

THE
CARTER CENTER



Weekly Conflict Summary
February 22-28, 2018

The Syrian government's siege and bombardment of Eastern Ghouta remained intense despite two separate ceasefires from the UN and Russia. Fighting around the borders of Eastern Ghouta continued, as did opposition shelling of Damascus city. In northern Syria, new opposition coalitions have taken significant territory from Hai'yat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS, formerly Al-Qaeda-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra), apparently with minimum fighting. Operation Olive Branch, the Turkish-led offensive into Afrin, gained control over the whole of the Syria-Turkish border from Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF, a Kurdish-led organization in northern Syria).

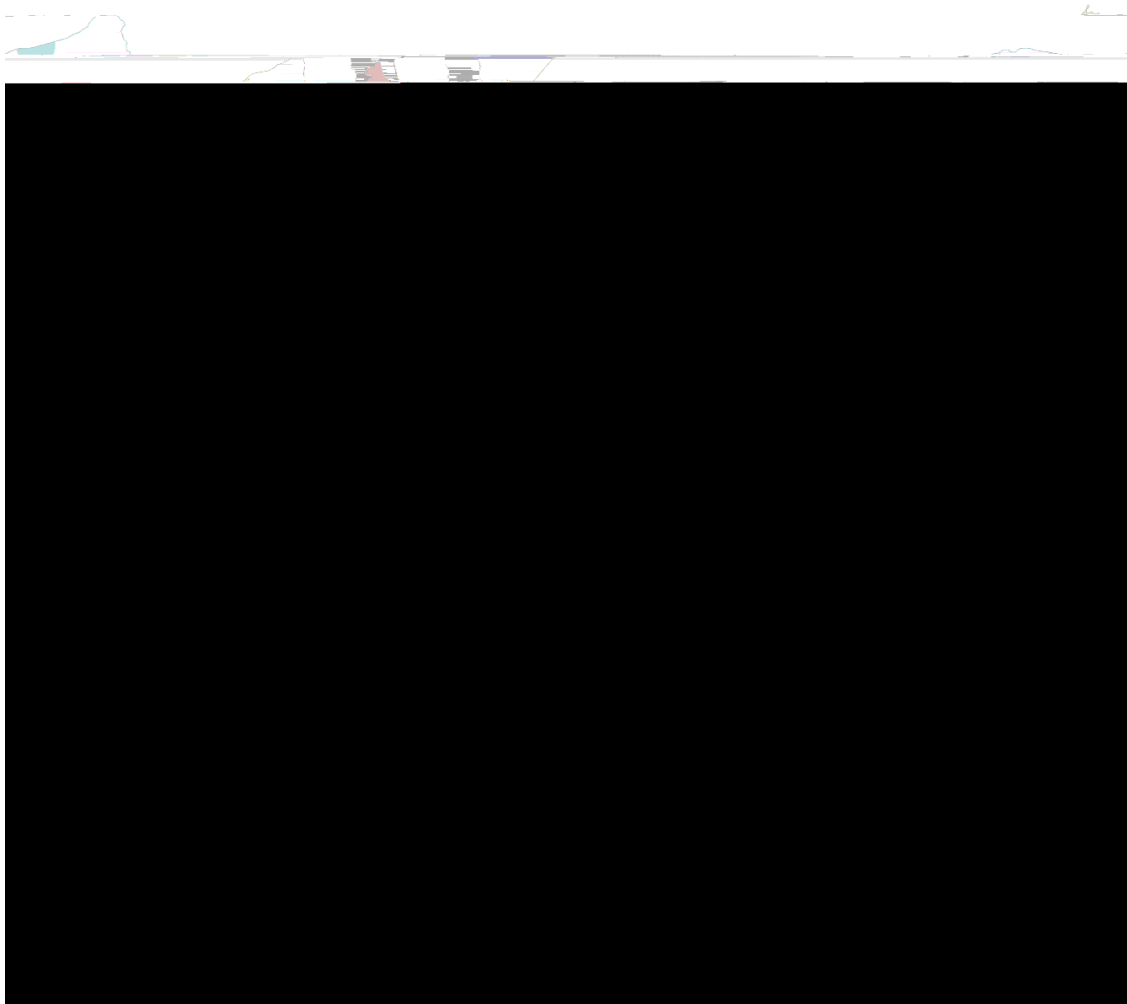


Figure 1 - Areas of control in Syria by February 28, with arrows indicating fronts of advances during the reporting period

Afrin

Turkish forces and allied opposition fighters have succeeded in securing the full border of Afrin, connecting the opposition-held canton in northern Aleppo with Idleb. Turkish-backed units also advanced to the west, south, and southeast of Jendaires city this week, nearly surrounding the city from three sides. Jendaires is a key city within Afrin at the territ