

Conflict between the Turkish armed forces and their allies and the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) escalate across northern Syria.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) conducts military operation against two of its rivals in northern Latakia Governorate.

Government of Syria (GoS) completes new settlement agreements in Dara'a Governorate.

*October*

*Figure 2: Conflict involving Turkish armed forces and their allies on the one side and the SDF and GoS armed forces on the other side between 1-31 October 2021. Largest bubble represents 13 conflict events. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.*

The Turkish-backed opposition Syrian National Army (SNA) shot down a Russian armed forces drone near Mare, Aleppo Governorates.<sup>5</sup> On 15 October, Reuters reported that Turkey was prepping a new military operation.<sup>6</sup>

A Turkish drone killed an official with the Kurdish-run Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES) official near Kobani, northern Aleppo Governorate.<sup>7</sup> In the last couple of months, Turkey has increased its use of drone strikes against AANES officials across northern Syria.

HTS remains the most powerful anti-government armed group in opposition-controlled territory in northwest Syria. Since the July 2020 clashes with Hurras al-Din and its allies,<sup>8</sup> HTS has taken a hardline approach toward any independent armed group within its territory. After June 2021, HTS called on Jund Al-Sham to either join ranks or leave Idlib Governorate.<sup>9</sup> Facing pressure from HTS, Jund Al-Sham reportedly disbanded.<sup>10</sup> The war of words escalated between the two groups with Jund Al-Sham's leader Muslim al-Shishani releasing statements criticizing HTS and its leader Jolani.

HTS launched a new operation targeting Jund al-Sham and Jundallah in Jabal al-Turkman, northern Latakia Governorate.<sup>11</sup> HTS views Jundallah as an extension of ISIS and blames them for attacks in Idlib Governorate.<sup>12</sup>

The Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP) brokered a ceasefire agreement between HTS and Jund al-Sham.<sup>13</sup> The agreement allowed for Jund al-Sham fighters to withdraw.<sup>14</sup>

HTS arrested Chechen leaders operating with al-Shishani in northern Latakia Governorate.<sup>15</sup> The next day, protests condemning HTS's military operation were held in Bab Al-Hawa, Idlib Governorate.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/519472>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/519933>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/521129>

<sup>8</sup> <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f12a006dfaf84cc58a4348cbb23ab137>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/489992>

<sup>10</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/2mvub2sm>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/521883>, <https://tinyurl.com/xthpzhfs>,

<https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2021/11/syrian-jihadi-group->

HTS announced it ended its operation against the foreign groups in northern Lattakia Governorate.<sup>17</sup>

Figure 3: New settlement agreements and sieges in Dara'a Governorate between 2015 and 2016. 1000 3000 5000 7000 9000 11000 13000 15000 17000 19000 21000 23000 25000

