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Growing signs that GoS are not in full control of Daraa governorate despite their military takeover earlier in the year have been increasingly seen in the past month. Over two dozen low level attacks against GoS checkpoints or positions between Sanamayn, Nawa and Dar'a City from unidentified actors have been recorded in the two months. Most recently an attack occurred on 25 November 2018 involving a rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire against a GoS security building in Sanamayn town. However, it is important to note that given the low number of such attacks (less than 30 in two months), the inconsistencies in targets of attacks (i.e. GoS checkpoints, vehicles and buildings) and that almost all events appear harassing in nature and not a serious coordinated attempt to resist GoS presence or establish territorial control, it is unlikely the dynamic currently represents signs of a renewed insurgency.

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Figure 3 Heatmap of conflict events throughout Syria from 24 November to 09 December, highlighting towns in southern and eastern Syria. Areas in red are GoS controlled, areas in green are opposition controlled, areas in yellow are TEV-DEM controlled and areas in black are ISIS controlled.

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IS continues to endure in eastern Syria despite prolonged military action from GoS, Syrian Democratic

While these operations have undoubtedly reduced the capacity and territorial control of the group, and supported recent SDF advances, the notable resilience ISIS have shown since Raqqa and Mosul were recaptured in 2017, along with the difficulty of taking over and controlling ISIS