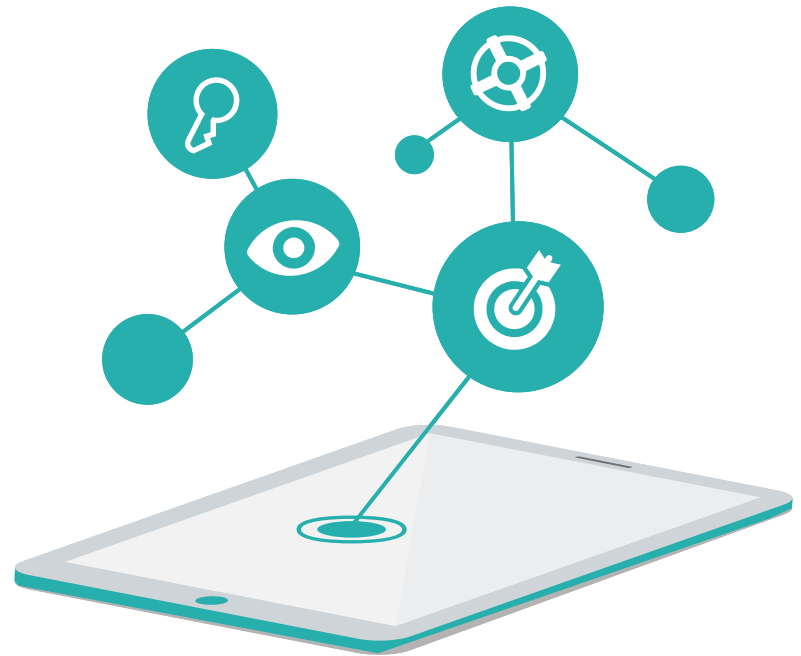


# Syria in Global Media 2

Follow-up analysis on representation of Syria in international digital media and social media 1.10.2015 – 29.2.2016



# Key findings

## Digital & Social media

### Digital media

- The total amount of articles in all search agents was 30 417 in this analysis, which is over twice as much than in the previous analysis, which had 13 803 articles.
- Almost all search agents had clearly increased their visibility compared to the previous analysis. The only exception was “women” search agent, the publicity of which slightly decreased.
- Some search agents doubled or tripled their hit counts compared to the previous analysis. In addition, peace search agent had over 10 times as many hits as in the previous analysis.
- Politics and conflict had the most hits in digital media followed by terrorism and regime.
- The main reason for increased visibility in all search agents was the Russian intervention in the Syrian conflict. Both western media and Russian media closely followed the Russian military campaign in Syria.
- Russian media was also much more active in writing on Syria compared to the previous analysis, since Sputnik International made its way into top 5 sources in almost every search agent, in some cases even topping outlets like Reuters and Fars News Agency.
- Terror strikes in Paris were also affected the article count in many search agents.

### Social media

- The total amount of posts in all search agents was 4 515 715 compared to 1 149 470 posts in the previous analysis. This means that conversation volume tripled compared to the previous analysis.
- Refugees search agent had the biggest conversation volumes, over 1 800 000 publications. Politics and conflict came second with almost 1 400 000 publications. However, if strikes in Paris aren't taken into account, politics and conflict were more discussed than refugees.
- Top tweeters appeared to be mostly bots posting pro-rebel/anti-regime content.
- As in digital media, the main theme was the Russian campaign in Syria. However, the biggest spikes came from the terror strikes in Paris.

# Content of analysis

---

## THE FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN MISSION

### Background

#### Explaining the search agents

#### Search agents combined

- Heatmap
- Search agents combined
- Top sources
- Search agents share of voice
- Counterparts share of voice

#### Content of the search agents

- Women
- Children
- Refugees
- Women, children & refugees in Russian media
- Peace
- Peace in Russian media
- Politics and Conflict
- Humanitarian aid
- Terrorism
- Terrorism in Russian media

#### Comparing the search agents

- Conflict and politics & Peace
- Terrorism & Peace

#### Comparing organisations

- Share of voice
- Red Cross & Red Crescent
- Brookings Institute, OCHA & Carter Centre

#### Social media

- Search agents combined
- Refugees & Conflict and politics
- Top Tweeters
- Comparing counterparts
- Comparing search agents
- Comparing digital and social media

#### Conclusions

# Background information

---

## Purpose of the analysis & Explaining the search agents

### PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Analysis serves as a follow-up analysis covering and exploring international digital and social media related to the Syrian crisis and investigates the ways in which the international digital and social media continues shaping the current conflict and peace possibilities in Syria.

Analysis will shed a light on following questions:

- What is the media discourse of the international media and social media like on Syria during the time chosen for the study?
- How many articles weekly/monthly per media are produced?
- Who writes about Syria and what according to a country or media outlet?
- What are the main themes on Syria circulated in the international media?
- Which types of content concerning Syria circulate in the international social media?
- Does the international social media reflect the Syria related content of the mainstream media outlets?

### EXPLAINING THE SEARCH AGENTS

Boolean algorithm was used to search out relevant articles.

The number of Syria related articles is extremely high so in order to narrow them down to the most relevant ones only the article titles were taken into account.

For example in "Terrorism" search agent term Syria was combined with terms like "Islamic State", ISIS, IS, ISIL, terrorist, terrorism, Al-Nusra, Al-Qaeda, suicide bomb and ISIS recruitment (words like Syria, IS and recruit\* had to appear in the same title).

Also all the inflected forms are present, for instance Syria's and Syrian.

Same search algorithms were used in both digital and social media.

# Digital media



Explaining the search agents

# Digital media

## Boolean algorithms

### Politics and conflict

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 (war OR conflict\* OR fighting OR battle OR terror OR destruction\* OR bombing OR bombs OR attack\* OR "barrel bomb" OR strik\* OR "air-strike\*" OR airstrike\* OR weapon\* OR politic\* OR president\* OR election\* OR party OR ambassador\* OR embassy\* OR policy\* OR "local council\*" OR "political\* bureau\*" OR soc OR "syrian opposition coalition\*" OR "syrian free army\*" OR SFA\* OR regime\* OR "pro-regime\*" OR diplomacy\* OR diplomatic\* OR parliament\* OR goverment OR minister\* OR "syrian embassy")) NOT ("suicide bomb\*" OR jihad\*)

### Terrorism

((Syria OR Syrian OR Syrias OR "Syria's" OR Dara\* OR Deir OR Aleppo\* OR Hama\* OR Hasaka\* OR Homs\* OR Idlib\* OR Quneitra\* OR Latakia\* OR "Ar Raqqah\*" OR "Rif Dimash\*" OR "As-Suwayda\*" OR Damascus OR Tartus\* OR Kobani\* OR Jazira\* OR Afrin\* OR Assad\*) NEAR/10 ("Islamic State\*" OR ISIS OR IS OR ISIL OR terrorism OR Terrorism OR terroris\* OR Terroris\* OR "Al-Nusra\*" OR "Al-Sham" OR "Al-Qaeda\*" OR "Al-Qaida\*" OR "suicide bomb\*" OR recruit\* OR Daesh\*))

### Women

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 (woman OR women))

### Children

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 (child\* OR boy\* OR girl\*)) NOT boycott\*

### Kurds

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 (kurd\*))

# Digital media

---

## Boolean algorithms

### Peace

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\*) NEAR/10 (meeting\* OR \*meeting OR conference\* OR \*conference OR "cease-fire" OR negotiation\* OR \*negotiations OR peace OR ceasefire\* OR solution\* OR resolut\* OR ease OR dialogue\* OR truce OR reconciliat\* OR "track I" OR "track II" OR "track III" OR "track 1,5" OR dialogue OR "confidence building" OR CBM OR "national government\*" OR "transitional government" OR "constitution 2012" OR "constitutional declaration\*" OR "civil society\*" OR "political parties" OR "elections April\*"))

### Humanitarian aid

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 (humanitari\* OR aid OR health\* OR conference\* NEAR/10 (london\* OR munich\*) OR "Munich conference\*" OR "civil society\*"))

### Refugee

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 (refugee\* OR asylum\*))

### Al-Qaida

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad\*) NEAR/10 ("al-qaeda\*" OR "al-qaida" OR "al-nusra\*"))

### ISIS

((Syria OR Syrian OR Syrias OR "Syria's" OR Dara\* OR Deir OR Aleppo\* OR Hama\* OR Hasaka\* OR Homs\* OR Idlib\* OR Quneitra\* OR Latakia\* OR Raqqa\* OR Dimash\* OR "As-Suwayda\*" OR Damascus OR Tartus\* OR Kobani\* OR Jazira\* OR Afrin\* OR Assad\*) NEAR/10 (ISIS OR ISIL "Islamic State" OR IS OR Daesh\*))

# Digital media

---

## Boolean algorithms

### Opposition

(syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\* OR assad) NEAR/10 (oppositio\* OR "national coalition\*" OR rebel\* OR "free syria\* army\*")

### Regime

((syria OR syrian OR syrias OR "syria's" OR dara\* OR deir OR aleppo\* OR hama\* OR hasaka\* OR homs\* OR idlib\* OR quneitra\* OR latakia\* OR "ar raqqah\*" OR "rif dimash\*" OR "as-suwayda\*" OR damascus OR tartus\* OR kobani\* OR jazira\* OR afrin\*) NEAR/10 (regime\* OR Assad\*)) OR ("Syria\* Army\*" OR "syria\* govern\*" OR "syria\* minister\*" OR assad\* OR "syria\* force")



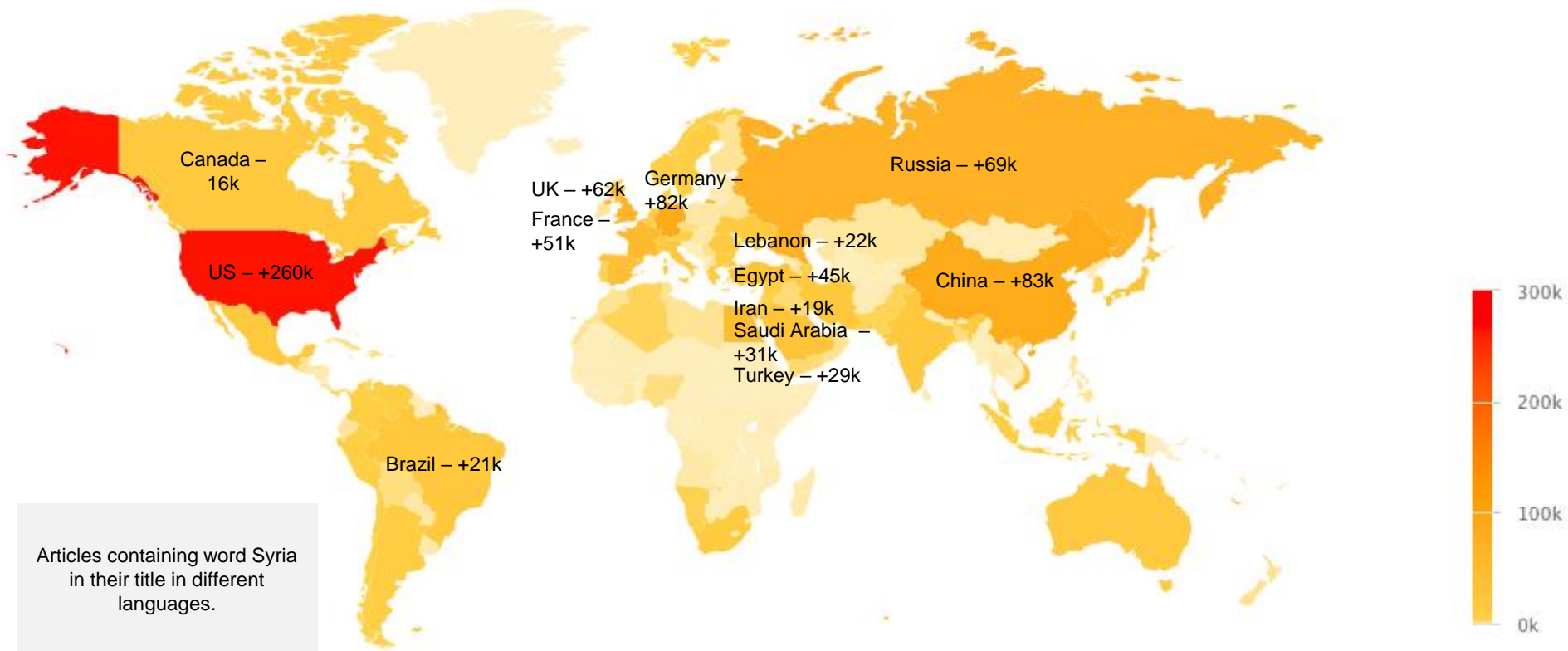
# Digital media



Search agents combined

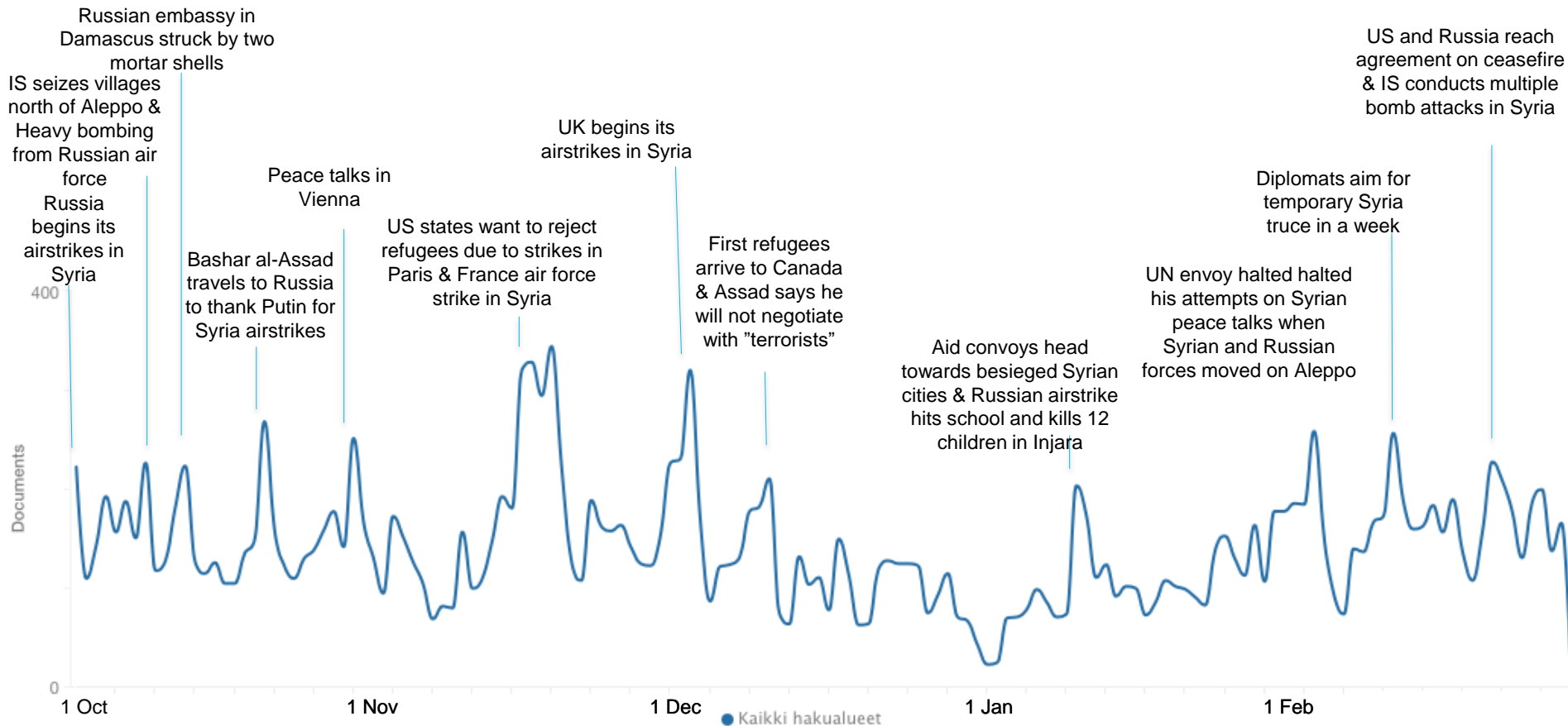
# Digital media

Heatmap 1.10.2015 – 29.2.2016



# Digital media

## Search agents combined



# Digital media

## Top sources

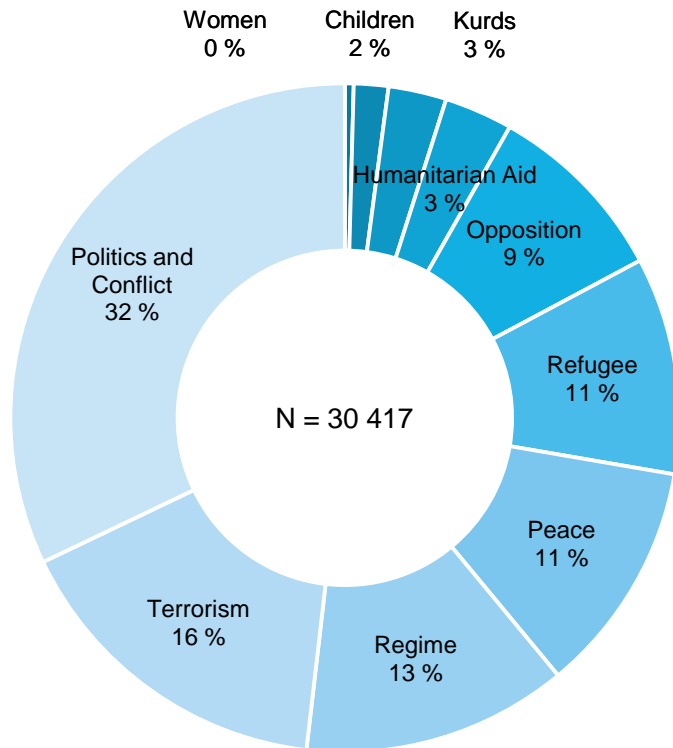
1 Reuters	1586
2 Sputnik International	1478
3 The Daily Star Lebanon	1423
4 Fars News Agency	1037
5 Daily Sabah	723
6 Xinhua News	696
7 Today's Zaman	663
8 The Washington Post	582
9 The Peninsula Qatar	580
10 The Independent	568
11 The Daily News	539
12 Stars and Stripes	427
13 BBC News	425
14 Ynetnews	424
15 Bloomberg	411
16 The Telegraph	379
17 CNN	366
18 The Guardian	355
19 The Times of Israel	344
20 Arutz Sheva	331

21 The Times of india	327
22 The Denver Post	327
23 The Jordan Times	308
24 Russia Today	307
25 Assyrian International News Agency	297
26 Syrian Arab News Agency	289
27 Haaretz News	288
28 Al Jazeera	258
29 Gulf Times	228
30 The Irish Times	219
31 Arab News	213
32 Deutsche Welle	194
33 Time Magazine	188
34 The Epoch Times	185
35 Daily News and Analysis	165
36 The Daily Telegraph	164
37 France 24	147
38 Hindustan Times	133
39 The Hindu	133
40 Shanghai Daily	130

- Sources selected for the analysis:
  - Major national English language media outlets from selected countries
- Total amount of medias followed was 292
- AFP and The New York Times are not included in this analysis due to their media monitoring restrictions

# Digital media

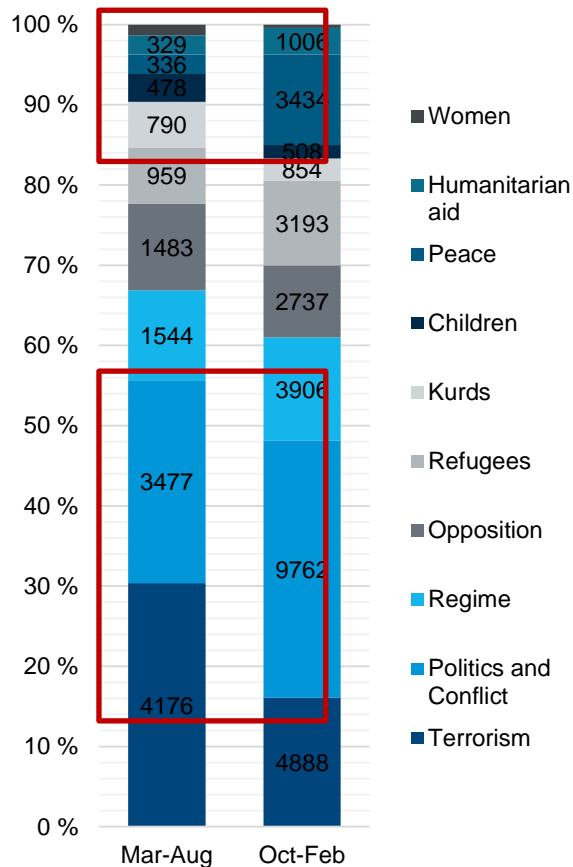
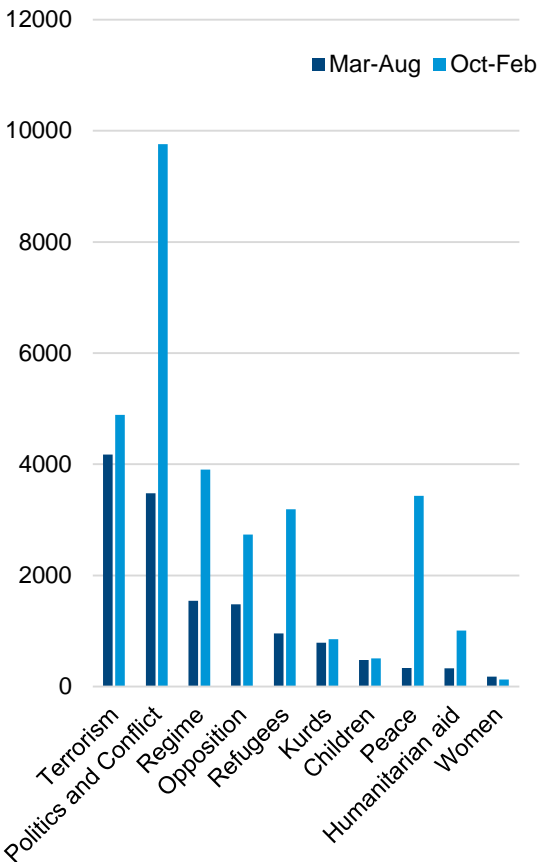
## Search agents share of voice



- Total amount of articles was 30 417. Out of these articles, 21 970 were unique. This means that 8 447 articles appeared in more than one search agent.
- Politics and conflict had had the biggest share of media coverage getting 9 762 hits during the period of analysis.
- After Politics and conflict came Terrorism with 4 888 hits, Regime with 3906 hits and Peace with 3 457 hits.
- Politics, conflict and Terrorism had almost half of all the media coverage, 48 percent and 14 650 hits.

# Digital media

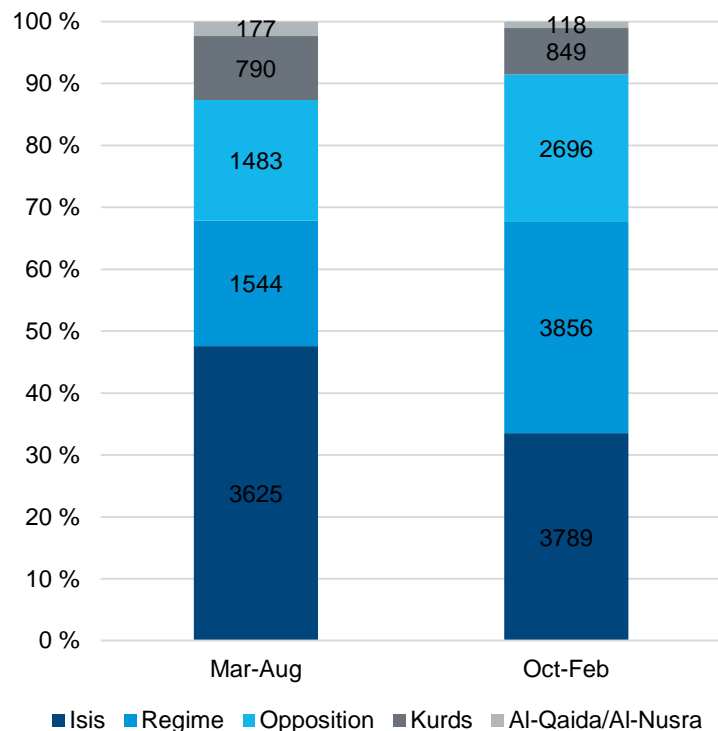
## Search agents share of voice



- Almost all the search agents received more hits in the current analysis compared to the previous analysis. However, since Politics and conflict search agent was so dominant, visibility of many search agents actually decreased by percentage.
- By article count, Politics and conflict grew the most, receiving over 6 000 hits more in the current analysis.
- By percentage, Peace search agent grew the most and received over 1 000 percent more coverage than in the last analysis.

# Digital media

## Counterparts



### ISIS (n=3 789)

Top sources: 1. Sputnik international (437 hits), 2. Fars News Agency (329 hits), 3. Daily Star Lebanon (292 hits), 4. Reuters (260 hits), Xinhua News (118 hits).

### REGIME (n=3 856)

Top sources: 1. Sputnik international (360 hits), 2. Fars News Agency (323 hits), 3. Reuters (288 hits), 4. The Daily Star Lebanon (246 hits), Daily Sabah (178 hits).

### OPPOSITION (n=2 696)

Top sources: 1. Reuters (329 hits), 2. The Daily Star Lebanon (288 hits), 3. Sputnik International (194 hits), 4. Xinhua News (122 hits), 5 The Peninsula Qatar (107 hits).

### KURDS (n=790)

Top sources: 1. Today's Zaman (90 hits), 2. The Daily Star Lebanon (83 hits), 3. Reuters (78 hits), 4. Assyrian International News Agency (76 hits), 5. The Peninsula Qatar (49 hits).

### AL-NUSRA / AL-QAIDA (n=177)

Top sources: 1. Fars News Agency (27 hits), 2. Sputnik International (19 hits), 3. Today's Zaman (6 hits), 4 The Independent (5 hits), 5. The Times of Israel (5 hits).

# Digital media



Content of the search agents

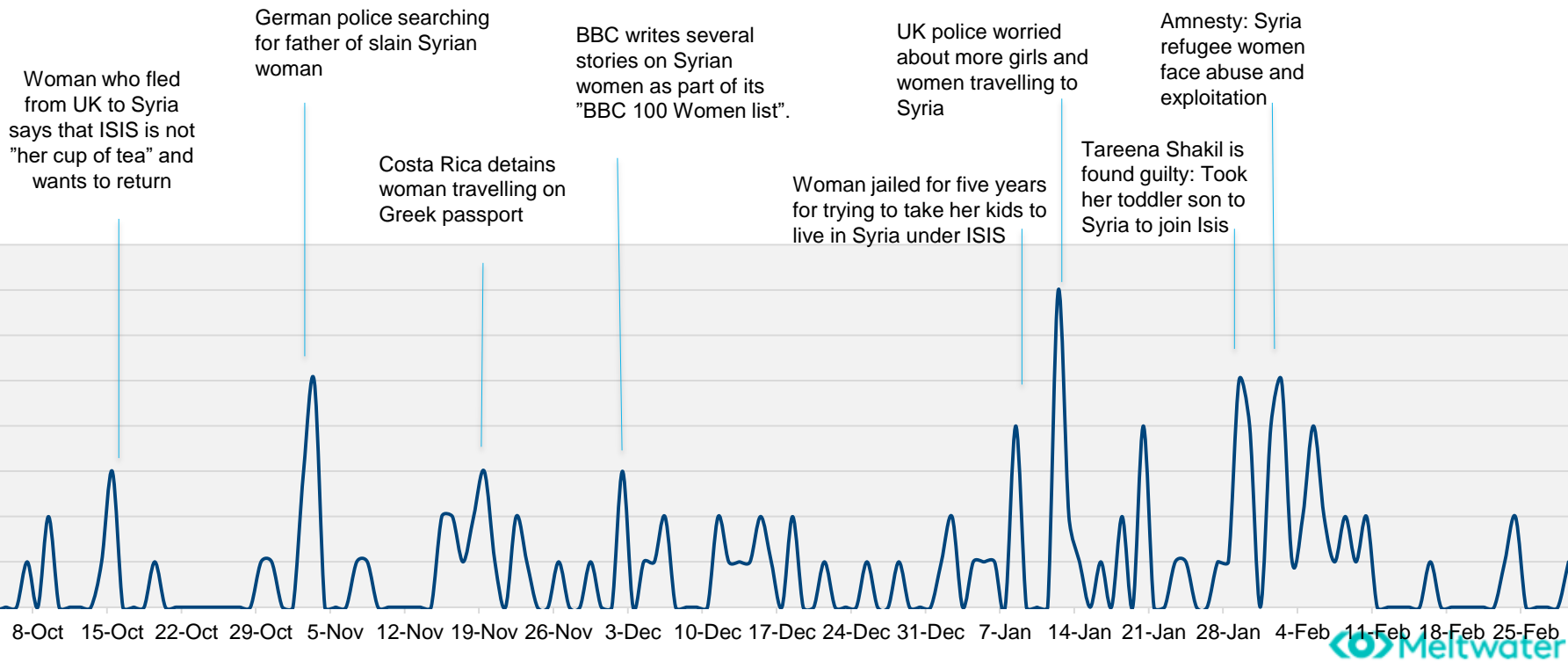


# Women

Digital media

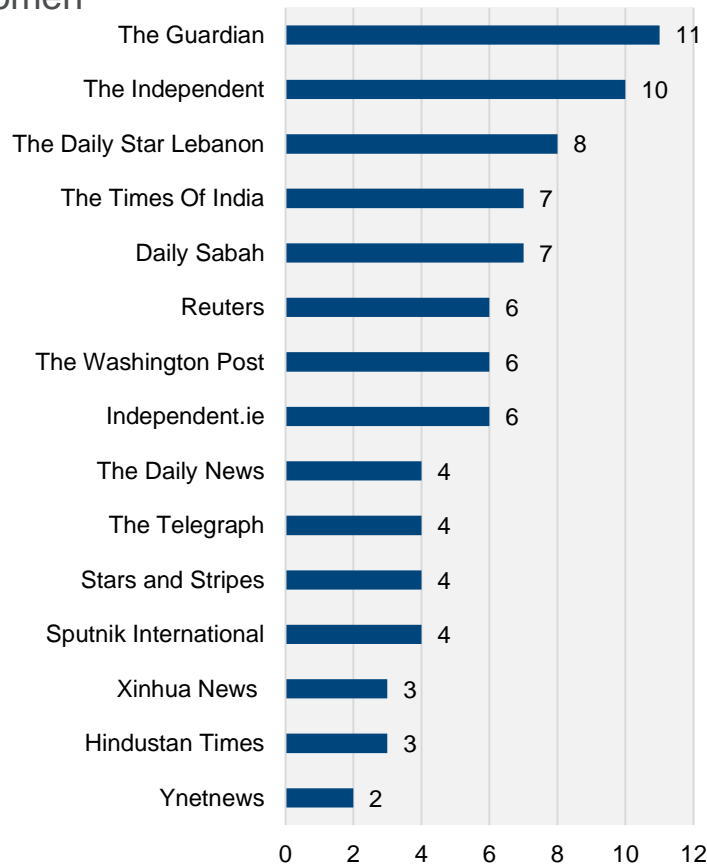
# Digital media

Women (n=129)



# Digital media

## Women



- As in the previous analysis, the major news spikes came from articles about women trying to get to Syria, out of Syria or join IS.
- A total of 129 articles were published during the period of analysis, compared to 181 articles published in the previous analysis.
- The Guardian had the most articles about Syrian women. The Independent came right behind with 10 articles. The situation didn't change a lot, since in the last analysis The Independent had the most articles followed by The Guardian.
- As in the previous analysis British media appeared to be most interested in the situation of Syrian women. Furthermore, The Guardian and The Independent had clearly the most shares in social media, often getting thousands of shares per article (see next slide). This indicates that their readership is more engaged compared to other media outlets.

# Digital media

## Women

theguardian

The Syria peace talks would have a better chance with one key addition: women

Peace is more likely to prevail and hold if women are fully involved in building it



Women are the first to be harmed in many conflicts, and they're the last to be offered input into peace talks. Photograph: Stringer/Reuters

As the Syrian regime, backed by Russian airstrikes, ramped up the siege on Aleppo early this week, UN-led peace talks between the Syrian government and opposition leaders ground to a halt in Geneva on Wednesday.

While the US secretary of state, John Kerry, has described the meetings as the best chance to "chart a course out of hell", the peace process unraveling surprised few - least of all, the women of Syria who have been largely excluded from each and every stage of peace negotiations.

< Shares 5,742  
Comments 87

theguardian

The Syrian women fighting to save their city

A documentary maker from Aleppo has filmed the story of female activists facing the twin enemies of Assad and Isis



Zaina Erhaim poses for a photo before receiving the 2015 Peter Mackler award at the National Press Club in Washington in October 2015. Photograph: Andrew Caballero-Reynolds

Who would want to be a woman in Aleppo? The female population of Syria's second city find themselves threatened both by the murderous misogynists of Islamic State (Isis) and the Russian allies of the president, Bashar al-Assad, whose bombing raids mean that now even bad weather offers the city no respite.

< Shares 22,844  
Comments 291



INDEPENDENT

Voices

*This is the brutal effect of war on the women of Syria*

Displacement, sexual assault, kidnap, house arrest and political exclusion are all daily occurrences for Syria's female population

Hibaq Osman | @el\_karama | Friday 29 January 2016 | 21 comments

f t e 690 shares



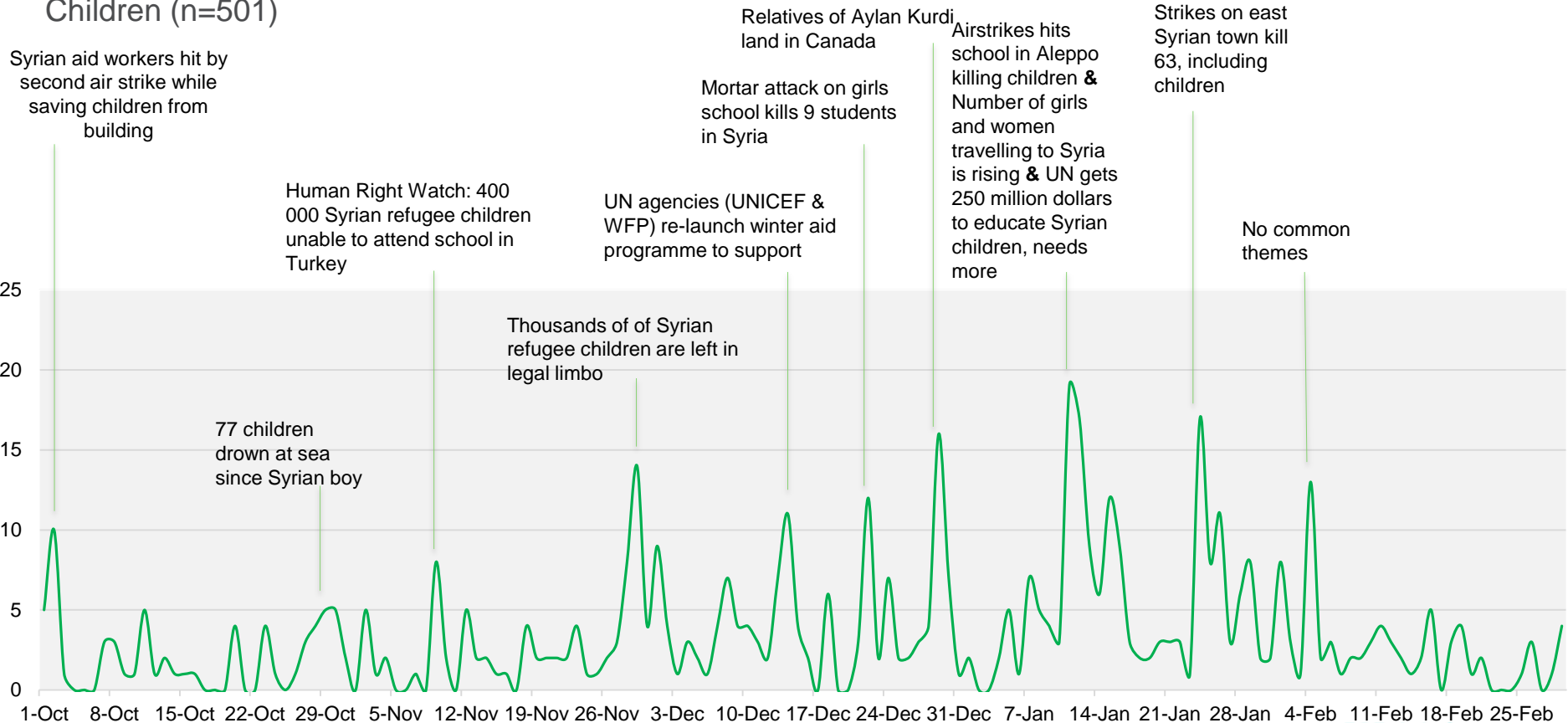
Residents talk to reporters in the besieged town of Madaya, northwest of Damascus, Syria AP

# Children

Digital media

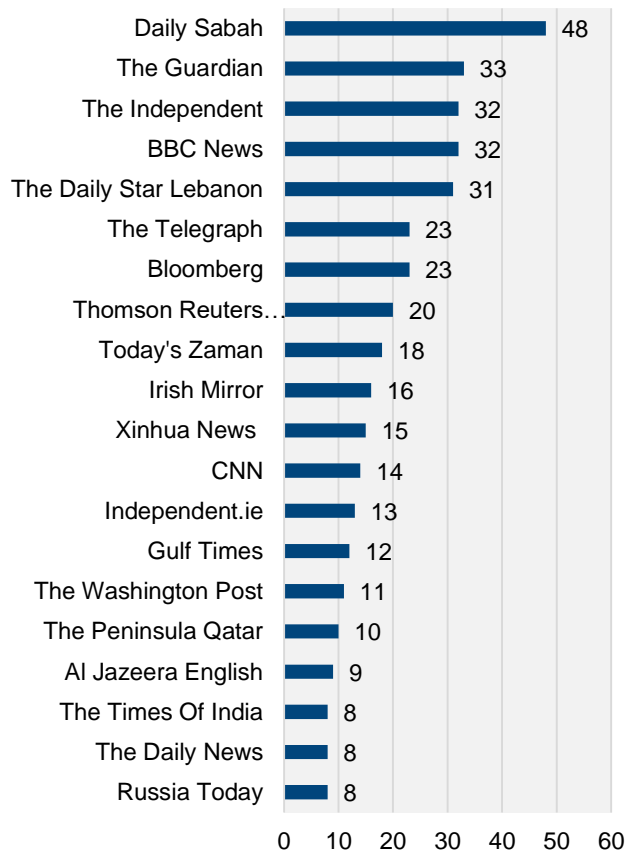
# Digital media

Children (n=501)



# Digital media

## Children



- A total of 501 articles was published during the period of analysis, compared to the 478 articles in the previous analysis.
- The biggest media spike came on 11.1.2016, when (supposedly) Russia made an air strike on a Syrian school killing children (8 or 12 depending on the source).
- There were 43 articles mentioning the Russian airstrikes killing children in Syria, in many cases referring to reports published by the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, not being able to verify its information by an independent source. Daily Sabah was the most active source regarding this topic, publishing 10 articles.
- Other themes in search agent:
  - The family of Aylan Kurdi was followed very closely by the media. Articles came out on several occasions reporting on the family's journey to Canada (receiving asylum, buying plane tickets, the father commenting on CH drawings etc.). In addition, there were some articles about other refugee children drowning.
  - Media condemned the drawings made by Charlie Hebdo as racist when CH released caricatures of the drowned Syrian boy portrayed as a pervert in Germany.
  - Media outlets were writing stories about single refugee families starting new lives in various countries. These articles sparked conversation in "comments" sections below articles. Some people were feeling happy for the families, others claimed the articles to be a part of liberal propaganda.
  - Media reported on several occasions, that 400 000 Syrian children aren't able to attend school in Turkey. These articles also often mentioned, that many children are working in sweatshops and are being forced into marriage.



# Digital media

## Children



### Syria children killed as Russian missile hits school

Activists say 12 children among 15 killed in Aleppo province, with the death toll likely to rise.

11 Jan 2016 15:11 GMT | War & Conflict, Middle East, Syrian crisis, Syria



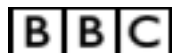
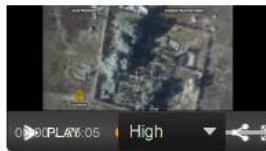
The death toll is expected to rise as several of those who survived have serious injuries [Al Jazeera]

At least 15 people have been killed, including 12 children, after a Russian warplane bombed a school in Syria's Aleppo province, activists said.

The death toll from Monday's strike in Ain Jara, 15km north of Aleppo city, was expected to go up as some of the survivors died of their injuries, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

An Al Jazeera correspondent at the scene said the school was in territory controlled by Syrian opposition groups and that rescuers were continuing to search for survivors in the rubble.

The attack is the latest deadly incident blamed on the



### Alan Kurdi's relatives arrive in Canada as refugees

28 December 2015 | US & Canada



Tima Kurdi, left, welcomed her brother and his family at Vancouver airport

Relatives of Syrian boy Alan Kurdi, whose drowning off the coast of Turkey triggered an international outcry, have arrived in Canada as refugees.

The boy's uncle Mohammed Kurdi, his wife and five children landed in Vancouver where they had an emotional reunion with Alan's aunt Tima.

The three-year-old died with his mother and brother trying to reach Greece.

### Migrant crisis

EU migration: Crisis in seven charts

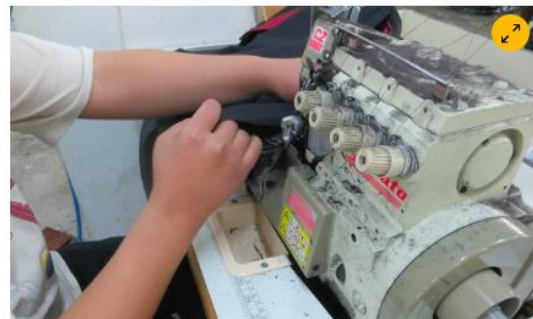
The tricky business of solving Europe's migrant crisis

Migrant crisis: Have EU promises been kept?

### theguardian

### Hidden child labour: how Syrian refugees in Turkey are supplying Europe with fast fashion

Thousands of Syrian refugees are working illegally in the Turkish garment industry where child labour, low wages and poor conditions are common



A 12-year-old Syrian textile worker in a Turkish factory. Photograph: Frederik Johansson

Bathed in fluorescent lights, the basement room in an Istanbul suburb is completely white. Between mountains of white fabric, Shukri carries clothing to and from the sewing stations and packs white jumpers in boxes. He is clenching a pair of scissors between his teeth looking every bit the seasoned worker, although he is only 12 years old.

On this weekday morning most Turkish children are in school, but this Syrian boy is working. He is making clothing mainly destined for Europe. He works with his uncle from Qamishli in Syria, who runs a week earning 600 Turkish Lira here because of work, "in Syria."

< Shares  
4,806

Comments  
55



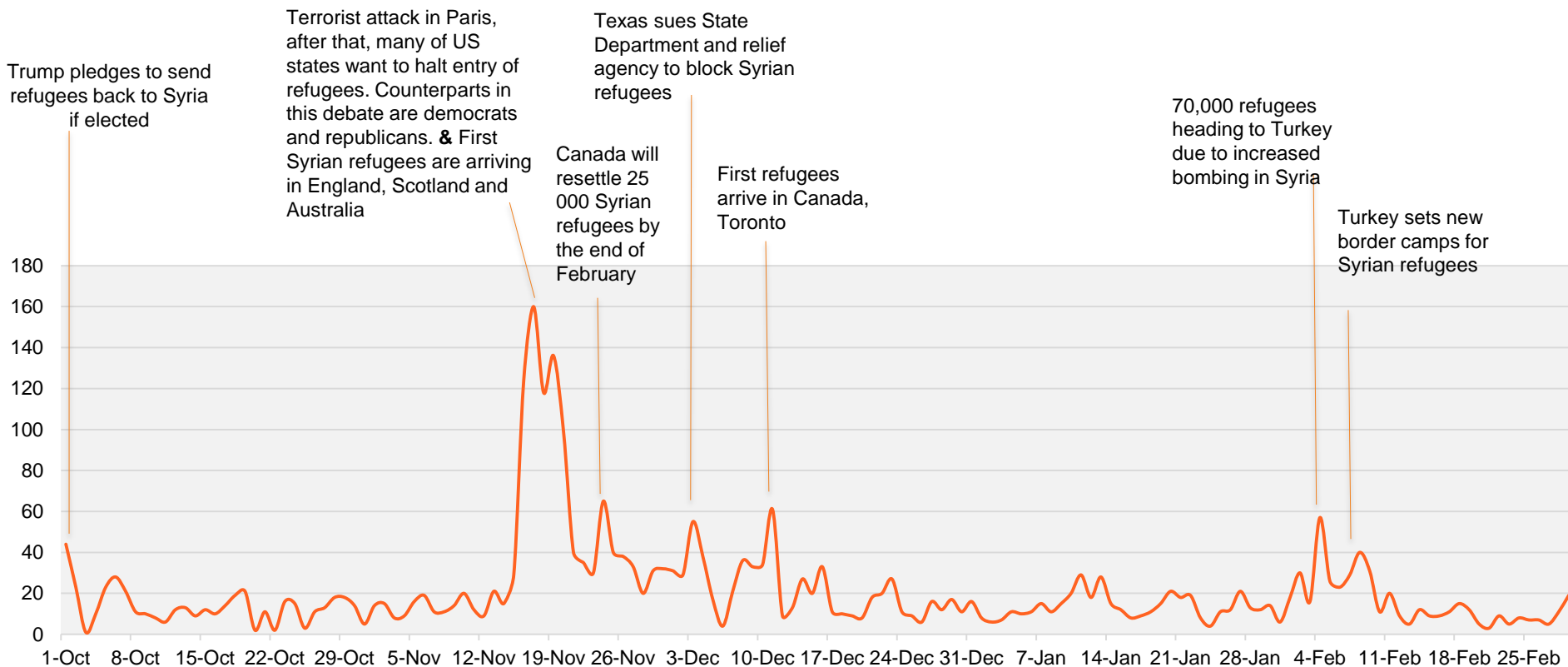


# Refugees

Digital media

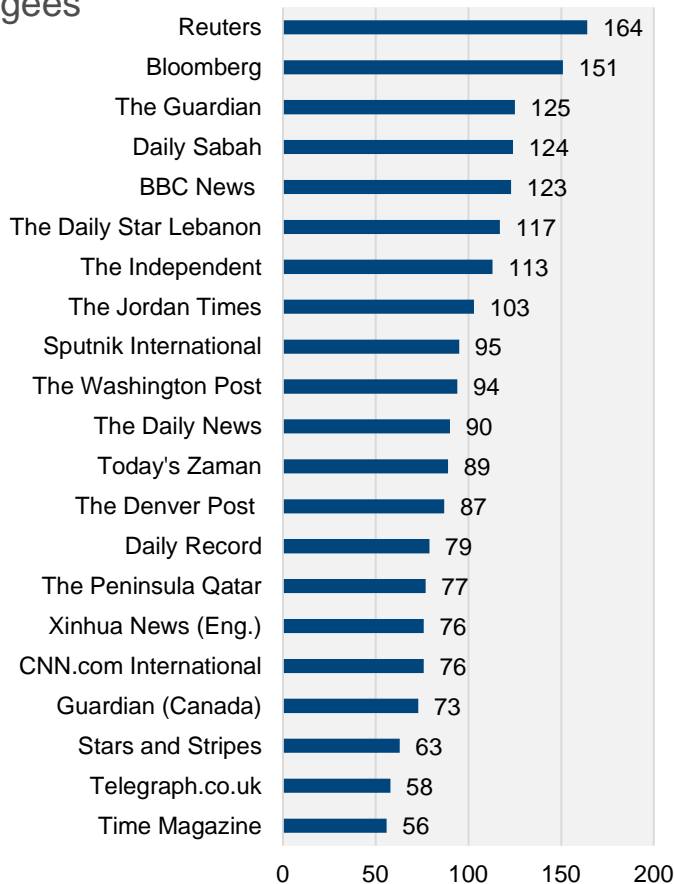
# Digital media

## Refugees (n=3216)



# Digital media

## Refugees



- A total of 3216 articles was published during the period of analysis, compared to 959 articles in the previous analysis.
- The biggest spike came after the terrorist attacks in Paris in November. The media wrote about the debate in US on refugees. GOP candidates, parties and influencers argued whether US should or should not accept any refugees.
- Other major themes in search agent:
  - Celebrities raising funds or donating money to refugees (Sasha Cohen Edward Norton etc.)
  - Countries or organizations donating money to refugees (Japan, US, IKEA etc.)
  - Polls on how people in different countries are reacting to refugees
  - Confrontation between Russian international media and western media: Sputnik International had 14 articles in the previous analysis and 95 articles in the current one. The Russian intervention is no doubt affecting the article count. For example, Sputnik international had articles with titles such as “Real Refugees' Are Still Near Syria, While Economic Migrants Rush Into EU”, “Syria Refugees Praise Russian Airstrikes, Consider Returning” and “Over 20% of Refugees to EU May Have Links to ISIL – Syrian Envoy to India”. On the other side, western media was writing on many occasions, that the Russian strikes are worsening the Syrian refugee crisis and forcing people to flee their homes.
  - Articles covering lives of refugees in camps or in countries they received asylum in.
- Syrian Arab News Agency had only 5 articles during the time span of the analysis.
- Fars News Agency published 9 articles during the time span of the analysis.

# Digital media

## Refugees



Journalist Christian Saarländer from the Austrian Contra Magazin called Russia's military operation in Syria a "blessing" and blamed German media for its propaganda war against Russia.

German media publishes one-sided reports about Russia, spreading propaganda lies about the country and its activities in Syria, the journalist wrote.

Recently, some media sources accused Russia of bombing a hospital in Syria without any proof, the author wrote, adding that Western journalists actually rarely make live reports from the spot and come to conclusions sitting in the office.

At the same time, Saarländer argued, more and more videos are being uploaded, documenting successful Russian airstrikes in Syria. Even US generals are praising Russia's armed forces, as the news agency PressTV reported from neighboring Iran.

The US portal "Veterans Today" wrote, citing the Iranian Fars News Agency (FNA), that more than 800,000 refugees from Syria are expected to return to their homeland thanks to the Russian military operation.



## THE DENVER POST

### Wary governors halt, question plan to accept Syrian refugees

The Associated Press

POSTED: 11/16/2015 08:52:36 AM MST | UPDATED: 4 MONTHS AGO

[ADD A COMMENT](#)

DETROIT (AP) — Several U.S. governors are threatening to halt efforts to allow Syrian refugees into their states in the aftermath of the coordinated attacks in Paris, though immigration experts say under the Refugee Act of 1980 governors cannot legally block refugees from settling in their communities.

Here's a look at where some state governors stand, and the number (in parentheses) of Syrian refugees who have arrived in each state since Jan. 1, according to the U.S. State Department's Refugee Processing Center:

ALABAMA (0)

Republican Gov. Robert Bentley says he'll refuse Syrian refugees relocating to the state. He issued a news release Sunday, saying: "I will not stand complicit to a policy that places the citizens of Alabama in harm's way."

ALASKA (0)

The oil-dependent state is grappling with an estimated budget deficit of \$3.5 billion amid low oil prices, and Gov. Bill Walker, a Republican turned independent, "has been focused on solving the state's fiscal challenges," spokeswoman Katie Marquette said by email Monday. She said Walker has not given any consideration to trying to stop Syrian refugees from settling in the state.

ARIZONA (153)

Gov. Doug Ducey is calling for an immediate halt to the placement of any new refugees from the Middle East. Ducey made it clear that the state is within its legal rights to do so, saying that he is invoking the state's right under federal law to immediately consult with U.S. officials on any new refugee placements. He also wants Congress to change the law to give states more oversight over refugee placement. Ducey says national leaders must react to protect its citizens.



## theguardian

### Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher give £670,000 to help Syrian refugees

The showbiz couple are giving half the money to Save the Children and the other half to the International Rescue Committee

● [How you can help by donating to the Guardian's refugee appeal](#)



★ Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher's gift was a 'great expression of humanity'. Photograph: Action Press/REX/Shutterstock

The comedian [Sacha Baron Cohen](#) and actor [Isla Fisher](#) are donating £670,000 to help Syrian refugees, the charities receiving the money have said.

The couple are giving half the money to Save the Children to pay for measles vaccinations for children in northern Syria.

They are donating the other half to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to help refugees in Syria and neighbouring countries, particularly women and children, with health care, shelter and sanitation.

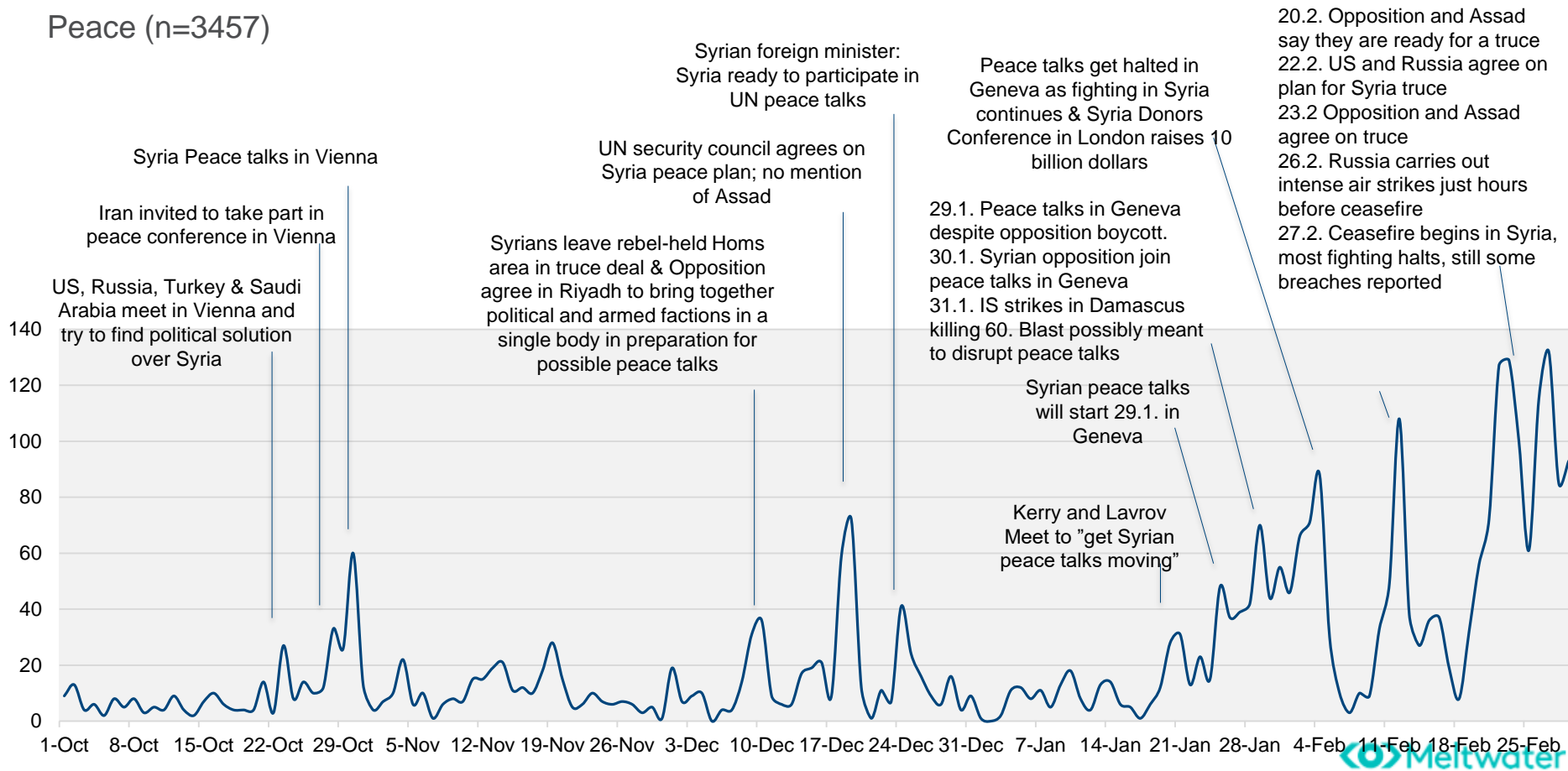
More than four million refugees have fled conflict in Syria for the relative safety of the neighbouring countries, according to the United Nations.

# Peace

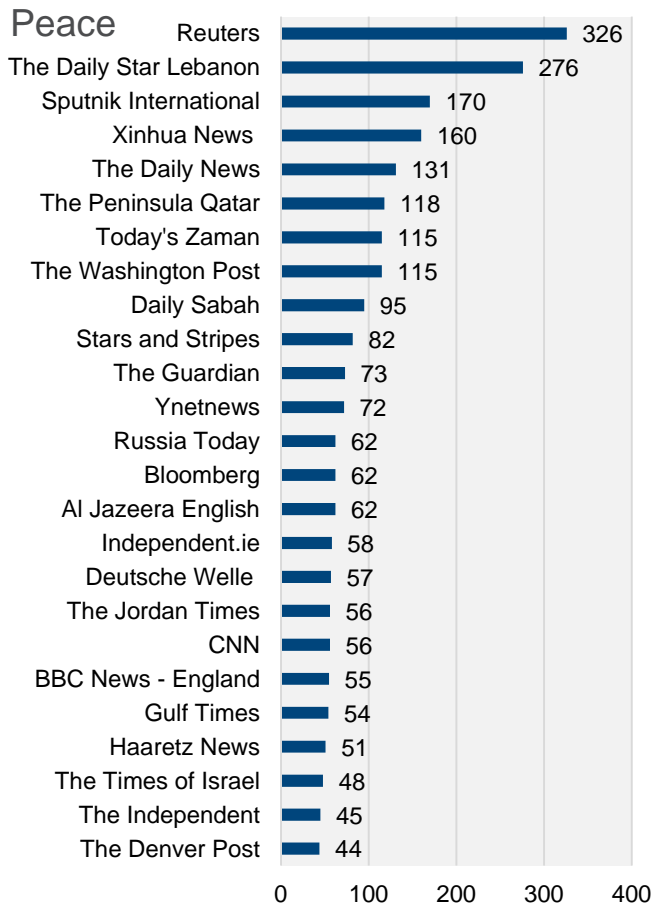
Digital media

# Digital media

Peace (n=3457)

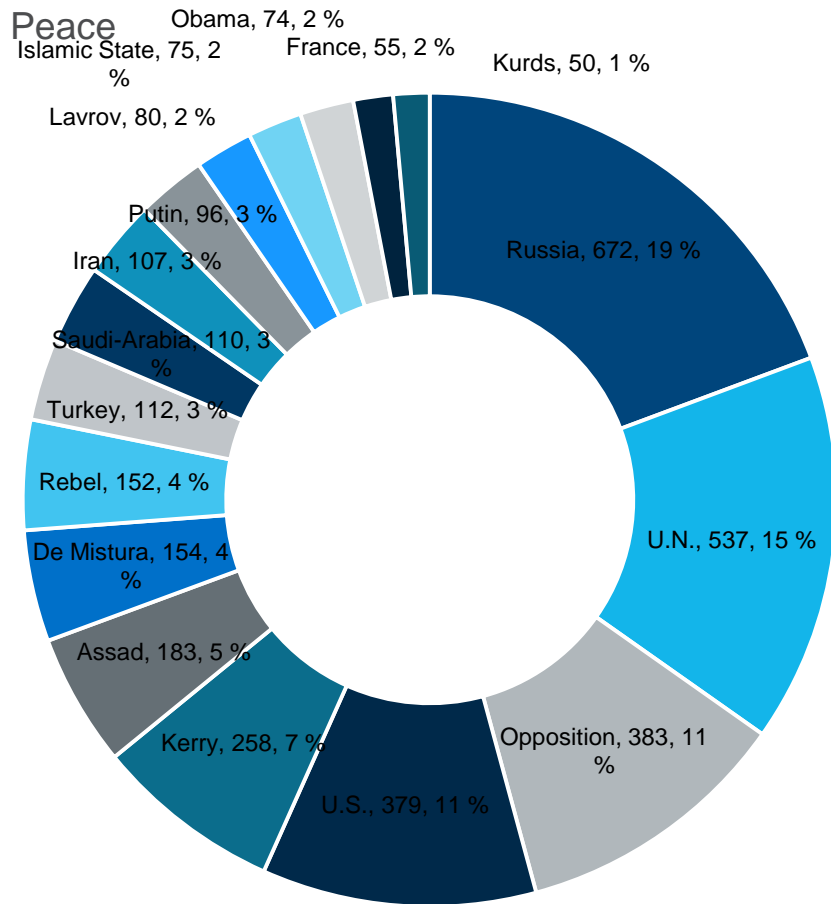


# Digital media



- A total of 3 457 articles was published during the period of analysis, compared to 336 articles in previous the analysis. The high increase in publicity was partly due to new keywords that were added for this follow-up analysis. However, even with the keywords that were used in the previous analysis, search agent generated over 2 200 articles.
- The biggest news spike came from the Syrian peace negotiations held in Geneva in late January. The opposition missing the first day of the negotiations gained a lot of publicity. Also, IS strikes during the negotiations were widely noticed.
- Reuters had the most articles in the current search agent, writing constantly on progress made during the peace negotiations, sometimes publishing up to 5-7 articles per day.
- Sputnik International continued criticising U.S. actions on Syria as in the previous analysis.
- Even though ceasefire was established in late February, the media was constantly covering violations claimed by the regime and the opposition.
- Syrian Arab News Agency had only 36 articles and Fars news agency had only 41 articles. This is quite interesting, since both media outlets were in the top 5 in the previous analysis. In fact, SANA was the top media with 56 hits followed by Reuters with only 27 hits.

# Digital media



- The graph displays the occurrence of the words in article titles.
- Russia, U.N., Opposition and U.S. were seen as the key players.
- John Kerry had the most visibility as an individual, getting more publicity than Assad, De Mistura, Putin, Lavrov, Obama.
- Russia had almost twice as much publicity than US, although as mentioned above, presence of US was personified by Kerry.
- Other popular key words were Peace (1 273 hits), Ceasefire (904 hits), Truce (463 hits), solution (360 hits) Geneva (155 hits) and Vienna (86 hits).



# Digital media

## Peace in title and body text

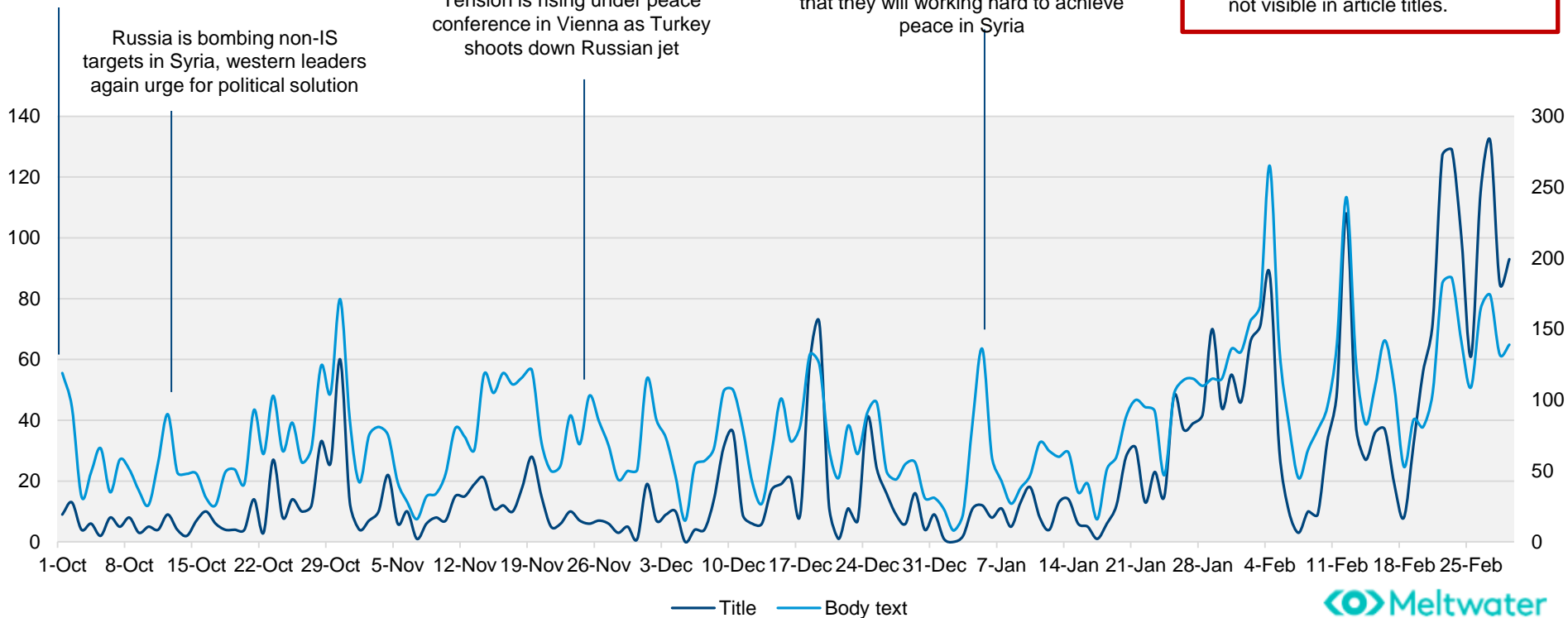
Russia begins air strikes in Syria, U.N. and western countries urge for political solution

Russia is bombing non-IS targets in Syria, western leaders again urge for political solution

Tension is rising under peace conference in Vienna as Turkey shoots down Russian jet

Iranian protesters attack embassy of Saudi Arabia in Tehran but despite tension both countries are reassuring that they will working hard to achieve peace in Syria

- **Title** search agent follows the axis on the left and **body text** follows the axis on the right.
- The graph explains spikes on Syria peace talks in body text, that are not visible in article titles.



# Digital media

## Peace



OPINION 21:20 23.10.2015 (updated 22:13 23.10.2015) Get short URL 5 1004 19 0

Although the American political establishment puts the blame for the Syrian crisis on Bashar al-Assad and on Russian President Vladimir Putin for inflaming the conflict, Washington's decision-makers should take a long hard look in the mirror, US researcher Jonathan Marshall notes.

The actual history of the Syrian crisis indicates that Washington, obsessed with a Syrian regime change, missed plenty of opportunities for peace, US independent researcher Jonathan Marshall claims.

The researcher points to the fact that a group of 55 House Democrats sent a letter to US President Barack Obama, urging him to break the vicious cycle of military escalation in Syria.

## The Telegraph

All sides report Syria ceasefire breaches as UN prepares to deliver aid

Warplanes bomb villages in north of the country on second day of fragile truce, according to activists, as aid officials announce plan to send food and medicine to 154,000 people

f 65 t 0 p 0 in 0 65 Email



A lone figure walks through Homs, a city in ruins after almost five years of conflict. Photo: AP



By Rob Crilly, New York  
11:14PM GMT 28 Feb 2016

Follow 25.1K followers

Anti-government forces and Russia traded accusations of ceasefire breaches in Syria during the second day of a shaky truce.

Russian planes attacked several sites in northern Syria, according to activists.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said it was planning to use the lull in fighting to deliver aid to 154,000 Syrians in besieged areas during the next five days.



SYRIA

## Russia and US hail Syria ceasefire and look towards peace talks

Russia's foreign minister and his US counterpart have hailed the Syria ceasefire. German Foreign Minister Steinmeier said he too was hopeful of progress towards peace.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry have welcomed "the implementation of the ceasefire in Syria," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

In a telephone call the ministers "also discussed the outlook for resuming the peace negotiation process in the framework of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG)," the ministry added.



Watch video

01:29

Syria: Early morning calm as ceasefire begins

Both sides recognised the "particular importance" of working together as co-chairs of the 17-nation ISSG. The US State Department spokesman John Kirby said Kerry had welcomed the "constructive engagement" among members of the ISSG, "as parties continue to closely monitor and assess reports from the field."

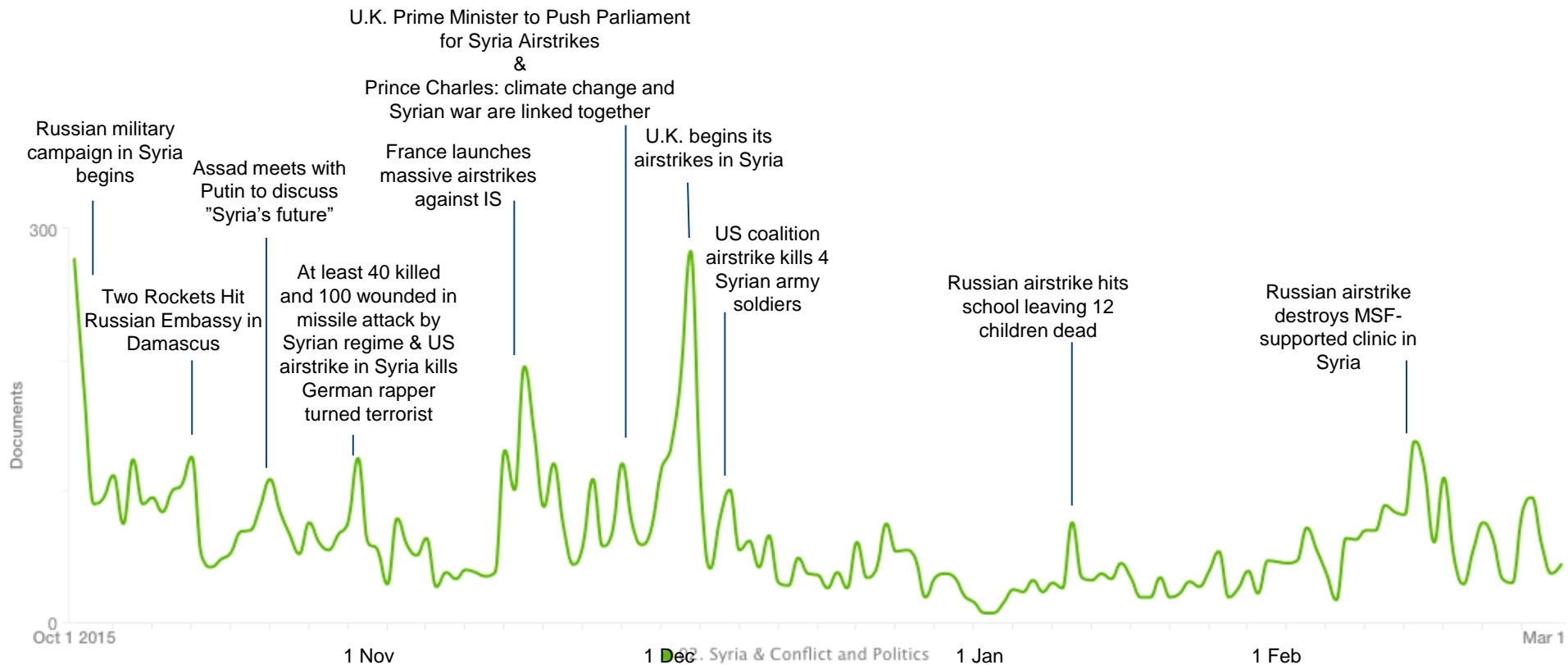
In the telephone call, "They

# Politics and conflict

Digital media

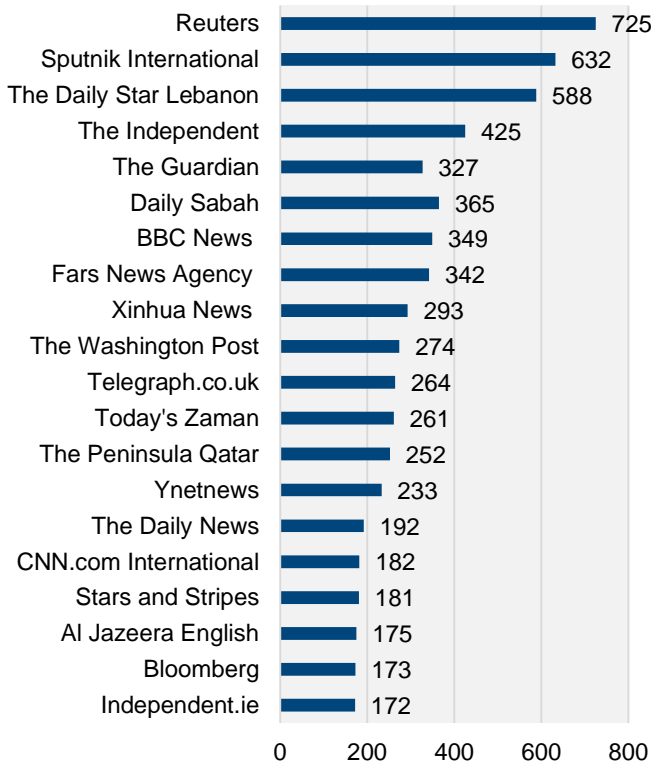
# Digital media

Politics and conflict (n=9 807)



# Digital media

## Politics and conflict



- A total of 9 807 articles were published during the time span of the analysis, compared to 3 377 articles in the previous analysis (1 267 articles in Politics and 2 110 articles in Conflict).
- Search agents "Politics" and "Conflict" were separate in the previous analysis but had to be merged in the current analysis since the themes and articles in them were constantly overlapping.
- The main reason why search agents had so many overlapping articles was the Russian military intervention in the Syrian conflict.
- Media was covering the Russian intervention very closely. For example, the keyword "air strike" was mentioned in over 1 200 article titles and all of these articles were placed in the "Conflict" search agent. The majority of the articles covered the air strikes made by Russia.
- On the other hand, the Russian intervention had a lot of publicity in the "Politics" search agent. Politicians in different countries were widely discussing different aspects of the Russian military campaign, for example "political solution" and "consequences".
- Sputnik International was covering Russia's presence in Syria very closely and wrote on what was happening from the Russian viewpoint.
- Still, the biggest spike came on the 3rd of December when UK announced that it will be commencing airstrikes in Syria.
- In the previous analysis, all the top media outlets were "regional" apart from Reuters and Sputnik International. In the current analysis, western media was more active and interested in conflict and politics since outlets like The Independent, BBC and The Washington Post also made it to the top 10.



# Digital media

## Politics and conflict

**The Peninsula**  
QATAR'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

### Russia is striking same targets in Syria as US: Lavrov

October 02, 2015 - 12:00:00 am



UNITED NATIONS: Russia is striking the same Islamic State and Al-Nusra front targets in Syria as the United States, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Thursday, after reports its jets hit moderate rebels.

"We see eye to eye with the coalition on this one," Lavrov told a news conference at UN headquarters. "We have the same approach: It's ISIL, Al-Nusra and other terrorist groups."

Asked whether it was true that the United States and Russia were on the same page, US Secretary of State John Kerry said: "Well, in concept, but we are not yet where we need to be."

Kerry, who met Lavrov at the United Nations on Wednesday, said US and Russian officials were still engaged in talks "to guarantee safety and security and division of responsibility."

Russia launched air attacks in war-torn Syria on Wednesday, striking areas held by opponents of Bashar al-Assad's regime in the central provinces of Homs and Hama.

On Thursday, it pounded targets again in Hama and Idlib in the northwest.

The United States and France expressed doubts that Moscow was targeting the Islamic State group, but Lavrov insisted there was no disagreement with the US-led coalition on who to fight.

Kerry told the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday that Washington would have "grave concern" if it learned Russia had bombed Assad's opponents rather than IS extremists.

The Russian minister dismissed claims by US Senator John McCain that Russian warplanes hit US-backed rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad's forces.

Asked about the report, Lavrov said: "You state this as a fact. Do you know something that I don't?"



**INDEPENDENT**

News > World > Middle East

### Russia in Syria: Russian warplanes 'attack CIA-backed Syrian rebel groups' in second day of bombing

Earlier today, John McCain confirmed that US-backed rebels had been attacked by Russia

Doug Bolton | @DougBolton | Thursday 1 October 2015 | 4 comments



As **more nations enter the fray in Syria** and the conflict becomes even more chaotic, two Russian airstrikes have reportedly hit a training camp operated by a Syrian rebel group that received military training and weapons from the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The attack, against a training camp run by the Liqa Suqour al-Jabal group, part of the loosely-knit Free Syrian Army (FSA), is believed to be the third Russian air raid against a rebel group that has received support from President Bashar al-Assad's foreign enemies.



**ALJAZEERA**

WAR & CONFLICT

### UK launches air strikes on ISIL targets in Syria

British jets carry out air raids just hours after parliament passes motion authorising use of force against group.

03 Dec 2015 12:03 GMT | War & Conflict, Middle East, Syria, United Kingdom



Warplanes struck ISIL just hours after parliament approved Cameron's motion [File:RAF/EPA]

British fighter planes have struck suspected ISIL targets in Syria, just hours after MPs approved a motion authorising the use of military force against the group.

A British Ministry of Defence spokesman confirmed to Al Jazeera that Tornado jets had returned to base after conducting combat missions against the group on Thursday.

In a statement released later on Thursday, the ministry said the raids were conducted in coordination with aircraft from allied states, striking ISIL oil interests.

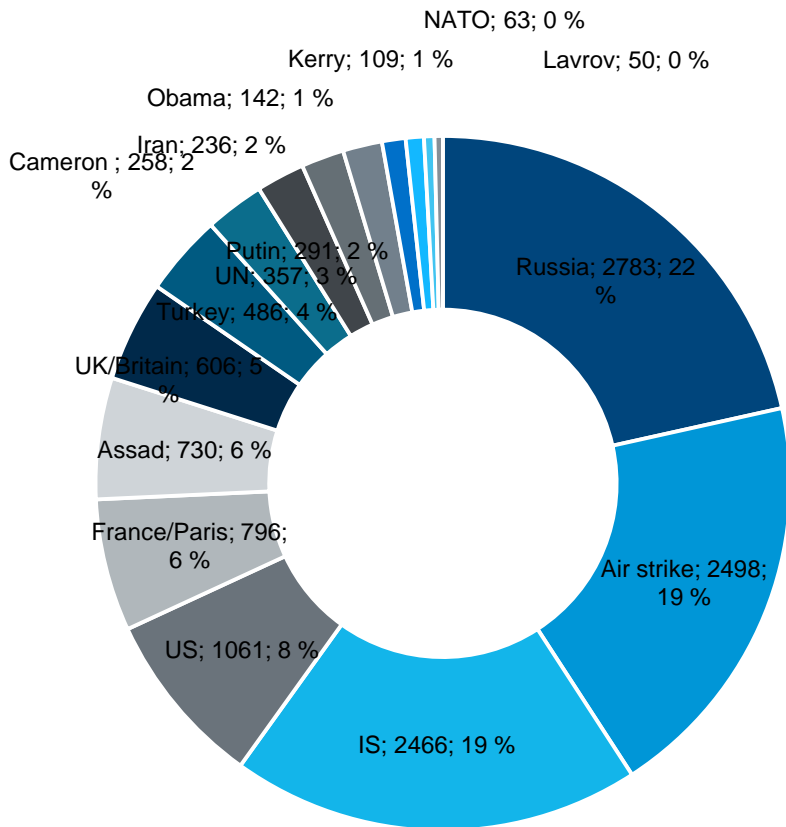
The jets "employed Paveway IV guided bombs to conduct strikes against six targets within the extensive oilfield at Omar, 35 miles (56km) inside Syria's eastern border with Iraq," the statement said.

OPINION: 7/7 Survivor: Why we should not bomb Syria

The strikes come just hours after UK Prime Minister David Cameron successfully passed a motion authorising strikes in Syria, with 397 MPs voting in favour, and 223 voting against.

# Digital media

## Politics and conflict



- The graph displays occurrence of the words in article titles. Keyword Syria was left out from the graph for obvious reasons.
- Russia, IS (also ISIL, ISIS, Islamic State and Daesh are taken into account), US and France had the most mentions in titles.
- Keywords reveal that the main themes in search agent were Russia and its airstrikes.
- Assad was most visible individual in the search agent followed by Putin, Cameron, Obama, Kerry and Lavrov.

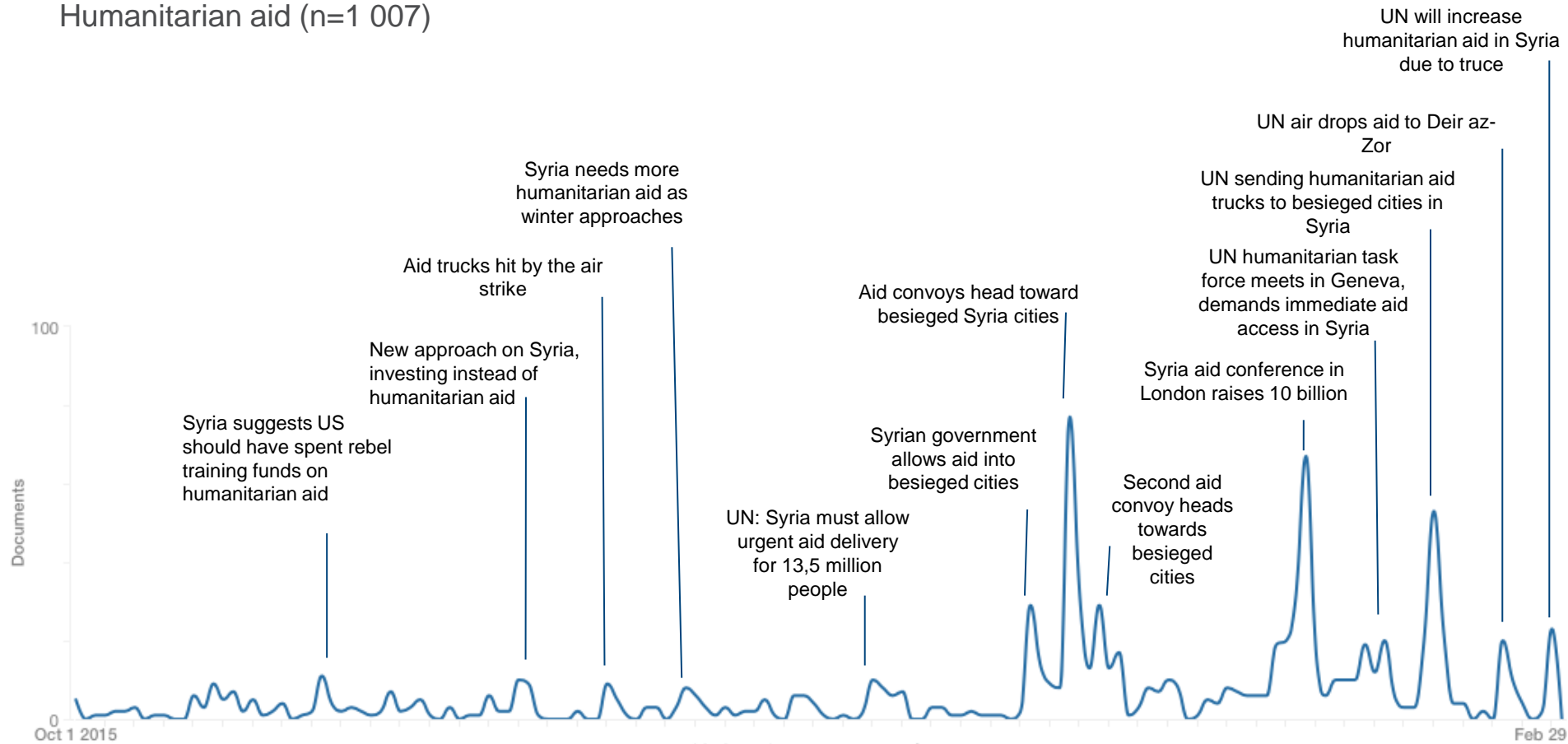
# Humanitarian aid

Digital media



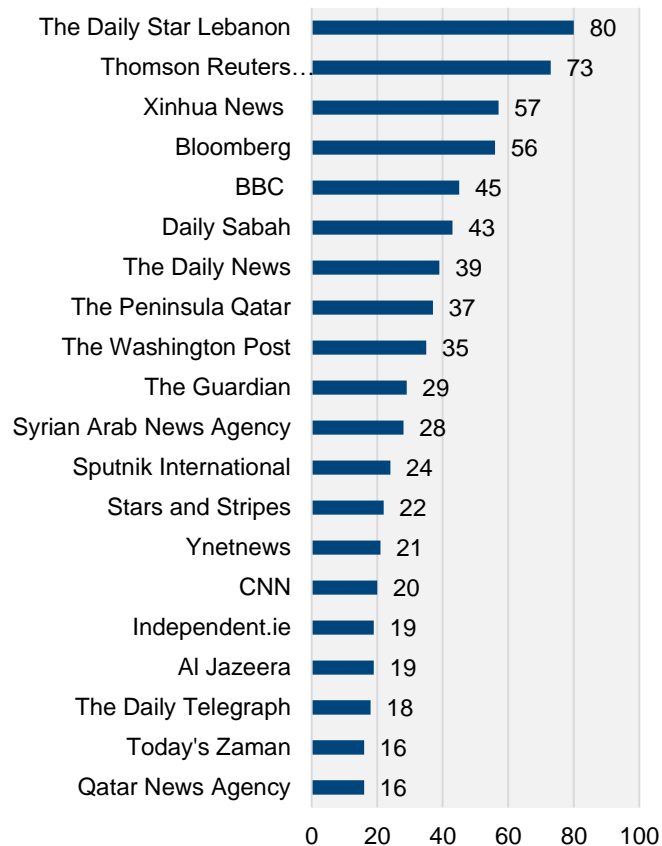
# Digital media

Humanitarian aid (n=1 007)



# Digital media

## Humanitarian aid



- A total of 1 007 articles was published during the period of analysis, compared to 329 articles in the previous analysis.
- The biggest spike came when the Syrian government let aid convoys to besieged cities in January.
- Other major themes in search agent:
  - Russia was accused on several occasions of either bombing aid convoys or killing aid workers with airstrikes.
  - Syrian aid conference in London.
  - Humanitarian aid delivered to besieged cities.

# Digital media

## Humanitarian aid

### DAILY SABAH

**Russian airstrikes kill 25 people, hit humanitarian aid vehicles in Syria's Aleppo**

Russian airstrikes killed 25 people on Wednesday and destroyed 10 vehicles carrying humanitarian aid during an attack on two residential areas of Syria's opposition-held northern Aleppo province.

Russian warplanes struck northern Aleppo's Kafr Nahi and Idhri districts, killing 25 people -- including children and women -- and injuring a number of others, civil defense officials told Anadolu Agency.

The injured were taken to hospitals in the neighboring Azaz and Tel Rifat districts and to hospitals in next-door Turkey, officials said.

Russian warplanes have also struck northern Aleppo's Idhri, Jarez, Kafr and Kafr Nahi districts, which are located on the frontlines between moderate opposition forces and the Daesh militant group, Mustafa Abu Rasheed, a member of a local coordination committee, told Anadolu Agency.

Syria's local coordination committees, which consist of local activists opposed to the Assad regime, frequently publish news via social-media websites.

According to Abu Rasheed, several opposition fighters were killed in the Russian airstrikes.



STARVATION

### Syrian government to allow aid for starving town

UN: Assad forces to let humanitarian aid into besieged town of Madaya where 23 people have reportedly starved to death.

07 Jan 2016 17:28 GMT | Starvation, Syria, War & Conflict, Syrian crisis, Middle East



The Syrian government has allowed humanitarian workers access to an opposition-held town near the border with Lebanon where people are reported to be starving to death in the freezing cold weather.

The United Nations said in a statement on Thursday that it was preparing to deliver humanitarian assistance in the coming days to the besieged town of Madaya. Two Shia towns that have been cut off by rebels in the province of Idlib will also receive UN aid.

Residents of Madaya, about 25km northwest of Damascus, are suffering from severe malnutrition and have little access to fuel and medical supplies because of the siege by government regime forces since July.

Abu Abdul Rahman, a resident in Madaya, told Al Jazeera he had not eaten for four days.

Hungry and weakened, Rahman and his family have been trying to limit their movements inside their house in the Syrian town of Madaya, fearing any activity would drain the little energy left in their bodies.

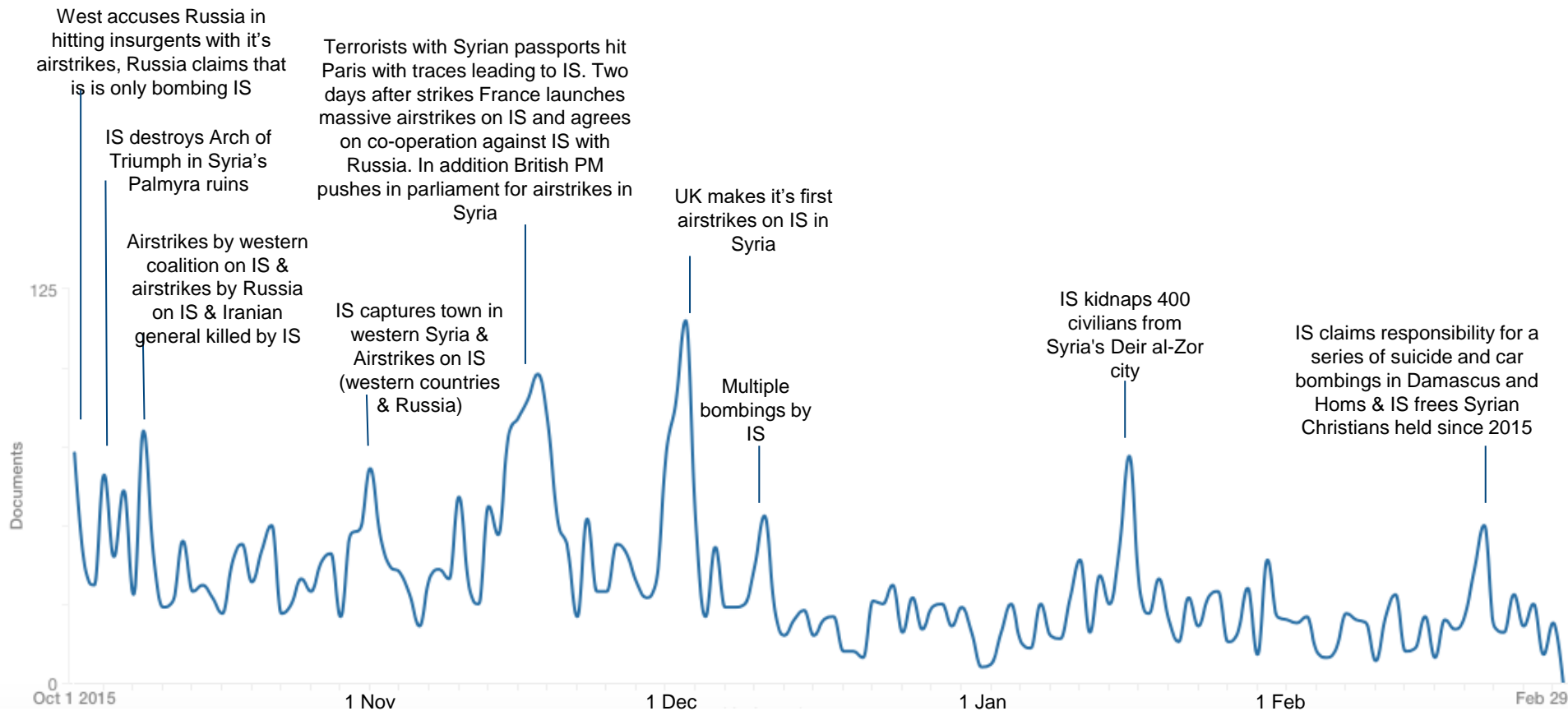
“Describing the situation as tragic is merely airbrushing reality on the ground”

# Terrorism

Digital media

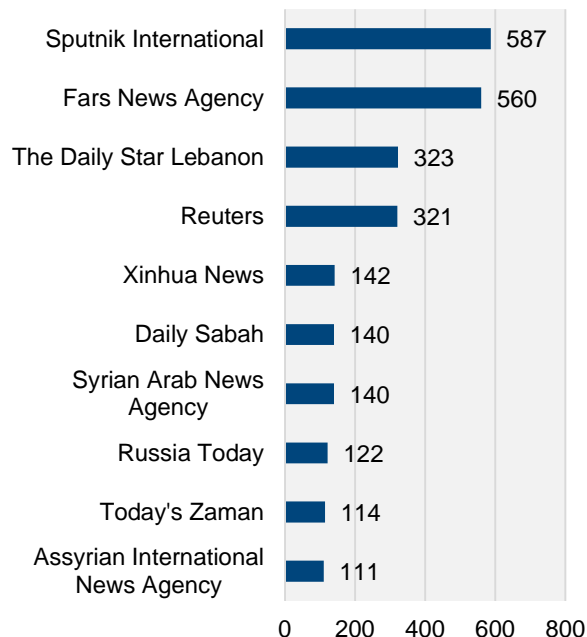
# Digital media

## Terrorism (n=4 883)



# Digital media

## Terrorism



- The biggest news spike came in mid November when IS made terrorist attacks in Paris. Following the incident, western countries increased their air strikes in Syria.
- A total of 4 883 articles was published during the period of analysis, compared to 4 176 articles in the previous analysis.
- There was a clear shift in news flow compared to the previous analysis since previously, the media gave IS a lot of publicity, reporting on its strikes and battles in Syria. In this analysis, the main theme were the airstrikes on IS.
- Media was constantly writing about countries like Russia, US, France, Turkey, UK and Syria executing airstrikes on IS.
- However, the different sides were clearly separated from each other. For example, western countries and Russia bombing IS were never mentioned in the same article title. This made a clear that different sides are not co-operating with each others.
- In addition, it seems that terrorism got less coverage in digital media in general when compared to other search agents that gained a lot more publicity than in the previous analysis.
- Even though western media was publishing a lot of articles during the terror strikes in Paris, pro-Syrian media had the most publications overall.

# Digital media

## Terrorism



POLITICS 04:42 10.11.2015 [Get short URL](#)

Topic: Violence Erupts as Islamic State Rises (1511) 5 2340 29

The United States is obsessed with building its good reputation while fighting Islamic State, whereas Russia is focused on defeating extremists in Syria, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

MOSCOW (Sputnik) – Syria has been in a state of civil war since 2011, with the country's government fighting a number of opposition factions and radical Islamist militant organizations, including Islamic State.

*"Perhaps, this is fundamental difference in the positions. The way it looks is important for Washington, whereas it is essential for Moscow to gain a victory over ISIL," Zakharova told Russia's Komsomolskaya Pravda daily in an interview on Tuesday.*

It is the matter of leadership to wage a campaign in Syria for Washington, she noted.

*"For us, it is another question. We did absolutely everything so that no one wishing to participate in the Syrian conflict settlement felt himself disadvantaged," Zakharova stressed.*



France

France | Paris | Paris attacks (Nov. 13)

## France mourns dead as jets pound IS group stronghold in Syria

Share 55 Tweet Share 1 submit in Share



© Lionel Bonaventure / AFP | People walk past the makeshift memorial in tribute of the victims of the Paris attacks, as they arrive at the metro station at the Place de la Republique, on November 15, 2015, in the French capital.

Text by NEWS WIRES

Latest update : 2015-11-16

France fell silent at noon Monday to mourn victims of the Paris attacks after its warplanes pounded the Syrian stronghold of Islamic State, the jihadist group that has claimed responsibility for the slaughter.

With a manhunt under way for suspects across Europe, French police released a photograph of a "dangerous" suspect also wanted in Belgium, where Friday's bloodbath may have been planned.

France was to observe a minute's silence at midday (1100 GMT), which the European Union has called on all member states to respect. In the United States, the Stars and Stripes will fly at half-mast at the White House until sunset Thursday.

President Francois Hollande will observe the silence at the Sorbonne University, in recognition of the large toll of young people among the 129 dead. Another 352 were injured, scores of them

## THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

## IS abducts over 400 in east Syria after 'massacre'

Terror group takes over approximately 60% of the city of Deir el-Zour, killing 135 in the multi-front assault

BY ROUBA EL HUSSEINI | January 17, 2016, 7:29 pm | 1

Share 11 Tweet G+ 0

Email Print Share



Syrian men inspect a damaged vehicle in the rubble following a reported air strike by Syrian government forces on the Sukkari neighborhood of Syria's northern city of Aleppo, on January 16, 2016. (AFP/Karam Al-Masri)

**A** FP – Jihadists from the Islamic State have abducted more than 400 Syrian civilians after capturing new ground in a major assault on the city of Deir el-Zour that left dozens dead.

# Russian digital media



Content of the search agents

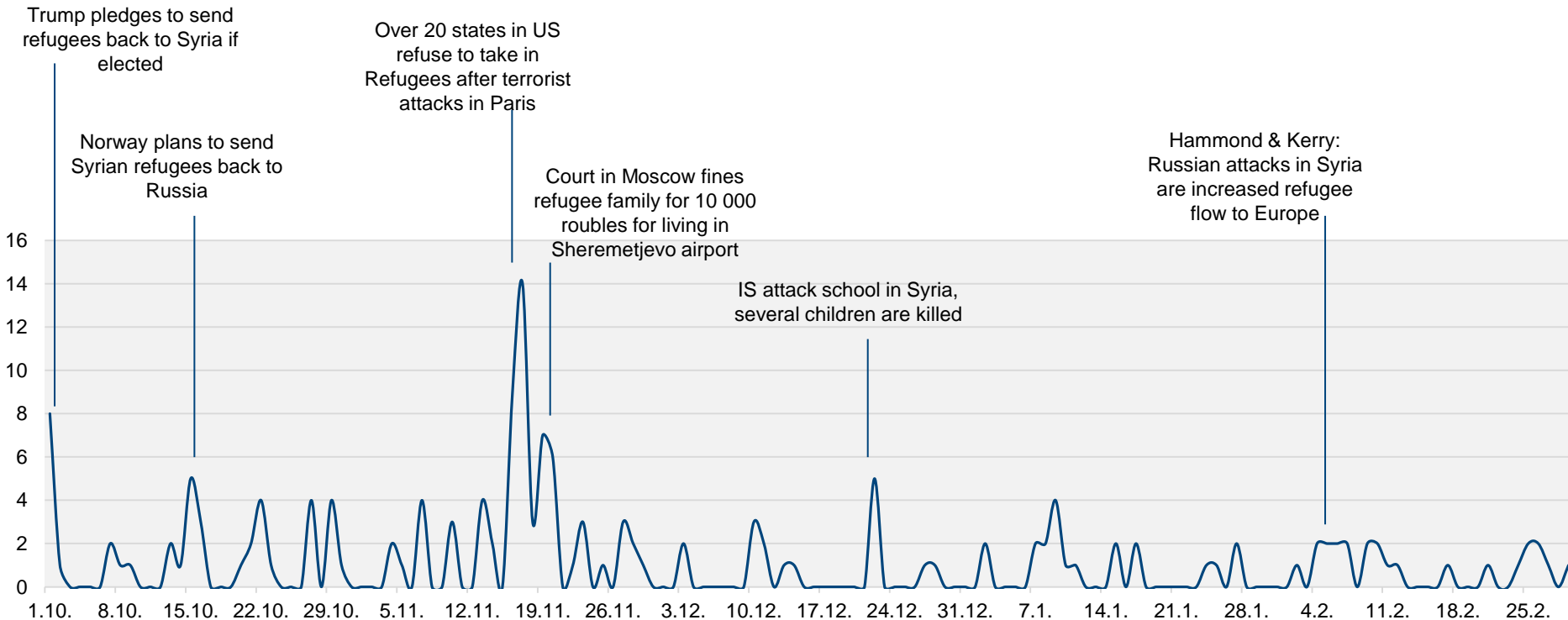


# Women, children & refugees

Russian digital media

# Digital media

Women, children & refugees (n=167)



# Digital media

## Women, children & refugees



- Search agent had 167 hits during the period of analysis.
- Most of the articles were focused on refugees.
- There were only a handful of articles on children and women. Children were in most cases linked to IS as there were articles on IS killing or kidnapping children in Syria.
- The biggest spikes came from the same topics as in the western media:
  - Donald Trump pledged to send refugees back to Syria if elected
  - Over 20 states in US refuse to take in refugees after terrorist attacks in Paris
- Only a few articles stated that Russian presence in Syria has increased refugee flow in Europe and Russian airstrikes are killing civilians. In these articles Russian media was referring to information by western media and wrote that there is no actual proof for their claims.

# Digital media

## Women, children & refugees



Trump pledges to send Syrian refugees out of US

### Трамп пообещал выслать из США сирийских беженцев

Комментарии 1   5   

**Кандидат в президенты США от Республиканской партии заявил, что отправит их на родину, как только станет главой государства**

Кандидат в президенты США от Республиканской партии, миллиардер Дональд Трамп заявил, что в случае его избрания он вышлет из страны всех сирийских беженцев. Об этом политик заявил во время выступления в штате Нью-Гэмпшир.

Трамп объяснил свои намерения тем, что 200 тыс. сирийских беженцев, которых планирует приютить США, могут быть «пятой колонной», отправленной в страну ИГИЛ.

«Они могут быть из ИГИЛ! Они все мужчины, они все сильные. Если я выиграю, они поедут домой», — заявил Трамп.

Миллиардер известен своей крайне жесткой позицией в отношении нелегальных мигрантов в США. Так, он неоднократно допускал оскорбительные высказывания в адрес выходцев из Мексики и предлагал построить стену на границе между США и этой страной.

Ранее пресс-секретарь Белого дома Джош Эрнест на встрече с журналистами заявил, что США планируют принять у себя в следующем году как минимум 10 тыс. сирийских беженцев, сообщает [ТАСС](#).

**Коммерсант.ru**®

John Kerry: Children and women killed by Russian airstrikes

### Джон Керри: жертвами российских авиаударов в Сирии стали женщины и дети

Госсекретарь США Джон Керри в пятницу заявил, что под удары российских ВКС в Сирии попадают женщины и дети, передает [CNN](#). Общаясь с журналистами в Вашингтоне, господин Керри обвинил Россию в применении неуправляемых авиабомб. «Это должно прекратиться», — заявил Джон Керри.

Ранее генеральный секретарь НАТО Йенс Столтенберг рассказал, что операция воздушно-космических сил (ВКС) России в Сирии препятствует мирному урегулированию конфликта и приводит к росту напряженности в регионе. В Минобороны России заявили, что «потепления» в отношениях с НАТО по-прежнему нет, а попытки России координировать военные действия в Сирии натываются на отказы со стороны США.

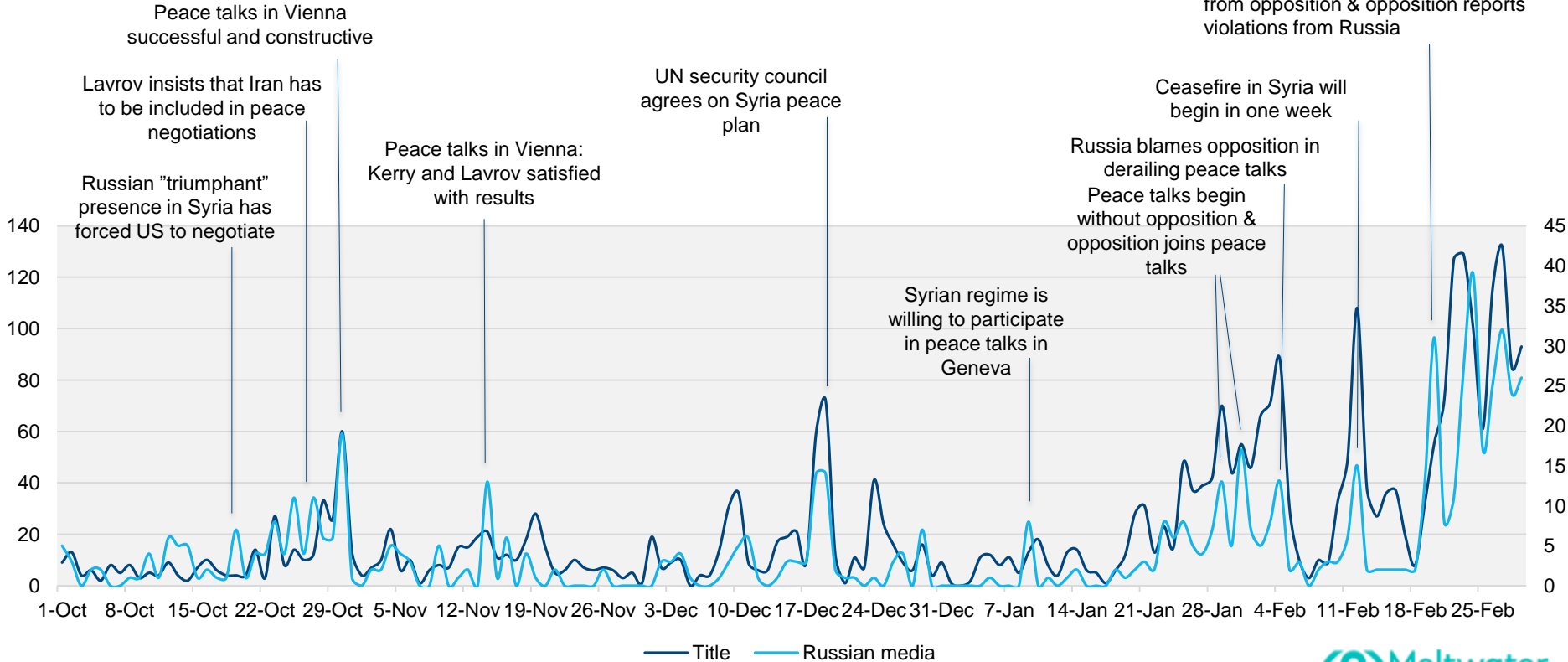
# Peace

Russian digital media

# Digital media

Peace (n=691)

20.2 Russia delivers its proposition on ceasefire which US and France reject (proposition aims in keeping sovereignty of Syrian government)  
23.2 US and Russia agree on ceasefire  
27.2 Ceasefire in action  
28.2 Russia reports ceasefire violations from opposition & opposition reports violations from Russia



# Digital media

## Peace



- Search agent had 691 articles during the timespan of the analysis.
- The media clearly gave credit to Russia for negotiating ceasefire in February, stating on many occasions that ceasefire would not be possible without Russian air-strikes on Syrian soil.
- Media also wrote that Lavrov had a key role in getting Iran included in the peace negotiations in Vienna.
- For some reason the Russian media didn't mention the IS strikes that happened during the peace negotiation.

# Digital media

## Peace



Lavrov: Iran must take part in Syrian peace negotiations

### Лавров: Иран должен принять участие в переговорах по Сирии

Текст: Константин Волков

Москва и Каир продолжают работу по консолидации сирийской оппозиции, об этом заявил министр иностранных дел РФ Сергей Лавров 27 октября.

По его словам, главная задача - объединить усилия и предложить оппозиционным сирийским группам помочь создать единую делегацию для переговоров с правительством Асада на конструктивной платформе.

#### Ситуация также

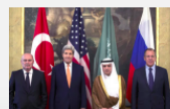


СМИ: Обама готов направить американских солдат в Сирию

Париже действительно проводится сегодня, то проводится с прицелом на формирование инклюзивных форматов, которые будут способствовать вовлечению всех без исключения, как с точки зрения общесирийского диалога, так и в плане его внешнего сопровождения".

По словам российского министра "были попытки создать закрытый клуб внешних игроков без участия других ключевых государств, влияющих на ситуацию "на земле" в Сирии. Это, наверное, легче, делать такие узкозрительные схемы, которые тебе понятны и близки, но поскольку такие схемы наталкиваются на неприятие других государств, которые исповедуют иную позицию и подходы, то подобные схемы носят искусственный характер, и они нежизнеспособны".

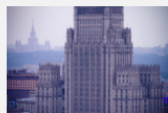
#### Ранее по теме



Тем временем во Франции 27 октября состоится встреча "Друзья Сирии" в составе представителей десяти стран, но без России и Ирана. Как заявил МИД Франции, "министр иностранных дел и международного развития Лоран Фабиус сегодня вечером за рабочим ужином примет основных партнеров, вместе с Францией участвующих в урегулировании сирийского кризиса: представителей Саудовской Аравии, ОАЭ, Иордании, Катар, Турции, Германии, США, Италии и Великобритания".

По словам Сергея Лаврова, он ничего не знает об этой встрече, но очень надеется, что "если та встреча в

#### Ранее по теме



МИД: РФ не прекращала строительство военных баз Дамаска и оппозиции в Сирии

При этом, по словам министра, схемы, которые действительно могут дать устойчивый и долгосрочный результат, отвечающий интересам стабильности в Сирии, требуют очень терпеливых, многонаправленных, даже многодневных переговоров. "Но эти усилия - преодоление противоречий в позициях, выработка консенсусных решений - позволяют запустить общесирийский переговорный процесс, будут гораздо более результативными и не станут чем-то таким, что сегодня промелькнет на экранах ТВ, а потом уйдет в небытие".



4 фев, 03:42 Елизавета Фокт

### Москва обвинила сирийскую оппозицию в попытке срыва переговоров в Женеве

15 3 1 Прочитали 32 268 раз

Замглавы российского МИДа Геннадий Гатиллов заявил о попытке сирийской оппозиции сорвать переговоры в Женеве, ссылаясь на российскую военную операцию. В Москве сочли эти действия неприемлемыми

Попытки делегации Высшего комитета по переговорам оппозиции (ВКП) Сирии сорвать переговоры в Женеве из-за российской военной операции в Сирии являются неприемлемыми. Об этом заявил замглавы российского МИДа Геннадий Гатиллов, передает «РИА Новости».

«Их попытки сорвать переговорный процесс под предлогом того, что Россия продолжает осуществлять военную операцию в Сирии, являются абсолютно неприемлемыми, поскольку речь идет о борьбе с террористической угрозой в этой стране», — заявил замминистра. Гатиллов также назвал «несостоятельными» доводы оппозиции об отсутствии возможности участвовать в переговорах из-за усугубившейся гуманитарной ситуации в Сирии.

В МИДе также отметили, что Москва не планирует экстренно обсуждать приостановку переговоров с американской делегацией. «Пока этот вопрос никто не обсуждал, поскольку мы только что это новое развитие увидели. Сейчас об этом говорить преждевременно», — объяснил Гатиллов. При этом он обратил внимание на то, что Москва и Вашингтон всегда поддерживают регулярный контакт.

Ранее Госдеп США назвал одной из причин переноса переговоров по Сирии в Женеве удары российской авиации близ Алеппо. Официальный представитель ведомства Джон Кирби подчеркнул, что Вашингтон не возлагает на Москву полную ответственность за приостановку. Однако, по его словам, «помехи гуманитарной помощи» и «продолжающееся насилие», которое устраивает режим «при поддержке российских военных», стали факторами, повлиявшими на перенос переговоров.

О приостановке переговоров об урегулировании сирийского кризиса в Женеве до 25 февраля стало известно вечером в среду. Спецпосланник ООН де Мистура заявил, что для их возобновления нужна помощь международных сил, в частности США и России. Сирийский постпред при ООН Башар Джафари, который возглавляет делегацию официального Дамаска, заявил, что Саудовская Аравия, Катар и Турция уговорили оппозицию выйти из женевских переговоров.

Moscow blames Syrian oppositions in attempt of derailing negotiations in Geneva



Глава Высшего комитета по переговорам сирийской оппозиции Рияд Хиджаб (в центре) после переговоров в Женеве Фото: AFP



US and France "destroy" Russian peace resolution on Syria

### США и Франция в Совбезе "разгромили" российскую резолюцию по Сирии

A- A- A-

Россия представила в Совете Безопасности ООН свой вариант проекта резолюции по мирному урегулированию в Сирии

20 февраля 2016 в 00:11, просмотров: 29507

30 6 4 1 1 1

Представленный Россией в Совете Безопасности ООН вариант проекта резолюции по мирному урегулированию в Сирии не встретил поддержки у представителей США и Франции. Оппоненты посчитали российские призывы уважать суверенитет Сирии несвоевременными и неоправданными.



фото: utmsv.kr.ua

Документ был представлен постоянным представительством РФ при ООН на специальном заседании Совета Безопасности ООН по ситуации в Сирии, которое было инициировано российской стороной. Об этом в четверг 18 февраля сообщила официальный представитель МИД РФ Мария Захарова,



# Terrorism

Russian digital media

# Digital media

## Terrorism (n=1 153)

Russia begins its operation  
in Syria hitting 5 IS objects  
on first day

IS is planning on  
taking over oil fields  
outside Syria

Russia has  
destroyed over 1  
000 gas trucks in  
Syria

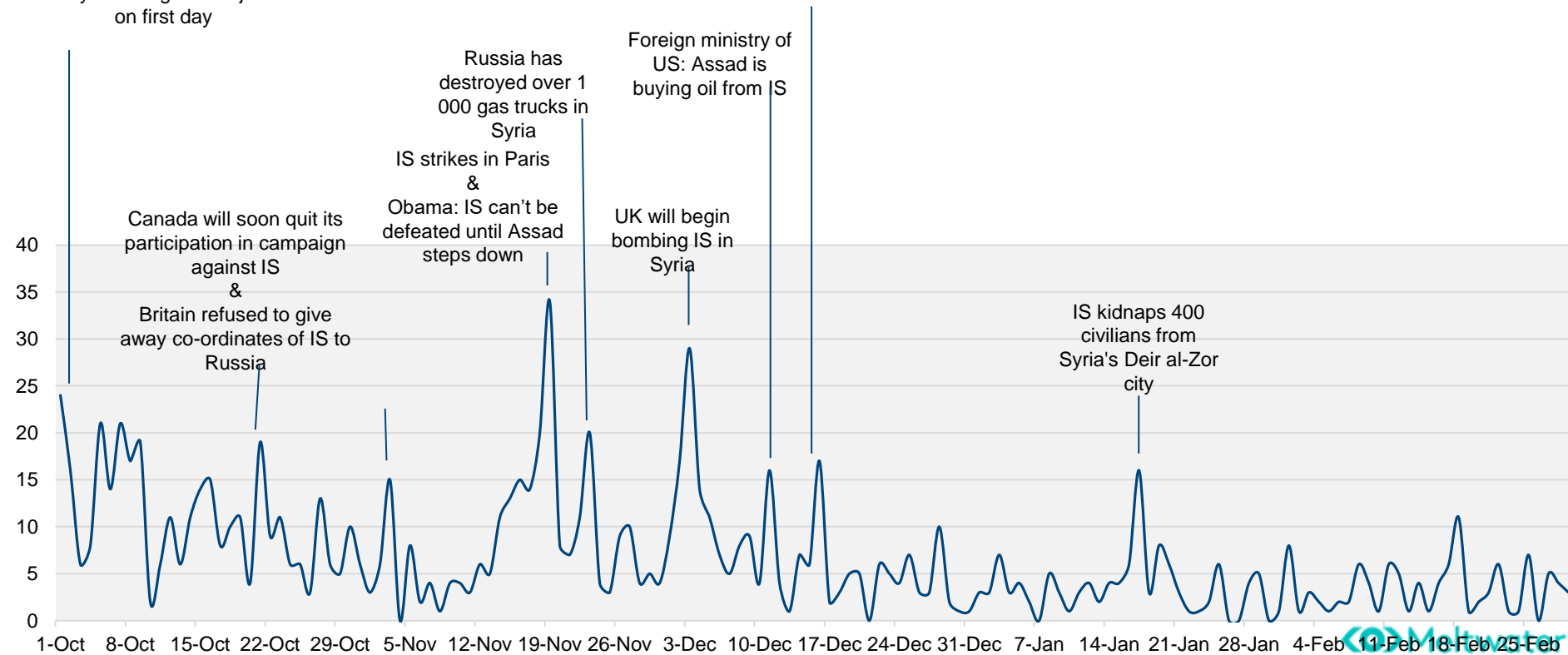
IS strikes in Paris  
&  
Obama: IS can't be  
defeated until Assad  
steps down

Foreign ministry of  
US: Assad is  
buying oil from IS

UK will begin  
bombing IS in  
Syria

Canada will soon quit its  
participation in campaign  
against IS  
&  
Britain refused to give  
away co-ordinates of IS to  
Russia

IS kidnaps 400  
civilians from  
Syria's Deir al-Zor  
city



# Digital media

## Terrorism



- The biggest news spike came in mid November when IS made terrorist attacks in Paris.
- A total of 1 153 articles was published during the period of analysis.
- Media was following the Russian military campaign very closely, publishing several articles daily on executed airstrikes against IS.
- Especially Комсомольская Правда and Московский Комсомолец were active in publishing articles on Russian strikes against IS and terrorism.
- Media was using the word "terrorism" and terrorists" only when it referred to IS. Therefore there were no signs indicating that Russian airstrikes might have also hit opposition groups. In fact, some articles even stated that opposition groups in Syria are helping Russia to locate IS bases.

# Digital media

## Terrorism

КОМСОМЛЬСКАЯ  
ПРАВДА

Russia is  
destroying IS oil  
business with its  
airstrikes

Россия своими авиаударами  
разрушает нефтяной бизнес ИГИЛ в  
Сирии



ВКС России уничтожили свыше 500 бензовозов в Сирии

Фото: Министерство обороны РФ

"КП" поговорила с экспертом, выяснив, как это отразится на  
цене за баррель нефти

Тонкие черные ниточки протянулись на километры. Перекрестье камеры  
беспилотника фиксирует, как они медленно-медленно передвигаются по дорогам  
пустыни. Вдоль там, где еще секунду назад были эти коробочки автомобилей  
взлетают пламя и клубы дыма. Они расширяются, идут вдоль нитей, поглощая  
коробочки десятками... Российская бомбардировочная авиация отработала  
очередной «нефтепровод на колесах», который террористы запрещенного в России  
экстремистского исламистского движения «Исламское государство» (ИГ) направили  
из мест добычи нефти на переработку.



Russian airstrikes  
in Syria are  
targeting only  
terrorists

МИД: Россия наносит авиаудары в  
Сирии исключительно по  
террористам

Текст: Екатерина Забродина

"Российские Воздушно-космические силы в Сирии наносят удары  
исключительно против представителей международных террористических  
организаций и тех, кто им способствует", - подчеркнула сегодня официальный  
представитель МИД России Мария Захарова.

"Тем же, кто не является террористом, не взаимодействует и не координирует  
свои шаги с террористическими организациями, бояться нечего", - заявила  
дипломат, выразив удивление тем, что некоторые представители зарубежных  
стран оценили "манифест", который призывает к войне с российскими силами  
(его подписали 40 сирийских формирований), как "выражение праведного гнева  
по поводу российской интервенции".

Считайте также



МИД РФ: Нарастание сил НАТО в  
Европе не добавляет стабильности

"Просто хочется спросить: неужели  
тех, кто видит в этом "праведном  
гневе" некую логическую основу, не  
смutilo, что среди первых, кто  
подписал этот манифест, находилась  
такая организация, как "Джабхат ан-  
Нусра"? То, что эта организация  
является террористической, ее  
представители являются  
террористами, и никакие они не  
умеренные, доказывается только  
одним: тем, что они находятся в  
ооновском списке террористических

Коммерсант.ru

Генштаб РФ сообщил об освобождении от  
террористов 150 сирийских городов

А Сирийская обсерватория по правам человека утверждает, что ВКС РФ  
разбомбили школу



Фото: Министерство обороны РФ

11.01.2016, 19:00



В небесах и на море / Итоги второго месяца военной операции России в Сирии

Авиация воздушно-космических сил (ВКС) РФ с начала 2016 года нанесла  
удары по 1097 объектам инфраструктуры террористов в Сирии. Об этом  
сообщил начальник главного оперативного управления Генштаба генерал  
Сергей Рудской. По его словам, от террористов в период с декабря 2015  
года освобождено уже более 150 городов и поселков в Сирии. Сирийский  
центр мониторинга за соблюдением прав человека, в свою очередь, заявив,  
что от сегодняшнего российского авианалета, задевшего школу в городе  
Анджар в провинции Алеппо, погибли как минимум 12 детей.

Как сообщил генерал Рудской, с начала года российская авиация выполнила  
уже 311 боевых вылетов. Удары наносились по объектам инфраструктуры,  
добычи и переработки нефти, скоплениям военной техники и живой силы  
боевиков запрещенного в РФ «Исламского государства» (ИГ). План  
авиаударов ВКС РФ — снизить боевой потенциал те  
группировок и поддержать подразделения сирийской

Meltwater

# Digital media



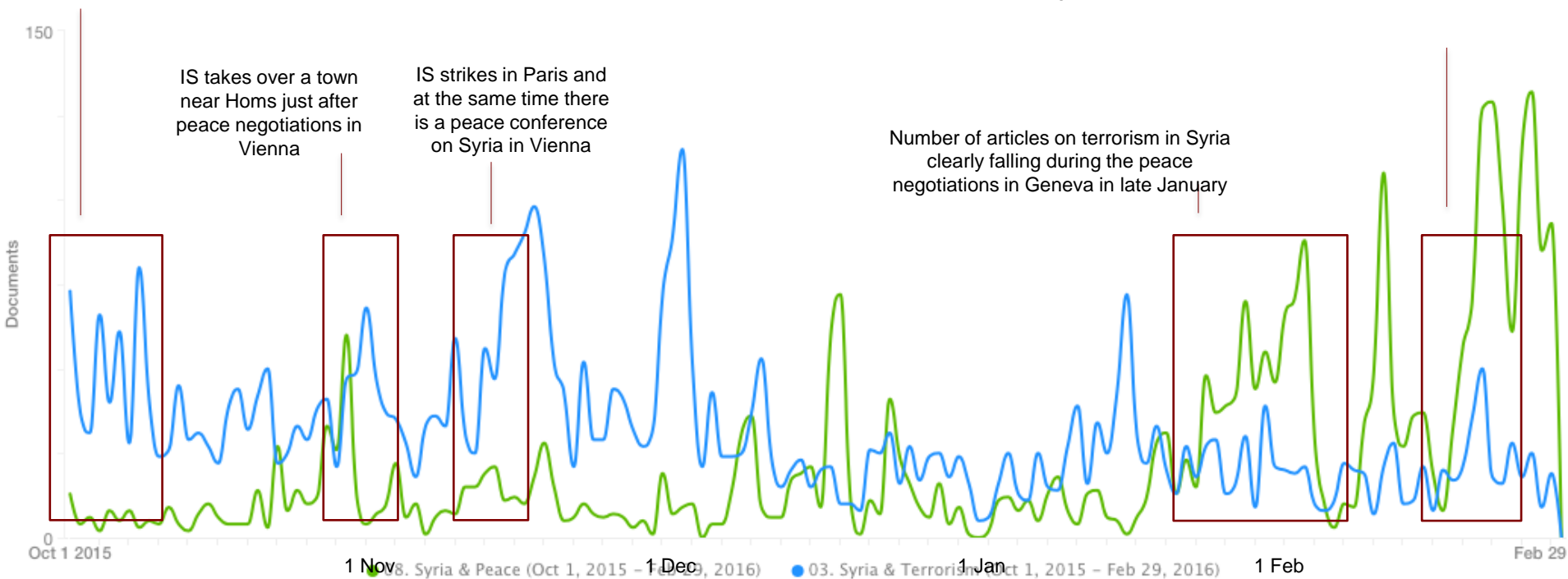
Comparing search agents

# Digital media

## Comparing search agents Peace & Terrorism

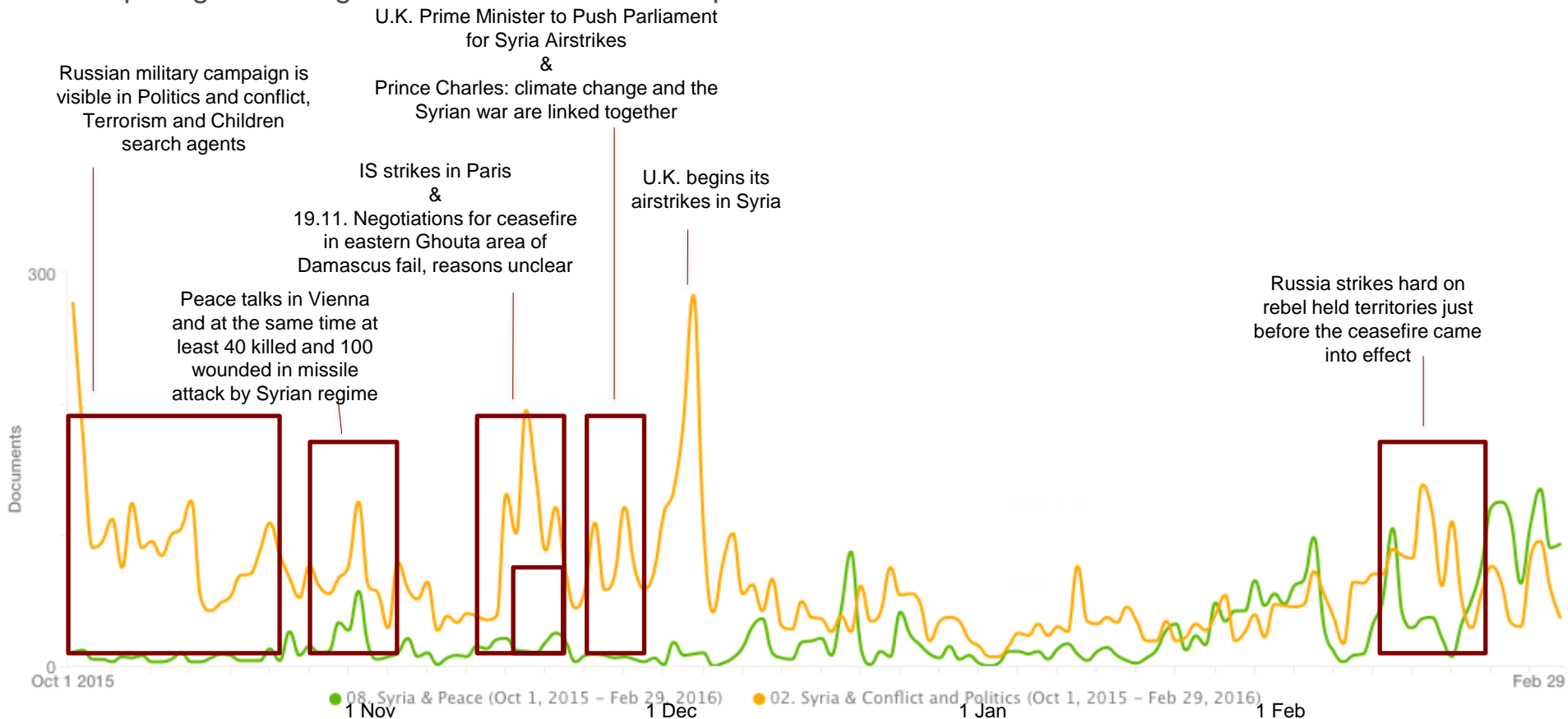
There is practically no conversation in media on peace after Russia begins its military campaign in Syria

IS strikes on 31.1 and 22.2.2016.  
IS struck in Damascus on 31st of January, on the same day as peace negotiations started in Geneva.  
IS also struck 22nd of February killing nearly 130 in multiple strikes in Syria.  
However, the focus of media remained on peace negotiations instead of IS strikes.



# Digital media

## Comparing search agents Peace & Conflict and politics



# Digital media

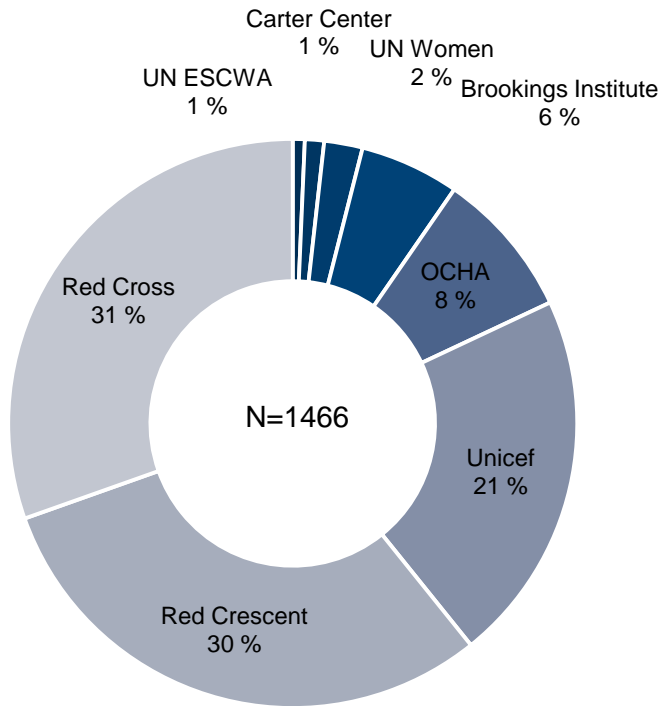


Examining organisations



# Digital media

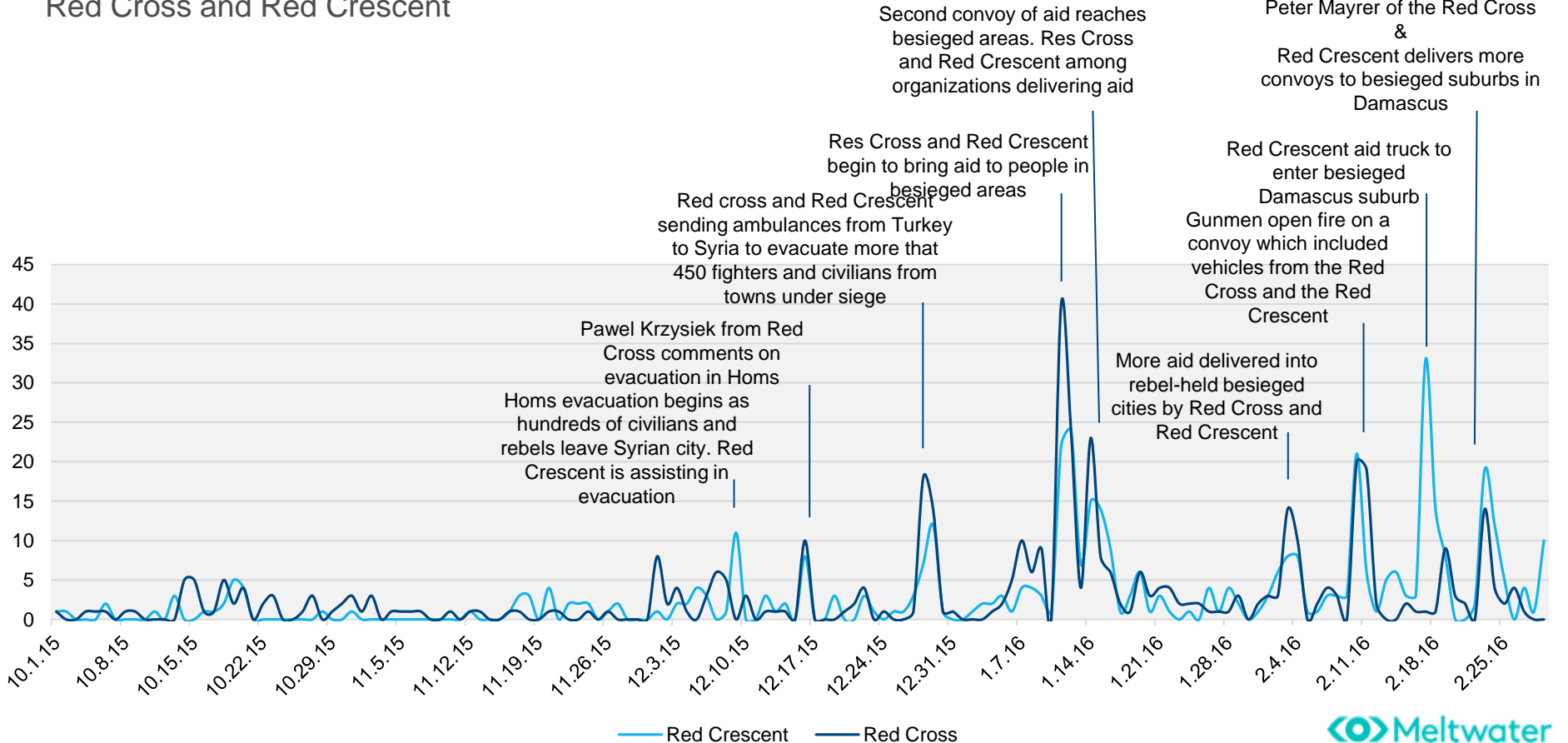
## Organisations



- Visibility of key organisations was measured from articles body text part so it was not compulsory for them to be seen in title.
- The most visible organisations were Red Cross (446 hits), Red Crescent (445 hits) and Unicef (331 hits).
- The following organisations weren't mentioned in media near keyword Syria or any of the Syrian governorates.:
  - Swiss Peace
  - UN-Habitat
  - NIP
  - NOREF
  - HD Centre
  - EIP

# Digital media

## Red Cross and Red Crescent



# Digital media

Brookings Institute, OCHA & Carter Center

Iran sends Fighters to Syria, escalating its involvement. J.M. Berger from Brookings comments that the moderate rebels "are in a pretty bad spot, unless the West is prepared to sponsor them over the long term in a full-on proxy war against the Russians."

Tens of thousands free new Syria offence. Interview with Vanessa Huguenin from OCHA.

Carter Center is monitoring elections in Myanmar. Article also mentions, that Carter contacted Putin to offer him maps: publicly available work by the Carter Center that shows Russia's airstrikes in Syria have mainly targeted U.S.-backed opponents of President Assad, rather than the IS, as Moscow claims

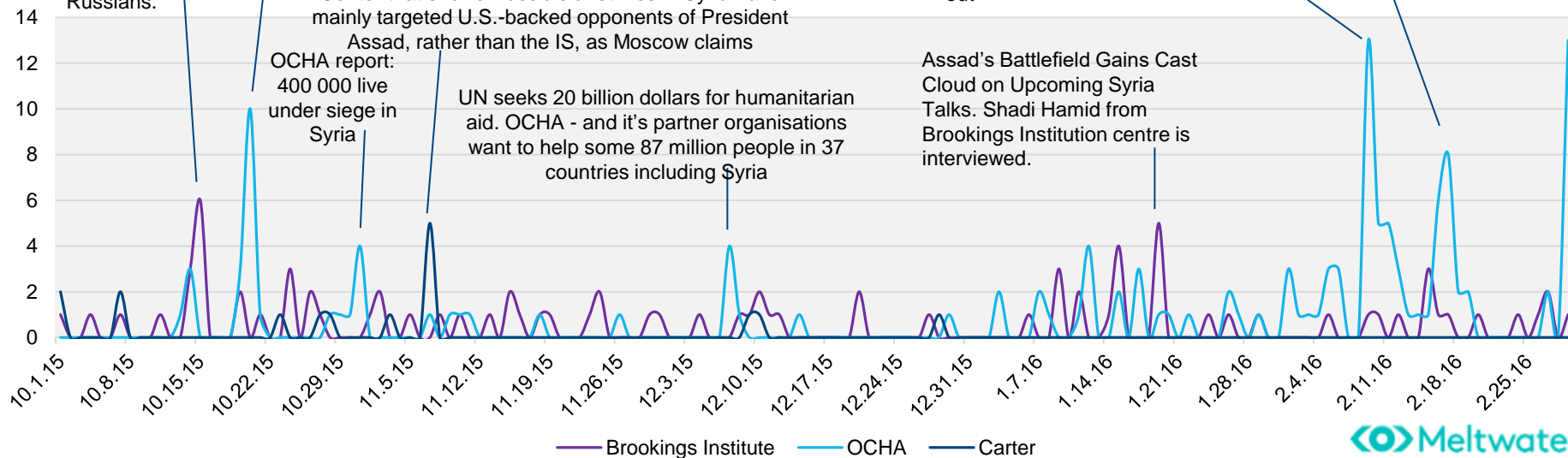
OCHA report: 400 000 live under siege in Syria

UN seeks 20 billion dollars for humanitarian aid. OCHA - and it's partner organisations want to help some 87 million people in 37 countries including Syria

UN envoy wins Syria government green light for aid convoys. OCHA says that Syria had approved access to several besieged cities

UN urges Turkey to open border to Syrians fleeing Aleppo. OCHA warns that 300,000 people could be cut off from aid if Syrian government and allied forces encircle the city of Aleppo and deprive those fleeing from their last way out

Assad's Battlefield Gains Cast Cloud on Upcoming Syria Talks. Shadi Hamid from Brookings Institution centre is interviewed.



# Social media

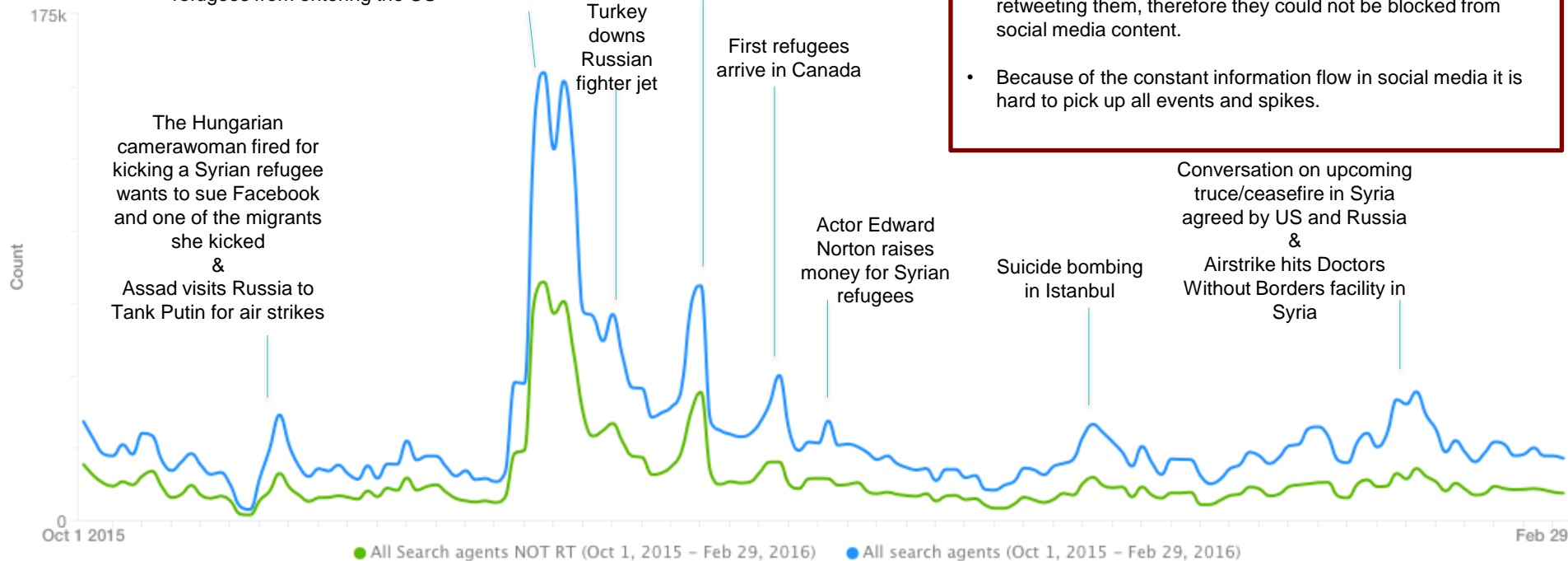
Syria Initiative



# Social media

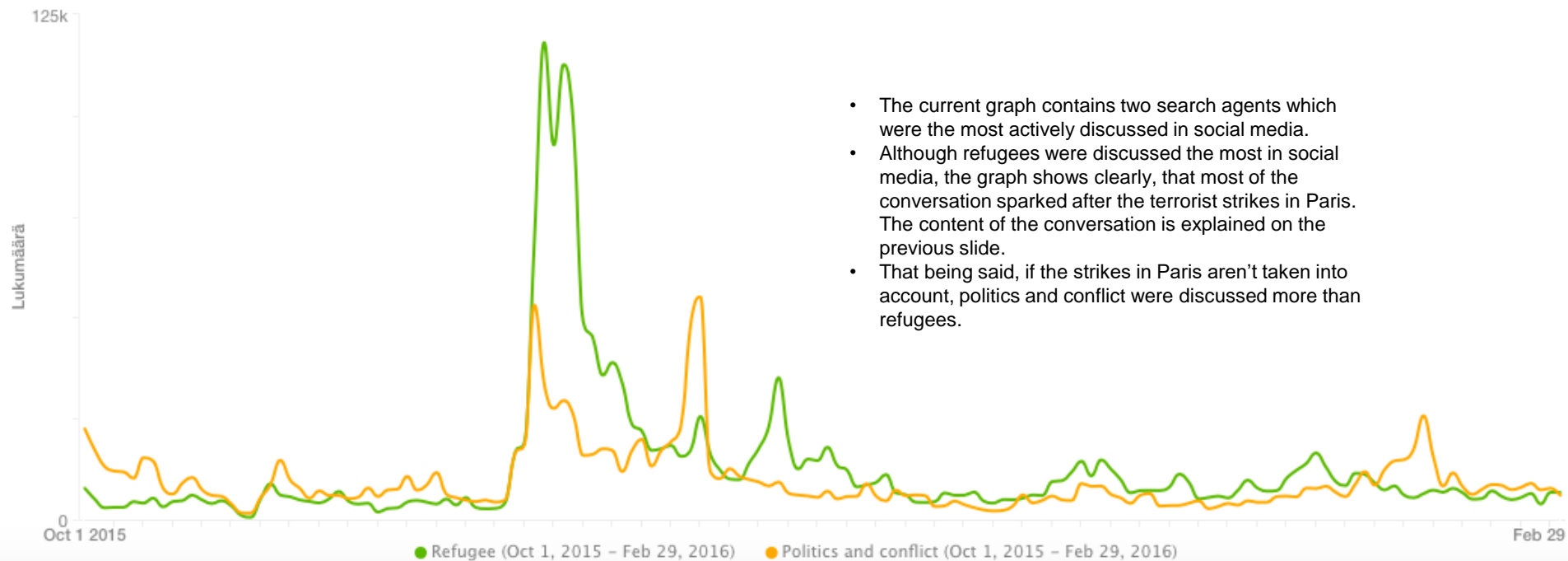
## Search agents combined (n=4 515 715)

US states wish to reject refugees after terrorists struck in Paris. Conversation in US social media heated up. GOP candidates, Obama and governors were expressing their own opinions on refugees. Some US states wished to reject refugees and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives passed a bipartisan bill to stop Syrian refugees from entering the US



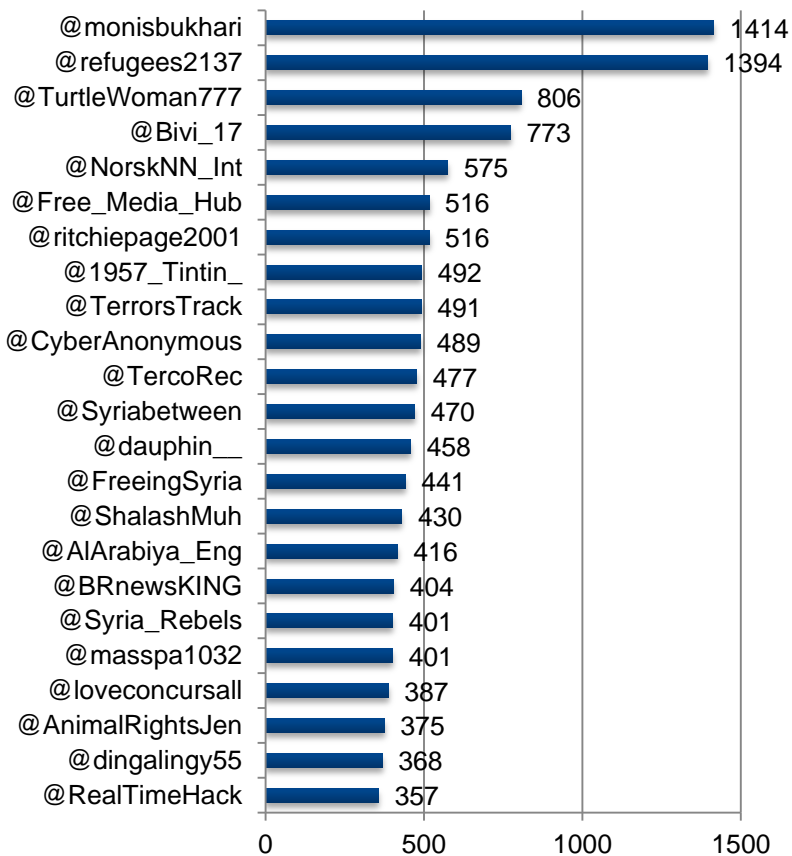
- Due to the large amount of bots in Twitter, two search agents were created: one contained all possible hits and the other had all retweets filtered.
- This procedure allowed for filtering retweeting bots, however some bots were sharing content (like news articles) and not retweeting them, therefore they could not be blocked from social media content.
- Because of the constant information flow in social media it is hard to pick up all events and spikes.

# Social media



# Social media

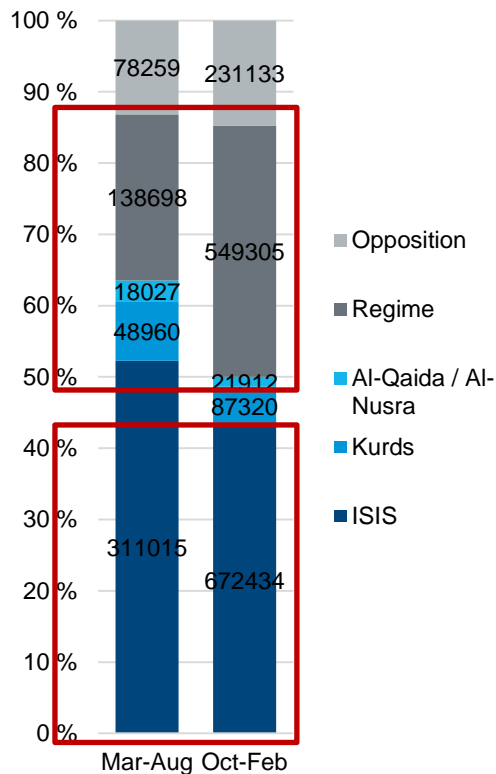
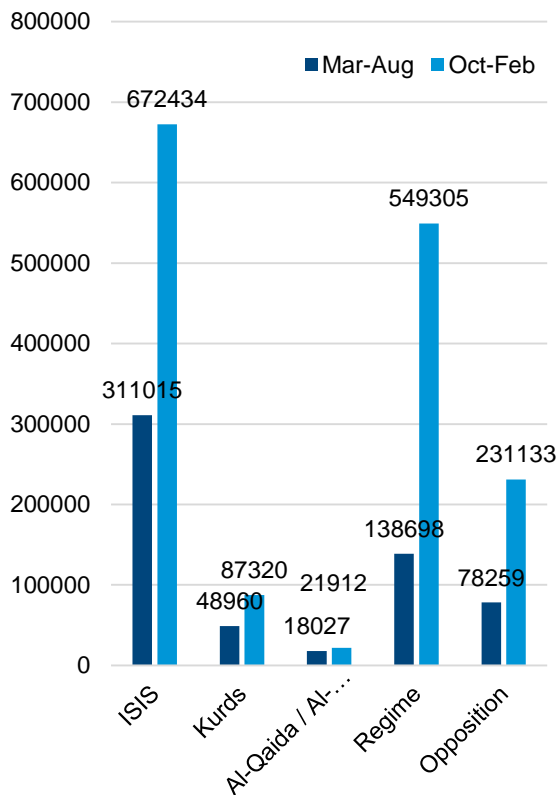
## Top 25 tweeters 1.2.2016 – 29.2.2016



- Due to the overwhelming amount of data, top tweeters were taken only from the last month of the analysis period.
- Twitter had 89 % of all mentions in social media. Facebook had only 7 % of mentions since Facebook conversation can only be gathered from public profiles or public group sites. Private users are not trackable on Facebook even if they have public profiles.
- Top tweeters appeared to be mostly bots posting pro-rebel/anti-regime content. This indicates that even though regime is a much more discussed topic than opposition, in social media (see next slide), the main topic seems to be criticism towards it.
- @Free\_Media\_Hub had the most followers, over 232k. The account described itself as follows:  
"Syria Death of a Nation 2011-2016 470,000 Dead 1,500,000 injured 11,000,000 Displaced This is Syria 2016 sign the petition @ <http://stopthebombs.com>"
- There were no pro-ISIS accounts in top 50 tweeters and only a few pro-regime accounts for example @Syriabetween.
- Twitter continues to delete ISIS accounts and has removed over 125 000 ISIS accounts since mid-2015. ([source](#))

# Social media

## Comparing counterparts in digital and social media

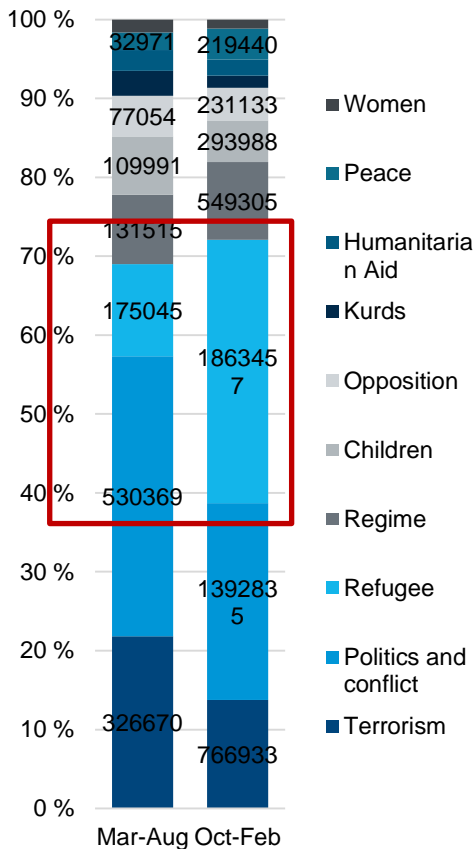
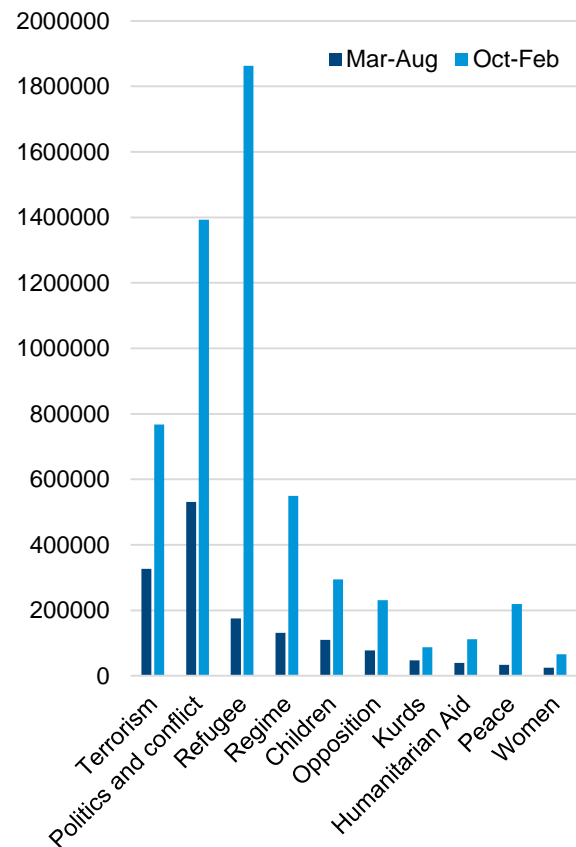


- All the search agents except Al-Qaida at least doubled their hits as compared to the previous analysis.
- Even though IS received the most publicity and doubled its hits compared to the previous analysis, its SOV still decreased, dropping from 52 percent to 43 percent.
- Regime increased its hits the most, getting over four times more mentions in the current analysis than in the previous.
- Kurds and opposition had also twice as many hits as they did in the previous analysis, however due to hit count of regime, their SOV stayed about the same as in the previous analysis.



# Social media

## Comparing search agents

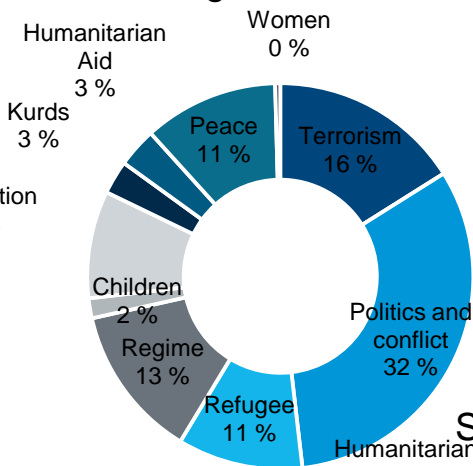


- Refugees received the most mentions in social media during the time span of the analysis, that is over 1 800 000. Politics and conflict was the second with almost 1 400 000 mentions. Terrorism was the 3rd most popular theme with almost 800 000 mentions.
- All the search agents received more hits in the current analysis, compared to the previous analysis. However, refugee search agent was very dominant, receiving ten times more hits than in the previous analysis. So even though some search agents tripled their hits in the current analysis (for example opposition), they still had less hits by percentage.
- Terror attacks in Paris greatly impacted conversation volumes. All search agents had clear conversation spikes after the strikes.

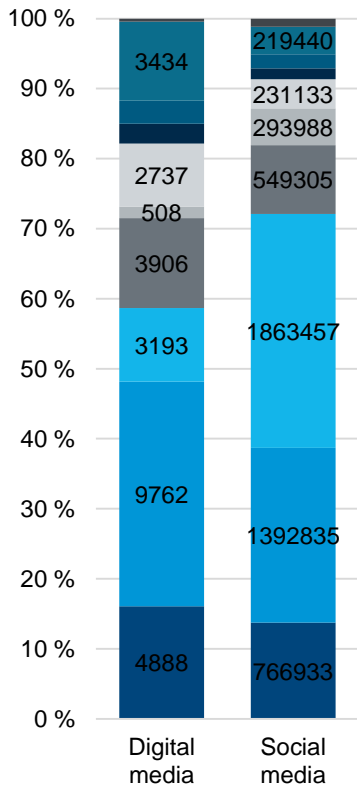
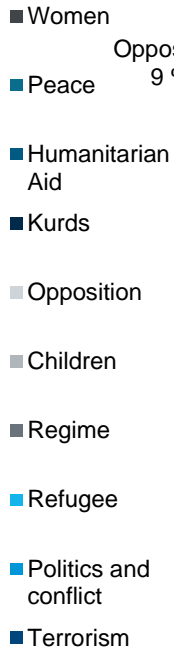
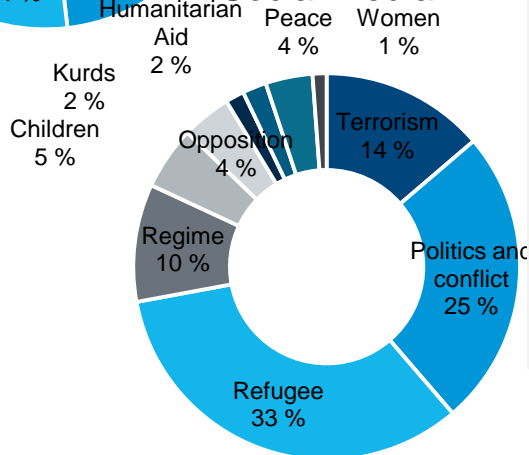
# Social media

## Comparing digital and social media

### Digital media



### Social media



- The graphs display share of voice on various themes
- Politics and conflict seemed to be the most popular themes in digital media. Terrorism was the second most popular theme and regime was the third.
- In social media, refugees received the most publicity, politics and conflict came second and terrorism had the third most popularity.
- Search agents received 5 581 457 hits in total, however if search agents are combined, the figure is 4 515 715. This means that a little over 1 000 000 hits were registered in more than one search agent.
- Compared to the previous analysis where search agents received 1 495 470 hits, the amount of conversation tripled.

# Summary

Digital & Social media

# Key findings

## Digital & Social media

### Digital media

- The total amount of articles in all search agents was 30 417 in this analysis, which is over twice as much than in the previous analysis, which had 13 803 articles.
- Almost all search agents had clearly increased their visibility compared to the previous analysis. The only exception was “women” search agent, the publicity of which slightly decreased.
- Some search agents doubled or tripled their hit counts compared to the previous analysis. In addition, peace search agent had over 10 times as many hits as in the previous analysis.
- Politics and conflict had the most hits in digital media followed by terrorism and regime.
- The main reason for increased visibility in all search agents was the Russian intervention in the Syrian conflict. Both western media and Russian media closely followed the Russian military campaign in Syria.
- Russian media was also much more active in writing on Syria compared to the previous analysis, since Sputnik International made its way into top 5 sources in almost every search agent, in some cases even topping outlets like Reuters and Fars News Agency.
- Terror strikes in Paris were also affected the article count in many search agents.

### Social media

- The total amount of posts in all search agents was 4 515 715 compared to 1 149 470 posts in the previous analysis. This means that conversation volume tripled compared to the previous analysis.
- Refugees search agent had the biggest conversation volumes, over 1 800 000 publications. Politics and conflict came second with almost 1 400 000 publications. However, if strikes in Paris aren't taken into account, politics and conflict were more discussed than refugees.
- Top tweeters appeared to be mostly bots posting pro-rebel/anti-regime content.
- As in digital media, the main theme was the Russian campaign in Syria. However, the biggest spikes came from the terror strikes in Paris.

# Thank You!

- Additional Information:

- Jesse Mäkirinne

- [jesse.makirinne@meltwater.com](mailto:jesse.makirinne@meltwater.com)

- Lea Pakkanen

- [lea.pakkanen@felm.org](mailto:lea.pakkanen@felm.org)

