

WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 7 – 13 OCTOBER 2019

WHOLE OF SYRIA SUMMARY

NORTHWEST | Government of Syria (GoS) shelling and aerial activity onto the Hayyat Tahrir ash Sham (HTS)-dominated Idlib enclave continued this week. Also, conflict activity increased in the Tal Rifaat pocket. And a suicide attack occurred in Azaz City.

SOUTH & CENTRAL | Violence continued against GoS-aligned personnel in southern Syria, including one event that targeted a joint Syrian/Russian Military Patrol near Ankhel. In central areas of the country, ISIS activity continued despite a GoS operation

NORTH

President Trump and Turkish President Erdogan that resulted in the White House releasing a [statement](#) on 6 October implying the United States Armed Forces would not prevent any Turkish operation in northern Syria. The Turkish assault also marks the end of the implementation of [security mechanisms](#) between Turkey and the US to create a de-militarized zone along Syrian/Turkish border that had been agreed in late August. The offensive was widely condemned by the international community including the [Arab League](#), the [EU](#), [Russia](#), [Iran](#), Saudi Arabia, and Israel.

As a result of the developments, large population movements were recorded during the week. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) [reported](#) that up to 160,000 people had been displaced, including 70,000 children. Critical infrastructure have also been affected including, three health facilities, a school, and the Alouk Water Station that serves 400,000 people in Hasakeh Governorate. Fifteen Aid Organizations working in northeast Syria have [warned](#) that humanitarian aid could be cut off if the offensive continues.

Several reports of summary executions were also reported during the week. Between 10 and 12 October, ACLED data recorded at least two events of Turkish backed groups executing civilians and a local Kurdish [politician](#) travelling in areas between Qamishli City and Tal Abiad as the offensive began.

Behind frontlines, low-level attacks against SDF and aligned personnel continued. In Hasakeh City, two motorcycle bombs detonated in the Ghoweran and the Ajajeh areas of the city. In Qamishli City, a suicide car bomb detonated on Munir Habib Street. A suicide bomber was also shot dead in Menbej city before he could detonate his device. In the Euphrates River Valley at least seven attacks against SDF personnel occurred in Shiheil (x2), Tayanna, Gharanij, Jadid Bakkara, Sabkhah, and in Basira, where a civilian council member was shot dead.

In contrast to previous months, there were no SDF arrest operations against alleged ISIS members this week. Instead, several SDF contingents were transferred from the Euphrates River Valley, especially around Deir Ez Zor City and the Omar Oil Fields, to Ras al Ain and Tal Abiad.

For the fifth consecutive week, suspected Israeli airstrikes struck an Iranian Republican Guard Corps (IRGC) site near Abu Kamal on 11 October. This is the sixth time the area has been struck by airstrikes since 3 September.⁶

Two incidents also took place in camps holding people who are suspected of being wives and children of ISIS fighters. In Al Hole Camp⁷, female residents attacked camp security guards, set fire to several tents, and an unknown escaped on 9 October. On 11 October, Turkish shelling targeted an SDF-run prison holding captured ISIS members near Qamishli City. The attack resulted inmates escaping.

⁶ After last strikes on 3, 8, 18, 28, and 30 September.

⁷ Al-Hole Camp is one of several camps in northeast Syria. It primarily holds Syrian and foreign women and children who are suspected of being family members of ISIS fighters. These camps are overseen by the SDF.

