

Post-Idleb Agreement Conflict Trends

November 16, 2018

The Russian-Turkish agreement on Idleb has succeeded in greatly reducing violence in northwestern Syria. Since the agreement came into effect on September 18, there have been no reported airstrikes in the region, and reports of conflict events of all types have been greatly reduced. However, low levels of violence have persisted along frontlines, accompanied by infighting between opposition groups and occasional minor incidents throughout much of Syria. Since the agreement, the majority of fighting has taken place against ISIS pockets in southern and eastern Syria. The following report details conflict trends throughout Syria since the Idleb agreement, providing maps of reported incidents, timelines of different conflict event types, and narrative summaries of major developments. A dynamic map of violent conflict events post agreement can be found [here](#).

Conflict Events Post Idleb Agreement

Though conflict has diminished following the signature of the Idleb agreement, lower levels of conflict have persisted, largely focused on the northern Hama frontlines, with consistent lower-
-Sham (HTS, formerly al-Qaeda affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra) and the National Liberation Front (the largest armed opposition coalition).

Infighting

With the cessation of airstrikes, much of the conflict in central Idleb has been due to infighting between HTS and the National Liberation Front. This fighting has taken place along front lines between territories dominated by each group, but has also taken the form of targeted attacks using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Key points of infighting include Saraqeb, Idleb city, and Afrin, where anti-Turkey insurgents have consistently targeted Turkish and allied forces throughout the region.



Figure 6: Instances of intra-opposition fighting and IED attacks per administrative zone from September 18 through November 10, 2018. Data from [ACLEED](#)

Though these incidents of infighting form a relatively small portion of all reported conflict events, they have been consistent and appear to be slowly gaining in frequency (see timeline below). Many of those killed as a result of this infighting and IED attacks have been affiliated with HTS. It is likely that these attacks have been undertaken by Turkey or Turkish allied forces as a means of weakening HTS influence in the region. A more detailed conflict report focusing on trends in infighting is forthcoming.

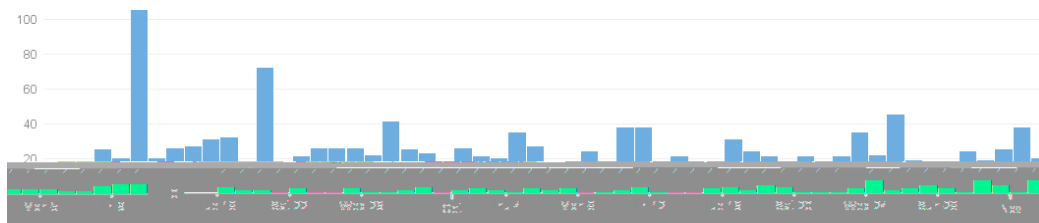


Figure 7: Instances of infighting and IED attacks (in orange) in relation to all recorded post-deal conflict events. Data from [ACLEED](#)

Protests and Demonstrations

In the lead-up to the Idleb agreement, activists organized large, widespread protests in opposition to -held to pocket. These protests occurred on Fridays, and slowly diminished following the signing of the Idleb agreement when it became apparent that the deal was holding. Smaller protests have been common throughout Syria in opposition to detentions by various armed groups and violence against civilians.

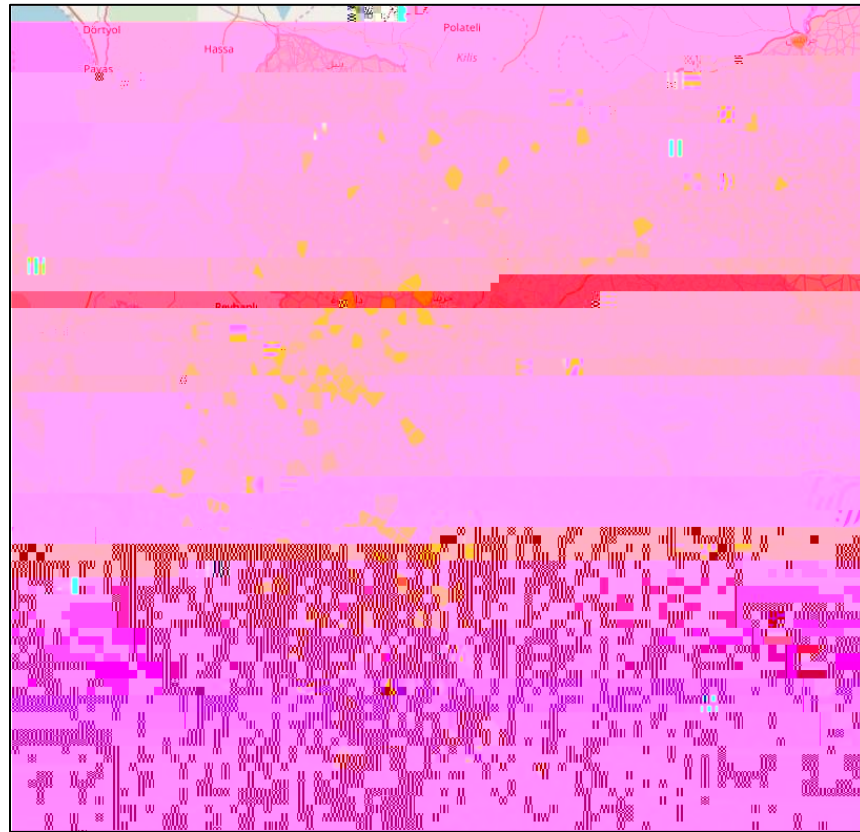


Figure 8: Protests and demonstrations by administrative zone from September 18 through November 10. Data from [ACLEED](#)

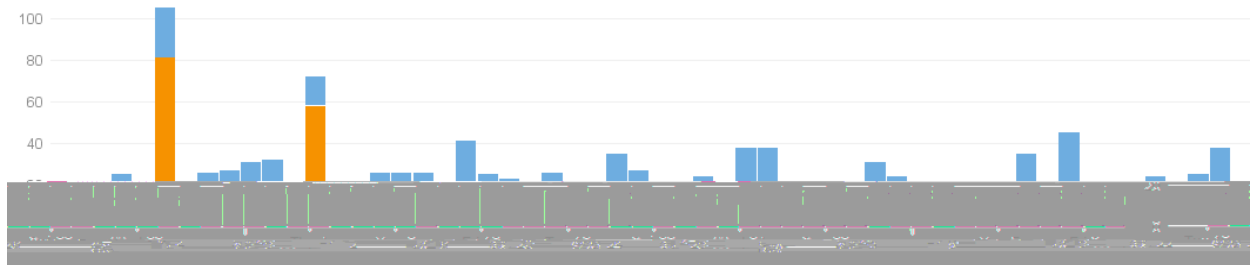


Figure 9: Timeline of protests and demonstrations (orange) in relation to all recorded conflict. Data from [ACLEED](#) and The Carter Center.

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