

Government of Syria (GoS) Tiger Forces advanced in the Idleb enclave this week, reaching the northern edges of Khan Sheikhun by the end of the reporting period. Despite the first joint Russian-Turkish patrol since late March occurring in the Tal Rifaat area, elevated levels of conflict continued between Turkish and allied Syrian armed groups on the one side and the People's Protection Units (YPG) on the other.

Attacks against GoS personnel, former opposition groups, and civilians continued in Daraa Governorate. ISIS activities continued in central areas of the country.

Improvised explosive device (IED) and small arms attacks against Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) continued this week, including an ISIS-claimed car bomb detonation in Qamishli city. A reduction in the number of cross-border conflict events was noted this week. However, Turkish drone activity was reported.

Government troops made further advances into the Hayyat Tahrir ash Sham (HTS)-dominated Idlib enclave this week, capturing areas to the [north](#) and [east](#) of Habit town, as well as the northern outskirts of Khan Sheikhun, [close](#) to Tal Nimr. To the southeast of the enclave, GoS forces

device (IED) attacks against GoS-aligned personnel, former opposition group members, and civilians were recorded during the week. Three attacks were recorded in [Tal Shihab](#), [Daraa City](#) and [Ash Shajarah](#), targeting 4th Division soldiers, an Imam, and a local mayor respectively. As previously [reported](#), such attacks have increased in 2019 (Figure 4).

In central areas of the country, there was evidence of ISIS's enduring presence with at least three ambushes against GoS forces near [Tadmor City](#), East of [Mayadeen](#) City and in [Kabajib](#) Village, southeast of Deir Ez Zor city. Such activity continues to affect security despite multiple GoS clearance operations throughout 2019, most recently seen last week in the vicinity of the T3 pumping station. There are also [reports](#) of the Russian military establishing a small base in the vicinity of Jalaa town for anti-ISIS operations.

In the south, explosions occurred in the vicinity of Masyaf town in Hama Governorate on the evening of the 15 August. There were conflicting reports about the source of the explosions, with pro-government [sources](#) stating it was due to a missile fired from Lebanese airspace, Russian [media](#) reporting the event as an accidental mortar firing.

