

15 dead in accidental Syrian depot blast

by UPI

DAMASCUS, Syria -- An explosion at a Syrian ammunition warehouse, apparently set off by high summer temperatures, Thursday killed at least 15 soldiers and injured another 50. The state-run SANA news agency emphasized the blast at a military depot in Musalmiya -- about six miles outside the city of Aleppo -- was not an act of sabotage, but rather the result of the morning's intense heat reacting with the highly explosive materials stored inside the depository. Temperatures have been between 100 and 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. Most of those hurt were treated on the scene for minor injuries, many of which resulted when they were showered with shards of broken glass. An official at Aleppo University Hospital, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the bodies of five soldiers and 10 wounded patients were brought to the facility.

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