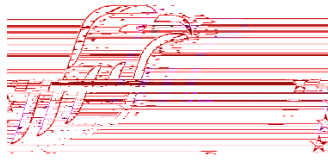


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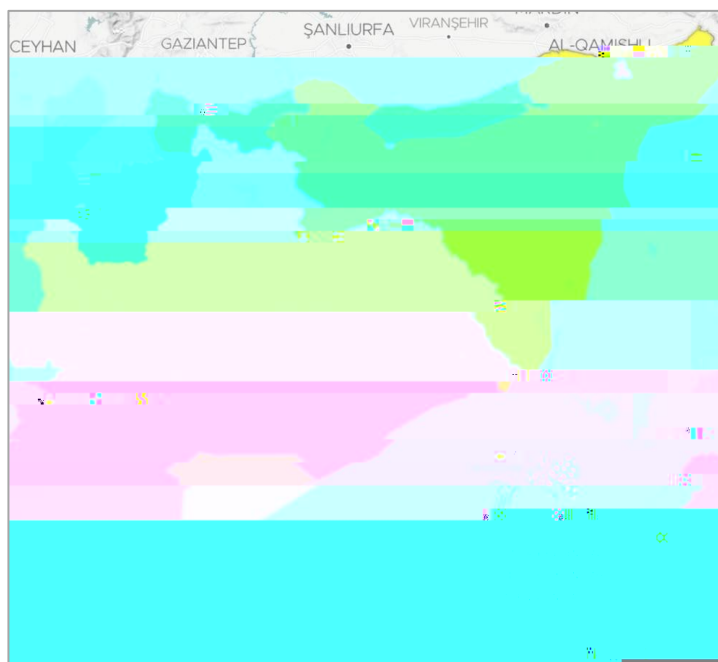
TWO-WEEK CONFLICT SUMMARY | 11 - 24 NOVEMBER 2019

WHOLE OF SYRIA SUMMARY

**NORTHWEST** | The first advances of the Government of Syria (GoS) since August were reported in the southeastern parts of the Hayyat Tahrir ash Sham (HTS)-dominated northwest. Inside the enclave, widespread demonstrations took place against HTS and its civilian body, the Salvation Government. In Jarablus, the first suicide attack in over two years occurred on 19 November.

**SOUTH & CENTRAL** | There were prolonged clashes between GoS personnel and armed groups. Also, the first civilian protests against Hezbollah's presence in southern Syria took place. Two waves of Israeli airstrikes targeted a Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander and Iranian-linked sites in and around Damascus.

**NORTHEAST** | Territorial changes occurred in the northeast as the Turkish-led Operation Peace Spring continued. Russia and Turkey deployed additional patrols in Raqqa and Hassakeh governorates. In the Euphrates and Khabour River Valleys, attacks against SDF personnel continued. Also, improvised explosive devices (IED) targeted three areas of Qamishli city.



## NORTHWEST SYRIA

GoS forces advanced in the Hayyat Tahrir al Sham (HTS)-dominated northwest during the reporting period. By 17 November, GoS had captured Tal Al Khaznah and Luwaybdah villages in the southeast of the enclave, before taking the National Liberation Front-controlled (NLF) Musheifra Shamaliyah, Um Al Khalil, and Ard al Zurzur villages by the end of the reporting period (Figure 2).

These are among the first GoS advances in the northwest since late August. The territorial captures were accompanied by aerial and ground bombardments in the wider northwest (Figure 3). This included one event where cluster munitions struck Qah IDP camp and a nearby hospital, both within the Harim district of Idlib Governorate.



<sup>1</sup> Figure 1 denotes dominant actors' control and influence. Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah maintain a presence in Syrian government-controlled territory. Non-state organized armed groups (NSOAG), including the Kurdish-dominated SDF and the Turkish-backed opposition's Syrian National Army, operate in areas not under Syrian government control. The US continues to have a presence in the SDF-controlled east of country, though that is currently being redefined. The 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 is collected by the publicly available [ACLED](#).





governorate in August 2018.

A large contingent of the 9<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division arrived at various locations in Daraa Governorate in the previous two weeks, possibly in response to the protests. This is the third time GoS have brought re-enforcements to the governorate in 2019.

ISIS activity in central Syria also continued during the reporting period, with several attacks against GoS personnel. This includes an ambush against a GoS patrol in the vicinity of the T3 pumping station and ISIS ambushes against GoS convoys in

northeast.<sup>6</sup>

Russian forces, including helicopters and jets, were deployed to Qamishli Airbase, Sarin Airbase, and western parts of the Ain al Arab Countryside. The Russian military also conducted six official joint patrols with the Turkish military in the Ain al Arab area on 13 and 18 November, in the Darbasiyah area on 11, 14, 20 and 23 November, and with GoS forces in the Tal Tamr area on 19 and 21 November. During the Russian and Turkish joint patrols on 13 and 18 November, civilians threw stones and a [Molotov](#) cocktail at Turkish military vehicles. Two US patrols occurred in the Malikeyyeh and Jaroudiyah areas of Hassakeh Governorate during the period.

Along the Khabour River and Euphrates River Valleys,

parts of Qamishli city. The explosions in residential, predominantly Christian areas of the city, occurred on Al Wahda Street, near the Al Shabha Hotel, and outside the Qadisiyeh school. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. IED attacks are not uncommon in the city, with 14 incidents in 2019 to date. However, for three devices to detonate within the city in a day is unusual.

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