

All communications lines back up in Damascus

December 2 2012



Syrian activists upload pictures and spread news of unrest to opposition websites, in the town of Atareb, west of Aleppo, in April 2012. Internet and telephone services resumed in Damascus on Saturday after a three-day blackout, an AFP reporter and state news agency SANA said, as a watchdog said they were up in most parts of Syria.

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"Internet is back in Damascus and in parts of Damascus province," the correspondent said, adding that mobile phone lines were also back up.

State news agency SANA confirmed the reports, saying the outage had been due to maintenance.

"All [communication lines](#) are back up in Damascus, after maintenance works were completed," the agency said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights added that "communications lines are back in most of Syria's provinces."

SANA resumed its wire service as soon as Internet services resumed, and the state television's website was also back up.

Several anti-regime activists went online after services resumed.

"Facebook has lit up," said a Damascus-based opposition activist via the Internet.

Activists in Aleppo and Raqa in the north, as well as Damascus province, contacted AFP via the Internet, to confirm services had resumed.

"At the moment, [Facebook](#) is the place for Syrians to congratulate each other for having the Internet back," a Damascus-based activist who identified herself as Lena said via the Internet.

Activists and human rights monitors said ordinary civilians were harder hit by the [blackout](#) than the opposition as they were unable to use cell phones even to call for [emergency assistance](#) in the event of casualties from the persistent violence rocking the country.

The Syrian authorities said the interruption to normal service was purely

for maintenance but Washington said the move was a deliberate ploy to impede communications among rebels and opposition activists.

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