WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 31 August - 6 September 2020

SYRIA SUMMARY

 NORTHWEST| Clashes between Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and GoS-backed militias against armed opposition groups decreased this week. Russian

Figure 2: Armed clashes between GoS armed forces and armed opposition groups since 5 March 2020. Largest bubble represents 16 conflict events. Data from ACLED and The Carter Center.

Russian armed forces and Turkish armed forces conducted multiple joint military exercises in Idlib Governorate. On 31 August, Russian military police and Turkish armed forces held a joint military exercise focused on protecting the Russian-Turkish joint patrol in Turnabah, Idlib Governorate.³ On 1 September, Russia and Turkey conducted another joint military exercise focusing on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles. The goal of the exercise was to prepare both forces to use drones to clear the M4 highway.⁴ On 5 September, a second military exercise between Turkish and Russian armed forces was held in Idlib Governorate, focusing on drills around protecting the joint patrol.⁵ The Turkish-Russian joint patrol on the M4

