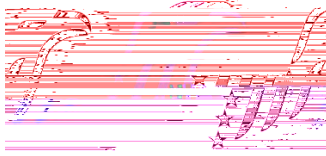


THE CARTER CENTER



WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 15 June - 21 June 2020

SYRIA SUMMARY

NORTHWEST | There were increased attacks against Turkish-backed opposition groups in the region. Turkish and Russian armed forces continued to patrol the M4 highway in Idlib Governorate. Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham arrested a commander of a rival armed opposition group in Idlib Governorate. Civilians continued to face violence in the region.

SOUTH & CENTRAL | Protests continued across southern Syria. An improvised explosive device (IED) killed Russian-backed 5th Corps fighters in Dara'a Governorate. Civilians continued to face targeted violence in Dara'a Governorate.

NORTHEAST | ISIS attacks in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate continued. Clashes erupted between Iranian-backed groups and Government of Syria armed forces in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Turkish-backed armed opposition groups continued to engage in property destruction and looting in Al-Hassakah Governorate. Artillery bombardments in the region increased from the previous week.

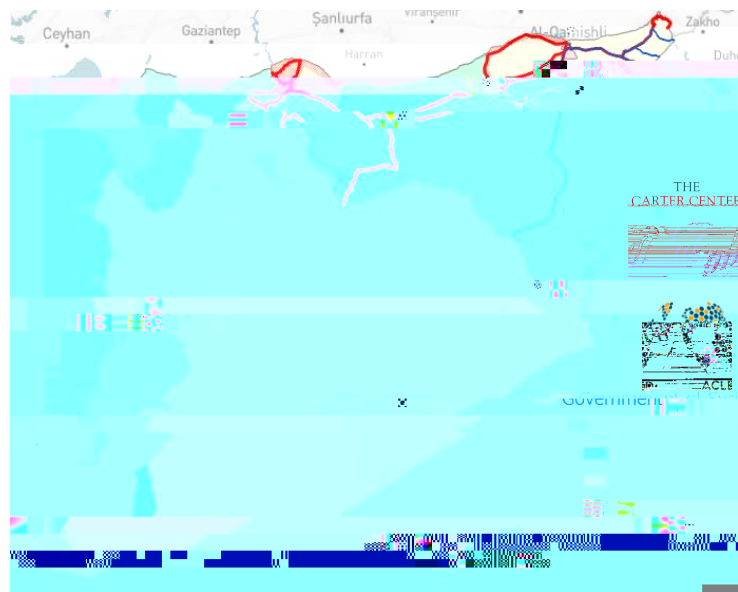


Figure 1: Dominant actors' area of control and influence in Syria as of 21 June 2020. NSOAG stands for Non-state Organized Armed Groups. Also, please see the footnote on page 2.

NORTHWEST SYRIA¹

Protests continued across southern Syria during the reporting period. On 15 June, two demonstrations were held in As-Sweida city, As-Sweida Governorate. Protests called for the overthrow of President Bashar Assad and the release of political prisoners. At the same time, Ba'ath party members held a demonstration in support of President Assad. Both demonstrations converged, leading to a clash between the two sides. On 16 and 17 June, protests against the deteriorating economic conditions were reported in Saqba and Hamouriyeh in Rural Damascus Governorate.¹⁶ The demonstrations were dispersed by the GoS Military Security Branch.¹⁷ On 17 June, protesters called for the overthrow of GoS in Tafas, Dara'a Governorate. Similar protests occurred the next day in Karak, Dara'a Governorate, with protesters also demanding the release of detainees and the withdrawal of Iranian-backed groups.¹⁸ On 19 June, protesters called for the toppling of GoS, the release of detainees, and the withdrawal of Iranian-backed groups and Lebanese Hezbollah in Dara'a city and Jizeh in Dara'a Governorate. On 20 June, civilians in Busra Esh-Sham in Dara'a Governorate demonstrated against GoS and the presence of Iranian-backed

targeted or harmed (see figure 3). By comparison, only 145 such incidents

Turkish-backed armed opposition groups continued to engage in property destruction and looting within Turkish-

June, GoS armed forces and Turkish-backed armed opposition groups shelled each other in Ras al-Ain in Al-Hassakah Governorate. The same day, the SDF and Turkish armed forces exchanged artillery bombardments in Ein Issa in Ar-Raqqa Governorate. This was the highest number of artillery bombardments in the region for June.

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