

October 5-11, 2017

ISIS forces mounted a counterattack on government positions in Syria's east, gaining new territory in the southeast of opposition-held Idleb, and losing further territory around Deir Ezzor city to pro-government forces and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF, a Kurdish-led coalition backed by the US). A new Turkish

The situation in and around Sokhneh remains unclear, with no indication that pro-government forces retook territory they lost in the previous reporting period. Several towns in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor, including al-Shola, have also not yet been recaptured by pro-government forces. Though these recent ISIS offensives have cut the main road to Deir Ezzor, pro-government forces can still reach the city from the north.

Figure 2 - Frontlines southwest of Deir Ezzor city by October 11

“de-escalation zone,” but also hopes to contain the SDF forces in the area. The Turkish announcement also stated that Russian forces would provide air

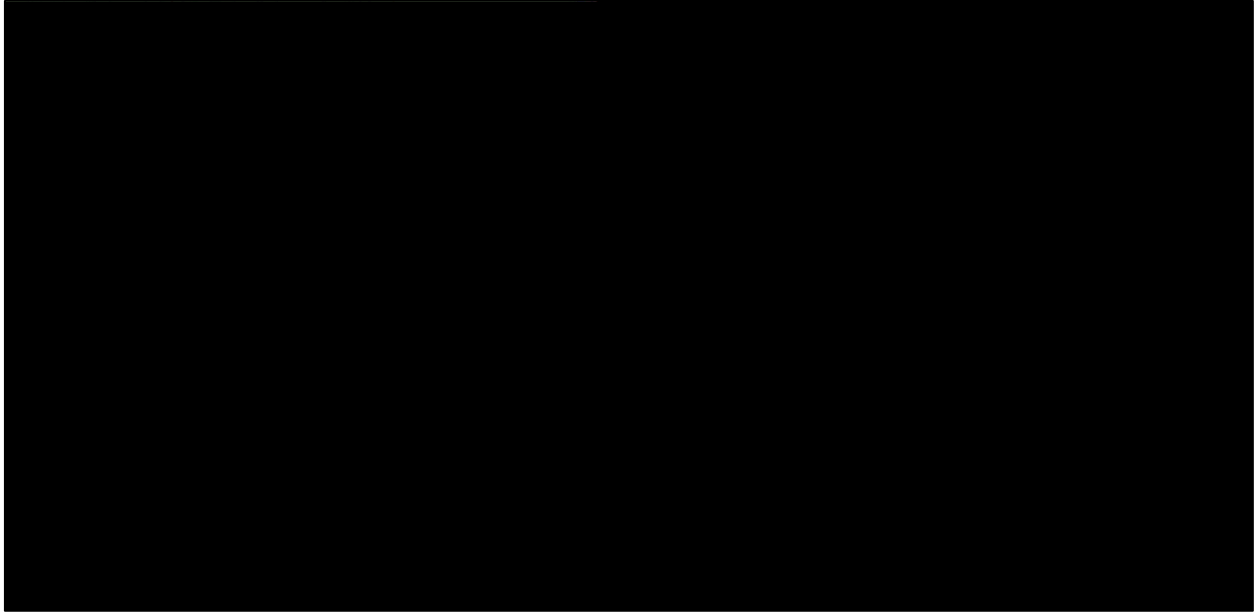


Figure 4 - Frontlines east of Hama by October 11

In the suburbs of Damascus, the increased levels of violence seen in previous weeks in Eastern Ghouta have continued into this reporting period. Artillery and mortar fire, airstrikes, and clashes have all been reported throughout the Eastern Ghouta. Clashes have continued between pro-government forces and Jaysh al-Islam at the Hosh Dawahira front. Clashes, shelling, and aerial bombardment also continued at the Ain Terma front between Faylaq al-Rahman and pro-government forces, the latter of which launched a failed nighttime assault on October 10. The Syrian Army's 4th Division launched an assault on Beit Jinn on October 6, opening a new front in the Rural Damascus governorate. Finally, pro-government forces have announced several times throughout the week that they have advanced to control the entire length of the Jordanian border in Rural Damascus and Suweida governorates, leaving only a small portion now controlled by opposition forces.