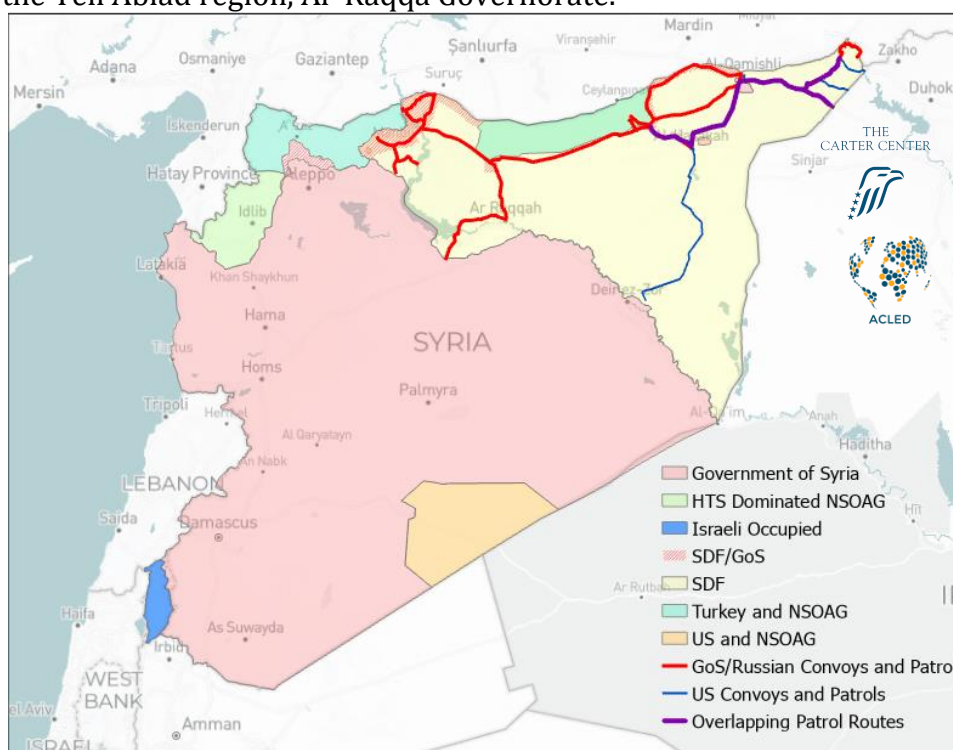




**WEEKLY CONFLICT SUMMARY | 21 - 27 June 2021**

**SYRIA SUMMARY**

- Fighting between the Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and armed opposition groups escalate in northwest Syria.
- Russian and GoS armed forces besiege Dara'a city.
- Fighting between Turkish armed forces and their Syrian opposition allies against the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces escalate in the Tell Abiad region, Ar-Raqqa Governorate.



*Figure 1: Dominant actors' area of control and influence in Syria as of 27 June 2021.-NSOAG stands for Non-state Organized Armed Groups. Also, please see footnote 1.*

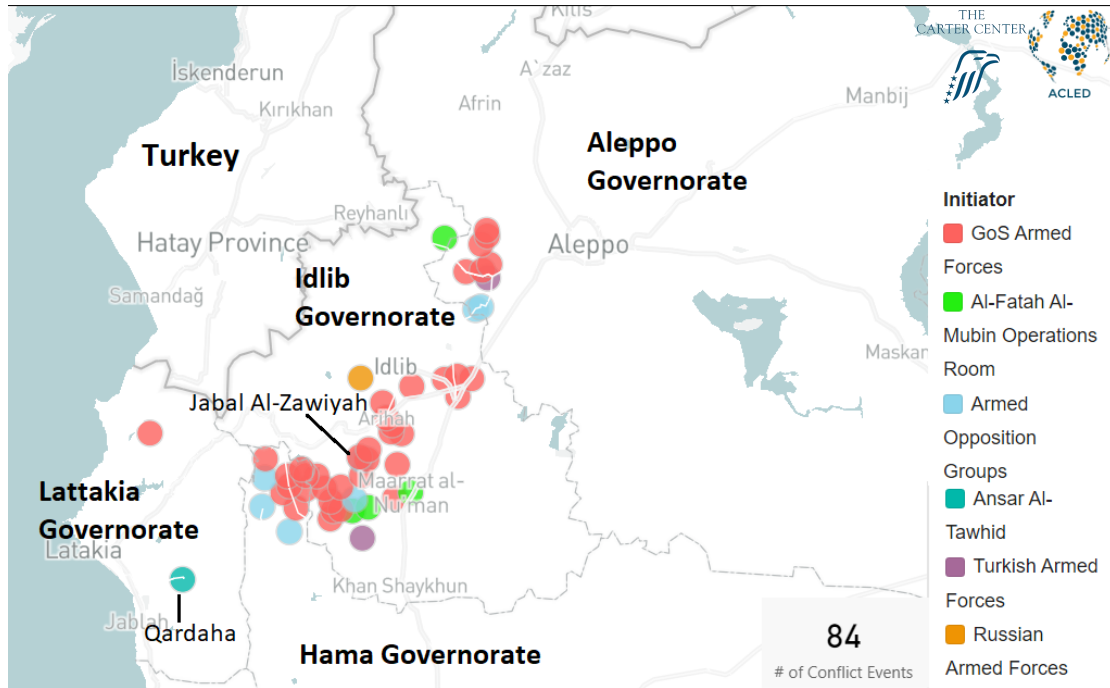
**NORTHWEST SYRIA<sup>1</sup>**

Figure 2: Conflict events between GoS armed forces and its allies on one side and armed opposition groups and allies on the other between 21-27 June 2021. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

**Conflict in Northwest Syria**

Violence continued in northwest Syria. Fighting between Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and their allies on the one side and armed opposition groups on the other side has been concentrated in the frontline areas near Jabal al-Zawiyah, Idlib Governorate. In recent weeks, violence has escalated along the frontlines of northwest Syria, with both Russia and Turkey taking a more active role in the fighting.

**21 June**

GoS armed forces shelled Ihsim, Bara, and Mastouma in Idlib Governorate, reportedly killing seven civilians.<sup>2</sup> In retaliation, the Turkish-backed opposition National Liberation Front shelled GoS areas in Saraqib, Dadikh, Kafr Batikh, and Kafr Nabol, Idlib Governorate.<sup>3</sup>

**23 June**

<sup>1</sup> Figure 1 depicts areas of the dominant actors' control and influence. While "control" is a relative term in a complex, dynamic conflict, territorial control is defined as an entity having power over use of force as well as civil/administrative functions in an area. Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah maintain a presence in Syrian government-controlled territory. Non-state organized armed groups (NSOAG), including the Kurdish-dominated SDF and Turkish-backed opposition groups operate in areas not under GoS control. The area along the junction of the Syrian border with Iraq and Jordan is a 55km de-confliction zone, established by the US-led coalition that also includes a number of aligned local armed groups. Patrols are also depicted in the map to show the presence of actors that may have influence in an area. This is particularly relevant as US and Russian forces regularly patrol towns and routes in the northeast. While they do not control local administration or local forces, there is an assumption of a high degree of coordination with local de facto authorities. Data collected is by the publicly available project [ACLED](#).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/489027>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/489025>

GoS armed forces shelling injured 2 Turkish soldiers in Jabal al-Zawiyah area, Idlib Governorate.<sup>4</sup>

## 27 June

The hardline opposition's Ansar al-Tawhid shelled GoS armed forces positions in Qardaha, Lattakia Governorate.<sup>5</sup> No casualties were reported in the attack.

## SOUTH & CENTRAL SYRIA

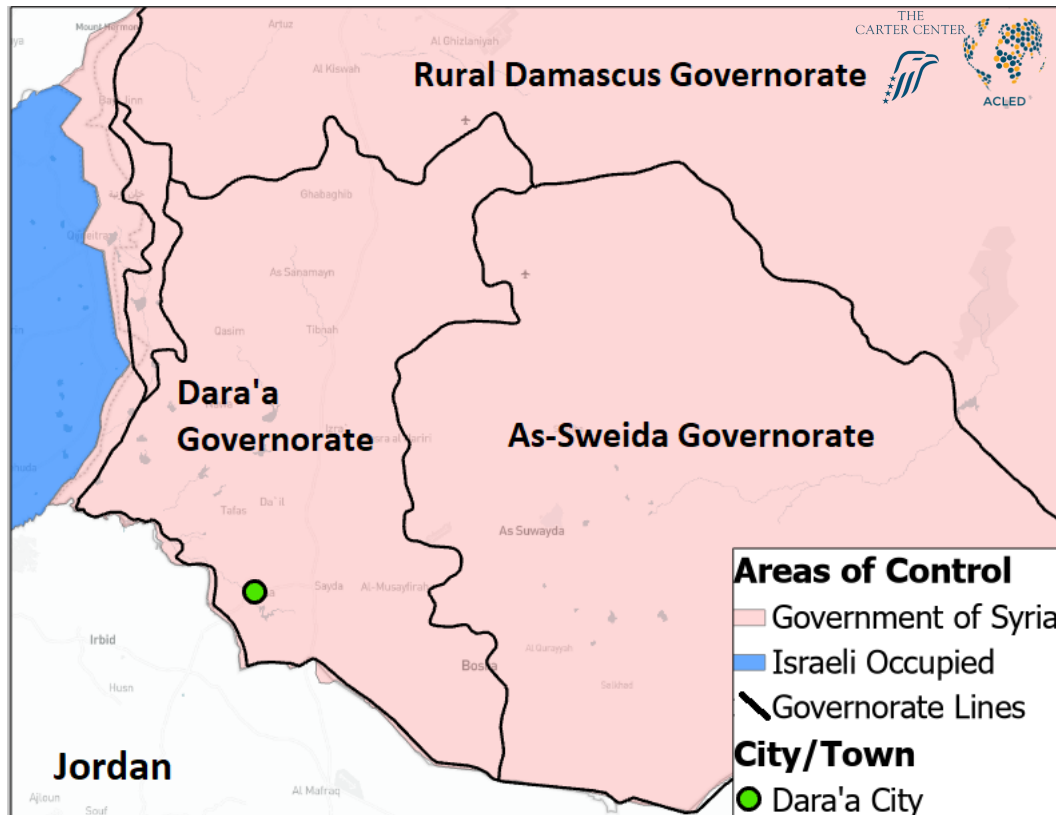


Figure 3: Dara'a city in Dara'a Governorate. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

## Siege of Dara'a City

In Dara'a and Quneitra Governorates, some former opposition commanders gained prominence by leading influential political and paramilitary groups, occasionally leading to tensions with GoS armed forces and officials. This tension is exacerbated by attacks carried out by unidentified perpetrators targeting GoS officers and former opposition commanders.

## 22 June

Russian armed forces demanded that the Central Committee in Dara'a City, a group composed of former opposition fighters negotiating with Russia and the GoS about local governance grievances, surrender their weapons.<sup>6</sup> In return, Russia promised to remove GoS armed forces from Dara'a city.<sup>7</sup> The Central Committee declined.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.enabbaladi.net/archives/489394>

<sup>5</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/47uxkav8>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9180>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9180>

**25 June**

Tensions escalated after Russian and GoS armed forces closed the main roads and besiege Dara'a city.<sup>8</sup> The same day, demonstrations denouncing the siege were held in Dara'a city.<sup>9</sup>

**27 June**

The Central Committee and other former opposition groups denounced Russia for the siege and called for Russian withdrawal.<sup>10</sup>

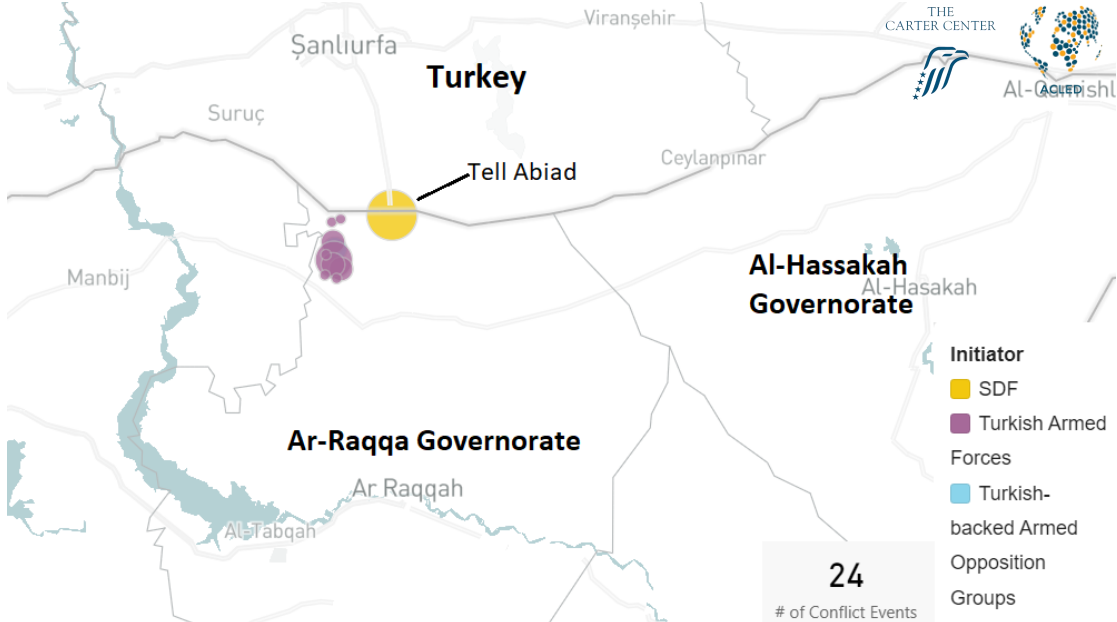
**NORTHEAST SYRIA**

Figure 4: Conflict in the Tell Abiad region, Ar-Raqqa Governorate, between 21-27 June 2021. Largest bubble represents 8 conflict events. Data from The Carter Center and ACLED.

**Conflict in Tell Abiad**

Turkey justifies its control of territory in northern Syria as a secure zone along the border to prevent alleged threats from armed Kurdish groups.<sup>11</sup> Shelling and clashes along the frontlines between Turkish armed forces and Turkish-backed armed opposition groups on the one side and Government of Syria (GoS) armed forces and the predominantly Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the other side are frequent.

**21 June**

Turkish armed forces and Turkish-backed armed opposition groups shelled the frontlines in the Tell Abiad region, Ar-Raqqa Governorate, injuring a GoS soldier.<sup>12</sup>

**24 June**

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9185>

<sup>9</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/z6c5ef54>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.horanfree.com/?p=9202>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.voanews.com/world-news/middle-east-dont-use/ap-explains-turkeys-operation-olive-branch-afirin-syria>

<sup>12</sup> <https://npasyria.com/en/61214/>

SDF shelling reportedly killed a woman in village on the outskirts of Tell Abiad city within Turkish-held Operation Peace Spring territory.<sup>13</sup>

## 26 June

The Turkish-backed opposition Syrian National Army clashed with GoS armed forces stationed in Tell Abiad. No casualties were reported in the clash.<sup>14</sup>

For earlier weekly conflict summaries, please click [here](#). For an interactive map of historical areas of control in Syria, please click [here](#).

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<sup>13</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/mxv23kvn>

<sup>14</sup> <https://tinyurl.com/f5a4sj7r>