



*Due to the stabilization of the situation - though at critical levels - Rojava Information Center will no longer be releasing a daily summary of events each morning. We will continue to release updates and breaking news on Twitter and through press releases, as well as gather information from on ground and make it available to journalists and the public. All of our core work will continue: arranging interviews, facilitating access to local sources, and producing in depth research.*

*The situation in North and East Syria remains critical. Clashes continue on the Sere Kaniye-Tel Tamer axis, in the countryside east of Sere Kaniye, north of Ayn Issa and West of Tal Abyad. Within the occupied zone, looting, human rights abuses, kidnapping and executions continue. This situation is likely to continue as long as Turkish-backed forces remain within North and East Syria and the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria is denied authority over the occupied territory.*

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

**29th October 2019**

### **Overview**

*As the deadline for SDF withdrawal to 30km from the border passed, Russia confirmed full withdrawal of SDF troops and military equipment from the zone. Syrian government forces and local military councils remain. There were severe clashes between Turkish-backed forces and Syrian Army forces resulting in many casualties east of Sere Kaniye, in one of the most hotly contested areas Abu Rasin/Zarkan. Clashes, kidnappings and looting continue within the occupied zone. Syrian Government and Coalition forces have attacked each other's positions in Deir ez Zor. The SDF for the first time officially confirmed the death of international volunteer Konstantin G from Germany. Konstantin, who was given the Kurdish name Andok, was killed by a Turkish air strike in Sere Kaniye on the 16th October.*

### **Humanitarian Crisis**

The regional authorities of Jazeera region, which hosts many of the refugees created by the invasion, has issued an urgent call for help to cope with the water crisis caused by Turkish attacks on water infrastructure. Our sources in the local administration have told us that although the ICRC have conducted some repairs on the damaged water station, it is still only operating at 20% capacity. We spoke to people in Tel Tamer and Hasakah who report that many refugees are relying on water being trucked in, which falls far short of the level of need.

The Joint Crisis Coordination Committee of the Kurdish Regional Government of Iraq have reported that 270 more refugees arrived 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> October, bringing the total number of refugees to 12,964. The Committee issued a call to international humanitarian actors to meet the need for heaters and fuel as winter approaches.

### **Sere Kaniye and Abu Rasin/Zarkan**

*Clashes continue in Abu Rasin/Zarkan countryside. Turkish proxy forces gained control over villages of Jan Tamr East and West, Merkis Harb, Abba, Tal Baidar, Tal Qortal, Madabaa, Bab Al Khair, Daoudia, Al Maqsaq, Bairir, Amayr and Hamash. There were reports of the kidnapping of three civilians as well as looting of villages under control of Turkish forces. In the afternoon 18 people claimed to be Syrian government forces were captured on the Sere Kaniye - Tel Tamer axis. At least six Syrian army soldiers were killed and tens wounded as fierce fights broke out between Turkish proxies and the Syrian army east of Sere Kaniye.*

### **Tel Tamer**

*The Syriac Military Council (MFS) sent additional forces to Manajir front northwest of Tel Temir to prevent further advance of Turkish proxy forces towards the city.*

### **Ayn Issa**

*Turkish backed forces attacked the villages of Kandria, Basrah, Khirbet Fars and Abu Kharzah.*

### **Dirbesiye**

*At least six people were injured in cross border mortar bombing coming from Turkey during a patrol of Russian military police in Dirbesiye.*

### **Derik**

*The Turkish army has begun to remove border walls in Derik (Al-Malikiya) countryside in preparation of joint Russian-Turkish patrols in the countryside.*

### **Deir Ez Zor**

*Coalition forces took the railway station on the outskirts of the city of Hijin as a new military base in the eastern countryside of Deir Ez Zor. It was reported that Assad forces shelled an SDF military point near Al-Husseiniyah. In response to this shelling Coalition forces destroyed a Syrian government military position by air strike.*