month of April, Damascus, Homs, and Aleppo emerge as locations with a large number of protests. Interestingly, in April the Mobilize Armed Forces category shows that Syrian troops moved to Homs in April. In the following month, Homs shows the largest amount of Bodily Harm and Fighting, corresponding to the “Siege of Homs” that took place in May.

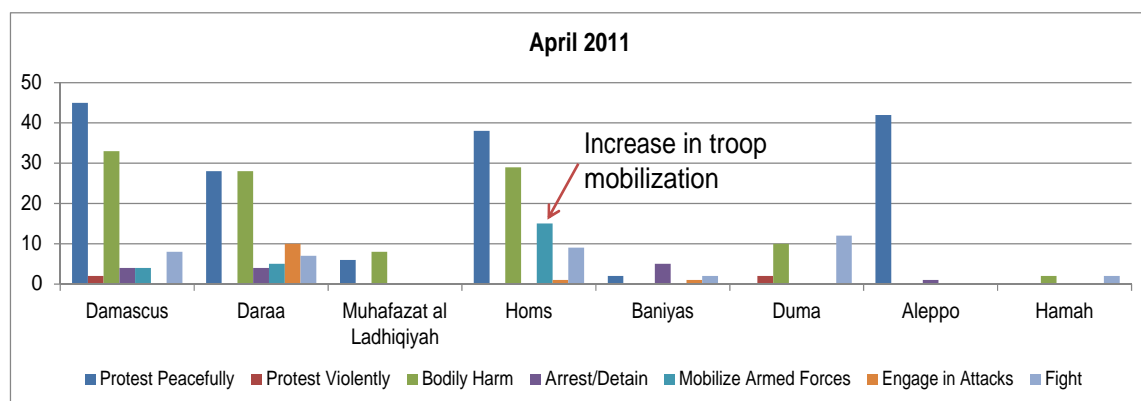


Figure 4: Syrian protest data from BBC News, Reuters, and the New York Times in April 2011 by location

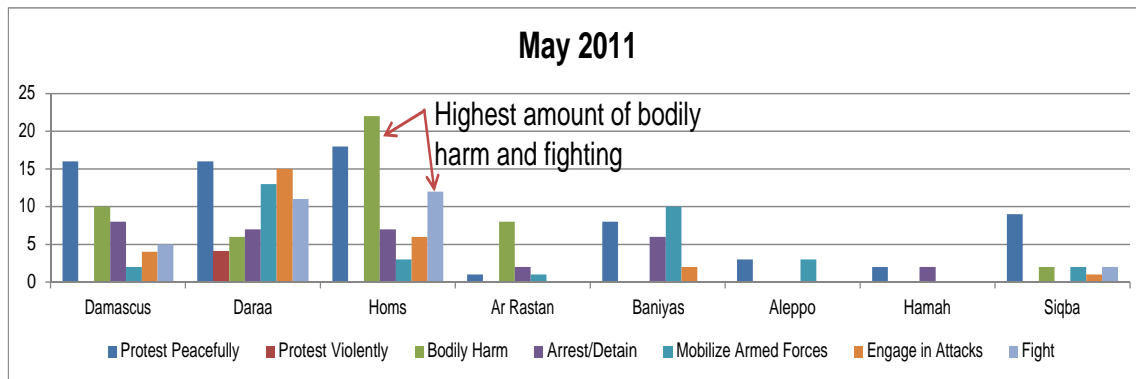


Figure 5: Syrian protest data from BBC News, Reuters, and the New York Times in May 2011 by location.

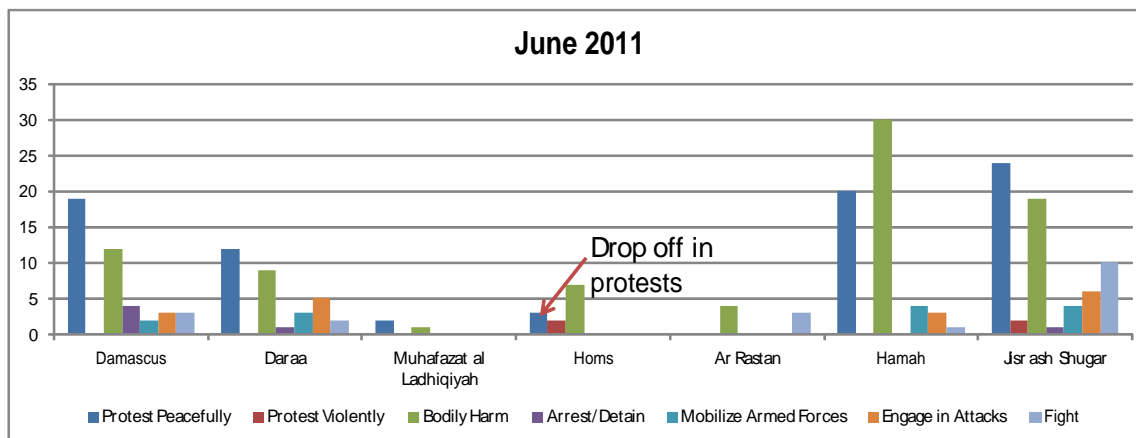


Figure 6: Syrian protest data from BBC News, Reuters, and the New York Times in June 2011 by location

In the month of June, after being the subject of a crackdown by the Syrian military, the number of protests in Homs drops off sharply. By viewing the results by location, we are able to track this series of events in Homs.