



## FIELD DEVELOPMENTS

NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST 22-31 December; 2021

violations of truce \_\_\_\_\_\_ committed by the Regime and its Russian ally

**Controlling Parties 31 December 2021** 

Aleppo

Al-Hasakeh

After the Turkey and Russia reached a **ceasefire agreement** in Idlib governorate on March 5, 2020, the Syrian regime and its Russian ally did not bomb northwest Syria with warplanes. However, the regime continued to bomb these cities and towns with heavy artillery and rockets from ground launchers. On June 2, 2020, Russian warplanes resumed bombing cities and towns in northwest Syria, and the regime continued to bombard them with heavy artillery and rockets from ground launchers. Through its network of enumerators, ACU worked on documenting the regime's breach of the ceasefire. As of the date of preparing this report, the Syrian regime and its Russian ally have violated the ceasefire 2,908 times.



After the ceasefire came into effect, **Turkish and Russian forces began conducting joint military patrols** on the contact lines between the regime forces and the opposition forces, as these patrols run along the M4 international road. These joint forces aim to monitor the implementation of the ceasefire and de-escalation on the contact lines. However, **Russian forces stopped participating in these patrols** in mid-September 2020.



وحدة تنسيق الدعم



In the central region of Idlib governorate, on December 25, 2021, a cluster bomb from the remnants of a previous regime shelling exploded in Jisr al-Shughur city, next to Zakaria Aktaa School, injuring two children. On December 27, 2021, Russian warplanes bombed Maarat Misrin city with several airstrikes, killing one civilian and injuring 3 others. Regime forces bombed Maarblit town with heavy artillery, killing a civilian and injuring 3 others. On December 31, 2021, Russian warplanes bombed the town of Kafr Daryan with several airstrikes, killing a civilian and injuring 2 civilians.

In northwest Syria, heavy rains have fallen since the beginning of December 2021, which led to flooding IDPs tents in 210 camps, destroying 4,916 tents. Partners in the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster faced difficulties in reaching 114 camps due to the destruction of the main roads leading to them, and they also faced difficulties in reaching the damaged tents in 147 camps as a result of the destruction of roads inside these camps. On December 30, 2021, a fire broke out in one of the self-settled tents in the vicinity of Maarat Misrin city as a result of the misuse of a heater, and the fire led to the burning of a tent as well as the shelter materials inside it and a six-month baby being burned to death inside the tent

## Northeast Syria



In the northern countryside of ar-Raqqa, on December 24, 2021, the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) raided a self-settled camp near Tal al-Saman Dahham town and arrested a woman and her son. In Ain Issa sub-district, tensions arose between the regime forces and SDF after SDF dispatched a huge military convoy that deployed in the vicinity of the 93rd Brigade, near Ain Issa city, over which SDF shares control with the regime forces. SDF used soil barriers to close 3 entrances to the Brigade, which were being used by the regime forces, and hence SDF blocked the regime forces from leaving the 93rd Brigade.

In the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor, on December 25, 2021, locals prevented a Russian military convoy from entering the SDF-controlled areas through the Salhiya crossing point in the regime-controlled areas. Russian warplanes flew into the area, and an International Coalition convoy intervened to prevent the Russian forces from crossing. On December 30, 2021, a mine from a previous bombing exploded in al-Baghouz town, injuring two children. Iranian militia loyal to the regime redeployed in al-Bukamal city, and they brought military equipment and a large amount of ammunition from Iraq to Syria through al-Sekak border crossing. These ammunitions were stored at al-Hamdan Airport in the western countryside of al-Bukamal and included drones. The Iranian militias also brought a group of Iraqi fighters called the Death Squad, which included 100 fighters who were deployed on the bank of the Euphrates River.

In the northern countryside of al-Hasaka, on December 24, 2021, a child died in al-Hol camp as a result of severe cold and lack of healthcare. The Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government submitted a set of demands to the American mediator to reopen the "Feesh Khabur" border crossing, known as the "Simalka" crossing, the most important of which is an official apology by the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and promises (with an American guarantee) that the PKK-affiliated Youth of the Revolution would not repeat its violations, where members of the Youth of the Revolution stormed the Simalka crossing several days prior and beat civilians who demonstrated against SDF's and PKK's practices, prompting the border crossing administration on the Iraqi Kurdistan region to close it. The Kurdistan Region of Iraq also demanded that the Syrian side of the border crossing be handed over to a civilian administration. It is worth mentioning that most food items became scarce in eastern Syrian markets after the border crossing was closed, while the prices of other items doubled.

In al-Hol camp in al-Hasakah governorate, an Iraqi refugee was shot dead by unknown persons, and a displaced young man was found dead by a blow to the head with a sharp tool.

## **Important links**

