



August 12, 2022

The Honorable Linda Thomas-Greenfield
United States Ambassador to the United Nations
United States Mission to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield:

The American Coalition for Syria is a diverse group of 10 Syrian-American and faith-based organizations committed to human rights and freedom in Syria, working on a wide range of critical issues that include humanitarian assistance and refugee resettlement. We respectfully request that during the 77th session of the UN General Assembly you raise the Captagon drug crisis intensifying in Syria with fellow diplomats from the EU, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Lebanon.

This highly addictive drug is being produced on an industrial scale by elements of the Assad regime and its allies. The illicit industry has transformed Syria into a narco-state, where seizures in 2021 were valued at \$5.7 billion. The violent activities of drug traffickers and smugglers are having a destabilizing impact on both Jordan and Lebanon.

We have attached a chart for your consideration that underscores how in the last six months alone Captagon smuggling in MENA has intensified. We have also enclosed a three-year 2022 study on the Captagon trade that may be helpful as well.

Congress is deeply concerned over this issue. Reps. French Hill, R-Ark., and Brendan Boyle, D-Pa., have introduced [bipartisan legislation](#) that calls on the administration to undertake an interagency analysis of the breadth and depth of the Assad regime's narcotics production activities and to provide Congress with a strategic plan within six months to stop the trade. The House Foreign Affairs Committee recently approved the measure by voice vote and it is awaiting floor consideration. Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan., has introduced a companion bill.

Captagon has metastasized from not only a public health issue for the populations of Syria and its neighbors, to a regional security threat with geopolitical ramifications for U.S. allies. At the same time, the drug trade fuels the ongoing conflict in Syria as a major revenue stream that props up Bashar al-Assad and blunts the impact of U.S. and global sanctions. We believe the U.S. can strengthen international cooperation in stopping this trade by having bilateral discussions on this at the UN.

We would be happy to discuss this further to address any questions you may have or provide any additional information if needed.



Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mahmoud Barazi
President, American Coalition for Syria



Syrian Christians, Education
Committee, USA



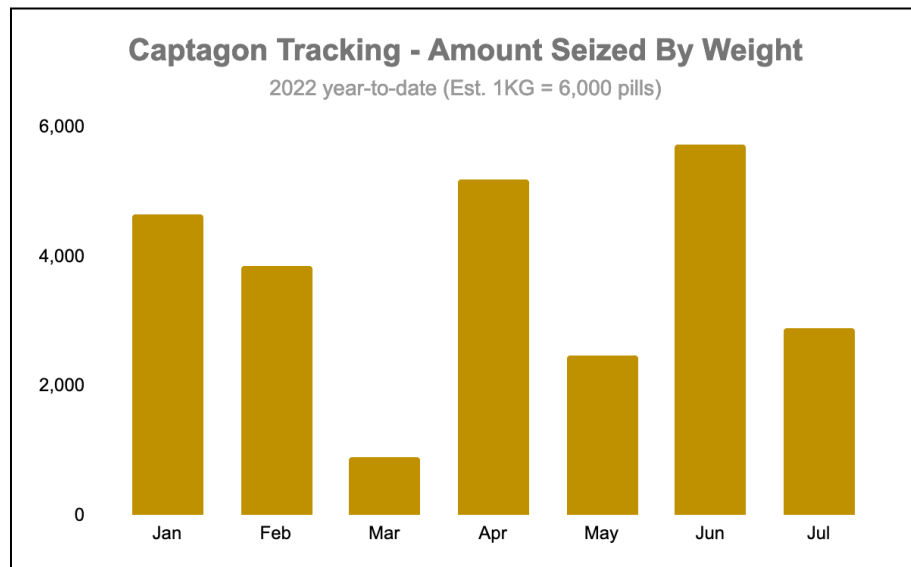
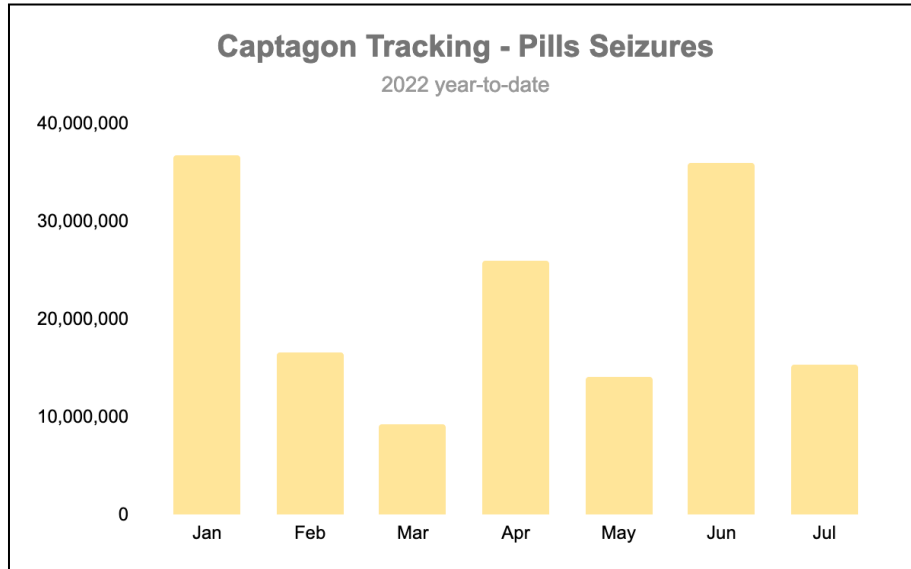
Kayla's List PAC



Please send any follow-ups to Wa'el Alzayat, ACS Senior Policy Advisor, at walzayat@gmail.com

Attachments:

- [The Captagon Threat - A Profile of Illicit Trade Consumption and Regional Realities](#)



<i>Date of seizure</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Pills seized</i>	<i>Amount seized (in KG)</i>
- Jan	Saudi	16,300,000	2,716
	Jordan	11,300,000	1,883
	UAE	9,000,000	1,500
	Greece	260,000	43
- Feb	Jordan	13,200,000	2,200
	Saudi	2,400,000	400
	Lebanon	900,000	150
	Greece	88,880	15
- Mar	Saudi	6,248,000	1,042
	Iraq	2,000,000	333
	Jordan	1,000,000	167
- Apr	Iraq	14,200,000	2,366
	Jordan	5,428,000	904
	Saudi	5,270,200	879
	Turkey	1,050,000	175
- May	Saudi	12,985,200	2,164
	Jordan	639,900	107
	UAE	400,000	66
	Lebanon	109,800	18
	Kuwait	5,000	1
- Jun	Syria	14,000,000	2,333
	Kuwait	9,005,000	1,501
	Saudi	7,394,300	1,233
	Turkey	2,000,000	333
	Jordan	1,791,000	298
	Iraq	1,000,000	167
	Sudan	717,000	120
	Qatar	20,667	3
- Jul	Saudi	15,310,000	2,552
	Syria	62,000	10
	Oman	280	0
Grand Total		154,085,227	25,677