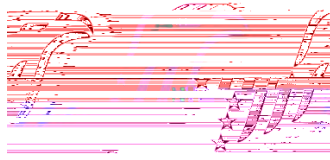


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Weekly Conflict Summary
October 26 – November 1, 2017

Pro-government forces and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF, a Kurdish-led coalition backed by the US) both took more territory from ISIS in Syria's east, though with some minor setbacks. Hai'yat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS, formerly al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra) also advanced against ISIS this week in the southeastern corner of the Idlib pocket. Turkish involvement in the opposition-held Idlib pocket continued to expand, with rumors that Turkish observers would establish additional monitoring positions in southern Idlib.

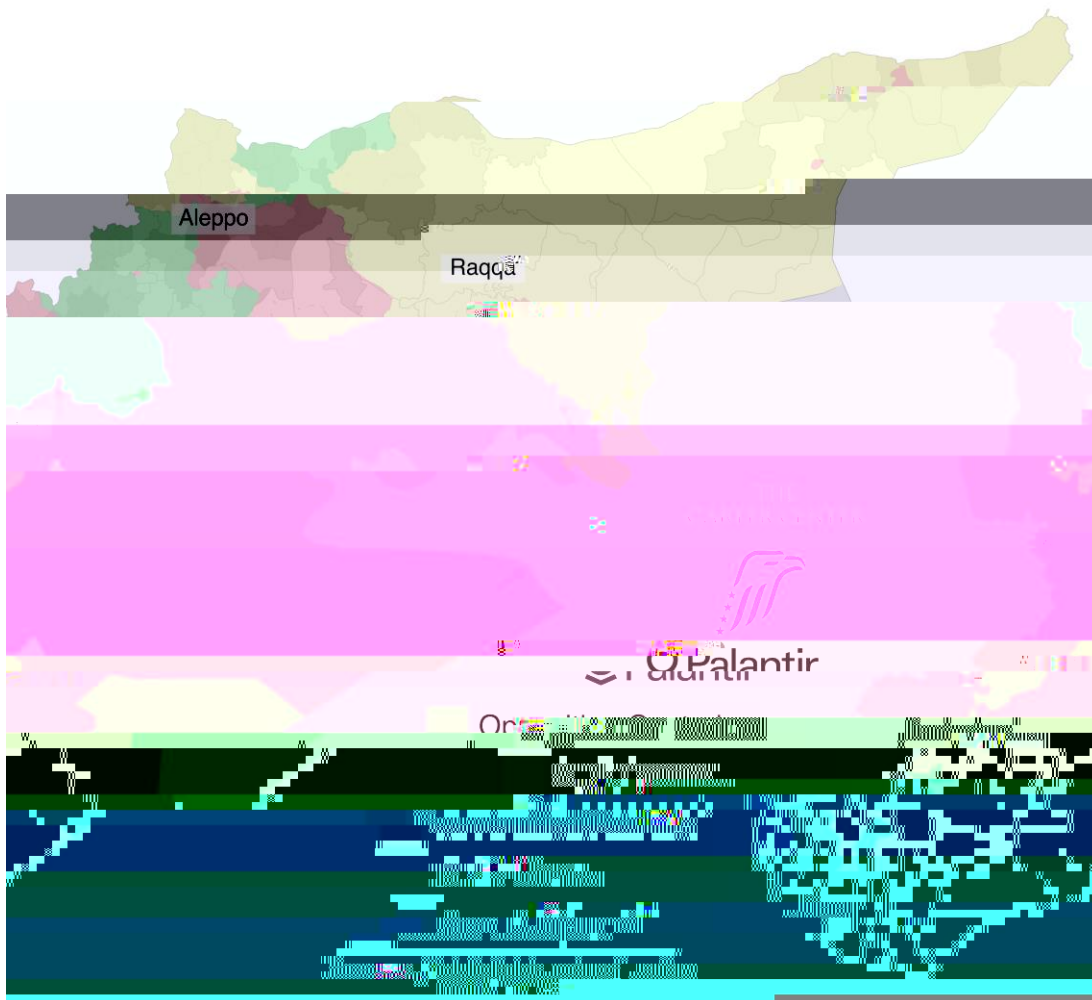


Figure 1 - Areas of control in Syria by November 1, with arrows indicating advances since the start of the reporting period

Figure 3 - Situation in Deir Ezzor city by November 1

During this reporting period, HTS recaptured the eastern Hama towns of Nufayla, al Qanah, and Msheirfeh and the strategic position of Tel Sarha from ISIS forces, continuing to regain territories lost during a surprise ISIS offensive in early October. The ISIS pocket in eastern Hama is severely diminished, having suffered significant losses to both HTS and pro-government forces during October.

HTS has also waged a counter-offensive against pro-government forces in the same area in Eastern Hama, in some areas within kilometers of clashes with ISIS forces, while pro-government forces opened another front with HTS near the city of Abu Dali further to the west. HTS' clashes with pro-government forces have been concentrated along the frontlines of Jeb Abyad and Abu Lafa and in Abu Dali to the west amidst reports of multiple attempts by pro-government forces to advance. Two HTS suicide attacks were reported to have targeted pro-government positions in Jeb Abyad and in the countryside of Abu Lafa.

The opposition's Central Division has joined HTS in holding the frontline with pro-government forces near Marijab Jamalán and Abu Lafa/Jeb Abyad, deploying an anti-tank guided missile. ToJETQq0.00000912 0

under opposition control in northwestern Syria. Only two such locations have been confirmed so far. In addition to northern Idlib and the western Aleppo countryside, Turkish forces are expected to establish a presence at nine additional points in western Idlib, southern Idlib, and Northern Hama Countryside, including the opposition-controlled town of al-Latamna. According to al-Berri, Turkish forces have also entered territory in Syria's coastal region, likely referring to territory to the southeast of the Turkish border town of Yayladagi, where opposition groups have long had a presence in the Jebel al-Akrad area of northern Latakia governorate. If Turkish force. If Turk

Also during the reporting period, Firqat al Hamza, which operates in the areas captured by the Turkish-backed Operation Euphrates Shield in northern Aleppo, announced it will hand over its military college and training facility to the Ministry of Defense of the SIG. Jabhat al Shamiyeh transferred control of its military college earlier this month.

The handover of the border crossing and the military facilities follow an agreement signed between the SIG and FSA armed groups operating in the northern Aleppo area to form an opposition “National Army” and to agree to SIG administration of all border crossings in northern Aleppo.

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