

## **Weekly Conflict Summary**

September 8-14, 2016

The introduction of the new cessation of hostilities has dramatically reduced the levels of violence throughout Syria. Prior to its introduction, the level of conflict along major front lines had spiked, but quickly reduced to a trickle on September 13. Since the cessation began, localized conflict has continued, but at a much lower level than previously, with a few noteworthy exceptions.

On September 10, a group of opposition forces including Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (JFS), Ahrar al-Sham, and Ansar Beit al-Maqdis launched an offensive in the countryside of Quneitra. Battles have centered around Khan Arnaba and the villages near it. Fighting has been intense, though only minor gains have been made. Conflict on this frontline has been recorded both before and during the ceasefire.

Prior to the start of the cessation, pro-government forces in Lattakia captured the villages of Ayn Qantarrah, Tal Rasha, Tal al-Awizrat, Dhaher Abu As'ad, Nahshaba and Ruwaisah Kataf in an ongoing offensive against opposition forces in the area.

On September 10, warplanes struck a large gathering of civilians buying groceries for Eid al-Adha in a market in Idleb city. Death counts were high. Reports suggest Russian planes were responsible.

The cessation of hostilities went into effect starting with a 48-hour ceasefire beginning on September 12 at 7:00pm local time. A key part of this deal is that humanitarian access must remain unimpeded, with initial successes. The implementation of the new cessation of hostilities led to 24 hours without a single reported civilian death. Also, civilians in the opposition-held al

*Figure 1: Areas of control throughout Syria as of September 14, 2016.*

The afternoon of September 13, Jaish al-