



## Politics

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### **Syria SITUATION UPDATE: On November 24, US expands licensing options for NGOs operating in Syria; will facilitate humanitarian assistance, be exploited by Syrian government**

#### **Executive Summary:**

- On November 24, the US expanded licensing options for NGOs operating in Syria, authorizing the provision of services and funds transfer, including to or through the Syrian government, for some activities. This will significantly alleviate restrictions on NGOs' ability to provide services and slightly alleviate the humanitarian situation in the country.
- However, this will also provide opportunities for the Syrian government and its allies to exploit the situation, gain revenues, and advance their interests through front civil society groups.
- On November 27, a car bomb exploded in Aleppo's Manbij city, killing civilians. It is plausible that Turkish-backed forces from their areas of control west of Manbij perpetrated the attack, as part of their interest in destabilizing the authority of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Regardless, the incident currently does not point towards an increased risk of hostilities in Manbij.
- Between November 29-30, pro-government forces shelled Nawa in Daraa Province against the backdrop of attacks against pro-government forces. This marks the largest outbreak of hostilities in Daraa since the reconciliation process between rebels and the government. The hostilities highlight the fragility of the ceasefire and hostilities may expand in the region over the coming days.
- Overall, given the increasing strategic importance of the Daraa Province for the Syrian government, against the backdrop of invigorated economic activity with Jordan and other regional schemes, the Syrian government will likely resort to employing extensive force in the province to project that it will firmly quell any form of renewed resistance.

**Please be advised:**

**Across the country, the following incidents have been reported:**

**Aleppo Province**

<b>Map #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
1	November 27	Manbij	Five civilians were killed, and three more were reportedly wounded in an IED attack near the city's Martyrs' Square. The Manbij Military Council (MMC) described the incident as an "act of terrorism".
2	December 1	al-Bab	According to reports, an IED exploded in a vehicle. Unconfirmed reports indicate that two individuals were wounded.

## Daraa Province

Map #	Date	Location	Brief Description
3	November 29	Road between Nawa city, Sheikh Saad village	According to reports, a government-affiliated military vehicle was targeted in an IED attack. Several individuals were killed or wounded.
4	November 29	Nawa city	Pro-government forces reportedly targeted the city with mortar shells, killing three civilians and wounding nine others.
4	November 29		