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## At Least 32 Killed in Massive Syria Protests

By Jason Ditz

June 10, 2011

It was in many ways a typical Friday in Syria today, as [Friday morning prayers gave way to massive pro-democracy protests nationwide](#), followed by violent crackdowns by the Assad regime, [killing at least 32 people according to activists](#).



Reports from the crackdowns in the north saw the [military using helicopter gunships in an effort to disperse protesters](#), which is the first reported case of aircraft being used in the months of demonstrations.

The [violence in the north has seen a growing number of people fleeing into neighboring Turkey](#) with estimates of some 3,000 families seeking refuge along both sides of the border. A number of the refugees cited fear of a “bloodbath” in the wake of the claims of [120 troops killed in Jisr al-Shugur](#).

So far, however, there was no bloodbath and this appears to be an extremely ordinary Friday, with a massive protest and a violent crackdown by security forces, and neither indicating a willingness to give an inch.