Figure 2: Conflict events between GoS armed forces and its allies on one side and armed opposition groups and allies on the other between 21-27 June 2021. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

### Conflict in Northwest Syria

Violence continued in northwest Syria. Fighting between Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and their allies on the one side and armed opposition groups on the other side has been concentrated in the frontline areas near Jabal al-Zawiyah, Idlib Governorate. In recent weeks, violence has escalated along the frontlines of northwest Syria, with both Russia and Turkey taking a more active role in the fighting.

#### 21 June

GoS armed forces shelled Ihsim, Bara, and Mastouma in Idlib Governorate, reportedly killing seven civilians.<sup>2</sup> In retaliation, the Turkish-backed opposition National Liberation Front shelled GoS areas in Saraqib, Dadikh, Kafr Batikh, and Kafr NadFront D95hBon G5hB01 f(r)4(o) Governorate,

25 June

Tensions escalated after Russian and GoSarmed forces closed the main roads and besiege .<sup>8</sup> The same day, demonstrations denouncing the siege were held .<sup>9</sup>

27 June

The Central Committee and other former opposition groups denounced Russia for the siege and called for Russian withdrawal.<sup>10</sup>

# NORTHEASTSYRIA

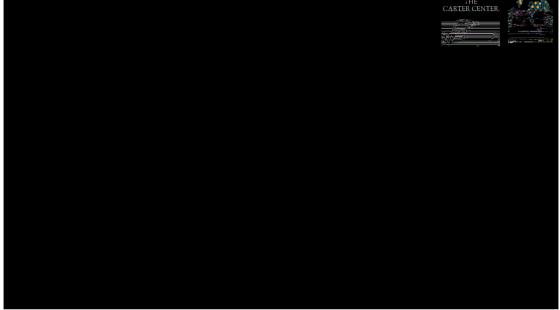


Figure 4: Conflict in the Tell Abiad region, Ar-Raqqa Governorate, between 21-27 June 2021. Largest bubble represents 8 conflict events. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

# Conflict in Tell Abiad

Turkey justifies its control of territory in northern Syria as a secure zone along the border to prevent alleged threats from armed Kurdish groups.<sup>11</sup> Shelling and clashes along the frontlines between Turkish armed forces and Turkish-backed armed opposition groups on the one side and Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the other side are frequent.

# 21 June

Turkish armed forces and Turkish-backed armed opposition groups shelled the frontlines in the Tell Abiad region, Ar-Raqqa Governorate, injuring a GoSsoldier.<sup>12</sup>

24 June

operation-olive-branch-afrin-syria

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> <u>https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9185</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> <u>https://tinyurl.com/z6c5ef54</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> <u>https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9202</u>

<sup>11</sup> https://www.voanews.com/world-news/middle-east-dont-use/ap-explains-turkeys-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> https://npasyria.com/en/61214/

SDF shelling reportedly killed a woman in village on the outskirts of Tell Abiad city within Turkish-held Operation Peace Spring territory.<sup>13</sup>

26 June

The Turkish-backed opposition Syrian National Army clashed with GoS armed forces stationed in Tell Abiad. No casualties were reported in the clash.<sup>14</sup>

For earlier weekly conflict summaries, please click <u>here</u>. For an interactive map of historical areas of control in S8u/8cAummaries, p.9¢76(q0.00008867 0 595.08 8