



REMARK OPV - ISIS SUICIDE ATTACK ON CHECKPOINT IN DEIR EZ-ZOR: INCIDENT BRIEF & ASSESSMENT

what happened?

On 22 August 2025, two ISIS militants carried out a suicide attack on the al-Siyāsiyah checkpoint in al-Mayadin, Deir ez-Zor, Syria. According to most reports, security forces shot one of the attackers while the second detonated his explosives, killing one member of the Internal Security forces; however, other accounts suggest both assailants were killed before they could detonate. Additional reports indicate that one to two security personnel may have been injured during the incident.

What Does It Mean?

- The Middle Euphrates remains an active insurgency zone where ISIS leverages small teams and close-in attacks on fixed points.
- Incorporating a suicide component (or attempting to) signals intent to keep psychological pressure on regime-held nodes even with limited manpower.
- Checkpoints are repeat targets; rapid engagement reportedly limited the attack but did not prevent a fatality.

The Consequences?

- This incident aligns with broader patterns of low-intensity but durable insurgent activity across Syria and Iraq. Without structural changes in local governance, such attacks will remain episodic but persistent.
- Repeated checkpoint bombings risk eroding public trust in the Syrian state's ability to secure liberated areas, potentially facilitating ISIS recruitment.