



## **WEEKLY REPORT ON SITUATION IN NORTH EAST SYRIA**

### **12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

#### ***Overview***

The M4 international road was reopened shortly after the Syrian army took control of it. Sporadic clashes continued in the east of the occupied area, in the vicinity of Zirgan (Abu Rasin), as well as to the west of Qazali village. The situation in Al Hol camp has become more calm as 91 families were part of a negotiated return to their homes in Deir-ez-Zor region and up to 200 refugee families were transferred to Iraqi camps.

Russia continues to strengthen its position in North and East Syria through deploying more troops and establishing a military base in Tel Tamer city. Russian, Syrian army and US armies continue to move troops and logistics between positions and bases. The US and SDF continue to collaborate in organized raids against ISIS cells in Deir-ez-Zor. The situation remains unstable, with ongoing reports of attacks on local council members and civilians.

#### ***Humanitarian crisis***

On 15th December the second aid shipment from the Kurdish Charitable Institution - which is active across Kurdistan -arrived in North and East Syria via the Semalka border.

On 17th December Russian forces distributed humanitarian aid to displaced people in the city of Hasakah and provided health support via a mobile medical clinic.

#### ***Military and political situation***

On 14th December Russian forces began to form new military groups in the towns of Amude, Dirbesiye and Tel Tamer with the aim to replace the YPG in providing security in the border region with Turkey.

On 17th December the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria affirmed that ENKS will face "no legal prosecution" over historic cases against their members, and confirmed that ENKS are free to open offices and engage in political activity in North and East Syria without the necessity of prior security approval.

On 18th December the Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, General Valery Gerasimov, confirmed that Russia will deploy more Russian military police to the areas east of the Euphrates on the Syrian-Turkish border.

#### ***Al Hol camp***

On 17th December 91 families, totaling 338 people, left Al Hol camp after recent agreement between the Autonomous Administration and their tribal leaders.

On 18th December local sources report that US forces transferred up to 200 Iraqi refugee families to a camp in Iraq.

### **Tel Tamer**

*On 13th December Turkish proxies shelled several villages in the area of Tel al-Ward and Tel al-Shair, Zirgan (Abu Rasin) countryside.*

*The M4 international road was reopened after the Syrian Army deployed forces between Tel Tamer and Ayn Issa.*

*On 14th December two villages - Tel al-Ward and Tel al-Shair - were shelled by Turkish backed forces.*

*On 17th December Russian forces established a military base in Tel Tamer city.*

### **Ayn Issa**

*On 13th December Turkish proxy forces once again attacked the Qazali silos northwest of Ayn Issa.*

*On 14th December shelling of Hoshan village west of Ayn Issa was reported.*

*On 16th December Turkish proxies resumed shelling of Qazali village.*

*On 17th December dozens of trucks accompanied by the Turkish army and proxy forces arrived in Sharakrak, east of Ayn Issa, to seize grain from the silos.*

*On 18th December the village of Kherbet Baqar was shelled with rockets by Turkish proxy forces.*

### **Deir-ez-Zor**

*On 13th December an ISIS cell attacked an SDF member in al-Zeban village.*

*On 15th December local council member Yassin Al-Najras was assassinated in al-Hawaj village, eastern countryside of Deir-ez-Zor.*

*On 17th December Asayish (internal security forces) dismantled a 15kg explosive device in al-Sheel town.*

*On 18th December the SDF, backed by Coalition forces, arrested 3 men in a house raid in al-Sahba village. Al-Hireciye village was also targeted by ISIS cells.*

### **Qamishlo**

*On 18th December a joint patrol of Russian and Asayish forces started from Qamishlo airport and went through the countryside surrounding Amude.*

### **Kobane**

*On 17th December a joint Russia and Turkey patrol took place, departing from Ashme village in the morning hours. Locals again protested against the presence of Turkish forces.*

### **Girke Lege**

*On 17th December US forces conducted a military patrol in the oil fields of Girke Lege countryside.*

### **Manbij**

*On 18th December Turkish proxy forces targeted Manbij Military Council forces in Arab Hassan and Mahsali village with heavy weapons.*