

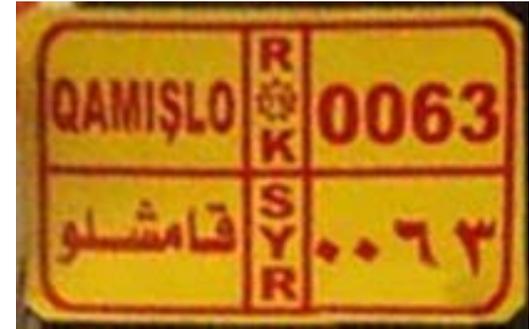
SYRIAN CIVIL WAR

LICENSE PLATES

KURDISTAN (ROJAVA)

Democratic Autonomous Administration

- The first plates known are from the capital Al-Qamishli (القامشلي, *Qamişlo*), 'Ayn al-'Arab (عين العرب), *Kobane* (كوباني) and the canton of Al-Jazira (الجزيرة, *Cizîrê-KC*).
- RXD = Rêvberiya Xweseriya Demokratîk-Democratic Self-Government
 - RK = Rojavayê Kurdistanê (Western Kurdistan)
 - KC = Kanton Cizîrê
 - EFR = Efrin / Afrin



- Afrin / Efrin (عفرين)

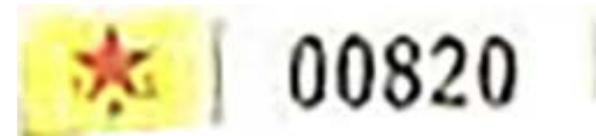


Efrin YPG Militias

- YPG Militias



2011-2012



2013-2016



Qamishlo

Democratic Federation of Rojava – Northern Syria 2016-2018

- A new common design for all the cantons was implemented in various cities. Plates have different colours depending on the type of service.

Known codes:

EFR	Efrîn	عفرين	‘Afrin	عفرين
KBN	Kobanê	كوباني	‘Ayn al-‘Arab	عين العرب
QMS	Qamişlo	قامشلو	Al-Qamishli	القامشلي
AMD	Amûdê	عامودا	‘Amuda	عامودا
DRK	Dêrik	ديرك	Al-Malikiyah	المالكية
TBR	Tirbespî	تربسبية	Al-Qahtaniyah	القحطانية
SRK	Serê Kaniyê	سرهى كانية	R’as al-‘Ayn	رأس العين



Passengers - RK Rojava Kantonên:



Public service & Commercial:



Police:



YPG Militias:



Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria 2018 -

- In September 2018, the Syrian Democratic Council adopted a new name for the region, naming it the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, comprising the regions of Jazira (Cizîrê), Euphrates (Firatê) and Afrin (Efrîn), as well the local civil councils of Raqqah (Reqayê), Manbij (Minbicê), Tabqa (Tebqayê) and Deir ez-Zor (Dêra Xorê), once these regions were freed from ISIS.

Known new codes:

HSK	Hesekê	حەسەكە	Al-Hasakah	الحسكة
GSP	Girê Spî	گەڕێ سپی	Tell Abyadh	تل أبيض
REQ	Reqa	الرقعة	Al-Raqqah	الرقعة
TBQ	Tebqayê	الطبقة	Al-Thawrah	الثورة
MNB	Minbicê	منبج	Manbij	منبج
DRZ	Dêra Zorê	دير الزور	Deir ez-Zor	دير الزور
QMS	Qamişlo	قامشلو	Al-Qamishli	القامشلي

Soon afterward, Hasakah and Qamishli added their names in syriac, between the city code and the arabic name.

QMS	مەشلو	HSK	هەسكە
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Passengers - BS Bakur Sûriyeyê (North of Syria):

RQE	SB	464587
الرقعة	Y*	RS ٤٦٤٥٨٧

QMS	SB	167704
قامشلو	Y*	RS ١٦٧٧٠٤

MNB	SB	167620
منبج	Y*	RS ١٦٧٦٢٠

KBN	SB	653261
كوباني	Y*	RS ٦٥٣٢٦١

GSP	SB	
تل ابيض	Y*	RS

TBQ	SB	166790
الطبقة	Y*	RS ١٦٦٧٩٠

QMS	SB	272698
قامشلو	Y*	RS ٢٧٢٦٩٨

HSK	SB	153159
اللاسكة	Y*	RS ١٥٣١٥٩

Public Service & Commercial:

DRZ	SB	599001
دير الزور	Y*	RS ٥٩٩٠٠١

KBN	SB	763923
كوباني	Y*	RS ٧٦٣٩٢٣

QMS	SB	277207
قامشلو	Y*	RS ٢٧٧٢٠٧

RQE	SB	374610
الرقعة	Y*	RS ٣٧٤٦١٠

MNB	SB	388272
منبج	Y*	RS ٣٨٨٢٧٢

QMS	SB	472666
قامشلو	Y*	RS ٤٧٢٦٦٦

HSK	SB	473932
اللاسكة	Y*	RS ٤٧٣٩٣٢

Police:



Government:



NORTHERN SYRIA BUFFER ZONE

- It was a temporary demilitarised zone (DMZ) established on the Syrian side of the border with Turkey in August 2019. The DMZ was administered by the Kurdish-led SDF (Syrian Democratic Forces and their military councils and enforced by the U.S. Armed Forces and Turkish Armed Forces.
- In October 2019 Turkey dismissed the agreement and prepared a military incursion into the Zone, negotiating a new agreement with Russia and the Syrian government. As a result of this, Turkey have taken control over many cities in the Governorates of Aleppo, and some in Raqqa and Hasakah.

Known codes:

Aleppo Governorate (Halep)

AFR	Afrin	'Afrin	عفرين
AHT	Akhtarın	Akhtarın	أخترين
AZZ	Azez	Azaz	أعزاز
BAB	El Bab	Al-Bab	الباب
BLB	Bülbül	Bulbul	بنبل
BZA	Bizza	Beza'ah	بزاعة
ÇBY	Çobanbey	Al-Ra'i	الراعي
CIN	Cindirês	Jindires	جنديرس
CRB	Cerablus	Jarabulus	جرابلس
KBS	Kibbesin/Başköy	Qabasin	قباسين
MAB	Mabate	M'abathli	معبطلي
MRA	Mare	Mare'	مارع
RCU	Raco	Raju	راجو
SRN	Soran	Sawran	جرابلس

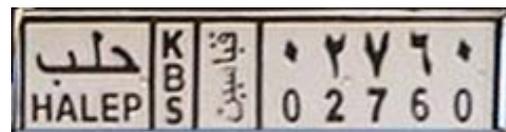
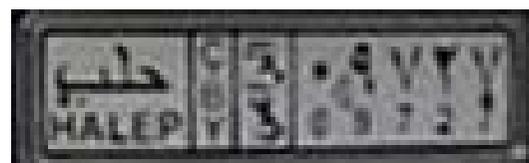
Raqqa Governorate (Rakka)

TEL	Tellebyad	Tell Abyadh	تل أبيض
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Hasaka Governorate (Haseke)

RAS	Resulayn	Ras al-'Ayn	رأس العين
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Passengers



حلب	SR	سور	٠١٠٨١
HALEP	N	ان	01081

الحسكة	RA	راس	٠٠٠٠١
HASEKE	S	العين	00001

الرقعة	تدايفس	٠٣٠٠١
RAKKA	TEL	03001

٠٣٤٠٧	تدايفس
03407	TEL
	الرقعة
	RAKKA

Public service & Commercial

حلب	BA	٢٠٢٨٥
HALEP	B	20285

حلب	BZ	٠٢٢٩٨
HALEP	A	02298

حلب	CI	٠٢٨٠٩
HALEP	H	02809

حلب	CA	١٨٢٥٢
HALEP	A	18252

حلب	CR	٠٦٥٢٧
HALEP	B	06727

حلب	RC	٠٣٣٧١
HALEP	U	03371

الرقعة	تدايفس	٠٣٠٢٩
RAKKA	TEL	03029

Police



Local administration and govt.



Turkish military operations

- Turkish military vehicles do not carry any special plate, but the army plates are often half covered by a sticker or a piece of cloth – usually red or dark green. Military troops come from Malatya (code 2)



245605



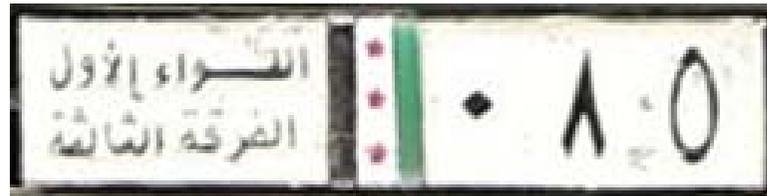
641



999

Syrian National Army

- Also known as *Turkish backed Free Syrian Army (TFSA)*, is a coalition of armed opposition groups in the Turkish-occupied areas. (See *Wikipedia for more information*).



TFSA-Anwar al_Haq militias

The First Brigade (*Alliwa' al-'Awal* - اللواء الاول)
above

Third Squad (*Al-Furqat Al-Thalathat* - الفرقة الثالثة)



Most of them have no plates or bear a Free Syrian waving flag

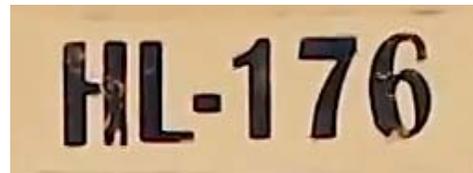
Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)

Quwwāt Sūriyā al-Dīmuqrāṭīya (QSD) قوات سوريا الديمقراطية

Hêzên Sûriya Demokratîk (HSD)

Haylawotho d'Suriya Demoqraṭoyto (HSD) ڕه‌ڵاوو‌تو‌و‌ی دیموکراتۆی سوری

- Group founded by the People's Protection Units (YPG), Women Protection Units (YPJ), Al-Sanadid Forces, the Syriac Military Council and other groups to combat the Islamic State and since its defeat, it has increasingly been involved with combating the Turkish occupation of Northern Syria.



Hezen Komandoz (قوات الكوماندوز)

- A new SDF / YPG Special Forces unit has been set up. This one called "Hêzên Komandoz", or Commando Forces.



Self Defence Forces (Hêzên Xweparastinê (HXP))



SDF General Plates



SDF-Tel Abyad Military Council



Russian-backed Syrian Arab Army (RSAA)



Kurds were forced to join forces with the Russian-backed Syrian regime when Donald Trump ordered all American troops to withdraw from northern Syria, allowing Turkey to invade and attack Kurds, who were allied with America.



IDLIB & ALEPPO

Civil Councils

Syrian Salvation Government

حكومة الإنقاذ السورية

The SSG is a *de facto* alternative government of the Syrian opposition in Idlib Governorate, formed in November 2017.

- Idlib City Council

Registration number plates are white with black or red lettering depending on the type of service, private or public. Serial number to the left, Idlib in Arabic to the right and vertically aligned in the centre SYR followed by IDL. There is a version that has EDL instead of IDL.





Test / Dealer Plates

White on blue plates – also black on white, all Arabic with تجربة (test) and Idlib above five-digit number



Police



- Aleppo

As in Idlib, registration number plates are white with black or red lettering depending on the type of service, private or public. Serial number to the left, Aleppo in Arabic to the right and vertically aligned in the centre SYR followed by ALP.



- Jindires (جنديرس)



- Saraqib City Council (جنديرس)

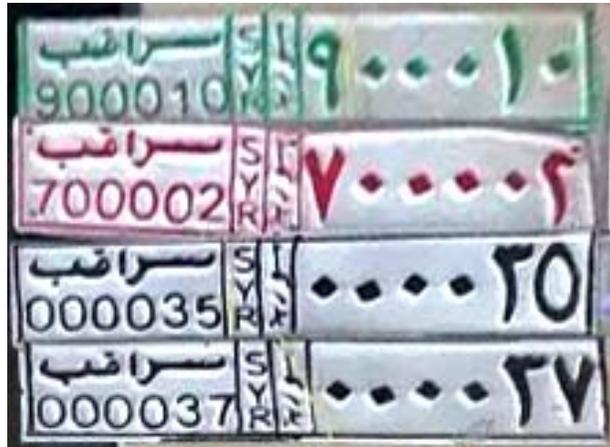
Sarāqib in Idlib province in the North-West of the country, has started issuing its own plates from 5th May 2016. They are laminated paper and are to be displayed on the inside of the windows of the vehicles.

Private vehicles have **تجريبي** (Test / Experiment) above **سورية** SYR above **مكان ختم** (Local Council Seal) over **المجلس المحلي** (Local Council Seal).

To the right, a four-digit Arabic number above **سراقب مرور** (Traffic Saraqib), in black on white.



Later, in April 2018, new provisional metal plates similar to Syrian plates were launched. They have Saraqib in Arabic instead of Idlib, the Governorate name.



Syrian Interim Government

الحكومة السورية المؤقتة

The SIG is an alternative government in Syria, formed by the umbrella opposition group, the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces. The interim government indirectly controls some areas of the country and claims to be the sole legitimate government on behalf of the Syrian opposition in defiance of the Council of Ministers of the Syrian Arab Republic.

- Free Aleppo Governorate Council (مجلس محافظة حلب الحرة)

Council formed in March 2013 to provide services and administrative assistance for civilians living in free areas of Aleppo province.



حلب الحرة *Halab al-Hura (Free Aleppo)*



- Aleppo license plates



To the left the silhouette of the City under control of the SIG (West part) above ALP. To the right SYRIA above Aleppo in Arabic. In the centre the six-digit serial number.

- Syrian National Army (SNA) - Al-Jays Al-Wathani As-Suri الجيش الوطني السوري

In September 2020, the Ministry of Defence of the SIG has taken into consideration the regulation of the vehicles at the disposal of the SNA. So, the SNA is requiring the Army's formations to attach number plates to their vehicles in order to organize internal work and control security.

These plates are white on green with the SNA logo to the left, a five-digit number to right and SMO vertically aligned in the centre. *SMO = Suriye Milli Ordusu (SNA in Turkish)*



Now, these plates are used by the coalition forces led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham against the Assad Regime.

- SNA Military Police – Askari Polis



First plates had, in red-on-white, the word ‘Branch - فرع’ followed by the name of the city and a serial number in parentheses.



Al-Bab Branch / فرع البواب

- More than one plate

In all this mess it's not uncommon to find some vehicles having more than one plate from different councils. Here some examples:



Idlib Council (SSG) + Azaz Council (Turkish)



Aleppo Council (SIG) + Azaz Council (Turkish)

OTHER MILITIAS

Free Syrian Army (FSA)

Al-Jays As-Suri Al-Hurr

الجيش السوري الحرّ

- The FSA, founded in July 2011 to bring down the government of Bashar al-Assad, is the military wing of the Syrian people's opposition to the regime. After the Turkish occupation of the North, one of its factions formed the Syrian National Army or Turkish-backed FSA (TFSA).

- Fastaqim Kama Umirt Union تجمع فاستقم كما أمرت

It was founded as an "Islamist umbrella movement" of pro-Free Syrian Army factions in December 2012



تجمع فاستقم
كعأمرت

Union of Be Upright as Ordered

To the left: Fastaqim Kama Umirt Union written in Arabic. In the middle the Free Syria Flag.

Free Men of Syria Brigade - Liwa Ahrar Souriya (لواء أحرار سوريا)

A group of Syrian rebel fighters affiliated with the Free Syrian Army which was active during the Syrian civil war, mainly around Aleppo.

Two different plates are known:



Qalamoun Shield Forces - Quwwāt Dir ' l-Qalamūn (قوات درع القلمون)

- The QSF were a militia formed by natives of the Qalamun Mountains that fought for the Syrian Government, closely affiliated with the 3rd Armoured Division.



To the left has Military Vehicle (ألية عسكرية) in Arabica above the serial number.
To the right Quwwat Dir al-Qalamun in Arabic and in the centre the Syrian flag.

Dara'a Provincial Council

The Bureau of Transportation, in cooperation with the rebel Dara'a Provincial Council and the Free Lawyers Union, announced Wednesday that it would begin to register all civilian and agricultural vehicles in the rebel-held parts of the southern province, according to a video posted to the Dara'a Provincial Council's Facebook page on Wednesday.

As part of the new policy, the bureau will assign a license plate number for every vehicle as well as a vehicle registration, Abu Ammar al-Hourani, a member of the executive office of the Dara'a Provincial Council told Shaam News Network, adding that any owner of a vehicle registered with the regime can exchange their old license plates for the new ones.



Syriac Security Office (Sutoro)

Mawtbo d'Sutoro Suryoyo - ܠܘܝܐܘܟܝܐܘܬܐ ܟܘܬܘܪܐ

Commonly known as Sutoro (ܠܘܝܐܘܟܝܐܘܬܐ). It's an Assyrian police force in Jazira Canton of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria.

Plates only have SUTORO, written in Syriac in white on blue.



Syrian Islamic Liberation Front - جبهة تحرير سوريا الإسلامية

Al-Tawhid Brigade – Liwa al-Tawhid - لواء التوحيد



The Syrian Islamic Liberation Front (SILF; Arabic: جبهة تحرير سوريا الإسلامية, "Jabhat Tahrīr Sūriya al-Islāmiyyah") was a coalition of Syrian Islamist rebel groups that fought against the Syrian government in the Syrian Civil War. At the end of 2012, it was one of the strongest rebel coalitions in Syria, representing up to half of the rebel forces.

In late November 2013, Suqour al-Sham, Al-Tawhid Brigade and Jaysh al-Islam, the largest and most influential members of the Front, announced that they were joining the Islamic Front, greatly weakening SILF. On 25 November 2013, a statement appeared on the Front's website announcing that it was ceasing all operations. The Syrian Islamic Liberation Front was thought to be more moderate than the Ahrar al-Sham-led Syrian Islamic Front, and also closer Arab Gulf States than the Syrian Islamic Front, which was closer to Turkey and Qatar.

The al-Tawhid Brigade (Arabic: لواء التوحيد, romanized: Liwa al-Tawhid, lit. 'Brigade of monotheism'; named after Tawhid, the "oneness of God,") was an armed Islamist insurgent group involved in the Syrian Civil War.

The al-Tawhid Brigade was formed in 2012. Reportedly backed by Qatar, al-Tawhid was considered one of the biggest groups in northern Syria, dominating most of the insurgency around Aleppo.

Its leader Abdul Qader Saleh was killed in November 2013 in a Syrian Air Force airstrike
(source wikipedia)





Left side: Liwa al-Tawhid in Arabic above a serial number in parentheses.
Right side: ثوار منبج (Manbij Revolutionaries) above the serial number.



The Aleppo headquarters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) after fighters from several Syrian rebel brigades seized it.

Northern Storm Brigade

Liwa Asifat al-Shamal - لواء عاصفة الشمال

- The Northern Storm Brigade, also known as the Northern Hurricane Brigade, is a Syrian rebel group formed in 2011 and based in Azaz in northwestern Syria, near the border with Turkey. The leader and other members of the group were smugglers from Azaz and its surroundings before the Syrian Civil War. The group retained exclusive control of the Bab al-Salam border crossing.



Southern Front (Free Syrian Army)

(الجيش السوري الحر) الجبهة الجنوبية

The Southern Front (Arabic: الجبهة الجنوبية) was a Syrian rebel alliance consisting of 54 or 58 Syrian opposition factions affiliated with the Free Syrian Army, established on 13 February 2014 in southern Syria. By June 2015, the Southern Front controlled about 70 percent of Daraa Governorate, according to the International Institute for Strategic Studies; by 2018, the front was defunct, with most of its fighters either reintegrating into the Syrian Army or fleeing to other FSA held lands in the north. *(source wikipedia)*



Free Army

Al-Jaysh al-Hur - الجيش الحر

In some areas, rebels replace their car license plates with others personalised where one can read “Free Army”.



HEALTH & WELFARE

Syria Civil Defence (White Helmets)

ad-Difā' al-Madanī as-Sūrī (al-Hawdh al-baydā) (الخوذ البيضاء) الدفاع المدني السوري

- The White Helmets is a volunteer organization that operates in parts of rebel-controlled Syria and in Turkey. It was formed in 2014 and its main activity consists of urban search and rescue in response to bombing, medical evacuation and essential service delivery.

Plates consist of two numbers separated by the organization logo. The first number has three, four or five digits and represent the fleet number. The second number have five digits but the meaning is unknown. They are coloured blue on white, though black on white are also seen.



- Second series

A new series commenced in June 2024. The plates have white lettering – sometimes black - on a blue background. The identification consists of an *M* alone or a *D* with a digit and a five-digit number, which can also have leading zeros. Both parts are separated by a yellow field with the letters SCD in a vertical direction. It should also be noted that the five-digit numbers have a different font than the letter at the beginning.



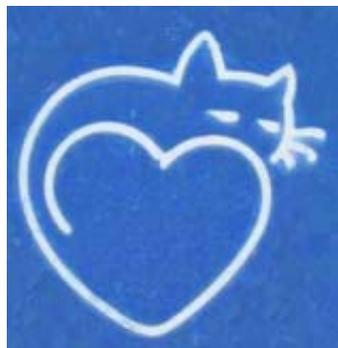
Volunteer Abdul Basit Ahmed Abdul Khaliq, killed in Atarib on the evening of Tuesday, July 11, 2023

The text reads:
Civil Defence - Atarib District

Il Gattaro di Aleppo

An Animal Welfare organization based in Aleppo, opened in 2015 to feed and care for the cats left behind after their families fled from the war. It is also part of the SPCA – Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Vehicles do not bear special registration plates but the organization name and logo in white on blue.



Idlib Health Directorate

Mudiriya siha Idlib - مديرية صحة إدلب

Idlib Health Directorate is a comprehensive and integrated healthcare system. It has been the de-facto health authority in the opposition controlled governorate since 2013.

Plates have black lettering on a white background. To the left is “*Idlib Health Directorate*” in Arabic. To the right the serial number and in the centre the organization logo.

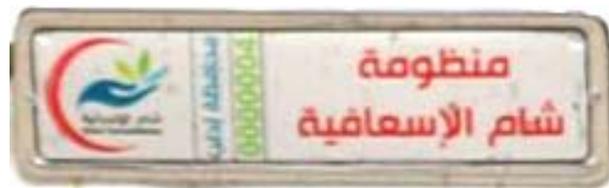


Al-Sham Humanitarian Foundation

Musasa Al-Sham Al-Insaniya - مؤسسة الشام الإنسانية

Al-Sham Humanitarian Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization founded in October 2011 to fill gaps in the response to the humanitarian needs in Syria.

Plates have a white background. To the left is the organization logo. To the right, in red, *Sham Ambulance System*” in Arabic (منظومة شام الإسعافية), and in the centre, in green, the serial number.



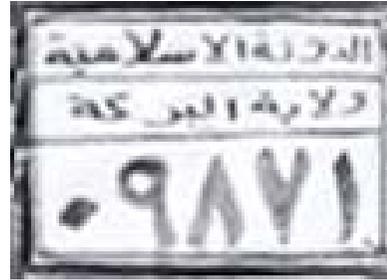
ISLAMIC STATE

Ad-Dawlah al-Islamiyah (الدولة الإسلامية)

- The Islamic State divided Syria into Wilayats, of which three were under its effective control: Ar-Raqqah, Al-Barakah and Al-Khayr (Deir ez-Zor), plus some areas of Al-Furat (Euphrates) and Al-Halab (Aleppo).

All plates have *Islamic State* in Arabic at the top.

The following plates are known:



ولاية البركة
Wilayat Al-Barakah



ولاية الرقة
Wilayat Ar-Raqqah



- *Caliphate Army- Jaysh al-khilaft* - جيش الخلافة



In addition to the above 'Tank Battalion', at least three other units are known to operate armoured fighting vehicles in Syria, comprising:

- The Othman bin Affan Division
(فرقة عثمان بن عفان)
- The Abi Obaida bin al-Jarrah Division
(فرقة أبي عبيدة بن الجراح)
- The Zubayr ibn al-Awam Division
(فرقة الزبير بن العوام).



All three divisions are named after companions of Prophet Muhammad, and served important roles during the times of the Rashidun Caliphate.

NEW PLATES

Rojava. Temporary Transit - (Derbasbûna Demkî - مرور مؤقت)

As from 20 December 2021, the Self-Administration began implementing a mechanism for the temporary traffic within the Rojava areas.



These series ended circa June 2024



In June 2024, a new design was introduced. Red-on-white, except the left red band. The text appears in Kurmanji Kurdish too

New National system since October 1st, 2024

Before Bashar al-Assad was deposed in December, new plates were introduced on October 1, 2024. The plates currently used date back to 1996, and today, due to the increasing number of vehicles, the Government, Ministry of Transports, has seen the need to implement a new system of registration plates. The governorate name has been cancelled, and the serial consists of seven numbers, with no indication of the governorate.





It seems that the first group of digits shall indicate the vehicle class.:

- 1x – Private Passengers
- 5x – Private Transport, Taxis, etc.
- 6x – Trucks and vans
- 1xx - Motorcycles

After the fall of the Assad regime, the upper line on the flag was changed to green and now there are three red stars instead of two green ones.



- ***Temporarily Imported Vehicles***

Between late 2024 and early 2025, following the fall of Bashar Al-Assad, the provisional government has issued new plates for temporary import vehicles.



These plates are valid for three months only

THAT'S ALL FOLKS!