

Is this a picture  
of cannabis fields  
in Ad Darbasiyah,  
Syria?



## Northeastern Syria: An Image of Cannabis Allegedly Taken in Al-Hasakah is False

Digital analysis and verification revealed that the circulated image was taken in Lebanon's Majdaloun village and was first uploaded to the Internet in 2019

On 17 June 2022, a [Syrian Twitter account](#) posted an image of land planted with cannabis (hashish). The image was attached with a caption saying that the land shown is located in [Ad Darbasiyah](#) town of al-Hasakah province, controlled by the Autonomous Administration and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF).

On 18 June 2022, the same image was posted by [another Syrian Twitter account](#) with the same caption. Since then, the image spread on social media.



**Big Dreams @khalidjud...** · 17/06/2022

موسم "الملوخية" في الدرباسية "مناطق قسد"  
لهذا العام 🤔  
الملوخية هذه صنف فاخر تزرع في مناطق حزب الله  
وقسد وفي افغانستان وإيران!  
لا يتم تناولها إلا مع حمرة طويلة حصراً!



Image (1)- Screenshot of a Tweet posted by 'khalidjuddah' dated 17 June 2022.



Bassam Barabandi بسام بريندي  
@BASSAMVA

...

زراعة الحشيش في الدرباسية- الحسكة.  
Cannabis cultivation in the region of  
.Al-Hasakah - Al-Haskah



10:33 am · 18 Jun 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

Image (2)- Screenshot of a Tweet posted by a Syrian account dated 18 June 2022.

[Syrians for Truth and Justice \(STJ\)](#) tracked the circulated image through its digital forensic expert, [AKMcKeever](#). Our expert found that the image was [first published](#) on 8 June 2019 by a Lebanese account on Twitter. Then, on 1 July 2019, it the same image was [posted](#) by a Lebanese Facebook page named 'Ma32oul'. Later, on 21 April 2020 the Lebanese Facebook page "Janoub News" [posted](#) the image headed with the caption: "Lebanon officially legalizes cannabis cultivation". Afterwards, several Lebanese pages on social media circulated the image.



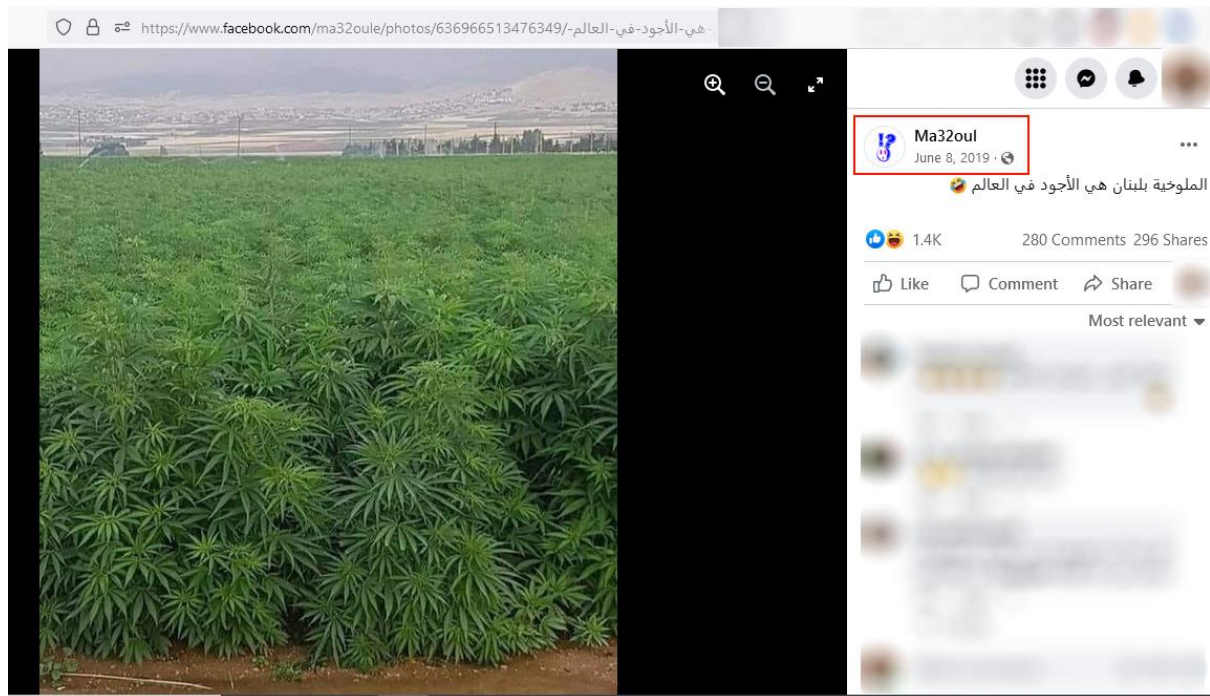


Image (3)- Screenshot of a Facebook [post](#) on a Lebanese page called 'Ma32oul' dated 8 June 2019.



Image (4)- Screenshot of a Facebook [post](#) on a Lebanese page dated 1 July 2019.



**Jnoub News -2-**

21 April 2020 at 18:46 · 🌐



صوت كل لبنان  
لبنان يشرّع رسمياً زراعة الحشيشة



5 shares

Image (5)- Screenshot of a Facebook post on a Lebanese page called '[Janoub News](#)' dated 2020.



Recently, on 10 June 2022, a Lebanese Twitter account called 'Lebanese Tweeter' [posted](#) the same image with a sarcastic comment saying: "We have a bumper jute mallow harvest this year"



مغرد لبناني  
@libertylebanon1

...

موسم هل سنة الملوخية كثير قوي



8:33 pm · 10 Jun 2022 · Twitter for Android

5 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 153 Likes

Image (6)- Screenshot of a Tweet posted by a Lebanese account called 'Lebanese Tweeter' dated 10 June 2022.

It seems that the Syrian accounts blindly reposted the image. Analysis conducted by our digital forensic expert revealed that the image was taken in Lebanon's [Majdaloun](#) village near Baalbek city. Furthermore, the expert [located](#) the land shown in the image at the intersection of roads to Taybeh and Majdaloun villages northwest Majdaloun.



Image (7)- A ground image of the land to be matched with the next satellite images.





Image (8)- A satellite image of the land matched with the previous one.



Image (9)- A ground image to be matched with the next Google Street View image.



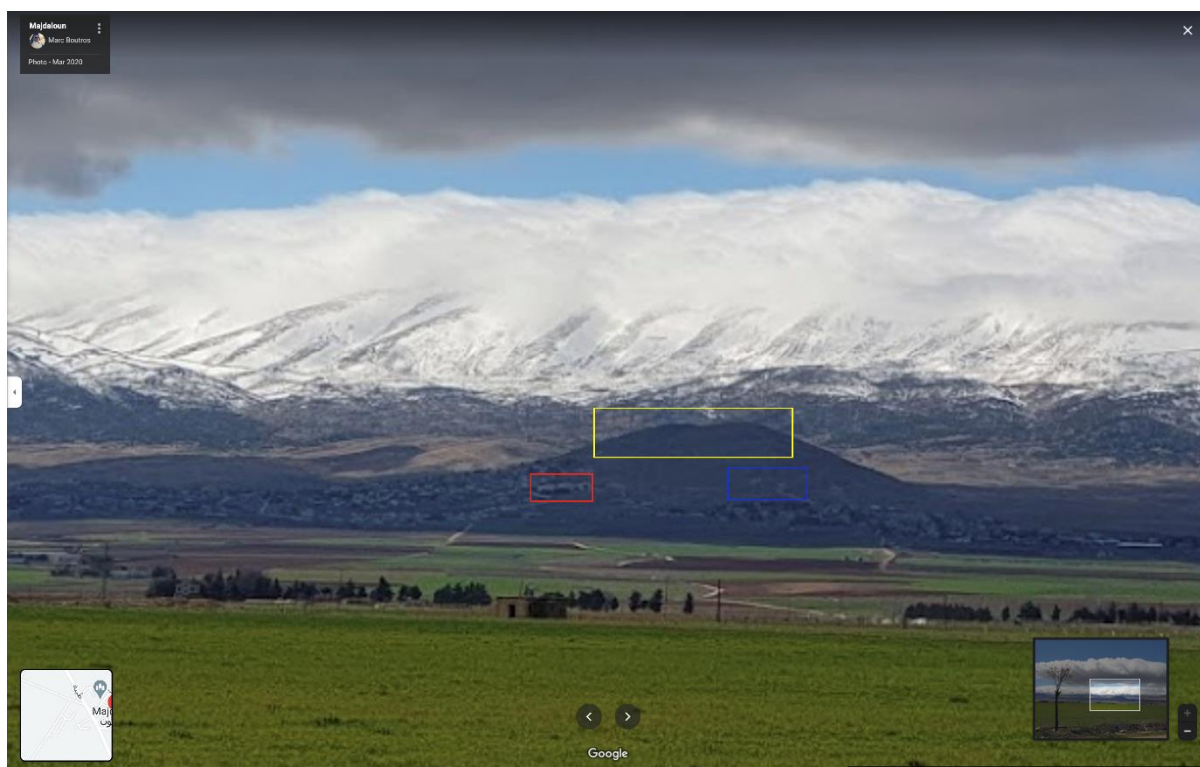


Image (10)- A Google Street View image of the land matched with the previous image.

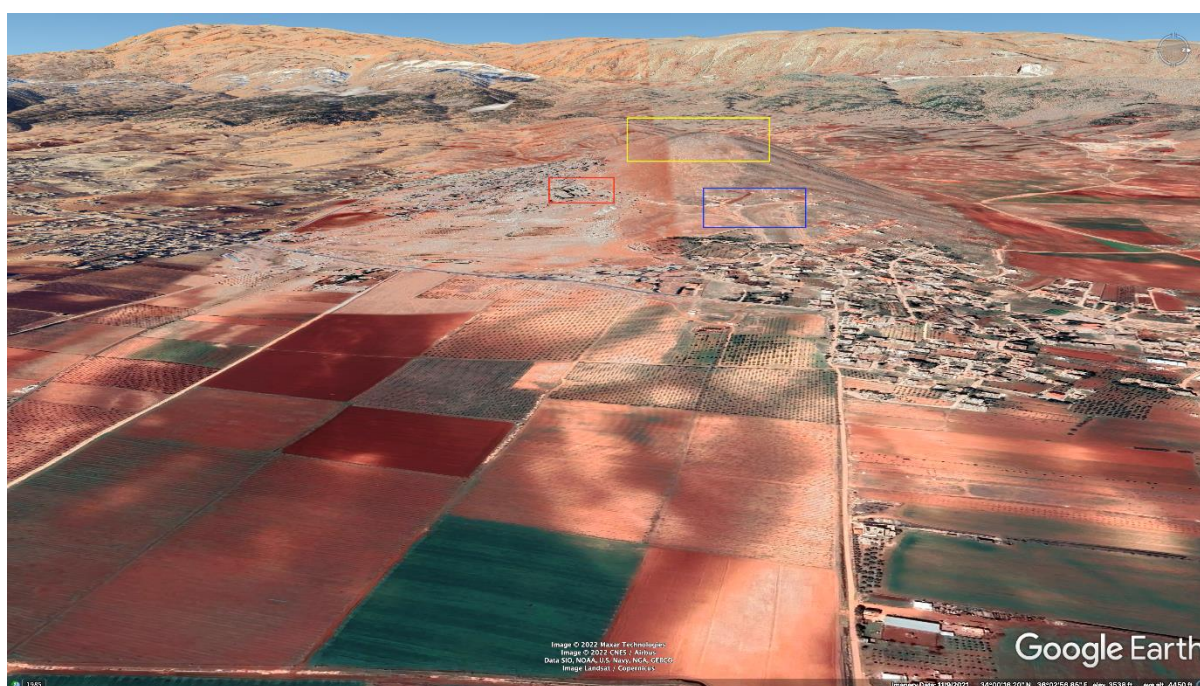


Image (11)- A Google Street View image of the land matched with a satellite image of it.





Image (12)- A ground image of the land to be matched with the next satellite image.



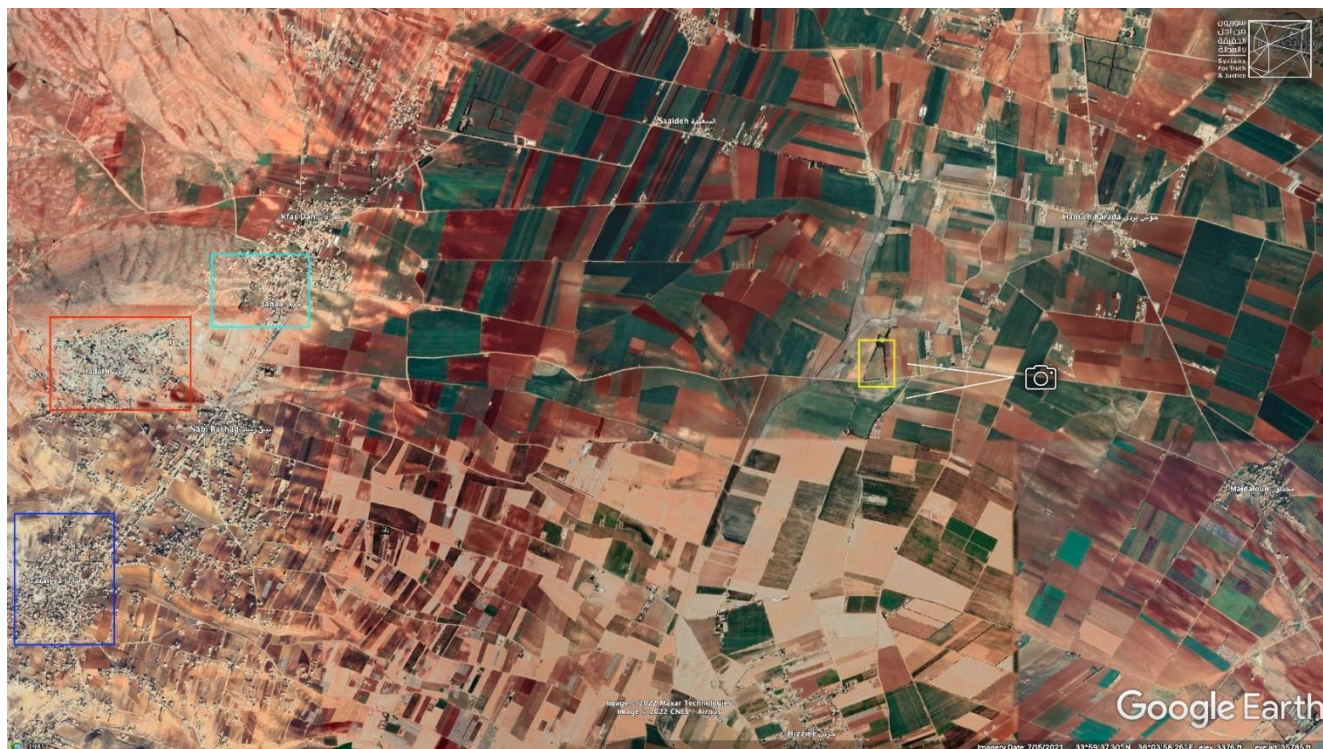
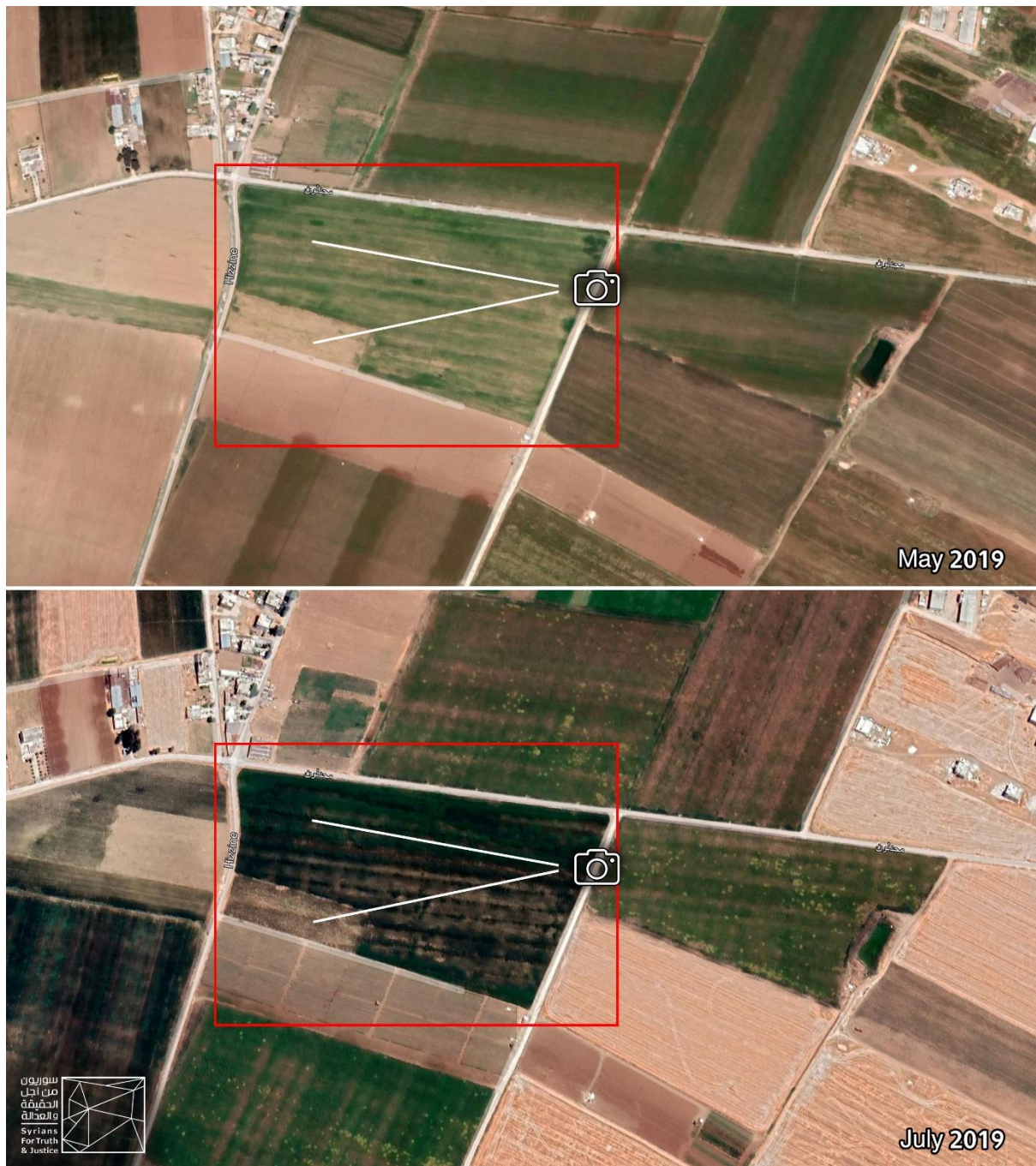


Image (13)- A satellite image of the land matched with the ground one with the angle of the image pointed out.



Images (14) and (15)- Matching two satellite images of the cannabis land taken in May and July 2019.