SVRA JULY-2011 POPULATION **22517750**

Violence: Shelling, tanks, raids, snipers - see all July.

Arrests: HRW: Syria: Mass Arrest Campaign Intensifies-July 20

Activists, Witnesses Estimate 2,000 Arrests Since Late June. "Even though many detainees have been released after a few days or weeks, the Local Coordination Committees, a loose affiliation of groups that both organizes and reports on the democracy protests in Syria, estimates that over 15,000 people arrested since the beginning of the protests remain in detention, most without any contact with the outside world.

Censorship: CPJ: Silencing global coverage, Syria detains, expels reporters - July 14

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Legislation: Syria passes law to allow rival parties - July 25

EPRESSION

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The law regulates elections to parliament, a rubber-stamp assembly elected every five years but effectively appointed by Assad's ruling Baath Party and security agencies that answer directly to the 45-year old president, and sets up a commission to "manage elections and guarantee their integrity."

Administration: Assad replaces eastern governor after demonstrations- July 24 (Concession?)

Hussein Arnos, a civilian, was transferred to govern the small province of Qunaitera west of Damascus, on the border with the Golan heights, the agency said, noting that he was replaced by Samir Othman al-Sheikh, an officer in the intelligence apparatus.

