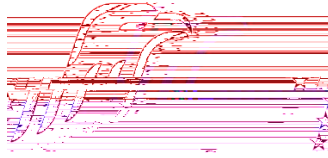


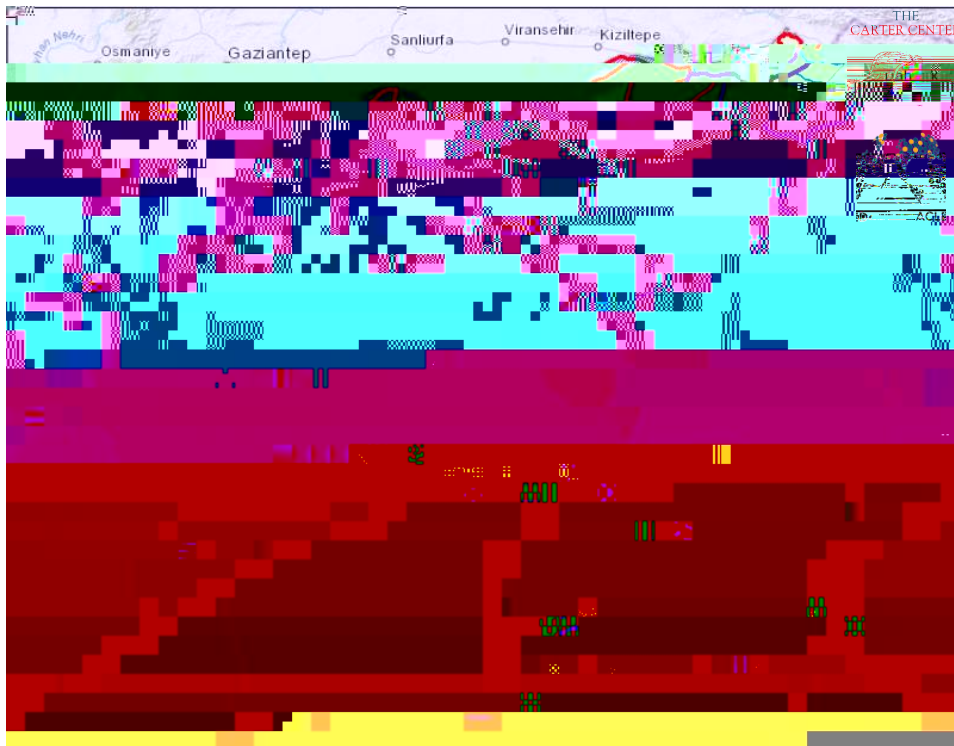
THE
CARTER CENTER



Internal tensions within the Turkish-backed opposition's Syrian National Army persist.

Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces shell the neighborhood of Dara'a al-Balad, Dara'a Governorate.

Turkey conducts drone strikes against the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces in northeast Syria.



--

In Turkish-held territory in northern Syria, infighting among components of the Turkish-backed opposition Syrian National Army (SNA) is common. Despite efforts to mediate some of these infightings, disputes between the various armed groups occasionally escalate into clashes. Analysts have argued that the weak SNA institutions lack proper hierarchy and clear structure to stop the infighting.² In July 2021, a new alliance of Turkish-backed groups in the SNA formed the "Azm-United Operations Room"³ to integrate the armed groups and bring stability to Turkish-held Aleppo Governorate.

On 7 August, the Azm Operations Room ordered all its affiliated factions to resolve any judicial issues or disputes within 20 days.⁴

Since 24 June, Government of Syria (GoS) and Russian armed forces have besieged Dara'a al-Balad, a neighborhood of Dara'a city. On 24 July, the Central Committee of Dara'a, a group composed of former opposition fighters negotiating with Russia and the GoS about local governance grievances, and GoS negotiators reached an agreement to end the siege of Dara'a al-Balad. The agreement stipulated that the Central Committee would register individuals for a new settlement process and surrender some of their weapons. In return, the siege would be lifted and GoS Military Security would establish new checkpoints within the neighborhood.⁸ However, the agreement broke down and resulted in GoS Fourth Division shelling Dara'a al-Balad.

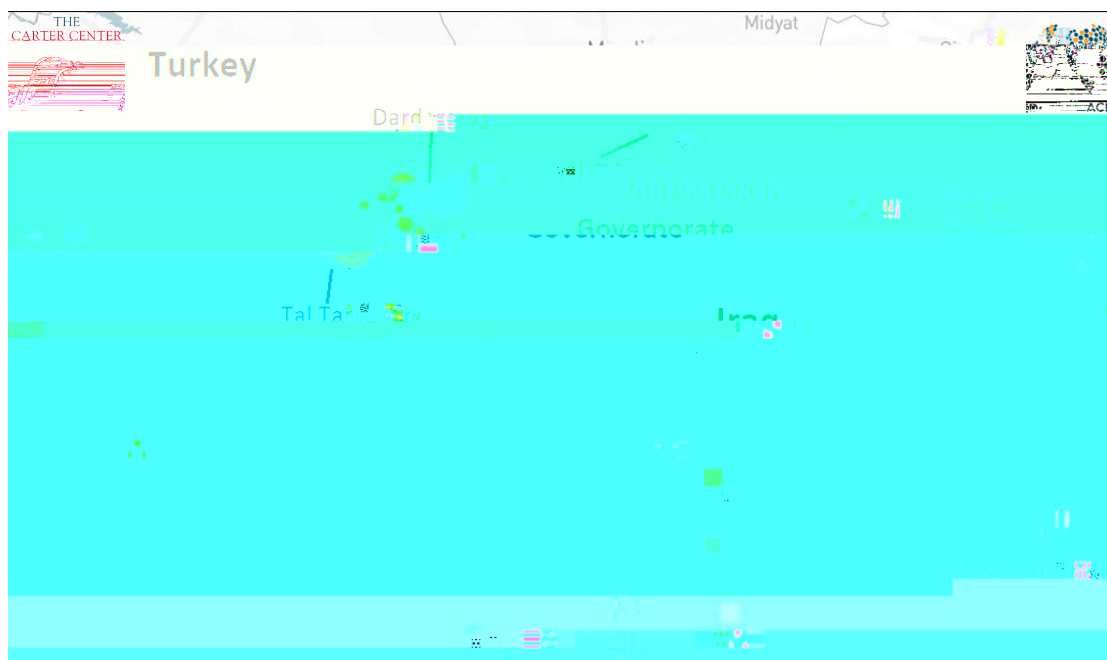
Two prominent former opposition commanders wanted by GoS

Demonstrations demanding the end of the siege were reported across Dara'a Governorate.¹² The same day, the Central Committee asked Russia to return to the 2018 settlement agreement.¹³

Russian armed forces and the Russian-backed 8th Brigade entered Dara'a al-Balad to prevent further clashes as negotiations continued.¹⁴ The same day, 15 former opposition fighters left Dara'a Governorate for opposition-controlled territory in northern Syria.¹⁵

The GoS Fourth Division continued to shell Dara'a al-Balad.¹⁶ The 8th Brigade mediated a new possible agreement, but the Central Committee reportedly declined.¹⁷ The same day, demonstrations in solidarity with Dara'a al-Balad were held in Jasim, Dara'a Governorate.¹⁸

As negotiations reached a standstill, the Central Committee called for a general mobilization across Dara'a Governorate to stop the ongoing campaign against Dara'a al-Balad.^{19,20}



¹² <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/506274>

¹³ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/506265>

¹⁴ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/507612>

¹⁵ <https://tinyurl.com/uy9fzaph>

¹⁶ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/508240>

¹⁷ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/508479>

¹⁸ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/508487>

¹⁹ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/508560>

²⁰ <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/508690>

Turkey justifies its control of territory in northern Syria as a secure zone along the border to prevent alleged threats from armed Kurdish groups.²¹ Shelling and clashes along the frontlines between Turkish armed forces and Turkish-backed armed opposition groups on the one side and GoS armed forces and the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the other side are frequent.

The SNA clashed with the SDF near Dardara, northern Al-Hassakah Governorate.²²

A Turkish drone bombed the SDF headquarters in Tal Tamer, western Al-Hassakah Governorate,²³ killing an unspecified number of SDF fighters.

Turkish shelling killed 3 SDF fighters and a Women's Protection Unit (YPJ) commander in Tal Tamer.²⁴

A Turkish drone strike reportedly killed a SDF commander²⁵ near the village of Himo by Qamishli, Al-Hassakah Governorate.²⁶

Turkish armed forces conducted two drone strikes against the SDF near Tal Tamer.²⁷ This has followed a pattern of increased drone use against the SDF and their allies across northeast Syria.²⁸

For earlier conflict summaries, please click