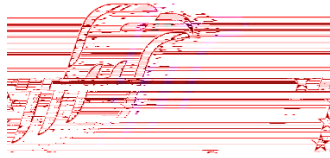


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**Weekly Conflict Summary**

November 23-29, 2017

During the reporting week, ISIS forces in northern Hama saw a resurgence as the group multiplied their holdings in the area many times over while Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF, a Kurdish-led coalition supported by the US) advanced further from their earlier holdings to reach the Iraqi border. Pro-government forces also advanced further into the opposition-held Idleb pocket from a new front. A shaky ceasefire in Syria's south was agreed-upon, as well.

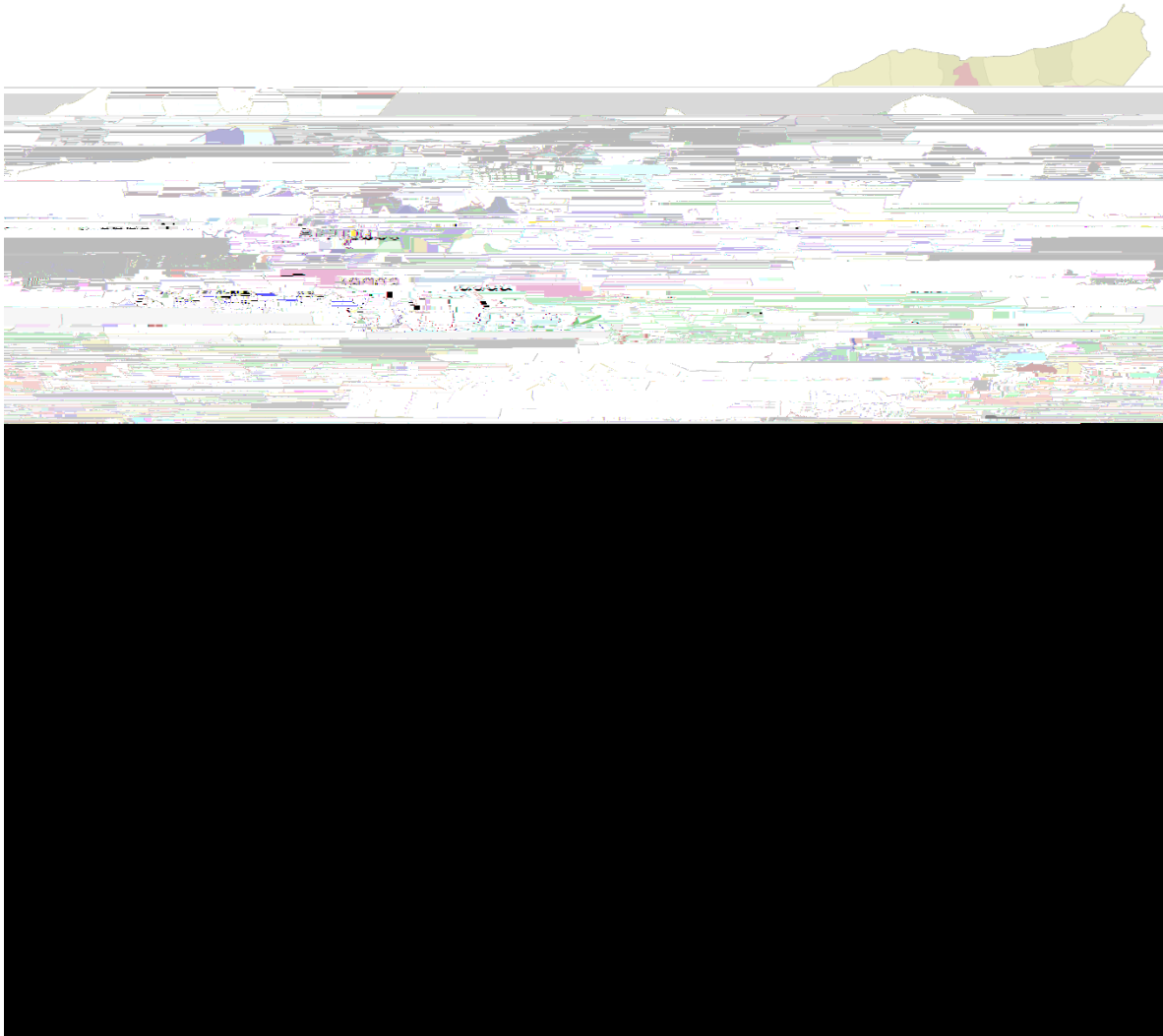


Figure 1 - Areas of control as of November 29, 2017. Arrows indicate advances made during the reporting period.

### **Battle against ISIS**

SDF units advanced against ISIS eastward from the oil wells they controlled east of Deir Ezzor city. This offensive, still a part of the ongoing Cizire Storm operation, resulted in SDF fighters reaching the Iraqi border by November 25.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag said that Turkey will closely monitor whether the US is abiding by its pledge to cut off weapons supply to the YPG. This statement follows a November 25 phone call between President Erdogan and President Trump,

Figure 3 - Situation in northeastern Hama by November 29

**Hama frontlines update**

On November 21, the outnumbered and beleaguered ISIS forces in eastern Hama launched an offensive on

Figure 4 - Frontlines in southwestern Aleppo by November 29

On November 27, pro-government forces launched an offensive in southern Aleppo breaking opposition lines on the Rashadiya-Khanaser frontline, capturing territory to bring pro-government forces within 30km of the Abu Thohur military airport from a third front.

Turkey has suggested that it could expand its military mission in Syria to Afrin and Aleppo, following a meeting of the National Security Council on November 28. An expansion of the Turkish "observation mission" in Idlib province would likely bring Turkish forces into conflict with the US-backed Kurdish militias, who control the Afrin region.

### **Opposition developments**

During the assessment period, HTS forces arrested the former Jabhat al-

### Updates in the South

On November 27, a Russian ceasefire deal was put forward for November 28-29 on rebel-held Eastern Ghouta, which has been under siege by pro-government forces since 2013. The Syrian government accepted this proposal on November 28.

Prior to the ceasefire, intensive airstrikes continued throughout the Eastern Ghouta. On November 23 alone, over 40 airstrikes hit the Eastern Ghouta, including 16 (p )-10(G)5((he )-12( )54o,9 reW\*m)15(ber)-5( )11(28. )JTJETQq0.