

- Opposition groups within the Hayyat Tahrir Ash Sham (HTS)-dominated Idlib enclave attacked Qasabiyeh town. Confrontations also were noted in Kabani town, NW of the pocket, and the Tal Rifat pocket.
- In addition to low-level attacks against government-aligned personnel, an attack targeting a vehicle was recorded near Sasa town. In central areas of the country, an improvised explosive device (IED) attack targeted a train near Busari.
- Low-level attacks continued against US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) despite ongoing security operations, including one that detained five women who had escaped Al Hol Camp. An

For a second consecutive week, opposition groups, including HTS and Jaish al Izza, launched an assault on government positions in the south west of the Hayyat Tahrir Ash Sham (HTS)-dominated Idlib enclave. On the evening of 20 July, armed groups conducted a [raid](#) on Qasabiyah town, to the northeast of Kafr Nabuda town, which reportedly resulted in Republican Guard and 7th Division casualties (Figure 2). This came one week after an attack on Hammamiyat town.



Figure 2: Current Frontlines in the northwest of Syria as of 20 July 2019 with Qasabiyeh town highlighted in Red.

In response to the opposition attacks, the Syrian government resumed airstrikes this week, first recorded in the area since early June. Overall levels of conflict remain high as government of Syria (GOS) aerial and ground bombardments continued in the Idlib pocket, with 283 events recorded this week including in Kabani, in northeast Latakia governorate² (see Figure 3).

¹ Figure 1 denotes dominant actors' control and influence. Russia, Iran, Hezbollah and Iraqi militias maintain a presence in Syrian government-dominated territory. Non-state organized armed groups (NSOAG), including the Kurdish dominated, US backed SDF and a variety of other groups operate in areas not under Syrian government control. The NSOAG labeled area along the border with Iraq and Jordan is a 55km de-confliction zone, established by the US-led coalition that also includes a number of aligned local armed groups. Data collected is by the publicly available project ACLED.

² At least three aerial bombardments and four ground shelling salvos were recorded this period, compared to 10 shelling and aerial bombardments in the two weeks prior to this.

Figure 4:

Figure 6: ISIS linked activity against government and aligned personnel linked to the nearest location in Central Syria in 2019.

Syria's Ministry of Transport also

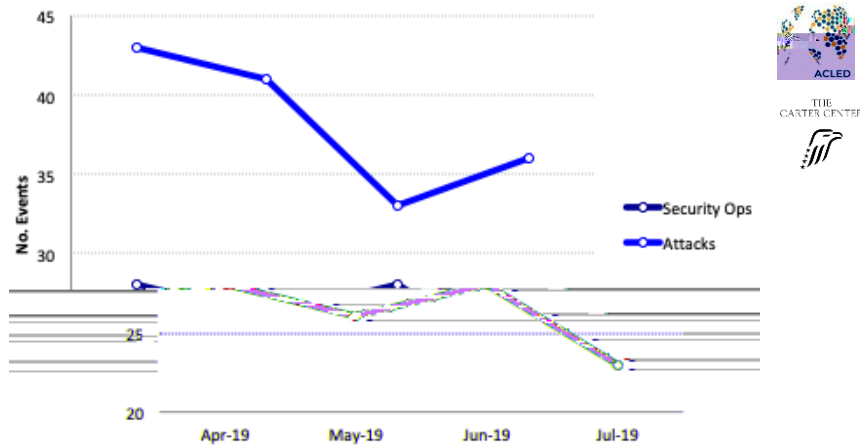


Figure 8: Recorded SDF/Coalition Security Operations in the North East (Hasakeh, Deir Ez Zor and Raqqa Governorates) vs small arms fire and IED attacks against SDF and aligned personnel

On 19 July, SDF forces arrested five women in Menbij City who had escaped from Al Hol Camp, which is [currently](#) holding some 70,000 women and children who had formerly lived in ISIS dominated areas of Syria. The women had been smuggled out of the camp and were heading “outside of SDF controlled areas.”

In Hassakeh City on 17 July, a vehicle-born IED was detonated in the Ghoweran neighborhood resulting in casualties. The attack comes a week after three motorcycle IEDs were detonated in the city on 10 and 11 July. A total of 41 IED attacks have been recorded in the city in the past 12 months. Of the 22 incidents that could be mapped,⁴ a notable concentration of attacks occurred in southern areas of the city (Figure 8).

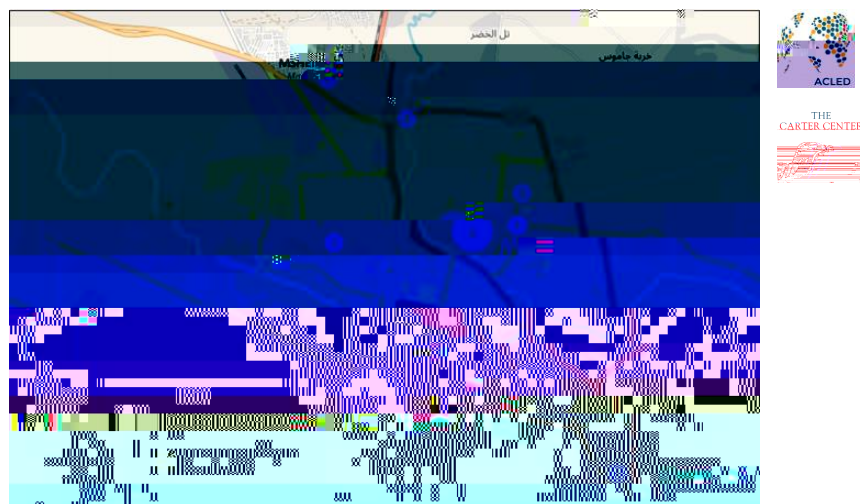


Figure 8: IED activity in Hasakeh City in 2018/2019 (approximate locations)

⁴ 19 incidents were coded to Hassakeh City in general, while the following 22 events could be traced to specific locations in the city; Al Nashwah neighbourhood (7), Al Talai neighbourhood (1), Aziziyeh neighbourhood (1), Euphrates University (1), Goweran neighbourhood (4), Jisr al Harbi (1), Kalleseh neighbourhood (1), Msheirfeh neighbourhood (1), Panorama Roundabout (2) and the Salhiyah neighbourhood (3).