

WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 8 - 14 JULY 2019

WHOLE OF SYRIA SUMMARY

- NORTHWEST | Opposition groups organized attacked Hammamiyat town in the south of the Hayyat Tahrir ash Sham-dominated Idleb enclave, capturing the town for 24 hours, before it was retaken again by government forces. Opposition armed groups continued arresting civilians

SOUTH AND CENTRAL SYRIA

Low-level attacks against government-aligned personnel continued this week with five attacks recorded in Busra al Harir, Da'el, Hrak, Yadudah, and in Sahwa town, where an IED detonated as a joint Syrian Army/Russian Military Police convoy passed on the Haraba–Maaraba road. The Russian Ministry of Defence later [confirmed](#) the incident, which did not result in any Russian casualties or damages.

This now brings the number of recorded attacks against government-aligned personnel and its allies since August 2018⁴ to 160. In the past four months, IED activity in the south has increased, with 13 events recorded since 1 March compared to just five events the previous four months (Figure 4).

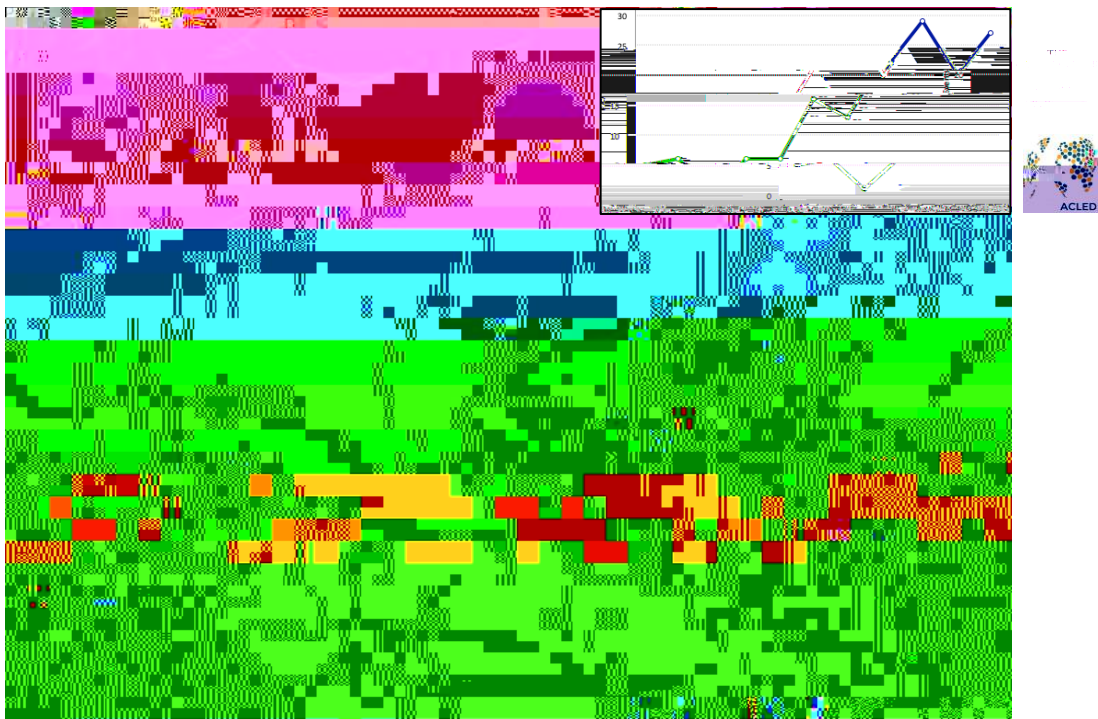


Figure 4: Attacks against government-aligned personnel in southern Syria since August 2018 (Note not all locations of attacks highlighted).

In the central part of the country, pro-government [sources](#) reported an explosive attack that [damaged](#) a pipeline connected to the Sha'er/Ibla Gas Fields on 14 July. Attacks against major oil and gas infrastructure in Syria are uncommon, with two attacks on record, including last month's attack on an underwater pipeline in Banyas. It is uncertain if the two events are linked.

Following increased ISIS activity in central areas of the country in recent months, the Syrian military [began](#) clearance operations against the group in the deserts between Deir Ez Zor and Sokhneh city. This is the third large-scale, security operation by GoS forces in central Syria in 2019. However, these government

⁴ When the area was retaken from a variety of opposition groups including HTS and ISIS.

attempts have done little to curb ISIS activity so far (Figure 5).

Figure 5: ISIS Activity in central areas of Syria in

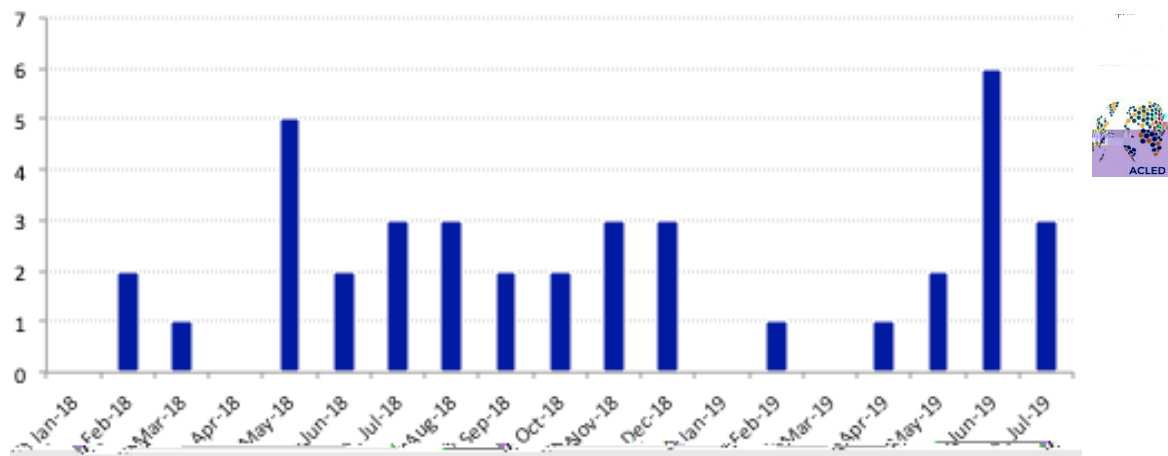


Figure 6: IED activity in Hasakeh City in 2019