

WEEKLY REPORT ON SITUATION IN NORTH EAST SYRIA

4th - 11th November 2019

Overview

With the exception of some sporadic clashes, the situation on the fronts stayed calm. Following negotiations between Russia and Turkey control of the M4 international road was handed over to the Syrian army. There are ongoing negotiations about Russian observation posts to be established alongside the M4 road. It was announced that Russian forces would control an area in the west of the city. After the most recent escalation of attacks on Ayn Issa the situation remains stable. The Syrian army has assumed control of the of Sharakrak silos and is removing mines from the surroundings.

However, raids on ISIS sleeper cells and infrastructure continue in Deir-ez-Zor amid ongoing attacks on civilians, members of the local administration. Security in al Hol camp remains unstable, with three deaths of camp residents in the last week.

Humanitarian crisis

The number of displaced people in Washo Kani displacement camp (Tuweyna) increased to 718 families despite the onset of challenging winter conditions.

On 10th December a convoy of 40 trucks carrying tents, aid, mattresses, clothes and water filters arrived via the Semalka border crossing. According to the Kurdish Red Crescent the material will be distributed in Washo Kani camp.

Military and political situation

On 4th December Russian forces brought heavy weaponry into North and East Syria.

On 9th December a delegation from the Kurdish National Council's Committee on Foreign Relations met with Mikhail Bogdanov, Russian Deputy Minister, in Moscow to discuss further political developments in North and East Syria.

On 8th December Turkish and Russian forces conducted a joint patrol on the M4 international highway. Later, the Russian Ministry of Defense announced and confirmed that Russian forces will establish observation points along the road.

Qamishlo

On 6th December SDF anti-terror units carried out raids in the countryside of al-Qataniya, east of Qamishlo city based on information from the SDF intelligence service.

On 8th December trucks from international forces were crossing Qamishlo and headed towards Hasakah.

On 11th December sound bombs exploded in the Haliliye neighborhood of Qamishlo.

Al Hol camp

On 5th December security forces in al Hol camp found the bodies of two women in the camp: a Turkmen woman, Fatima Abdullah, 48 years old, and an Iraqi woman, Asad Alawi Medid, 30 years old. ISIS-linked women resident in the camp are likely to be responsible for the killings.

On 7th December a group of ISIS women were detained during an attempted breakout from al Hol.

On 8th December was announced that 200 women and children will be returned from al Hol camp to their home communities in the Deir-ez-Zor region, as the program of returns expands from Raqqa to include the region most recently liberated from ISIS.

On 9th December a woman was strangled to death in al Hol camp, reportedly as punishment for not wanting to wear hijab. Her body was discovered during a sweep of the camp by camp security forces.

Tel Tamer

Following negotiations between Turkey and Russia, Turkish proxy forces have started to withdraw from the M4 international road from the 6th December. The Syrian army took control of the road from Laylan village towards Mabroukah power station.

On 7th December Turkish and Russian forces met in the vicinity of Sharakrak silos and conducted a joint patrol of the area.

On 9th December Turkish proxy forces attacked the surroundings of Zirgan (Abu Rasin) town with mortar and heavy weapons. One villager was killed in Tal al-Ward village.

Russian military police entered Mabroukah power station west of Tel Tamer.

On 11th December the Assyrian People's Guard spokesperson confirmed that the Syrian army and Russian forces are now in full control of the M4 highway between Laylan village and Mabroukah power station. It was also reported that a Russian and Turkish patrol will take place every 3 months.

Ayn Issa

On 4th December Turkish proxy forces deployed 8 tanks and 15 military vehicles the the vicinity of Xirbet Faris village near Ayn Issa. The Russian army brought 15 trucks loaded with logistical and military equipment into Sarin base.

On 7th December the first joint patrols of SDF and Syrian army forces took place in the vicinity of Ayn Issa.

On 8th December new reinforcements from the Syrian army, consisting of 60 soldiers and dozens of military vehicles, arrived in Ayn Issa.

On 9th December it was announced that the west neighborhood of Ayn Issa will be under Russian control. Additional Russian reinforcements arrived to the city. Sporadic clashes were reported in the the village Arida in the Ayn Issa countryside.

On 10th December after Turkish proxy forces withdrew from Sharakrak silos the Syrian army started to remove mines in the area surrounding the silos.

Manbij

Throughout the week there were sporadic clashes in the area of Yashli village northwest of Manbij.

On 10th December the Dadat border crossing in Turkish occupied Jarabulus was reopened for civilians.

Deir-ez-Zor

On 4th December unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle shot a member of the Civil Council in Darnaj village.

On 6th December a motorcycle bomb exploded between Abu Hamam and al-Kashkiyah town in eastern Deir-Ez-Zor, causing several civilian injuries.

On 8th December the SDF, with US air support, carried out raids in al-Busayrah city and captured 3 ISIS members.

On 9th December the SDF seized a number of explosive devices in the village of al-Jazhi al-Gharbi.

On 11th December SDF anti-terror forces conducted a raid on a large ISIS network smuggling weapons and ammunition. Several ISIS affiliates were captured and a quantity of weaponry was confiscated.

Derik (al-Malikiyah)

On 6th December two Russian military vehicles accompanied by Asayish internal security forces patrolled the border strip in Derik (al-Malikiyah) in advance of the Russian-Turkish patrol.

Tel Abyad (Gire Spi)

On 4th December Turkish proxy forces bulldozed civilian homes in Kora Maza village, 30 kilometers south of Tel Abyad near the M4 road.

Dirbesiye

On 4th December Asayish internal security forces and two Russian military vehicles conducted a patrol in the countryside between Qamishlo and Dirbesiye cities.