



- There were increased armed clashes between Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and armed opposition groups in Idlib Governorate. Turkish and Russian military forces conducted 4 joint patrols in northwest Syria. An opposition group raided the village of Al-Tanjara in GoS-controlled territory. The Israeli air force attacked pro-Iranian militia positions in Aleppo Governorate.
- Pro-GoS personnel faced increased attacks in Dara'a Governorate. GoS brought military reinforcements to Mzeireb after an attack on a police station. Civilians continued to face violence in the region.
- ISIS attacked Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and GoS personnel in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. SDF and the Global Coalition Against Daesh raided and arrested ISIS fighters across northeastern Syria. The Israeli air force attacked pro-Iranian militia positions in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Turkish-backed opposition armed groups carried out artillery bombardment in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakah Governorates.



Figure 1: Dominant actors' area of control and influence in Syria as of 10 May 2020. NSOAG stands for Non-state Organized Armed Groups. Also, please see the footnote on page 2.

Governorate. The next day, SDF arrested 4 people in the Tishrine neighbourhood of Ar-Raqqa city on charges of joining ISIS. Coalition forces and SDF captured a midlevel ISIS leader during a raid in the Deir-ez-Zor countryside on 6 May.¹³ On 8 May, SDF raided the Hol Camp section holding foreigners and detained several women. These anti-ISIS operations followed an increase in ISIS activities in northeast Syria during the past month.

On 4 May, the Israeli air force attacked pro-Iranian militia positions near Al Mayadin in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. Along with the attack in Aleppo (see Northwest Syria section), this is the seventh Israeli strike on pro-Iranian militias in the preceding two weeks, and the first airstrike in the Deir-ez-Zor Governorate since September 2019.

On 8 May, US armed forces within the Global Coalition Against Daesh established a new base in Jazaret Elbuhmeid in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate. This is the first US base established in Syria since 4 November 2019.

On 4 and 8 May, Turkish-backed armed opposition groups operating in Turkish-held Operation Peace Spring (OPS) territory conducted 13 artillery bombardments in 11 locations in Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hassakah Governorates (see figure 4).¹⁴ The bombardments targeted GoS and SDF positions. On 9 May, Turkish-backed armed opposition groups looted civilian crops in 6 locations within Al-Hassakah Governorate.¹⁵

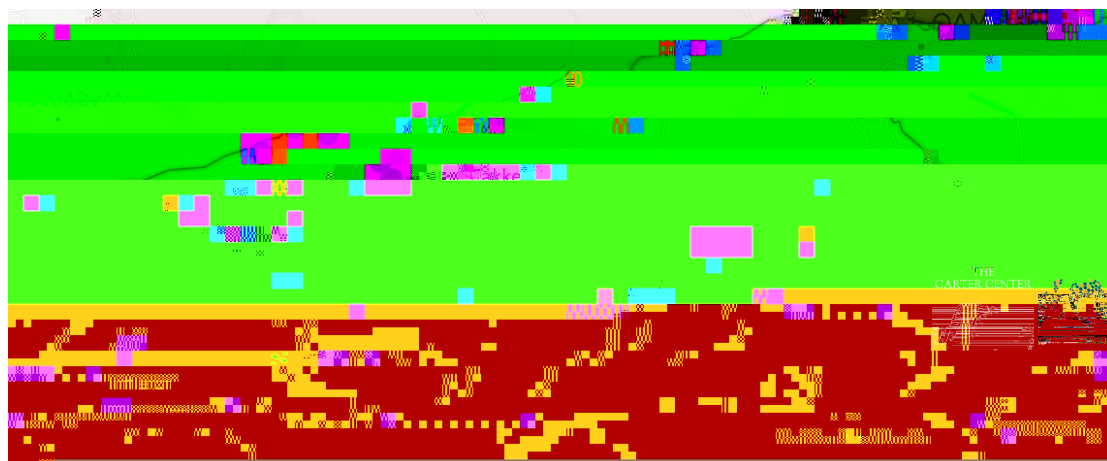


Figure 4: OPS artillery bombardment in northeastern Syria between 4-9 May 2020. Data from ACLED and The Carter Center.

###

¹³ <https://www.voanews.com/middle-east/us-backed-forces-crack-down-resurgent-islamic-state>

¹⁴ Zannubah and Zunnar in Ar-Raqqa Governorate. In Al-Hassakah Governorate: Aziziyeh, Munakh, Fakkeh (x2), Tal Tamer, Dardara (x2), Qarainah, Qabbour, Abboush, and Qabr al Kabir.

¹⁵ Tal Baydar, Attia, Al-Asadiyah, Rihaniya, Daoudiyet Mala, Tall Sakhr, and Nadas.