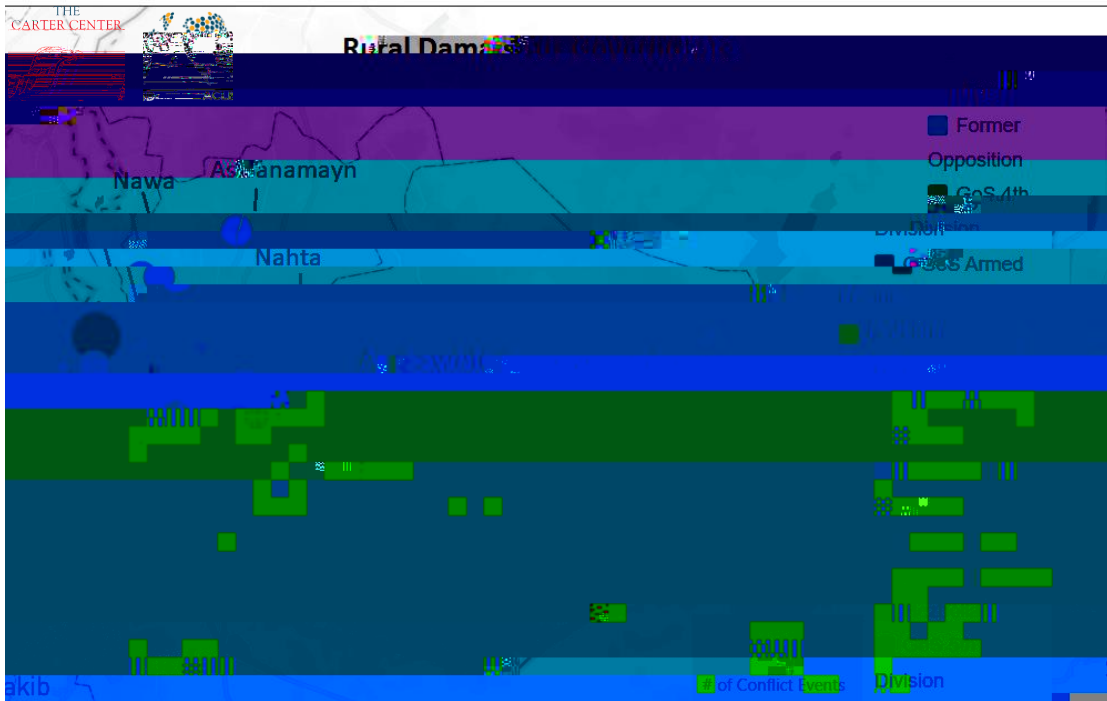


- Attacks against former opposition fighters and Government of Syria (GoS) soldiers by unidentified armed actors continued
- The Druze-led Counter-Terrorism Force clashed with GoS-backed National Defense Forces in As-Sweida Governorate.
- GoS began a new settlement process allowing former opposition and wanted individuals to defer military conscription for the areas under its control in Deir-ez-



Former opposition commanders gained prominence by exploiting old rivalries within GoS factions and leading influential political and military groups. The existence of these rival armed groups have caused tensions with GoS soldiers and officials. Attacks against former opposition and GoS figures by unidentified armed actors are common in the region. Both sides blame the other for the attacks. Occasionally, this has escalated into sieges and conflict between the former opposition and GoS armed forces. Following the July-September 2015 settlement agreements in an effort to marginalize former opposition figures and assert the authority of GoS armed forces.<sup>3</sup> These settlement deals typically require

<sup>1</sup> In a complex, dynamic conflict, territorial control is defined as an entity having power over use of force as well as civil/administrative functions in an area. Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah maintain a presence in Syrian government-controlled territory. Non-state organized armed groups (NSOAG), including the Kurdish-dominated SDF and Turkish-backed opposition groups operate in areas not under GoS control. The area along the junction of the Syrian border with Iraq and Jordan is a 55km de-confliction zone, established by the U.S.-led coalition that also includes a number of aligned local armed groups. Patrols are also depicted in the map to show the presence of actors that may have influence in an area. This is particularly relevant as U.S. and Russian forces regularly patrol towns and routes in the northeast. While they do not control local administration or local forces, there is an assumption of a high degree of coordination with local de facto authorities. Data collected is by the publicly available project [ACLEDA](#).

<sup>2</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/77e354b12e6f47f6b81ae7692ec45c26>, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/9001a6b8a5254bdc9d32db642add3511>

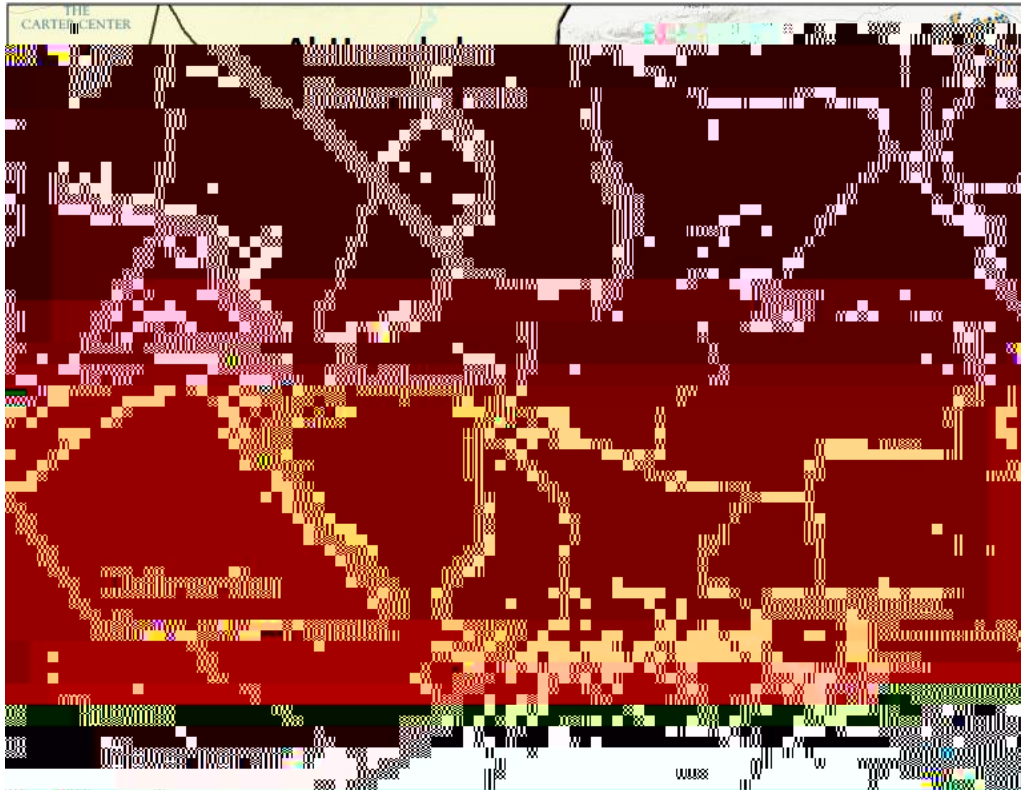
<sup>3</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/757f4c040ee5484593ecaa264ac7d59a>



On 7 July, a new predominantly Druze political party was formed in As-Sweida Governorate. The party, known as the Syrian Al-Liwa party, seeks to promote the interests of Druze in the governorate.<sup>12</sup> (سوريان الليوا الحزب) (Syrian Counter-Terrorism Force) (CTF), formed to protect As-Sweida citizens against

a hospital in As-Sweida city, angering families and local militias, which led to protests and further clashes.<sup>19</sup> On the same day, in response to the arrests, the CTF published a video accusing the NDF of instigating the recent tensions.<sup>20</sup>

Due to the increased tensions in As-Sweida city, local armed groups and political factions met to discuss the recent standoff at the As-Sweida city hospital and warned GoS from taking further armed actions.<sup>21</sup>



During the campaign to defeat ISIS, control of Deir-ez-Zor Governorate has been divided mostly along the Euphrates River. Tensions between GoS authorities and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) remain high, with reported clashes between the two occasionally occurring along the river. The GoS-controlled territory in the governorate maintains a strong Iranian presence, particularly in the cities near the Syria-Iraq border.

( ȳj ȳ š š°ȳ \$š@ȳ ȳ ȳ j ȳ@ez-Zor Governorate called for the start of a settlement process in the governorate.<sup>22</sup> The call for a settlement process in Deir-ez-Zor

<sup>19</sup> <https://suwayda24.com/?p=18108>, <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/527465>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/527504>

<sup>21</sup> <https://npasyria.com/en/68304/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/yurr7hb7>

Governorate was partially inspired by the recent #DeirZor Governorate.

The settlement process began in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.<sup>23</sup> The same day, GoS armed forces arrested 4 men near Jdeidat Akidat, western Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.<sup>24</sup> The arrest occurred after the men had completed the settlement process.<sup>25</sup>

The Autonomous Administration of Northeast Syria (AANES) condemned the settlement process in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. AANES also warned, without explanation, that any employee found conducting a settlement with GoS would be fired and prevented from any future work with any AANES institution.<sup>26</sup>

(The settlement process for settlements in Al-Mayadin city, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.<sup>27</sup>

For earlier conflict summaries, please click [here](#). For an interactive map of historical areas of control in Syria, please click [here](#).

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