



## **FIELD DEVELOPMENTS**

NORTHEAST AND NORTHWEST 22-31 March; 2022

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

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 **3.071 times**.



**Controlling Parties 31 March 2022** 

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 23 March 2022, the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fired missiles from ground launchers at the city of Azaz, killing one civilian and injuring seven. In the western countryside of Aleppo, on 24 March 2022, regime forces shelled Taqad town with heavy artillery, killing one civilian and injuring three others. In the western countryside of Aleppo, on 27 March 2022, regime forces fired a guided missile at a Turkish military vehicle near al-Atarib city, injuring two Turkish soldiers and burning the vehicle. The regime forces machine-gunned the outskirts of Kafr Nuran, injuring one child. On 28 March 2022, regime forces shelled with heavy artillery the Turkish observation post in Maklibis town, injuring a number of Turkish soldiers. In the northern countryside of Aleppo, while leaving their school, eight children were injured in the Merkan Village School in al-Ma'batli sub-district by heavy machine-gun shrapnel fired near the school, and the children were injured.

In the northern countryside of Aleppo, on 22 March 2022, a 3-year-old girl was found strangled one day after she went missing. In the western countryside of Aleppo, people in al-Atareb city found a newborn child near one of the city's mosques. Two people committed suicide in Idlib governorate within 48 hours, and a 13-year-old boy was found hanging in his tent in Kamouna camp north of Idlib. Residents of the Rajo area in the northern countryside of Aleppo found a dead young man in one of the orchards, hanging from his neck in a tree. It should be noted that the northwestern region of Syria has recently witnessed an escalation of suicides due to poor living conditions, lack of livelihood, and extreme poverty.



In northeastern Syria, for the second year in a row, students did not complete their curriculum, and the reason for this year is a strike by teachers in dozens of schools demanding a salary increase. Teachers in the SDF-controlled areas receive about 260,000 Syrian pounds, which is equivalent to \$65 USD.

In the eastern countryside of Aleppo, on 27 March 2022, Russian forces established a new military post in the countryside of Ain al-Arab city, east of Aleppo, as part of strengthening their presence in the area. The military post was established on the hill of Koberlik village along the front lines with the Turkish Army and the Syrian National Army east of Ain al-Arab city. This step comes after the arrival of Russian military reinforcements to al-Qamishli Airport in al-Hasakah governorate, as well as the arrival of four combat helicopters, and about 80 Russian police officers and fighters from the Russian Wagner militia. On 29 March 2022, a young man from the Arab Hasan village died inside an SDF prison without knowing the real cause of death. SDF informed the family of the deceased that he had died as a result of falling into a tunnel while attempting to escape from the prison.

In al-Hasakah governorate, on 22 March 2022, a fire broke out in sector 4 of al-Hol camp, killing one child and injuring three others from the same family. On 24 March 2022, a 17-year-old boy from the Darbasiyah sub-district committed suicide with a knife. Al-Qamishli Airport experienced tension between Iranian militias and Russian forces, following an attempt by the IRGC militia to test a drone inside al-Qamishli Airport. Russian forces have prevented the introduction of Iranian reinforcements. It is noteworthy that Iranian militias have recently brought military reinforcements to several locations in al-Qamishli city, as part of their efforts to strengthen their presence in the northeastern region of Syria. On 25 March 2022, a 14-year-old child (Zakaria al-Hassan) was killed as a result of a landmine explosion. The landmine was from a previous bombardment in al-Hajlaat village in the countryside of the al-Shadada sub-district. On 29 March 2022, a woman burned herself in the Sirikani al-Hajaai' camp near al-Hasakeh city after the camp administration confiscated her tent. Explosion sounds were heard in al-Hol camp amidst a security alert by the SDF, and there were reports of ISIS cells rebelling inside the camp. International Coalition helicopters flew over the camp at a low altitude, and shots were fired in the camp, killing 3 IDPs, including 1 child and 1 woman, and injuring more than 10 IDPs.

In the northern countryside of ar-Raqqa, the international coalition, accompanied by SDF's patrols, launched an arrest campaign targeting a number of SDF leaders who are on the fronts of the countryside of ar-Raqqa after they were charged with multiple crimes. The campaign led to the arrest of 6 SDF commanders and 12 fighters. The reason for the arrest came after the leaders were involved in working with the regime to promote narcotic substances and arms smuggling, in addition to the introduction of weapons to ISIL detainees in Guiran Prison in al-Hasakah city, as well as smuggling a number of ISIL prisoners, including leaders, in exchange for large sums of money. The military patrol seized a large amount of narcotic substances inside the General Security Headquarters in the center of Ain Issa town, known as "Zannar". On 22 March 2022, the Internal Security Forces (Asayish) of the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northeastern Syria announced it had seized quantities of narcotic substances about to be smuggled to neighboring countries.

In the eastern countryside of Deir ez-Zor, for two consecutive days, SDF besieged Sousse city, the towns of Al-Safafne, Arqoub, and al-Marshada, and arrested a number of civilians, including a child, for unknown reasons. SDF also cut off electricity to these towns and imposed a curfew. The people of Darang, al-Marashda, al-Yaqoub, and al-Safafna also live in difficult humanitarian conditions, amid the difficulty of securing bread and food and leaving their homes for the fifth day in a row, as a result of a siege imposed by (SDF) on the villages east of Deir ez-Zor. Drinking water did not reach the town's houses after the water station was shut down, in addition to cutting off the Internet. (SDF) imposed these conditions as a collective punishment on the people of the towns, after a group of demonstrators burned an SDF military vehicle during the demonstration that took place in Darang town to demand improvement of the living conditions and services, which SDF tried to disperse by force.



