

## **PARAMILITARY FORMATIONS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE SYRIAN CIVIL**

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Non-state actors are being increasingly involved in modern wars. The practice of using private military companies, as well as various paramilitary formations, such as the people's police, militia, and volunteer battalions in wars and combat operations is expanding. In the fight against regular military formations, non-state players preferably use the tactics of asymmetric warfare.

Paramilitary contingents should be seen as a new type of organized violence that is occurring in the most developed countries. The paramilitary organizations' activities are evident in almost all modern conflicts. The increase in delinquency and organized crime is parallel to the increase in private security and social cleansing operations, which encourages the development of paramilitary formations.

Paramilitary forces occupy an ambiguous place between civil society and the state, which makes the border between the military and civil spheres difficult to define. The existence of paramilitarism is one of the most important mechanisms that allows the country to maintain its reputation as a democratic one, despite that repression, terror and the armed forces are constantly used against the civilian population.

Syria is the most striking modern example of a state where the paramilitary organizations actively functioning is Syria. Paramilitary groups play a key role in the Syrian conflict, mostly on the side of the ruling regime. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, the number of pro-government paramilitary organizations has increased rapidly, signaling further

decentralization of state power. Based on the study of the Syrian conflict, the conclusion may be reached that the use of paramilitary forces was the main manifestation of the repression of the Bashar al-Assad regime against the population.

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