



Clashes between armed opposition groups and GoS armed forces continued this week. On 27 May, GoS forces and opposition groups clashed in the Taqad area in western Aleppo Governorate. On 28 May, opposition groups repelled a GoS armed forces attack in the towns of Ftireh and Fleifel in southern Idlib Governorate. The next day in Ftireh, HTS clashed with GoS armed forces and GoS-backed militias,<sup>2</sup> with both sides engaging in an artillery exchange. On 30 May, GoS armed forces and opposition fighters clashed on the Banin frontline in Idlib Governorate.

There were increased attacks against Turkish-backed armed opposition groups during the reporting period. There were three attacks on 25 May. A National Liberation Front commander was killed in an Iranian drone strike in Bara in southern Idlib Governorate.<sup>3</sup> The same day, an improvised explosive device (IED) injured a Sultan Murad Division fighter near Al-Bab city in northern Aleppo Governorate. In Al-Bab city, Sultan Murad Division fighters clashed with local gunmen. The cause for the clash was not revealed.<sup>4</sup> On 30 May, the Turkish-backed opposition's National Police Forces faced two attacks in northern Aleppo Governorate. Unidentified gunmen killed two opposition police officers near Ar-Ra'ee city. An IED targeted an opposition police commander in Jarablus in northern Aleppo Governorate. No fatalities were reported in the IED attack. Turkish-backed armed opposition groups have faced regular attacks in Turkish-held territory in Aleppo Governorate. Since 1 January 2015, 532,461,900 Turkish-backed armed opposition groups have faced regular attacks in Turkish-held territory in Aleppo Governorate.

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On 28 May, a local dispute escalated into infighting between Turkish-backed armed opposition groups in Afrin, Aleppo Governorate. Hamza Division fighters attempted to buy groceries on loan, but the store owner refused.<sup>5</sup> The Hamza Division fighters bombed the store, which escalated into clashes with Jaish al Islam and Ahrar al Sham fighters who supported the store owner.<sup>6</sup> Clashes continued until other elements of the Turkish-backed opposition's Syrian National Army stopped the fighting. The clashes resulted in civilian deaths, including one child. The various factions involved promised to open an investigation into the clashes.<sup>7</sup> On 29 May, Afrin res

Governorate.<sup>10</sup>



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