

The violent extremist Ansar Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Squadron killed a Turkish



A Turkish soldier was killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) explosion near the Bab al-Hawa crossing, Idlib Governorate.<sup>3</sup> The next day, the violent extremists Ansar Abu Bakr Al-Siddiq Squadron took responsibility for the attack, claiming it was in response to a Turkish armed forces vehicle running over a child in Atareb, Aleppo Governorate.<sup>4</sup> The armed group remains the most active anti-Turkish group in Idlib Governorate and has pointed to Turkey's cooperation with Russia to justify its attacks.



Since the takeover of Dara'a and Quneitra Governorates by the GoS in 2018, tension between former opposition commanders, who have gained prominence by leading influential political and military groups, and GoS officials have resulted in arrests and violence in Dara'a Governorate. Mostly unidentified perpetrators have continued attacks and assassinations of GoS officers and former opposition commanders. Since 30 April, the town of Um Batna, Quneitra Governorate, has been under siege by GoS armed forces and Hezbollah.<sup>5</sup>

After negotiations between the GoS Military Security, Russian armed forces, and the Central Committee of Dara'a reportedly broke down, residents of Um Batna

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/481309>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/481371>

<sup>5</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/4a9a53439a594872bed1f231a09779d0>

fled the town to avoid potential military action.<sup>6</sup> The GoS reiterated their threat to storm the town if the wanted individuals did not surrender.<sup>7</sup>

An agreement was reached to end the siege over Um Batna. 30 people, including the wanted fighters and their families, will be sent to opposition-controlled territory in northwestern Syria.<sup>8</sup> In addition, GoS would reportedly release 2 detainees from the town.<sup>9</sup>

The severe drop of water in the Euphrates river has significant implications for agricultural and environmental issues in northeast Syria.<sup>11</sup> The GoS and KAA accuse Turkey of withholding water.<sup>12</sup> On 11 May, the GoS Minister for Water Resources and his Iraqi counterpart discussed bilateral measures to pressure Turkey into restoring water flow.<sup>13</sup> However, Turkey argued that the severe drop of water is due to a drought hitting the three countries.<sup>14</sup> The continued shortage of water has caused concern among humanitarian officials, with the United Nations warning that it will affect 500,000 people in Al-Hassakah Governorate alone.<sup>15</sup>

For earlier weekly conflict summaries, please click [here](#). For an interactive map of historical areas of control in Syria, please click [here](#).

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/05/syrian-government-calls-turkey-release-euphrates-water>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/syria/290420213>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://npasyria.com/en/59265/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/05/turkey-russia-pressure-sdf-restore-electricity-northeast-syria>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/24393-UN-relief-head-says-water-cut-again-to-half-a-million-people-in-northeast-Syria>