

In southern Syria, clashes continued in the western Damascus suburbs of Darayya and Deir Khabiya, accompanied by airstrikes and artillery attacks. Fighting in Deir Khabiya, southwest of Darayya, has been particularly intense over the past week, with clashes reported nearly every day. In Eastern Ghouta, fighting has calmed somewhat following the pro-government advance in mid-May, though periodic mortar and artillery attacks have targeted frontline positions surrounding the opposition enclave.

Further south near the Golan Heights, Jabhat al-Nusra and opposition forces continued to clash with ISIS-affiliated Shuhada al-Yarmouk around Sham al-Golan.

In eastern Syria, no territorial changes have been reported, though fighting continues on a daily basis surrounding the Deir Ez-Zor military airport and along front lines in Deir Ez-Zor city.

Conclusion

Parties in Syria now show blatant disregard for the cessation of hostilities (CoH). The frequency and scope of fighting have steadily risen, as have attacks on civilian areas throughout the country. The recent focus on anti-ISIS offensives, however, may bring with it a slowdown in fighting between CoH participants as all parties seek to take advantage of a weakened ISIS in northern Aleppo. International parties should work quickly to re-assert the CoH while this opportunity exists. Should pro-government, opposition, and SDF forces succeed in displacing ISIS from the Manbij pocket, all three parties will eventually collide in northern Aleppo, risking a return to full-scale conflict.