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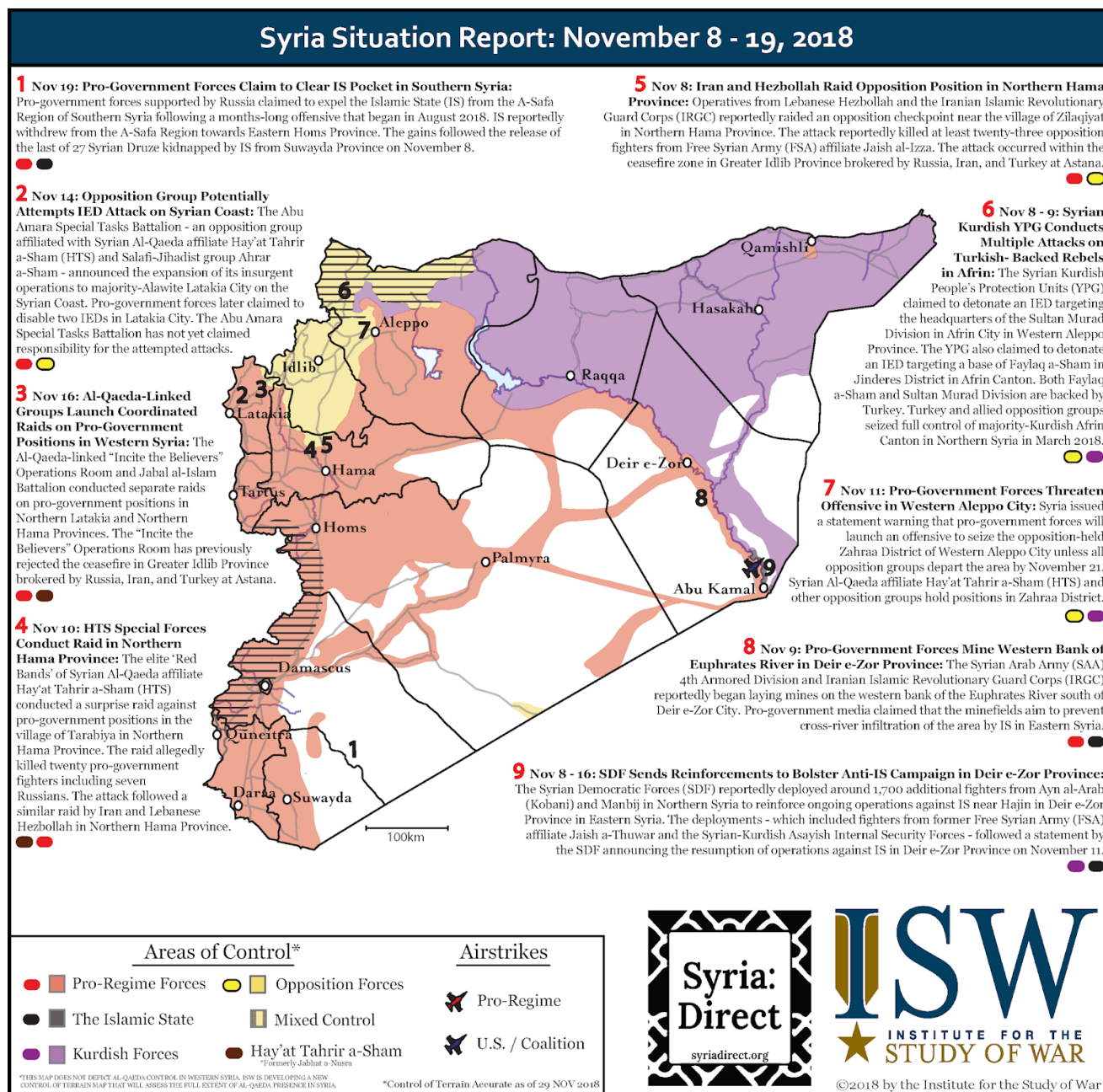
Syria Situation Report: November 8 - 29, 2018

By ISW's Syria Team and Syria Direct

These two graphics mark the latest installment of the Syria Situation Report (SITREP) Map made possible through a partnership between the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) and Syria Direct. The maps depict significant developments in the war in Syria during the period November 8 - 29, 2018.

Map 1: November 8 - 19, 2018

[Click image to enlarge.](#)



Map 2: November 19 - 29, 2018
Click image to enlarge.

Syria Situation Report: November 19 - 29, 2018

1 Nov 23 - 25: Insurgent Group Claims Two Attacks on Pro-Government Forces in Southern Syria: The Popular Resistance - an opposition-affiliated insurgent group - claimed to conduct an attack against a pro-government checkpoint and government security directorate in the town of Sanamayn in Northern Daraa Province on November 25. The Popular Resistance alleged that the attack killed "dozens" of pro-government fighters although this claim could not be verified. The Popular Resistance also claimed to kill two pro-government fighters on the road between the towns of Jassim and Nawa in Western Daraa Province on November 23.

2 Nov 20 - 21: Pro-Government Forces Redeploy from Southern Syria to Greater Idlib and Eastern Homs Provinces: The Syrian Arab Army (SAA) 4th Armored Division and the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) began to withdraw from the A-Safa Region of Southern Syria following the end of operations against IS on November 19. Pro-government media stated that the units would reinforce frontlines with opposition groups in Northern Hama Province as well as operations against IS in Eastern Homs Province.

3 Nov 23: Unidentified Gunmen Kill Two Prominent Opposition Activists in Idlib Province: Unidentified gunmen shot and killed prominent opposition activists Raed Fares and Hamoud Juneid in the town of Kafr Nabl in Southern Idlib Province. Fares operated Radio Fresh and maintained deep ties to the West. Local activists blamed the killing on Syrian Al-Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS). No group has yet claimed responsibility for the assassination.

4 Nov 25 - 27: Rival Opposition Groups Once Again Threaten to Clash in Greater Idlib Province: Syrian Al-Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS) reportedly deployed reinforcements to Darat Izza in Western Aleppo Province and Maarat a-Numan in Southern Idlib Province, sparking tensions with the rival National Liberation Front (NLF) backed by Turkey. The NLF stated that it is preparing for possible clashes with HTS. Salafi-Jihadist group Ahrar a-Sham and Islamist group Harakat Nour a-Din a-Zenki also reportedly conducted "reciprocal movements" to counter HTS. HTS and the NLF engaged in a round of infighting in late October 2018.

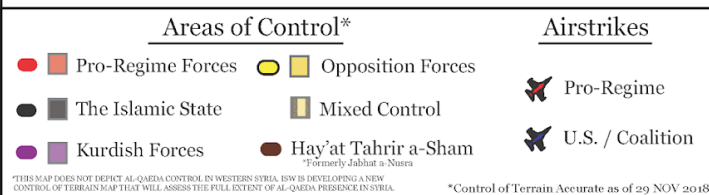
5 Nov 24 - 26: Alleged Chemical Weapons Attack Provokes Russian Airstrikes in Idlib Ceasefire Zone: Pro-government media claimed that unspecified opposition groups launched mortars containing chlorine gas against government-held Western Aleppo City on November 24, injuring at least ninety-four civilians. Russia later conducted airstrikes targeting the alleged origins of the attack in opposition-held Western Aleppo Province. The strikes occurred within the ceasefire zone in Greater Idlib Province brokered by Russia, Iran, and Turkey at Astana. Opposition sources accused the government of staging the chemical weapons attack in order to justify a renewed offensive against Greater Idlib Province.

6 Nov 19: Syrian Kurdish YPG Continues Insurgent Campaign in Afrin: The Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) detonated a motorcycle-borne IED targeting a headquarters of the Turkish-backed Syrian Military Police near Afrin City in Western Aleppo Province. Turkey and allied opposition groups seized full control of majority-Kurdish Afrin Canton in Northern Syria in March 2018.

7 Nov 26: Iranian-Backed Forces Reportedly Deploy on East Bank of Euphrates River in Deir e-Zor Province: The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and allied foreign Shi'a fighters reportedly deployed to the towns of Khasham and Salhiya on the eastern bank of the Euphrates River near Deir e-Zor City, according to local activists and anonymous sources in the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Pro-government forces previously used Khasham as a base to attack the SDF and U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition in February 2018.

8 Nov 24: SDF Reportedly Captures Senior IS Leader in Eastern Syria: The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition reportedly captured Abu Zeid - a senior member of the IS Shura Council - near Tayyana in Deir e-Zor Province. Abu Zeid was reportedly found with an SVEST, 20 mobile phones, and 80 gold ingots.

9 Nov 22 - 26: IS Launches Major Counterattack Against SDF in Eastern Deir e-Zor Province: IS conducted a major counterattacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) near Hajin in Deir e-Zor Province along the Syrian-Iraqi Border. IS exploited a sandstorm to attack and temporarily seize positions near Hajin, Bahra, and the Tanak Oil Fields, killing at least ninety-two fighters from the SDF. The SDF announced the resumption of offensive operations against IS in Deir e-Zor Province on November 11.



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