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At Least 28 Civilians Killed By Air Strikes In Northwest Syria

At least 28 civilians, including four children, were killed in air strikes in the rebel stronghold of Idlib in northwest Syria, a monitoring group said on September 30.

Overnight air strikes targeted the town of Armanaz, in Idlib Province, located a few kilometers from the Turkish border.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said it couldn't determine who had carried out the air strikes.

In the last few days, jets belonging to the Syrian government and its ally Russia have intensified their attacks on Idlib.

The British-based watchdog also said that 12 people had died in earlier strikes in the Harem district, some 20 kilometers northwest of the provincial capital Idlib.

Idlib, dominated by a group formerly known as the Al-Nusra Front, recently experienced a six-month lull in air strikes until the latest escalation.

Rescue workers say Syria and Russia have killed scores of civilians in air strikes launched after insurgents began an offensive against government-held areas in the northwest of the country on September 19. Both countries deny killing civilians.

On September 15, Russia, Turkey, and Iran agreed to create a "de-escalation zone" in Idlib, as part of efforts to establish a cease-fire in Syria.

Syria has said that the deal does not cover extremist groups.

Based on reporting by AFP, dpa, and Reuters

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