

# Syria Defence and Security Report Q3 2014

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## Abstracts

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BMI View: Syria has remained in a state of civil war since 2011, pitting the government of President Bashar al-Assad against an armed rebel movement seeking his removal from power. The conflict is increasingly assuming a regional dimension, with the Sunni Muslim states of Qatar and Saudi Arabia supporting the removal of Assad, and the Shi'a Muslim state of Iran supporting the incumbent regime. BMI expects Syria to spend up to USD1.7bn on defence in 2014. With no prospect of peace in sight as regards the country's civil war, we expect Syria to increase the amount it spends on defence annually over the next four years with the budget reaching USD2.8bn by 2018.

It will come as little surprise that we have given Syria a low overall security risk rating of 27 for Q314. The country has scored an average overall security risk rating of 41 for the period December 2007 to Q314. We consider Syria to be at a high risk of becoming involved in a major interstate conflict. Similarly, we also believe that the country has a high risk of suffering from a major terrorist attack, with it having a similarly high risk of experiencing major criminal activity. All of these being factors are influenced by the civil war, which has been raging since 2011.

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