



The Government of Syria (GoS) did not have new advances in the northwest this week. However, GoS aerial activity resumed on the Hayyat Tahrir ash Sham (HTS)-dominated enclave on 10 September, with at least 23 attacks targeting 18 communities.<sup>2</sup> These were the first airstrikes in the northwest since GoS announced a ceasefire on 31 August.

GoS ground shelling on the Idleb pocket also increased this period, despite the ceasefire, with 139 such events reported. This is an increase from the previous week's 85 events (Figure 2). One shelling incident also affected the Turkish Military Observation Post in Maar Hattat town. Since May, this is the eighth shelling targeting Turkish Observation Posts in the northwest.

*Figure 2: GoS Aerial Activity (Blue) and Shelling (Red) in Northwest Syria Since May 2019. Data from ACLED and The Carter Center.*

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<sup>1</sup> Figure 1 denotes dominant actors' control and influence. Russia, Iran, Hezbollah and Iraqi militias maintain a presence in Syrian government-dominated territory. Non-state organized armed groups (NSOAG), including the Kurdish dominated, US backed SDF and a variety of other groups operate in areas not under Syrian government control. The NSOAG labeled area along the border with Iraq and Jordan is a 55km de-confliction zone, established by the US-led coalition that also includes a number of aligned local armed groups. Data collected is by the publicly available project ACLED.

<sup>2</sup> Bazabur, Benin (x2), Bsanqul, Dar al Kabira, Darkosh, Has (x2), Hazarin, Jbala, Jisr al Shaghour, Kabani, Kafr Ma G eae000887(a)-2(b)5fr3o5eW.G.O.( )-442Z2 G(in)5



February 2019, attacks against moving vehicles, fortified military or police locations, and checkpoints have remained high compared to the previous six months (Figure 4).

*Figure 4: Attacks against checkpoints, fortified military / police locations and moving vehicles in Southern Syria since 1 August 2018. Data from ACLED and The Carter Center.*

In Damascus, GoS Military Intelligence arrested 15 people in the northern suburb of Qudsaya during raids on 10 and 11 September. It was also reported in ACLED data that as many as 35 persons were wanted in connection with planning attacks against GoS personnel. This arrest campaign, the third in the suburbs since February, comes nearly two weeks after an IED detonation injured the head of the Qudsaya Municipal Council on 29 August.

In central areas of the country, pro-government [sources](#) reported that the Syrian military and National Defense Forces had completed an ISIS clearance operation in the Al Fidah area of Homs Governorate. It is the latest in a series of major security operations in central and eastern parts of Syria against the group.

On 12 September, the US and Turkish militaries conducted a joint helicopter patrol in the Tal Abiad area. It was the second joint aerial patrol since 29 August, and follows last week's joint ground patrol in the city. Also, it aligns with a Turkish Defense Ministry [announcements](#) that it is expecting such joint action with the US to continue as part of implementing "[security mechanisms](#)" in the northeast.

In Deir Ez Zor City, the Iranian backed al Baqir Brigade [announced](#) that it was willing to participate in attacks against the US backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in the northeast of Syria. The group has a [history](#) of making unreliable

(x3). In Basira, the SDF also destroyed boats allegedly used to transport goods to GoS areas.

In Al Hole Camp<sup>4</sup>, women stabbed an Iraqi national held in the camp. At least four cases of non-Syrian camp resident have been attacked by other camp residents since July. The most recent attack occurred on 5 September and targeted an Iraqi national.

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<sup>4</sup> Al Hole camp is one of several internally displaced persons (IDP) camps in northeast Syria. It primarily holds Syrian and foreign women and children who previously lived in ISISn