



## REPORT ON SITUATION IN NORTH EAST SYRIA 28th October 2019

### **Overview**

*Troop movements are reported across the region as fighting continues east of Sere Kaniye, on the Sere Kaniye - Tel Tamer axis, north of Ayn Issa, and in Manbij. SDF withdrawal has also coincided with the Turkish occupation of dozens of villages in the Tel Abyad countryside. The Syrian Army has mobilised troops and tanks to the Sere Kaniye - Tel Tamer front following losses in the area. Russian troops are beginning to patrol east of Qamishlo towards Derik, and the Syrian Army has taken positions along the border east of Sere Kaniye. There is Russian and Syrian Army presence along the border in Kobane and Manbij region. US forces have returned to the Qusarki base located between Tel Tamer and Tal Baidar in the Hasakah countryside. The 150 hours that the Russia - Turkey agreement allocated for the withdrawal of SDF troops expires at 6pm on the 29th October.*

### **Humanitarian Crisis**

*The water crisis in Hasakah continues as displaced families await the construction of a refugee camp outside of the city of Hasakah. Our on the ground team reports that although Newroz Camp (near Derik) has been re-opened to receive people displaced by the Turkish invasion, there is currently an absence of support in the camp from the international humanitarian community.*

*Reports of violations within the occupied region continue to emerge. In the morning Turkish proxies carried out field executions in the village of Arayed north of Ayn Issa. The victims were Mahmoud al-Zaher, 60 and Barho al-Alou, 65. There are also reports that Turkish proxies kidnapped and killed three civilians (all from the same family) from Dibish village east of Sere Kaniye: Abdulraouf Mulla Suleiman, Abdulkhaleq and Abdulaziz.*

### **Sere Kaniye - Tel Tamer axis**

*Despite the ceasefire there were heavy clashes in villages east of Sere Kaniye and in the villages along the road south to Tel Tamer. Turkish proxies attacked SDF and Syrian Army positions in the contested village of Arisha, west of Tel Tamer. Our local source in Tel Tamer said: "We just got six members of the Syrian Army arriving at the hospital." Other sources in Tel Tamer report two Turkish tanks attacking positions of the SDF and the Syrian Army, who struggled to respond as they had no anti tank weapons. According to this source the Syrian Army brought a large column of troops, tanks and other military equipment along the M4 international road in Tel Tamer, leading to the west towards Arisha. The Syrian Army completed deployment of troops along the border between Dirbesiye, Amude and locations further east. Turkish proxy forces shelled the villages Dawidiye and Bab Al-Kher south of Sere Kaniye, on the road to Tel Tamer.*

### **ISIS resurgence & anti-ISIS operations**

*The Coalition conducted another raid in coordination with SDF to capture senior ISIS leaders in Jarablus, on the border with Turkey. Arrests were made, and SDF confirmed that the operation was successful. Raids were also conducted in Turkish-held areas of Afrin.*

### **Manbij**

*The villages Madna, Um-Sateh and Um-Jalud in the west of Manbij were attacked by Turkish proxy forces. These attacks triggered a large displacement of residents from the area. Heavy fighting continued into the evening.*

### **Tel Abyad**

*Turkish proxies occupied 24 villages south of Tel Abyad after SDF forces had withdrawn, in line with the Sochi agreement between Russia and Turkey..*