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Hundreds of Thousands Rally Across Syria Demanding Assad's Ouster

By Jason Ditz

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Friday protests in Syria get bigger every week. This was true again this week, [where hundreds of thousands of demonstrators took to the streets nationwide](#), including reports of as many as 400,000 marching in the city of Hama alone.



Protests in the city of Hama were of a [decidedly different attitude than elsewhere in the nation, as Syria pulled its troops out of the city yesterday](#). The crackdowns did not entirely halt, however, as 24 were reported slain nationwide.

Protesters in some of the cities were photographed [raising red cards](#), a reference to a penalty in soccer which results in immediate ejection from the game. The cards were symbolic of their demands for President Assad to step down and allow free elections.

The [reports of the “largest” protest in Syria yet has come out nearly every week](#), to the point of cliché. Still, the mass of demonstrations today clearly reflected that the opposition movement is growing all the time, and the Assad regime’s tactics, from promises of reform to wholesale massacres, have had little impact other than increasing the anger.