

WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 8 - 14 JULY 2019

WHOLE OF SYRIA SUMMARY

NORTHWEST | Opposition groups organized attacked Hammamiyat town in the south of the Hayyat Tahrir ash Sham-dominated Idlib enclave, capturing the town for 24 hours, before it was retaken again by government forces. Opposition armed groups continued arresting civilians

time.

At least 13 government-dominated areas were also bombarded with rockets and artillery during the week, including the [New Aleppo](#) area of Aleppo City and Hama Airbase (Figure 3).² The Russian Center for Reconciliation and Conflict Sides also [reported](#) that three weaponized drones were shot down near the Russian operated Hmeimim Airbase in northern Latakia Governorate on 12 July. Such attacks have been common since the Idlib offensive began earlier in the year.

Figure 3: Government and NSOAG (including HTS) Conflict Activity in northwest Syria 2019.

The situation in Idlib continues to affect civilians and humanitarian efforts heavily. According to a UNOCHA [report](#) from 12 July, at least four medical facilities were impacted by airstrikes in the past two weeks, including Maraat al Numan and in Jisr ash Shaghour hospitals, both of which had several hundred patients inside at the time of the strikes. These facilities had previously shared their location coordinates with parties in the conflict as part of the humanitarian notification system.³ Five schools, three IDP settlements, two bakeries, two markets, and one major water station (serving 80,000 people in Idlib) have also been struck by aerial and ground bombardments since early July.

Further north in the Turkish-backed Operation Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch areas of Afrin, Azaz, and Jarablus districts of Aleppo governorate, Turkish-backed opposition groups, including the Ash Sham Corps and the Sultan Murad Division, continued to conduct arrest operations against civilians with alleged links to Kurdish-aligned opposition groups. Six raids were recorded this week in Jandairis, Ma'btali (x2), Sharan, Shiekh al Hadid, and Qurt Qulaq al Kabira towns. As previously [reported](#), such activity has increased since May.

On 11 July, a car bomb detonated on the outskirts of Afrin town, killing at least ten people, wounding

SOUTH AND CENTRAL SYRIA

Low-level attacks against government-aligned personnel continued this week with five attacks recorded in Busra al Harir, Da'el, Hrak, Yadudah, and in Sahwa town, where an IED detonated as a joint Syrian Army/Russian Military Police convoy passed on the Haraba–Maaraba road. The Russian Ministry of Defence later [confirmed](#) the incident, which did not result in any Russian casualties or damages.

This now brings the number of recorded attacks against government-aligned personnel and its allies since August 2018⁴ to 160. In the past four months, IED activity in the south has increased, with 13 events recorded since 1 March compared to just five events the previous four months (Figure 4).



Figure 4: Attacks against government-aligned personnel in southern Syria since August 2018 (Note not all locations of attacks highlighted).

In the central part of the country, pro-government [sources](#) reported an explosive attack that [damaged](#) a pipeline connected to the Sha'er/Ibla Gas Fields on 14 July. Attacks against major oil and gas infrastructure in Syria are uncommon, with two attacks on record, including last month's attack on an underwater pipeline in Banyas. It is uncertain if the two events are linked.

Following increased ISIS activity in central areas of the country in recent months, the Syrian military [began](#) clearance operations against the group in the deserts between Deir Ez Zor and Sokhneh city. This is the third large-scale, security operation by GoS forces in central Syria in 2019. However, these government

⁴ When the area was retaken from a variety of opposition groups including HTS and ISIS.

attempts have done little to curb ISIS activity so far (Figure 5).

Figure 5: ISIS Activity in central areas of Syria in

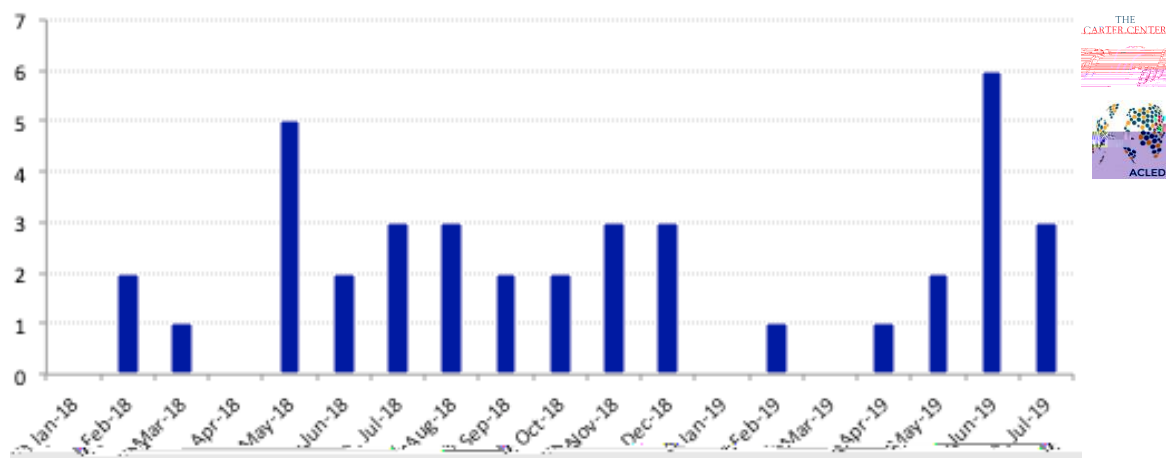


Figure 6: IED activity in Hasakeh City in 2019