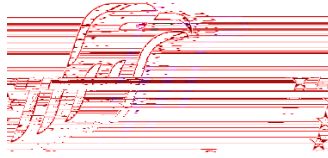


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- There were increased armed clashes between Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and armed opposition groups in Idlib Governorate. Turkish and Russian military forces conducted 4 joint patrols in northwest Syria. An opposition group raided the village of Al-Tanjara in GoS-controlled territory. The Israeli air force attacked pro-Iranian militia positions in Aleppo Governorate.
- Pro-GoS personnel faced increased attacks in Dara'a Governorate. GoS brought military reinforcements to Mzeireb after an attack on a police station. Civilians continued to face violence in the region.
- ISIS attacked Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and GoS personnel in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. SDF and the Global Coalition Against Daesh raided and arrested ISIS fighters across northeastern Syria. The Israeli air force attacked pro-Iranian militia positions in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Turkish-backed opposition armed groups carried out artillery bombardment in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakah Governorates.

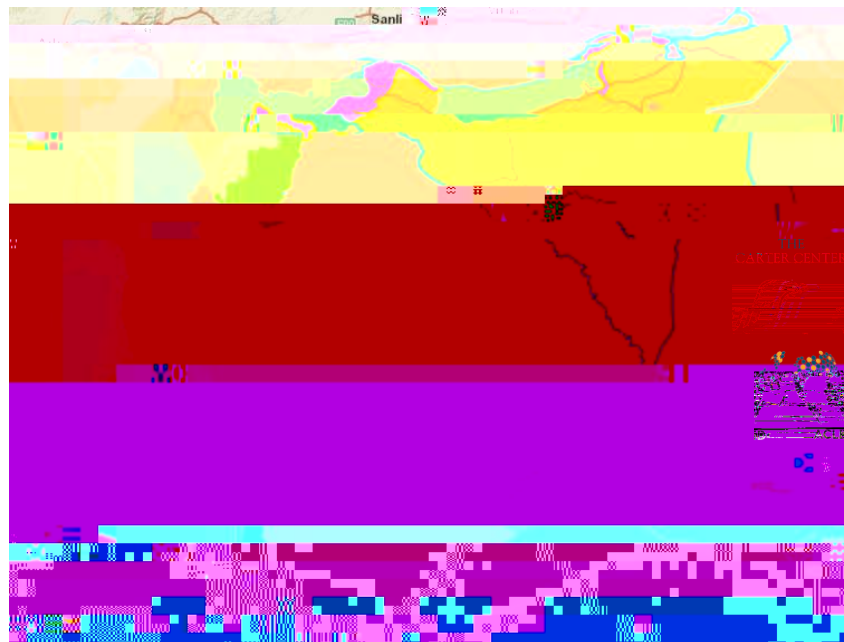


Figure 1: Dominant actors' area of control and influence in Syria as of 10 May 2020. NSOAG stands for Non-state Organized Armed Groups. Also, please see the footnote on page 2.

Rami Makhoul associates and employees were arrested in Damascus (see
No. 39 (Syria) Doc 9, May 30, 2011) and Russian military police arrested
members of "Al-Bostan Association" a registered charity with alleged links to pro-
government militias, as well as the editor of the

Governorate. The next day, SDF arrested 4 people in the Tishrine neighbourhood of Ar-Raqqa city on charges of joining ISIS. Coalition forces and SDF captured a midlevel ISIS leader during a raid in the Deir-ez-Zor countryside on 6 May.¹³ On 8 May, SDF raided the Hol Camp section holding foreigners and detained several women. These anti-ISIS operations followed an increase in ISIS activities in northeast Syria during the past month.

On 4 May, the Israeli air force attacked pro-Iranian militia positions near Al Mayadin in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Along with the attack in Aleppo (see Northwest Syria section), this is the seventh Israeli strike on pro-Iranian militias in the preceding two weeks, and the first airstrike in the Deir-ez-Zor Governorate since September 2019.

On 8 May, US armed forces within the Global Coalition Against Daesh established a new base in Jazaret Elbuhmeid in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. This is the first US base established in Syria since 4 November 2019.

On 4 and 8 May, Turkish-backed armed opposition groups operating in Turkish-held Operation Peace Spring (OPS) territory conducted 13 artillery bombardments in 11 locations in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakah Governorates (see figure 4).¹⁴ The bombardments targeted GoS and SDF positions. On 9 May, Turkish-backed armed opposition groups looted civilian crops in 6 locations within Al-Hassakah Governorate.¹⁵

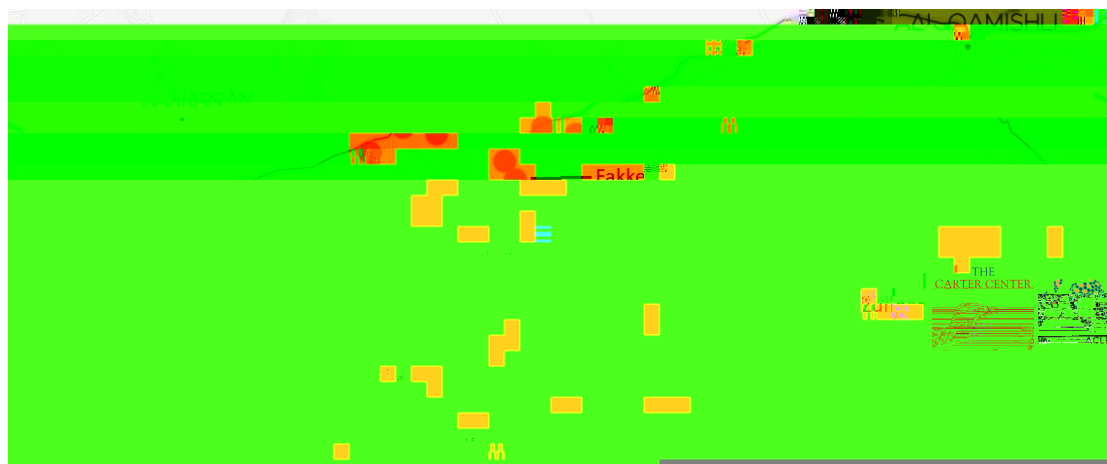


Figure 4: OPS artillery bombardment in northeastern Syria between 4-9 May 2020. Data from ACLED and The Carter Center.

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¹³ <https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/us-backed-forces-crack-down-resurgent-islamic-state>

¹⁴ Zannubah and Zunnar in Ar-Raqqa Governorate. In Al-Hassakah Governorate: Aziziyeh, Munakh, Fakkeh (x2), Tal Tamer, Dardara (x2), Qarainah, Qabbour, Abboush, and Qabr al Kabir.

¹⁵ Tal Baydar, Attia, Al-Asadiyah, Rihaniya, Daoudiyet Mala, Tall Sakhr, and Nadas.