

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Syria Situation Report: January 10 - 23, 2019

1 Jan 10 - 15: Anti-Government Militants Attack State Security Forces in Southern Syria: The Popular Resistance - an anti-government opposition group - attacked headquarters of the the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) and Syrian Air Force Intelligence in Daraa City on January 10 as well as a military barracks in Tafas in Western Daraa Province on January 15. Unidentified militants also attacked a headquarters of Syrian Air Force Intelligence and assassinated a local member of the Syrian Political Security Directorate in Sanamayn in Central Daraa Province on January 11 and January 14.

2 Jan 21: Al Qaeda-Linked Opposition Group Claims Blast in Damascus: The Abu Amara Brigades - an opposition group linked to Syrian Al Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS) - claimed responsibility for detonating an IED targeting pro-government soliders in Kafr Sousa in Southern Damascus. Government security forces later claimed to discover and dismantle a second IED in Kafr Sousa. The blast marks the first attack claimed by the Abu Amara Brigades in Damascus.

3 Jan 22: Unidentified Militants Conduct Rare VBIED Attack on Syrian Coast: Unidentified militants detonated a VBIED in Latakia City on the Syrian Coast, killing at least one individual and injuring at least ten others. Government security forces later claimed to discover and dismantle a second VBIED in Latakia City. No group has claimed responsibility for the blast.

4 Jan 10: Syrian Al Qaeda Affiliate Consolidates Political Control Over Greater Idlib Province: Syrian Al Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS) imposed its political control over Greater Idlib Province under the terms of a ceasefire brokered with the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front (NLF) after a week of clashes that began on January 2. The NLF agreed to surrender political control of its areas to the HTS-affiliated Syrian Salvation Government (SSG). The Idlib Free Police backed by the Syrian Interim Government (SIG) will dissolve in favor of the SSG.

5 Jan 18 - 20: Alleged IS Attacks Threaten Al Qaeda Consolidation in Idlib Province: Alleged Islamic State (IS) militants detonated a VBIED targeting a headquarters of Syrian Al Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS) near Idlib City on January 18, killing at least eleven individuals. Unidentified militants also detonated at least four additional IEDs in Idlib Province on January 18 - 19. HTS later claimed raids against alleged IS cells accused of involvement of the attacks on January 20.

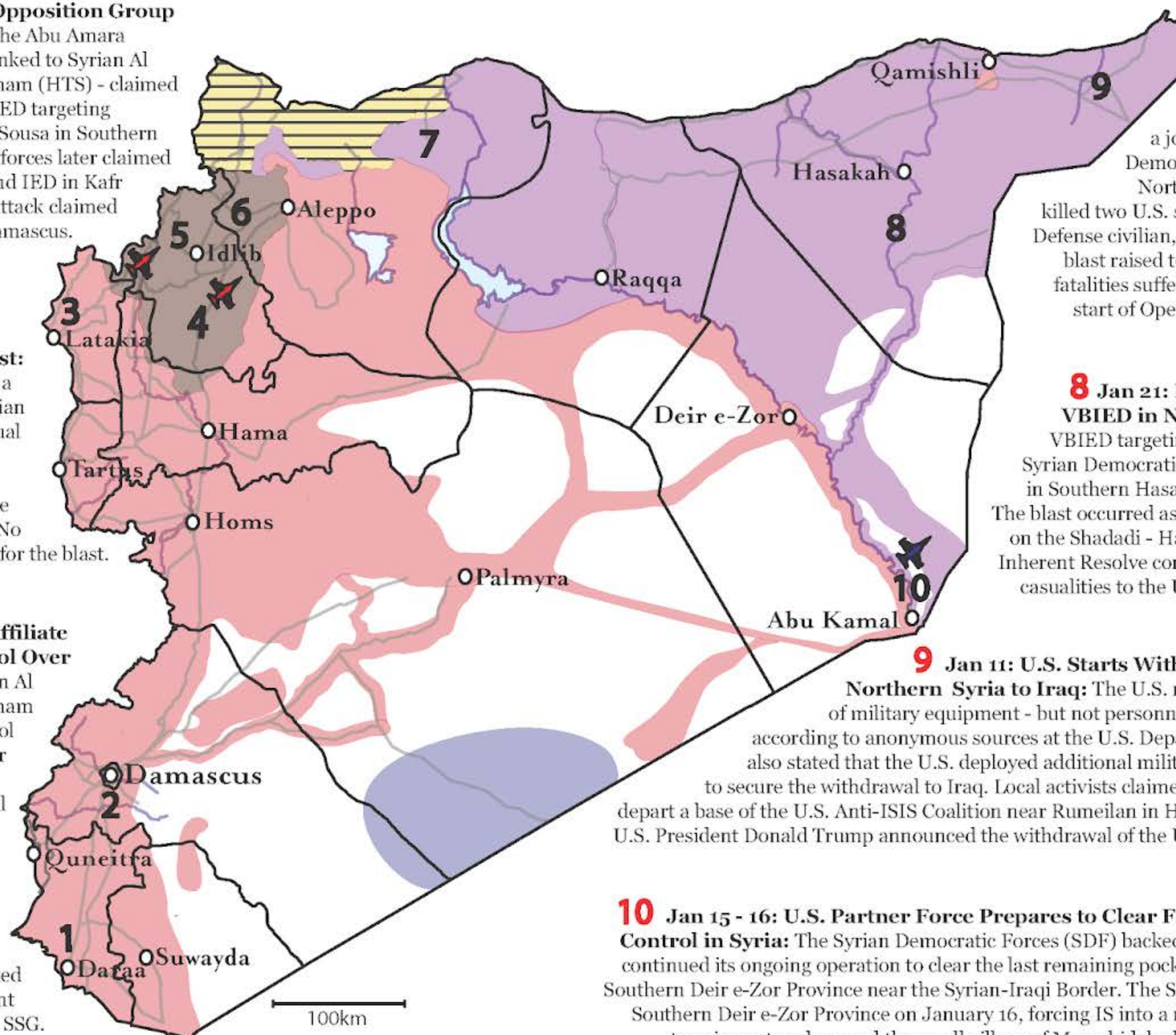
6 Jan 15 - 16: Turkish-Backed Opposition Group Integrates Several Factions Previously Targeted by Al Qaeda in Aleppo Province: Faylaq a-Sham - an Islamist group affiliated with the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front (NLF) - integrated several local opposition groups including the Thuwar a-Sham Brigades, Bayraq al-Islam, and Liwa Ahrar Darat Izza in Western Aleppo Province on January 15 - 16. The factions had previously been affiliated with Harakat Nour a-Din a-Zinki - an opposition group defeated and dissolved by Syrian Al Qaeda affiliate Hay'at Tahrir a-Sham (HTS) on January 4.

7 Jan 16: IS SVEST Kills Four U.S. Personnel in Manbij: An IS militant detonated an SVEST targeting a joint patrol of the U.S. and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Manbij in Northern Aleppo Province. The blast killed two U.S. soldiers, one U.S. Department of Defense civilian, and one civilian contractor. The blast raised to six the total number of combat fatalities suffered by the U.S. in Syria since the start of Operation Inherent Resolve in 2014.

8 Jan 21: IS Targets U.S. Convoy with VBIED in Northern Syria: IS detonated a VBIED targeting a joint convoy of the U.S. and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) north of Shadadi in Southern Hasakah Province in Northern Syria. The blast occurred as the convoy passed a checkpoint on the Shadadi - Hasakah City Highway. Operation Inherent Resolve confirmed the blast but denied any casualties to the U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition in Syria.

9 Jan 11: U.S. Starts Withdrawal of Equipment from Northern Syria to Iraq: The U.S. reportedly began the withdrawal of military equipment - but not personnel - from Northern Syria to Iraq, according to anonymous sources at the U.S. Department of Defense. The sources also stated that the U.S. deployed additional military personnel to Northern Syria to secure the withdrawal to Iraq. Local activists claimed to witness at least ten vehicles depart a base of the U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition near Rumeilan in Hasakah Province on January 10. U.S. President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of the U.S. from Syria on December 19.

10 Jan 15 - 16: U.S. Partner Force Prepares to Clear Final Pocket of IS Territorial Control in Syria: The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) backed by the U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition continued its ongoing operation to clear the last remaining pocket of urban terrain held by IS in Southern Deir e-Zor Province near the Syrian-Iraqi Border. The SDF seized the town of Sousah in Southern Deir e-Zor Province on January 16, forcing IS into a roughly five-kilometer stretch of terrain centered around the small village of Marashidah along the Euphrates River Valley.



Areas of Control*

- Pro-Regime
- Al Qaeda-Dominated
- The Islamic State
- Turkish / Opposition Forces
- Kurdish Forces
- U.S. and Partner Forces

Airstrikes

- ✈ Pro-Regime
- ✈ U.S. / Coalition

