

Damascus on Trial

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Although the financial implications of U.S. court verdicts against Syria are unlikely to change the regime's support for terrorism, they will impose an unprecedented price on Bashar al-Asad's increasingly reckless behavior.

In September 2008, the U.S. Federal Court in Washington, D.C., rendered a \$413 million civil judgment against the government of Syria for its provision of support and material aid to the killers of two American contractors in Iraq. Syria's appeal is pending, but should it lose, the victims' families will undoubtedly endeavor to attach Syrian assets in the United States and abroad.

Until now, with the exception of sanctions, financial designations, and periodic cross-border direct action, Washington has imposed little cost on Damascus for its consistent support for terrorist attacks in Iraq since the 2003 war. And while the financial implications of this court verdict are unlikely to change Damascus's standing support for terrorism, it will impose an unprecedented price on Bashar al-Assad's increasingly reckless regime...

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