

WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 15 – 21 APRIL 2019

Figure 1: Dominant Actors' Area of Control and Influence in Syria as of 24 February 2019. NSOAG stands for Nonstate Organized Armed Groups. For more explanation on our mapping, please see the footnote on page 2.

## NORTHWEST SYRIA

Elevated levels of conflict in the Hayyat Tahrir Ash Sham (HTS) dominated Idlib pocket continued this week despite four Turkish patrols in the enclave on 15, 18, 19 and 20 April<sup>2</sup>. There were 170 shellings and airstrikes recorded between HTS and the government. The weekly average of

activity recorded in the Tal Rifaat enclave north east of Aleppo City.

Seven incidents of



Qasiuoun (the Qasioun Companies<sup>5</sup>) claimed the second attack and said that it had targeted a military intelligence officer. Other sources [linked](#) the attack to Liwa Al Muhim Al Siraya (Special Task Companies). Both groups also stated that they would continue to target the capital in the future.

While these are the first time the two groups have claimed activity in the capital, it is important to note that Liwa al Muhim al Siraya has a record of making unreliable claims. On 2 April, the group [claimed](#) it had ambushed a military convoy in Barza, when the event had actually been a local dispute between Airforce Intelligence and local National Defense Force (NDF) personnel in the neighboring Ish al Warwar district of the capital.

## NORTHEAST SYRIA

Attacks against forces within the SDF-dominated northeast of Syria continued this week with seven shooting and explosive attacks recorded against SDF and aligned forces in Kasra, Shiheil, the Abu Nittel and Namliyah road and Al Sabkhah in Deir Ez Zor governorate, the Kharafi road in Shadadah town in Hassakeh governorate and in Maadan and Tabqa in Raqqa governorate.

Despite the fall of ISIS' last remaining enclave in Baghuz Fawqani nearly a month ago, coalition air activity continued against ISIS targets in the northeast. This week saw at least one raid on 15 April on the town of Shafa, while the latest Operation Inherent Resolve official figures [state](#) that at least 29 airstrikes were conducted in Syria between 23 March and 6 April 2019.

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<sup>5</sup> Apparently with reference to Qasioun Mountain, that overlooks Damascus from the northwest.