



## FIELD DEVELOPMENTS

NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST 01-07 March; 2022

violations of truce <u>committed by the Regime and its Russian ally</u>

**Controlling Parties 07 March 2022** 

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. 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 3,043 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 natrols** in mid-September 2020

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In the northern countryside of Aleppo, on 2 March 2022, the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) shelled Jarablus city with heavy artillery, injuring a civilian.



## Northeast Syria

In the eastern countryside of Aleppo, on 2 March 2022, two children, approximately 12 years of age, were killed and three were injured by a landmine while shepherding in al-Jaraad Farm near Mohsenli village in the northern countryside of Manbej city. A 21-year-old young man committed suicide by shooting himself with a pistol in his home in Ain al-Arab city.

In the northern countryside of al-Hasakah, on 1 March 2022, three regime forces fighters and one fighter of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) were killed in al-Ghuzliyah town, which is administered by Tel Tamr sub-district, as a result of a clash between the two parties when a verbal altercation developed into an armed clash. The dispute erupted as the regime forces prevented a US military patrol from passing through al-Ghuzliyah town, which prompted SDF to bring military reinforcements to the town. On 2 March 2022, regime officers and SDF commanders held a meeting in Tal Tamr town at the Russian base of al-Mbaqer, during which military repercussions were discussed following the recent clashes between SDF and the regime forces. During the meeting, the Russian side accused SDF of shelling two military points of the regime forces in al-Ghuzliyah town, in response to the regime forces expelling a US patrol that attempted to get stationed in the vicinity of their checkpoints in the area. SDF denied the Russian allegation and said that its shelling of the points was in response to the killing of two of its fighters in a provocative attack on a checkpoint belonging to the Tel Tamr Military Council. During the meeting, the parties did not agree to de-escalate or resolve the tension, and no statements were issued to clarify the main points that triggered the clashes.

In the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor, on 1 March 2022, the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) dispersed a popular demonstration in Muhaimida town with live bullets, injuring two civilians, while an SDF fighter was slightly injured after clashes broke out between an armed group and the patrol. SDF besieged the entrances to the town and imposed a curfew. The town witnessed a state of tension between the people and SDF, where SDF brought reinforcements to the town in light of the people's fear of storming the town and launching an arrest campaign in it. On 5 March 2022, regime forces and loyal Iranian militias shot a girl on the other bank of the Euphrates River while she was playing, critically wounding her in the head. This is the third case of assault by the regime forces and pro-regime militias on the people of al-Bagouz; it was preceded by shooting at fishermen in the Euphrates River and shelling with a mortar at a house, killing a child.

In southern Syria, on 4 March 2022, the Jordanian army announced it had thwarted an attempt by a group of persons and vehicles coming from the Syrian territory to infiltrate into the Jordanian territory, carrying large quantities of narcotic substances. According to what was reported by the Jordanian Ammon Agency, on Thursday, March 3, from an official source in the General Command of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Eastern Military Region, in coordination with the security services and the Counter Narcotics Department, had thwarted an attempt by a group of people and vehicles coming from Syria to infiltrate into Jordan within its area of responsibility, which led to their retreat into the Syrian side. After search and inspection operations in the region, narcotic substances were found and transferred to the competent authorities. The source did not specify the nature or quantity of the seized narcotic substances, only indicating that they were a "significant quantity". In turn, the Revolutionary Commando Army (Opposition Forces) faction, operating in the Tanaf border region with Iraq, stated that it had arrested a large group of drug traffickers who had left the Jordanian border and tried to go to the regime areas on Friday, March 4. The faction added that the group was found to have entered Jordan from regime-controlled areas, taking advantage of bad weather conditions.





Issued by Information Management Unit (IMU)