

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1203
Land:	Syrien
Kilde:	Institute of the Study of War
Titel:	Syria Situation Report: January 8 - 21 2020
Udgivet:	21. januar 2020
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	5. maj 2020

Syria Situation Report: January 8- 21, 2020

1 Jan 15-21: Suwayda Protests Signal Regime Failures to Address Economic Problems in Regime Areas: Dozens of civilians protested deteriorating living conditions, high prices, and inflation of the Syrian Pound outside the regime's administrative buildings in Suwayda City for seven consecutive days. These are the first anti-regime protests in Suwayda City since May 2019.

2 Jan 13-14: Large Protest in Daraa City Could Strengthen Pressure on Regime in Southern Syria: Hundreds of mourners gathered on January 14 for the funeral of a former rebel fighter, assassinated by unknown militants in the Daraa al-Balad neighborhood of Daraa City the previous day. Mourners reportedly chanted anti-regime slogans, demanded the release of detainees from regime prisons, and called for the removal of pro-regime forces from the area.

3 Jan 9-18: Reconciled Rebel Commander Uses Violence Against Civilians in Daraa City: Syrian Military Intelligence (SMI) officer and former rebel commander Mustafa al-Masalmeh kidnapped, tortured, and killed three young people in the Daraa al-Balad neighborhood of Daraa City who were allegedly responsible for an IED attack that killed his brother on January 9. A gang affiliated with al-Masalmeh later kidnapped two young men from a prominent clan in the same neighborhood on January 17, sparking tension. Al-Masalmeh released the kidnappers from custody, prompting protests on January 18.

4 Jan 11: Increasingly Open Anti-Regime Insurgent Activity Signals Lack of Fear of Pro-Regime Forces in the South: Protesters stormed a Syrian Air Force Intelligence (SAFI) checkpoint after SAFI arrested a local in the village of Nahtah in eastern Daraa. Protesters reportedly detained 30 officers and seized their weapons. Russian Military Police (MPs) are reportedly negotiating a resolution with local representatives. Locals separately seized three pro-regime checkpoints in Karak, seven miles south of Nahtah, detained eight regime elements, and seized their weapons.

5 Jan 15: Insurgent Attacks in Sanamayn Target Multiple Locations Simultaneously: Unidentified militants attacked multiple pro-regime positions in and around the town of Sanamayn in northern Daraa Province on January 15 with automatic weapons, RPGs, and unspecified explosive devices. The number of casualties is unknown.

6 Jan 8: Lebanese Hezbollah Reportedly Arrests Members of Regime Militia: Lebanese Hezbollah and SAFI arrested six young men for unknown reasons in the town of Telfita in west Qalamoun, 13 miles north of Damascus. A number of volunteers with the National Defense Forces (NDF) suspected of being complicit with the recent spread of the anti-regime insurgency to the area were among them, according to local reports.

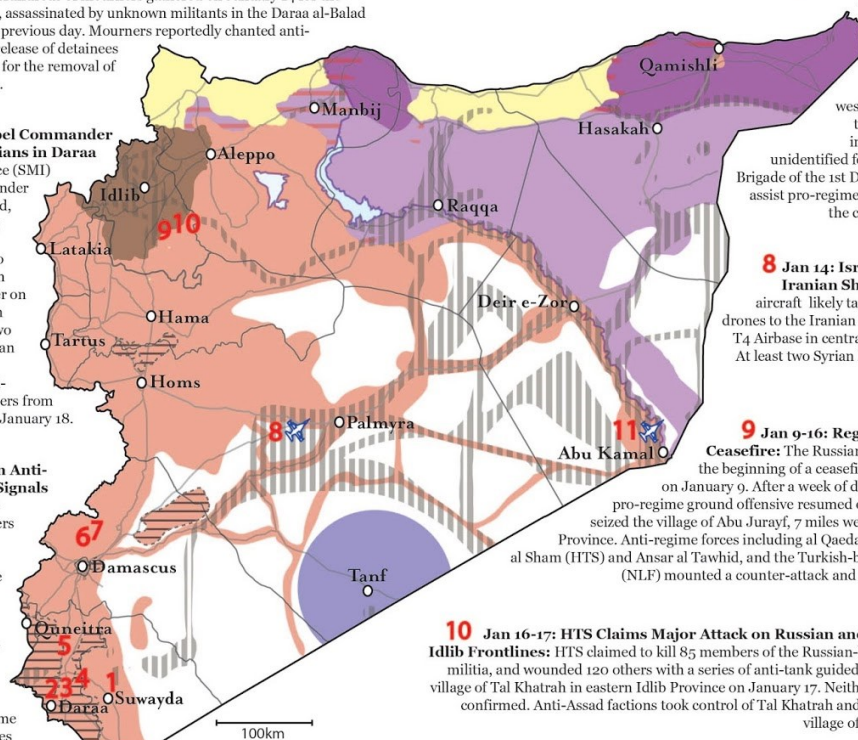
7 Jan 15: Pro-Regime Raid North of Damascus Leads to Clashes: Pro-regime forces, including the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) 4th Division and Lebanese Hezbollah, reportedly raided a home in the town of Rankous in west Qalamoun, Damascus Province to arrest a wanted man, resulting in clashes between the regime and unidentified former local rebels. The SAA 68th Brigade of the 1st Division subsequently deployed to assist pro-regime forces. Ten people were killed in the clashes, including regime officers.

8 Jan 14: Israeli Airstrikes Target Likely Iranian Shipment to T4 Airbase: Israeli aircraft likely targeted a shipment of weapons or drones to the Iranian and Iranian-backed forces at the T4 Airbase in central Homs Province with airstrikes. At least two Syrian IL-76 transport planes arrived at T4 from Tehran on January 14.

9 Jan 9-16: Regime Violates Russo-Turkish Ceasefire: The Russian Ministry of Defense announced the beginning of a ceasefire in the Idlib de-escalation zone on January 9. After a week of decreased but steady violence, the pro-regime ground offensive resumed on January 15. Pro-regime forces seized the village of Abu Jurayf, 7 miles west of Abu Duhur, in eastern Idlib Province. Anti-regime forces including al Qaeda-affiliated factions Hay'at Tahrir al Sham (HTS) and Ansar al Tawhid, and the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front (NLF) mounted a counter-attack and retook the village on January 16.

10 Jan 16-17: HTS Claims Major Attack on Russian and Russian-Backed Forces on Idlib Frontlines: HTS claimed to kill 85 members of the Russian-backed Liwa al-Quds Palestinian militia, and wounded 120 others with a series of anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) strikes near the village of Tal Khatrah in eastern Idlib Province on January 17. Neither claim has been independently confirmed. Anti-Assad factions took control of Tal Khatrah and the previously contested nearby village of Abu Jurayf following the attack.

11 Jan 9-10: Israel Likely Airstrikes Target Iranian Proxy Vehicles and Warehouses near Syria-Iraq Border: Unidentified warplanes targeted vehicles and weapons depots with airstrikes in two Iranian proxy positions near Abu Kamal on the Syria-Iraq border in southeast Deir e-Zor Province on January 9. The strike killed at least eight militants, reportedly members of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF). Combined Joint Task Forces-Operation Inherent Resolve (CJTF-OIR) denied responsibility for the strike.



Pro-Regime	Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
ISIS Support Zones	Joint SDF-Regime Control
Al Qaeda-Dominated*	Core SDF-Held Kurdish Terrain
Turkish-Dominated	Former Opposition Terrain (Reconciled)
U.S. and Partner Forces	Israeli Airstrikes

*AL QAEDA-LINKED GROUPS CONTROL NEARLY ALL GOVERNANCE AND MILITARY STRUCTURES IN GREATER IDLIB PROVINCE. VARIOUS LOCAL ACTORS ASSERT LIMITED CONTROL OVER ISOLATED AREAS OF GREATER IDLIB. Control of Terrain Accurate as of 22 JAN 2020

SYRIA
direct

ISW
INSTITUTE FOR THE
STUDY OF WAR

Contributors: Michael Land and Nada Atieh

©2020 by the Institute for the Study of War