

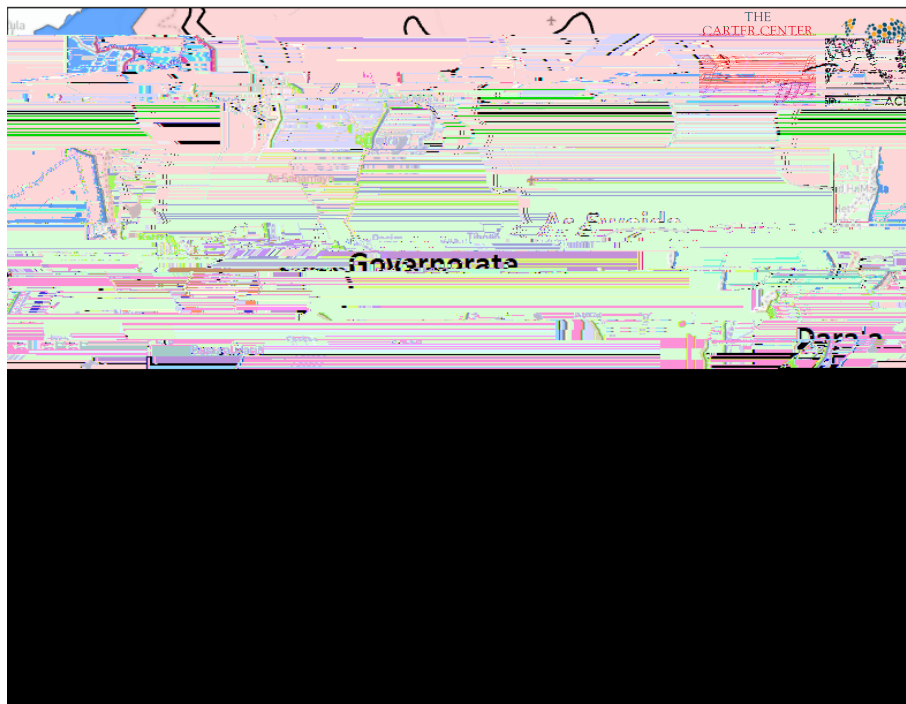
The United Nations Security Council reaches an agreement to continue humanitarian aid delivery in northwest Syria.

The Russian-backed 5th Corps raids the village of Mataeiye, ea

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crossing for another 6 months, with an additional automatic 6-month extension subject to a report by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.⁴ Both the United States and Russia praised the resolution, holding it up as a sign of diplomacy and cooperation.⁵ Some humanitarian organizations criticized the resolution, arguing that it is insufficient to meet the humanitarian needs in Syria, due to the failure to open up additional crossings elsewhere in the region.⁶

The renewal of the CBM was contentious among Syrian and international actors. Russia and the Government of Syria (GoS) argue that direct cross border aid to opposition-controlled territories (northwest) and by-passing GoS-controlled border crossings would violate Syria's sovereignty, discriminate against Syrians in GoS-controlled territory, and benefit Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. Western and Syrian opposition supporters of CBM argue that humanitarian aid only through entry points controlled by Damascus would give the GoS the ability to limit the delivery of humanitarian aid to opposition-controlled territories, and potentially be used to coerce the opposition.⁷



⁴ <https://tinyurl.com/yny5f2x9>

⁵ <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/us-russia-cooperation-extends-access-to-key-syrian-humanitarian-crossing/ar-AALYsKD>, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/russias-un-ambassador-grateful-to-us-others-for-reaching-agreement-on-syrian-aid/ar-AALYwN9>

⁶ <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/07/un-extends-syria-cross-border-assistance-compromise-russia>, <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-un-security-council-s-compromise-resolution-falls-short>

⁷ <https://tinyurl.com/39e3uet8>, <https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2021/04/domestic-and-border-crossings-russias-mean-to-stifle-northern-syria/>

In Dara'a and Quneitra Governorates, some former opposition commanders gained prominence by leading influential political and military groups, occasionally leading to tensions with GoS soldiers and officials. The 8th Brigade of the 5th Corps, a Russian-backed military formation made up of former opposition fighters, maintains a stronghold in eastern Dara'a Governorate. The 8th Brigade has often intervened in tensions between GoS and former opposition fighters and maintained order in eastern Dara'a Governorate.

7 July

A 8th Brigade commander was killed during a raid to arrest a wanted individual in Mataeiyeh, eastern Dara'a Governorate.⁸

8 July

In retaliation for the killing of an 8th Brigade commander, the 8th Brigade retaliated and stormed the town of Mataeiyeh and arrested 36 individuals. In addition, the 8th Brigade reportedly looted and destroyed 10 houses in the town.⁹

10 July

The 8th Brigade released 7 of the individuals arrested in Mataeiyeh. Some of the released prisoners reported that they were tortured.¹⁰ One of the prisoners reportedly died while in the 8th Brigade's custody.¹¹

⁸ <https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9317>

⁹ <https://syrianobserver.com/news/67858/8th-brigade-arrests->

Iran and its allied militias maintain a significant presence in GoS-controlled territory in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Iranian-backed¹² Iraqi militias like Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada have conducted attacks against U.S. armed forces in Iraq. In response to attacks in Iraq, the U.S. bombed Iranian-backed militias on 26 February and 27 June. The latter airstrike reportedly killed 4 militia fighters.¹³

6 July

The leader of the Iranian-backed Sayyid al-Shuhada Brigades vowed to retaliate against U.S. armed forces in Syria and Iraq.¹⁴ The Sayyid al-Shuhada Brigade is an Iraqi militia that was the target of U.S. airstrikes on 27 June.

7 July

U.S. armed forces and the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces intercepted suspected Iranian-backed Iraqi militia drones near the Al-Omar oil field, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.¹⁵ The drone strike coincided with a mortar shelling of a U.S. armed forces base in Iraq.¹⁶

10 July

Suspected Iranian-backed Iraqi militias shelled U.S. armed forces near the Koniko gas field, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.¹⁷

For earlier weekly conflict summaries, please click [here](#). For an interactive map of historical areas of control in Syria, please click [here](#).

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¹² Iranian-back.u6 0 595.08 840.84 reW*ñBT/F2 12 Tf1 0 0 1 410.5 403.51 Tm02 1{(ez)JTJETQq0.000008867 0 595.08 8