

Syria Situation Report: April 15 - 28, 2020

1 Apr 15: Israeli Drone Strike Targets Lebanese Hezbollah Officials on Syria-Lebanon Border:

An Israeli drone launched a missile strike at a vehicle belonging to Lebanese Hezbollah near the Jdeidet Yabous border crossing along the Syrian-Lebanese border in west Damascus. The four individuals in the vehicle, including a Hezbollah member and at least one member of the Syrian regime forces, escaped before the vehicle was hit.

2 Apr 16-22: ISIS and Anti-Assad Actors Escalate Attacks against Regime Forces, Security Vacuum in Southern Syria Could Increase ISIS and Insurgent Activity:

ISIS gunmen attacked an unidentified pro-regime military vehicle on a road near Busra al-Harir in north Daraa Province, killing three and injuring two. Unidentified pro-regime forces conducted an arrest campaign in Maliha al-Atash, south of Busra al-Harir, after the attack and reportedly detained six civilians. ISIS gunmen also attacked a regime vehicle and killed two Syrian Arab Army (SAA) commanders near Herak in northeast Daraa Province. Unidentified actors assassinated a member of the Syrian Military Intelligence (SMI) on the road near al-Shajara in northwest Daraa Province. Unidentified militants detonated an improvised explosive device (IED) targeting a Syrian Air Force Intelligence (SAFI) vehicle north of Daraa City, killing one SAFI member and injuring a colonel. Unidentified actors also detonated an IED in Da'il, Daraa Province, killing three SAA soldiers who were attempting to defuse the IED and injuring two others.

3 Apr 16: HTS Fighters Threaten Turkish Forces Despite HTS's Explicit Support for Turkey's Partnership in the Revolution against Assad:

Unidentified al Qaeda-affiliated Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) fighters released a video threatening to kill and behead Turkish forces in Idlib Province. HTS reportedly arrested the individuals responsible for the video and released a statement recognizing Turkey as a partner in the "revolution" against the Assad regime and its allies.

4 Apr 18: Al Qaeda-affiliated Groups Clash in Rebel-held Northwestern Syria:

Al Qaeda-affiliated Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's (HTS) Security Apparatus, responsible for policing and internal security operations, attempted to force al Qaeda-affiliated Hurras al-Din members from their headquarters in Armanaz, north Idlib Province. HTS fighters later clashed with Hurras al-Din fighters as a result. Hurras al-Din commander Al-Sudani described the provocations by HTS as "reckless" and reiterated that their common enemy is the Assad regime.

5 Apr 20: Israeli Warplanes Strike IRGC-backed Militia Camp outside Palmyra:

Likely Israeli aircraft struck a camp belonging to Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)-backed Liwa Fatemiyoun in Talilah, a remote area 15 miles east of Palmyra, Homs Province. The strikes reportedly killed three Syrian fighters and six foreign fighters of unknown disposition.

6 Apr 21-28: Russian and Turkish Forces Fail to Patrol the Entirety of the M4 Highway:

Russian and Turkish forces attempted their fifth and sixth joint patrols on the M4 Highway from Tarnaba to Nayrab, Idlib Province, on April 21 and April 28, respectively. The patrols were halted as soon as they reached territory outside regime control for unspecified reasons.

7 Apr 26: Kinetic Escalation Between Al Qaeda-affiliated Group and Turkish Forces in Greater Idlib Province May Increase:

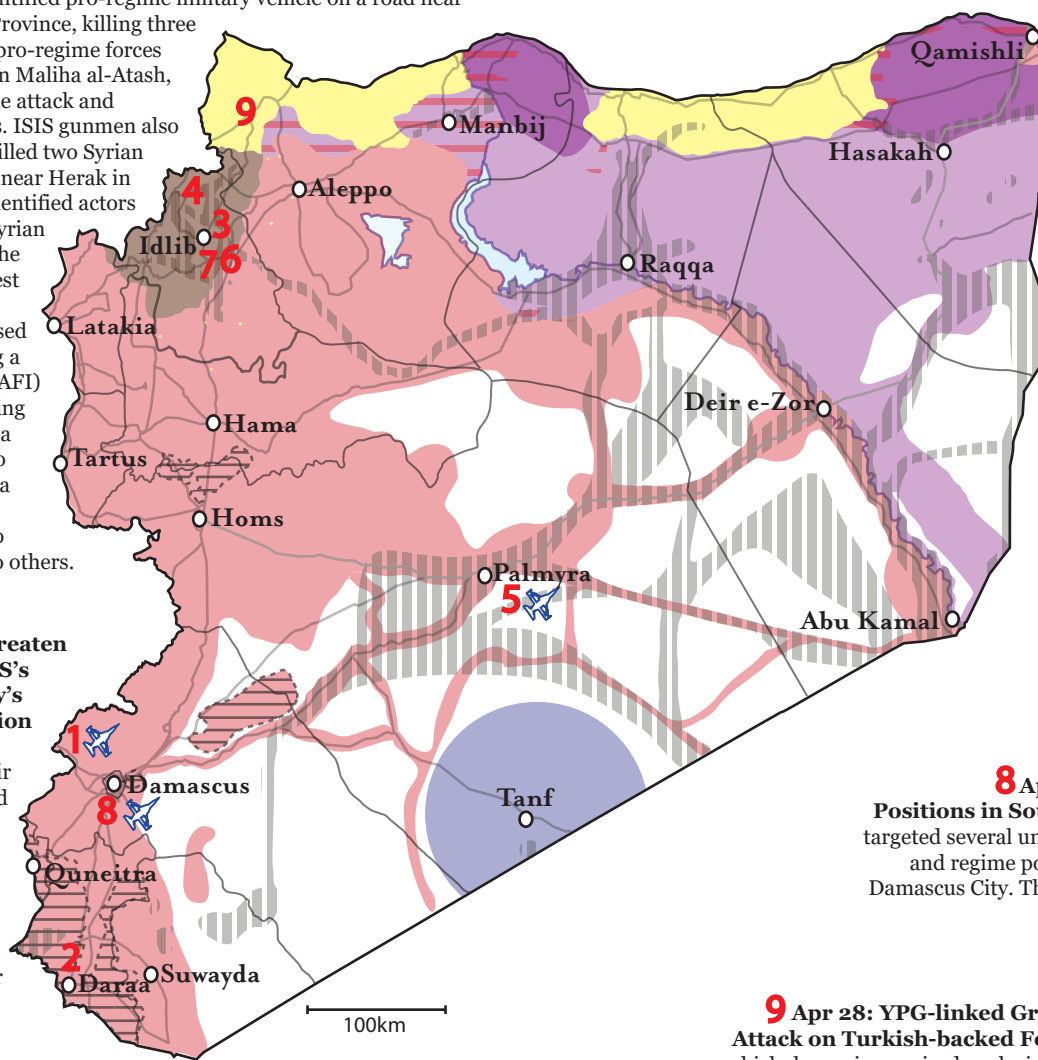
Protesters associated with al Qaeda-affiliated Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) staged a sit-in protest on the M4 Highway in Nayrab, Idlib Province. The Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) fired at protesters with artillery and tear gas, killing at least four. In response, HTS militants reportedly targeted Turkish bases near Nayrab with artillery and gunfire. The TSK launched a counterattack against HTS and removed barricades set up by protesters on the M4 Highway. Unconfirmed reports from pro-regime and opposition media stated a Turkish drone also struck a vehicle, killing two HTS members and injuring three others near Nayrab.

8 Apr 27: Israeli Warplanes Strike Iranian Proxy Positions in Southern Damascus:

Likely Israeli Air Force aircraft targeted several unidentified Iranian proxy forces, Lebanese Hezbollah, and regime positions in Kiswah and Sahnaya about 16 km south of Damascus City. The attacks reportedly killed at least four militants and destroyed several unspecified headquarters.

9 Apr 28: YPG-linked Group likely Responsible for Large-scale VBIED Attack on Turkish-backed Forces:

Unidentified militants detonated a large-scale vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED), killing at least 40 people at a local market in Afrin, northwest Aleppo Province. Turkish officials accused the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) of conducting the attack and claimed that they have captured the terrorist responsible for the attack. No group has officially claimed responsibility for the explosion.



- Pro-Regime
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
- Al Qaeda-Dominated*
- Turkey-Opposition
- U.S. and Partner Forces
- ISIS Support Zones
- SDF-Dominated, Regime Presence
- Core SDF-Held Kurdish Terrain
- Former Opposition Terrain (Reconciled)
- Israeli Airstrikes

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