

ASIFAH ANALYTICS | CAPTAGON SNAPSHOT

Illicit Trade, Security Risk, and State Fragility in Syria & Lebanon

WHAT IS CAPTAGON:

- Synthetic amphetamine-type stimulant produced illicitly at scale
- Low production cost; high retail margins
- Easily concealed in commercial cargo
- Demand concentrated in Gulf markets

Learn more — coming soon

WHY THIS MATTERS:

- Generates significant illicit cash flows
- Funds protection and patronage networks
- Distorts border and customs institutions
- Complicates reconstruction and donor engagement

Learn more — coming soon

HOW THE TRADE WORKS:

- Precursors → Manufacturing → Concealment → Transit → Export → Retail → Cash Recycling
- Multi-hop shipping routes
 - Commercial cargo concealment
 - Revenues reinvested into protection networks

Learn more — coming soon

SYRIA: CURRENT STATE

- Historic concentration of manufacturing capacity
- Revenue substitute amid sanctions pressure
- Fragmentation following regime disruption
- Trafficking networks remain adaptive

Learn more — coming soon

LEBANON: TRANSIT & EXPOSURE

- Cross-border logistics with Syria
- Port of Beirut and airport seizure points
- Cargo concealment within licit trade flows
- Gulf trade restrictions following interceptions

Learn more — coming soon

WATCHLIST INDICATORS

- Major multi-million pill seizures
 - New sanctions designations
 - Gulf trade bans or diplomatic pressure
 - Border enforcement changes
- Live tracker → [Syria Conflict & Stability Monitor](#)

KEY REPORTS

- [UNODC Captagon Research Brief](#)
- [EUDA Captagon Regional Assessment](#)
- [U.S. Treasury Sanctions Designations](#)
- [Syria Conflict & Stability Monitor](#)

Prepared by ASIFAH ANALYTICS

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