



## REPORT ON SITUATION IN NORTH EAST SYRIA

24th October 2019

### **Overview**

*Turkey continues to seek to gain ground in North and East Syria, launching attacks and advancing towards Tel Tamer, where thousands of displaced families are seeking shelter. The village of Manajir, a hotly contested spot on the road between Tel Tamer and Sere Kaniye, has been claimed by Turkish backed forces. Ongoing artillery shelling and ground clashes between Turkish proxies and local forces are reported in Northern Aleppo.*

*The Syrian government has sent 160 vehicles containing 1300 soldiers, supplies and weaponry to the border, particularly around Kobane. The first Russian patrol between Qamishlo and Amude took place along with the Internal Security Forces (Asayish) of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, and then proceeded to patrol within Qamishlo city. There are also joint patrols with Russia and local security forces in Manbij, Kobane and Dirbesiye. SDF Commander in Chief Mazlum Abdi announces that the Semalka border crossing with the Kurdish region of Iraq will remain under the control of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, and that the SDF and Autonomous Administration continue to negotiate with the Syrian government and Russia.*

### **Humanitarian Crisis**

*Sources from within the Administration have told us that a new refugee camp near Hasakah is being established by the local administration to house families displaced from Sere Kaniye. Local sources also say that some displaced families are also being moved to Newroz camp near Derik, which has now been reopened. Newroz camp is a refugee camp that was opened for Yezidis fleeing the genocide in Sinjar, and had recently been closed as the Yezidi residents returned home.*

### **ISIS Resurgence**

*Internal Security Forces (Asayish) arrest five escaped ISIS-linked women who were attempting to flee towards the Iraqi border, along with 18 children. The women were of German, Turkish and Uzbek nationality. The motorcycle bombing that took place in the town of Shadadi, south of Heseke, on the 23rd was claimed by ISIS*

### **Sere Kaniye and Tel Abyad**

*Ground clashes continue to take place between the SDF and Turkish proxy forces east of Sere Kaniye, in the Um Ashya in the Abu Rassen countryside. Turkish attacks werelaunched on Manajir and Asadiyeh villages, and in the evening the strategically important village of Manajir was captured by Turkish backed forces. Our team on the ground confirms that artillery shelling is audible from their location close to Manajir. At the end of the day Syrian military sources reported that several villages in the countryside of Sere Kaniye that had been taken by Turkish backed forces in the previous 24 hours were recaptured by SDF and Syrian army forces.*

*There are ongoing reports of kidnapping for ransom and murder of civilians in Sukuk, Tel Abyad countryside. The headquarters of Turkish proxy forces in Tel Abyad was targetted by bomb.*

### ***Tel Tamer***

*We have received reports of several instances of Turkish proxy forces kidnapping civilians in the Tel Tamer countryside, demanding ransom for their safe return. Turkish backed forces continue to seek to advance onto Tel Tamer, where thousands of displaced families have fled to, despite the ceasefire. In the morning there were clashes in the area of Manajir on the road between Tel Tamer and Sere Kaniye (Ras al-Ain). Casualties were taken to Tel Tamer hospital.*