**Text 2**

DAMASCUS: Deadly car bombings and artillery fire on Friday shattered a fragile truce between the warring parties in Syria just hours after it had begun on the first day of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday.

State media blamed "terrorists," the regime term for rebels, for a car bomb attack in Damascus that killed at least eight people and wounded 30, and a rights watchdog reported another deadly bombing farther south in Daraa.

Rebels accused regime forces of opening up with artillery in the embattled north, where the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported fighting near the key army base of Wadi Deif and shelling and clashes near Damascus.

The army said it was responding to attacks by rebels who violated the truce agreed to mark Eid al-Adha, one of the most sacred holidays in Islam, which started at dawn.

UN and Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi had brokered the ceasefire in the hope that if successful, it could lead to a longer cessation of violence.

President Bashar al-Assad's forces and main rebel group the Free Syrian Army (FSA) had both agreed to a call by Brahimi to lay down their arms for the four-day Eid, but both also reserved the right to respond to attacks.

"Armed terrorist groups attacked military positions, thereby clearly violating the halt to military operations agreed by the army command. Our valiant armed forces are responding to these violations and pursuing these groups," the military said in a statement read on state television.

An FSA commander in the northern city of Aleppo accused the regime of breaking the pledge to stop firing.

"The regime does not respect the ceasefire, it is not shooting and there are no clashes but it has started shelling... What ceasefire? We can't trust the regime," said Abd al-Jaber al-Akaidi.

"The regime is perfidious, a cheater and a liar."

The rebel jihadist group Al-Nosra Front, which has claimed responsibility for deadly car bombings in the past, had refused to sign up to the ceasefire. As the day progressed it became clear there had been little let-up in the violence.

The Britain-based Observatory reported car bombings in Damascus and in Daraa, cradle of the anti-regime revolt that has become a fully fledged uprising since it broke out in mid-March last year.

State television reported at least five dead and 32 wounded in the "terrorist" act.

A security source told AFP the bombing targeted residential buildings for police officers and their families, and that children were playing in the area when the blast occurred.

In Daraa, three soldiers were killed and eight wounded when a car bomb exploded near a military checkpoint and the railway station, the Observatory said. Eight troops were wounded, most of them critically.

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