

Pro-government forces fight ISIS in Deir Ezzor

Government forces and Iranian-supported militias (including Hezbollah, Iraqi Hezbollah al-Nujaba, and Afghani Fatemiyoun Battalions) continue in their attempts to take the border city of Abu Kamal from ISIS. As of writing this report, this combined force is holding frontlines to the south, west, and northwest of the city. More allied fighters have arrived over the past seven days, and are expected to take the town in the next week.

Figure 2 - Situation south of Deir Ezzor in Syria's far east by November 15

In addition to advancing on Abu Kamal, pro-government forces, including the Tiger Forces advanced 18km southwest of Mayadin towards the T2 pumping station, and up to 14km south of Mayadin towards the Iraqi border. Though pro-government forces have advanced rapidly in the past several weeks, ISIS has shown itself capable of conducting counter-offensives, and will likely push back hard as remaining forces are compressed into an increasingly small geographic area. In addition to large-scale counter-offensives, ISIS has increasingly used insurgency tactics to infiltrate government territory and conduct suicide attacks against key military targets.

Opposition developments

Clashes in opposition-held territory between HTS and NDZ intensified during this assessment period with reported use of heavy arms and civilian casualties.

Ahrar al-Sham in the preceding two weeks. Given the recent history of HTS relations with rivals, it is unlikely to heed this demand.

Figure 3: Heatmap of fighting between NDZ and HTS from November 9-15.

In response to the recent fighting, on Nov 10, Ahrar al-Sham and Jaish al-Ahrar (a former ally of HTS) announced a defense pact with NDZ and indicated their readiness to enter the conflict against HTS. The new alignment received vocal support from a handful of other armed groups, who claimed to have broken with HTS due to its aggression against NDZ. Though still militarily powerful, this growing condemnation of HTS marks a new low point for the group.

Northern Hama frontlines

Clashes have continued between pro-government forces and opposition fighters along the frontlines to the

During the reporting week, at least three airstrikes hit the market in Atareb in the western Aleppo countryside, resulting in 67 deaths. These deaths included six women, five children, and three police officers. Atareb remains outside of government control and the town population has grown due to the settlement of IDPs fleeing fighting in other areas in the north. It is unclear which air force perpetrated the agreement that seeks to protect civilians.

Updates in the South

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations were successful in delivering 24 trucks of humanitarian relief to the Damascus suburb of Douma