



REPORT ON SITUATION IN NORTH EAST SYRIA 23th October 2019

Overview

Although in many areas of North and East Syria a cautious calm prevails, Turkey continues to launch attacks in order to expand the area under occupation. Turkish proxies attacked villages west, east and south of the occupied zone, particularly focussing on trying to gain control over villages close to the M4 international road. There was also a drone strike on municipal offices in Abu Rassen east of Sere Kaniye. Although there are some tentative returns to areas outside of Turkish occupation, Tel Tamer and Hasakah are still full of displaced people. The SDF continues to pursue diplomatic relations with the USA and with Russia..

Our team on the ground

Our team on the ground reported several incidents in the region around Tel Tamer and Sere Kaniye. They confirmed a Turkish drone strike on the civil municipality building in Abu Rassen, east of Sere Kaniye. There were again clashes in the village Manajir on the road between Sere Kaniye and Tel Tamer. In Guzeliye village, near Aliye on the M4 west from Hasakah, where Turkish-backed forces still control part of the road, Mohammed Jamha Hussein (11) died, and his uncle Hazaa Mustafa (60) was injured, when they stepped on a mine today. Our team was also observing the situation in Tel Tamer town: "Nylons erected as crude protection against Turkish air-strikes have been removed today and the city is busy again. New refugees continue to arrive, often spending 1 to 2 days in the city before they can access any aid."

ISIS resurgence

In Al Hol camp, ISIS-linked women attempted to murder a resident of the camp who is a refugee from Iraq, security forces intervened. In an attack claimed by ISIS, a car bomb exploded outside a park and community centre in Qamishlo, causing one injury. Not yet claimed by ISIS, a motorcycle explosion on al-Jamea Street in al Shadadi south of Hasakah, located on the street of the central mosque, caused several injuries and damage. There were also car bombs in Suluk and north Raqqa, but responsibility for these is unclear. James Jeffrey, USA Special Envoy of the International Coalition to Combat ISIL, confirmed that the Turkish invasion enabled the escape of 100 ISIS detainees from prisons.

Sere Kaniye: *Turkey and its proxy forces continue with their attempts of gaining ground east of Sere Kaniye. In addition to the drone strike on the civil municipality building in Abu Rassen, the area between the villages of Aluk and Zarkan is witnessing movements of Turkish proxy forces. Turkish proxies also attacked the village of Java and the surrounding farms in the region of Sere Kaniye.*

Ayn Issa: *There are fierce clashes between the SDF and Turkish proxy forces in the area of Sharakrak, southeast of Tel Abyad, close to the M4 road east of Ayn Issa.*

Kobane: *We spoke to a person in Kobane who confirmed that Russian forces arrived in Kobane with four vehicles. They were met by Ismed Sheikh Hassan of Kobane Military Council and visited positions along the front.*

Dirbesiye: *After the majority of the population fled the town two days ago in fear of attacks by Turkey as the end of the 17th October ceasefire agreement approached, people began to slowly return to the area today.*

Manbij: *There were clashes between the Manbij Military Council and Turkish proxies around the village of Umm Adsa, after Turkish proxy forces fired upon the village with heavy machine guns.*