

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

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Syria Situation Report: December 13, 2018 - January 9, 2019

1 Dec 25: Syrian Government Struggles to Reassert Authority over Druze Population in Southern Syria: At least a dozen armed factions in majority-Druze Suwayda Province in Southern Syria announced their intention to join together and oppose forced conscription by the Syrian Government. Druze in Suwayda Province have resisted conscription throughout the Syrian Civil War.

2 Dec 29: Prominent Al-Qaeda-Affiliated Official Killed in Southern Syria:

Unknown actors reportedly killed Iyad Toubasi (aka Abu Julaybib) - a hardline senior militant affiliated with Al-Qaeda in Syria - in Dara'a Province in Southern Syria. Activists claimed that Abu Julaybib had departed Idlib Province in Northern Syria to either enter Jordan or build an insurgency in Southern Syria. Abu Julaybib was previously a high-ranking official in Syrian Al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra.

3 Dec 26: Israel Reportedly Targets Hezbollah Positions in Damascus:

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) fired at least sixteen cruise targeting arms caches and a senior delegation of Lebanese Hezbollah west of Damascus. The targets reportedly included Mezzeh Military Airbase, Darayya National Hospital, and the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) 4th Armored Division Headquarters.

4 Dec 28 - Jan 9: Syrian Al-Qaeda Affiliate Makes Gains Against Rival Opposition Groups in Idlib Province:

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) - the successor of Syrian Al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra - and the Turkish-backed National Liberation Front (NLF) engaged in clashes across Idlib Province on January 2. The infighting follows a military confrontation between HTS and NLF affiliate Harakat Nour al-Din al-Zinki (HNDZ) in Western Aleppo Province on December 28. HTS seized near-total control of Western Aleppo Province and forced the dissolution of HNDZ on January 4. HTS later made further gains against the NLF affiliates Ahrar al-Sham and Suqour al-Sham in Southern Idlib Province and Western Hama Province. HTS and the NLF agreed to a two-week ceasefire on January 8. Clashes later resumed on January 9.

5 Dec 23 - Jan 9: Pro-Government Forces Reinforce Manbij Countryside in Deal with SDF:

The Russian Armed Forces as well as the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) 1st Division, Republican Guards, and Tiger Forces reinforced positions in the town of Arima west of Manbij in Eastern Aleppo Province on December 26 as part of a deal with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The agreement followed negotiations between the SDF and the Kremlin in Moscow on December 23. Russia and the SDF-affiliated Al-Bab Military Council later began joint patrols west of Manbij on January 9. Russia and Syria previously deployed forces to Arima to block a threatened offensive by Turkey against Manbij in 2017.

6 Jan 7: IS Conducts SVEST Attack in A-Raqqa City:

IS detonated an SVEST targeting a headquarters of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) near Rashid Secondary School in A-Raqqa City on January 7, killing at least five individuals and injuring at least eight others. IS previously detonated an SVBIED targeting the SDF in A-Raqqa City on November 4.

7 Dec 29: IS Assassinate High-Ranking Deir e-Zor Civil Council Member:

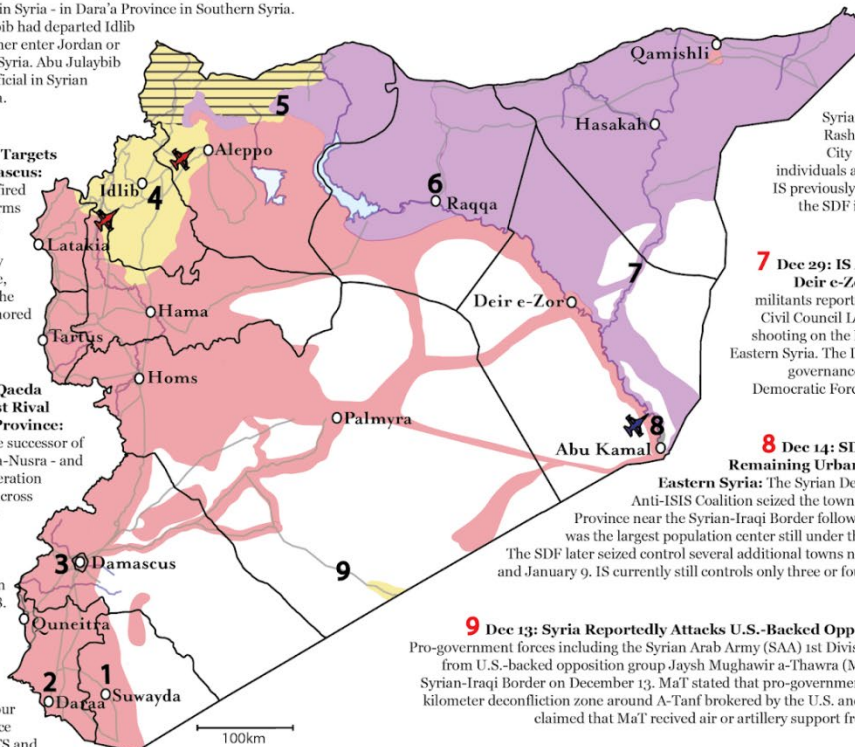
IS militants reportedly assassinated the Deir e-Zor Civil Council Legislative Co-Chair in a drive-by shooting on the Hasakah-Deir e-Zor Highway in Eastern Syria. The Deir e-Zor Civil Council is a local governance body established by the Syrian Democratic Forces and U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition.

8 Dec 14: SDF Seizes Control of Largest Remaining Urban Center Controlled by IS in Eastern Syria:

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition seized the town of Hajin in Southern Deir e-Zor Province near the Syrian-Iraqi Border following heavy clashes with IS. Hajin was the largest population center still under the control of IS in Eastern Syria. The SDF later seized control several additional towns near Hajin between December 14 and January 9. IS currently still controls only three or four towns in Deir e-Zor Province.

9 Dec 13: Syria Reportedly Attacks U.S.-Backed Opposition Group Near A-Tanf:

Pro-government forces including the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) 1st Division reportedly attacked fighters from U.S.-backed opposition group Jaysh Mughawir al-Thawra (MaT) northwest of A-Tanf on the Syrian-Iraqi Border on December 13. MaT stated that pro-government forces had violated a fifty-five kilometer deconfliction zone around A-Tanf brokered by the U.S. and Russia in Syria. Some activists claimed that MaT received air or artillery support from the U.S. Anti-ISIS Coalition.



Areas of Control*

- Pro-Regime
- Opposition Forces
- The Islamic State
- Kurdish Forces
- Turkish/ Opposition Forces
- Al Qaeda in Syria

Airstrikes

- ✈ Pro-Regime
- ✈ U.S. / Coalition

*THIS MAP DOES NOT DEPICT AL-QAEDA CONTROL IN WESTERN SYRIA. ISW ASSESSES THAT AL-QAEDA DOMINATES OPPOSITION GOVERNANCE AND MILITARY STRUCTURES IN GREATER IDLIB PROVINCE.

*Control of Terrain Accurate as of 09 JAN 2018



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