

- Conflict between the Turkish armed forces and their allies and the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) escalate across northern Syria.
- Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) conducts military operation against two of its rivals in northern Latakia Governorate.
- Government of Syria (GoS) completes new settlement agreements in Dara'a Governorate.

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October

Figure 2: Conflict involving Turkish armed forces and their allies on the one side and the SDF and GoS armed forces on the other side between 1-31 October 2021. Largest bubble represents 13 conflict events. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

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The Turkish-backed opposition Syrian National Army (SNA) shot down a Russian armed forces drone near Mare, Aleppo Governorates.⁵ On 15 October, Reuters reported that Turkey was prepping a new military operation.⁶

A Turkish drone killed an official with the Kurdish-run Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) official near Kobani, northern Aleppo Governorate.⁷ In the last couple of months, Turkey has increased its use of drone strikes against AANES officials across northern Syria.

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HTS remains the most powerful anti-government armed group in opposition-controlled territory in northwest Syria. Since the July 2020 clashes with Hurras al-Din and its allies,⁸ HTS has taken a hardline approach toward any independent armed group within its territory. After June 2021, HTS called on Jund Al-Sham to either join ranks or leave Idlib Governorate.⁹ Facing pressure from HTS, Jund Al-Sham reportedly disbanded.¹⁰ The war of words escalated between the two groups with Jund Al-Sham's leader Muslim al-Shishani releasing statements criticizing HTS and its leader Jolani.

HTS launched a new operation targeting Jund al-Sham and Jundallah in Jabal al-Turkman, northern Lattakia Governorate.¹¹ HTS views Jundallah as an extension of ISIS and blames them for attacks in Idlib Governorate.¹²

The Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP) brokered a ceasefire agreement between HTS and Jund al-Sham.¹³ The agreement allowed for Jund al-Sham fighters to withdraw.¹⁴

HTS arrested Chechen leaders operating with al-Shishani in northern Lattakia Governorate.¹⁵ The next day, protests condemning HTS's military operation were held in Bab Al-Hawa, Idlib Governorate.¹⁶

⁵ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/519472>

⁶ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/519933>

⁷ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/521129>

⁸ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f12a006dfaf84cc58a4348cbb23ab137>

⁹ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/489992>

¹⁰ <https://tinyurl.com/2mvub2sm>

¹¹ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/521883>, <https://tinyurl.com/xthpzhs>,

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/syrian-jihadi-group->

HTS announced it ended its operation against the foreign groups in northern Lattakia Governorate.¹⁷

Figure 3: New settlement agreements and sieges in Dara'a Governorate between 2015 and 2016. 1000 3000 5000 7000 9000 11000 13000 15000 17000 19000 21000 23000 25000

