

Nuclear Latency (NL) Dataset
Country Coding Sheets

SYRIA

COW COUNTRY CODE: 652

The destruction of the al-Kibar reactor in 2007 raised suspicions about a Syrian nuclear weapons program. According to US analysts, the al-Kibar reactor was ill suited for electricity and research activities. However, several sources note that no ENR facilities existed in Syrian at the time of the raid.

Some sources speculate that Syria may have built a uranium enrichment plant at al Hasaka, possibly with assistance from Pakistan. This is plausible, but we did not find any definitive evidence that enrichment occurred in Syria. Some experts explicitly argue that the al Hasaka site was not an enrichment plant.¹ We therefore do not include a Syrian enrichment plant in the dataset. However, we would not be surprised if new evidence emerges in the future indicating that Syria had an enrichment program.

Sources:

Blanc, Alexis and Brad Roberts. 2008. "Nuclear Proliferation: A Historical Overview." Institute for Defense Analysis. <http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA482642>. Accessed 06/08/2015.

Hibbs, Mark. 2011. "Uranium Enrichment Program in Syria?" *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. November 1. <http://carnegieendowment.org/2011/11/01/uranium-enrichment-program-in-syria>

International Atomic Energy Agency. 2012. "Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Syrian Arab Republic." http://isis-online.org/uploads/isis-reports/documents/Syria_report--August_30_2012.pdf. Accessed 07/06/2015.

International Atomic Energy Agency. "Integrated Nuclear Fuel Cycle Information Systems." <https://infcis.iaea.org>. Accessed 06/08/2015.

International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Nuclear Programs in the Middle East: In the Shadow of Iran." <http://www.iiss.org/publications/strategic-dossiers/nuclear-programmes-in-the-middle-east-in-the-shadow-of-iran/read-the-dossier/>. Accessed 07/06/2015.

International Panel of Fissile Materials. 2011. "Global Fissile Material Report 2011: Nuclear Weapons and Fissile Material Stockpiles and Production." <http://fissilematerials.org/library/gfmr11.pdf>. Accessed 06/08/2015.

¹ Jeffrey Lewis, "Hasaka Spinning Factory," *Arms Control Wonk*, October 24, 2011: <http://www.armscontrolwonk.com/archive/204579/hasaka-spinning-factory/>.

- National Public Radio. 2010. "Nuclear Capabilities and Potential Around the World." <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125898396>. Accessed 06/08/2015.
- Nuclear Threat Initiative. "Syria." <http://www.nti.org/country-profiles/syria/>.
- Wright, Robin. 2008. "North Koreans Taped At Syrian Reactor." *The Washington Post*. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/23/AR2008042302906.html>. Accessed 07/06/2015.
- Zentner, M.D., G.L. Coles, and R.J. Talbert. 2005. "Nuclear Proliferation Technology Trends Analysis." Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Report 14480.