

Clashes between Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and GoS-backed militias² against armed opposition groups increased this week. On 24 August, opposition snipers killed a GoS soldier on the Hursh Bayanin frontline near Jabal al-Zawiyah, Idlib Governorate.³ The same day, GoS armed forces and the Turkish-backed Syrian opposition's National Liberation Front clashed near Jabal al-Zawiyah, Idlib Governorate.⁴ On 25 August, armed opposition fighters killed a GoS soldier on the Jobas frontline in Idlib Governorate.⁵ On 26 August, Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) snipers killed two GoS soldiers on the frontlines in western Aleppo Governorate.⁶ On 27 August, GoS armed forces clashed with armed opposition groups in al-Rawiha, Benin, Idlib Governorate.

gunmen injured a former opposition fighter affiliated with GoS air force intelligence in Tasil, Dara'a Governorate.²⁸ On 25 August, unidentified gunmen killed two GoS 4th Division fighters in Dara'a city.²⁹ On 25 August, unidentified gunmen injured an alleged GoS armed forces collaborator and killed his child in Jasim, Dara'a Governorate.³⁰ On 26 August, unidentified gunmen kidnapped a Hezbollah collaborator in Jamleh, Dara'a Governorate.³¹ On 26 August, unidentified gunmen attacked a GoS armed forces checkpoint in Tafas, Dara'a Governorate.³² On 30 August, an IED planted by an unidentified armed group injured an alleged collaborator for the Russian-backed 5th Corps in Jasim, Dara'a Governorate.³³ Since GoS regained control of Dara'a Governorate, attacks against former opposition fighters and GoS soldiers and officials have steadily increased.

GoS armed forces and GoS-backed militias clashed with ISIS in Homs Governorate. On 25 August, GoS armed forces, the GoS-backed National Defense Forces, and Iranian-backed Quds brigade launched a new operation against ISIS in the Badia desert region of Homs Governorate.³⁴ This coincided with a new Russian-backed anti-ISIS operation in northwestern Syria.

Russia began a new operation against ISIS in northeast Syria. On 24 August, an ISIS-planted landmine killed two GoS-backed militiamen near Al-Rusafa, Ar-Raqqa Governorate.³⁸ The same day, GoS and Russian armed forces dispatched military reinforcements to Deir-ez-Zor Governorate to fight against ISIS.³⁹ On 26 August, Russia announced a new military operation named "White Desert" against ISIS in central and eastern Syria.⁴⁰ This followed the killing of a Russian general by ISIS the previous week. On 27 August, ISIS clashed with GoS armed forces and GoS-backed militias in western Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.⁴¹ On 28 August, ISIS attacked GoS armed forces and the NDF in western Deir-ez-Zor Governorate.⁴² 14 GoS

