

The Comparative Metrics of ISIS and “Failed State Wars” in Syria and Iraq

Part Three: Stability and Conflict in Syria

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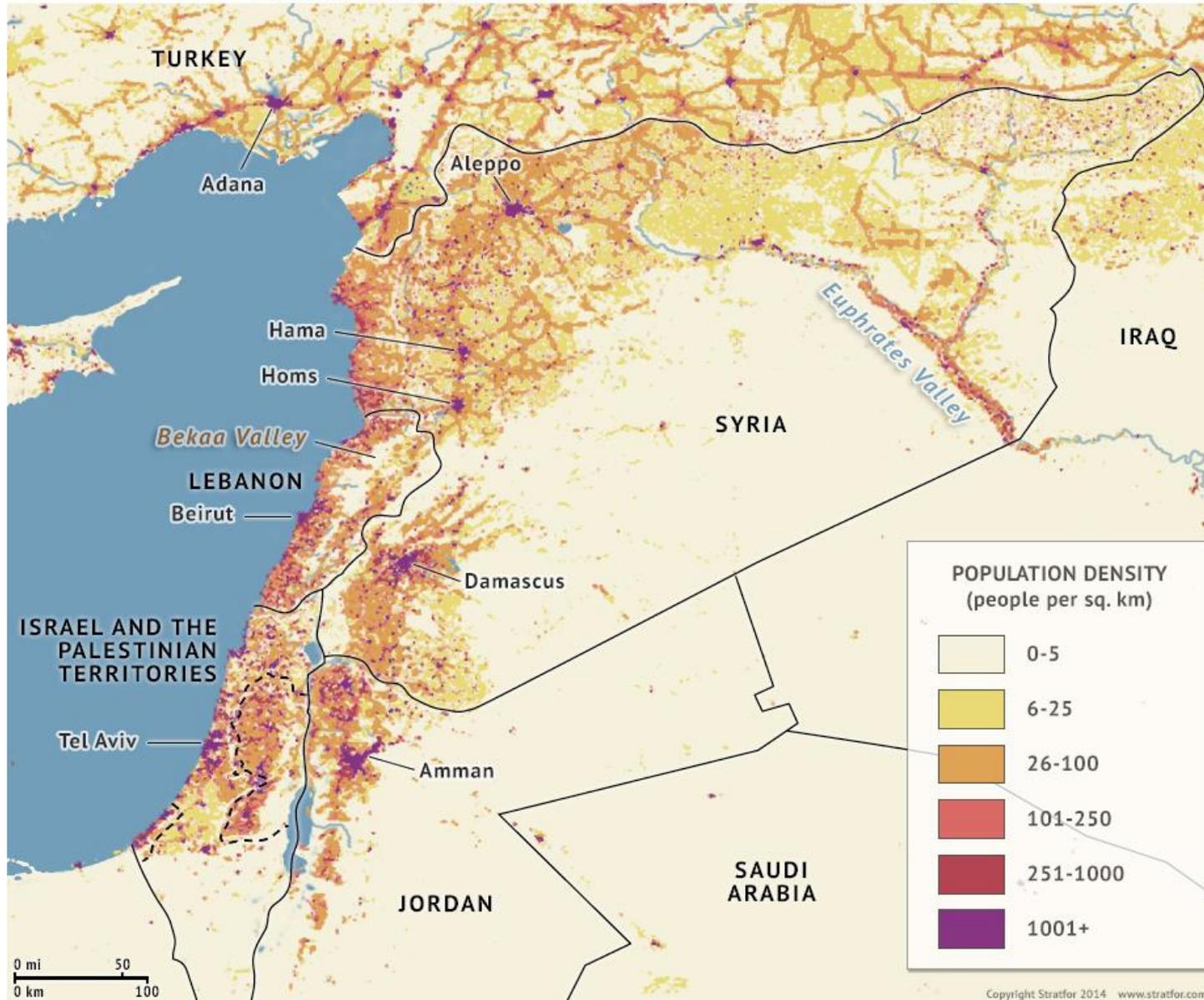
**Working Draft
March 2, 2016**

U.S. Army photo by Pvt.
Travis J. Terreo

Conflict Dynamics in Syria

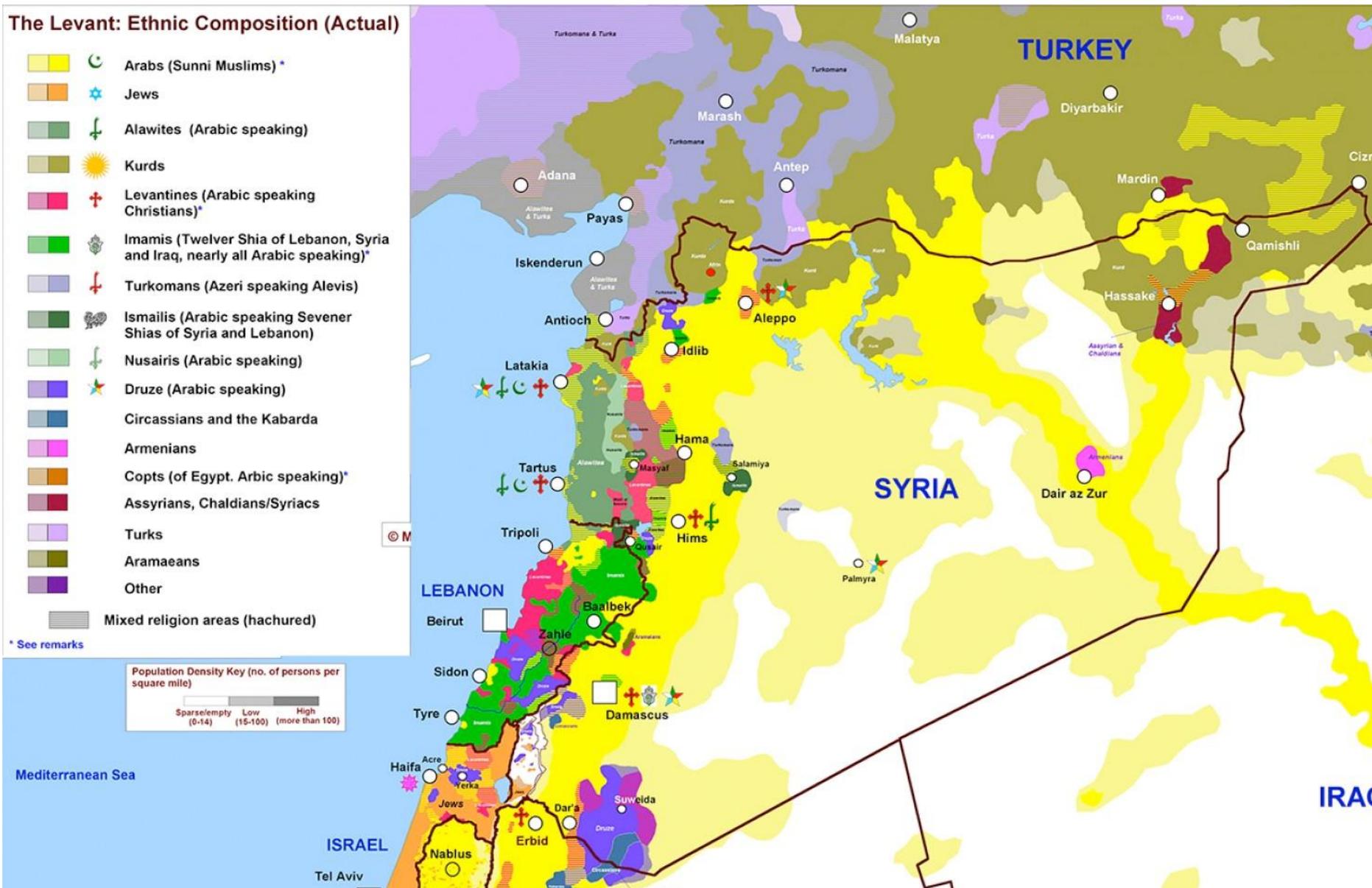
Population Density in Syria

POPULATION DENSITY IN THE GREATER LEVANTINE



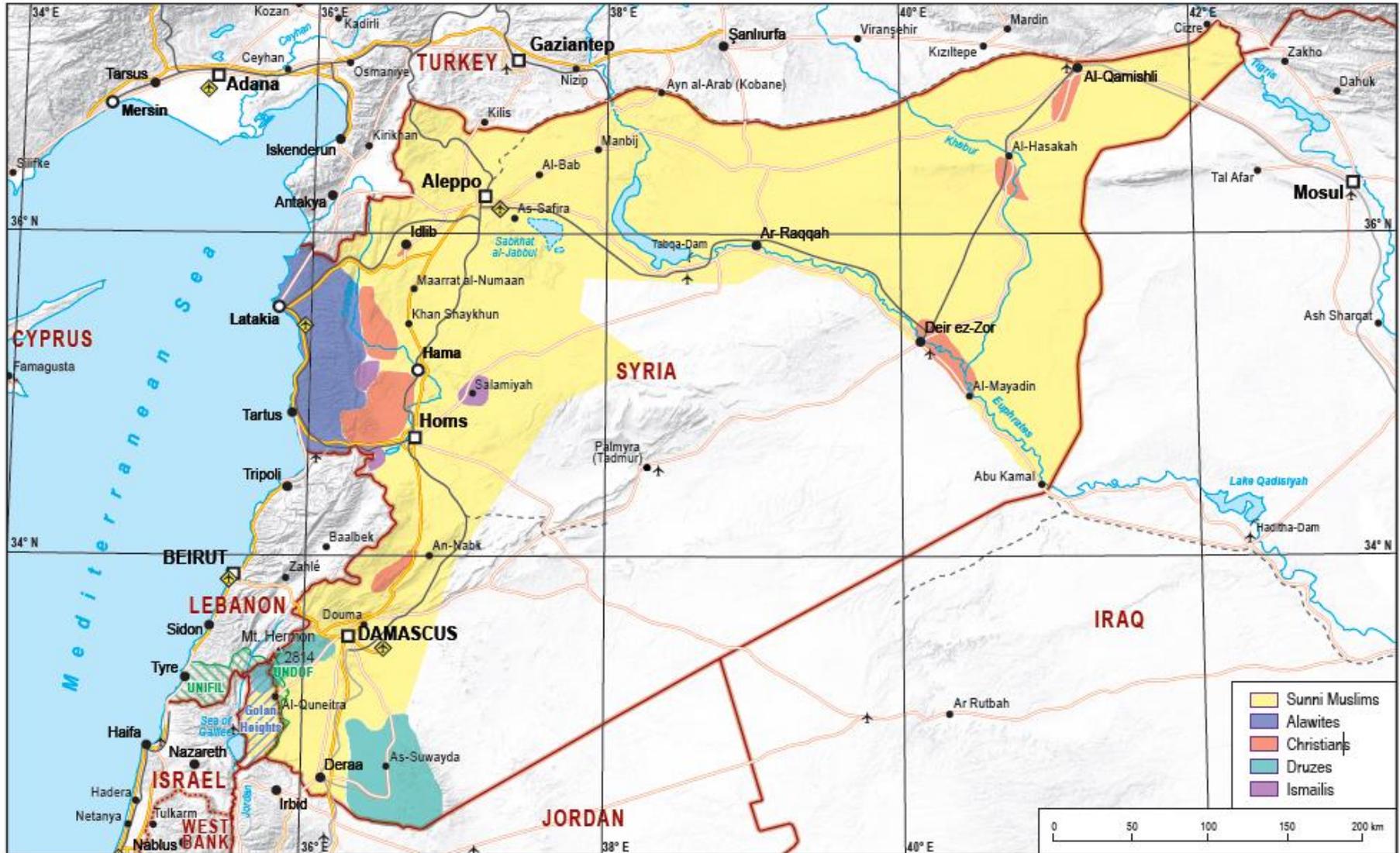
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The Pre-War Ethnic Sectarian Nightmare in the Levant



Source: Columbia University [Gulf/2000 Project](http://www.gulf2000project.org), and <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/08/27/the-one-map-that-shows-why-syria-is-so-complicated/>

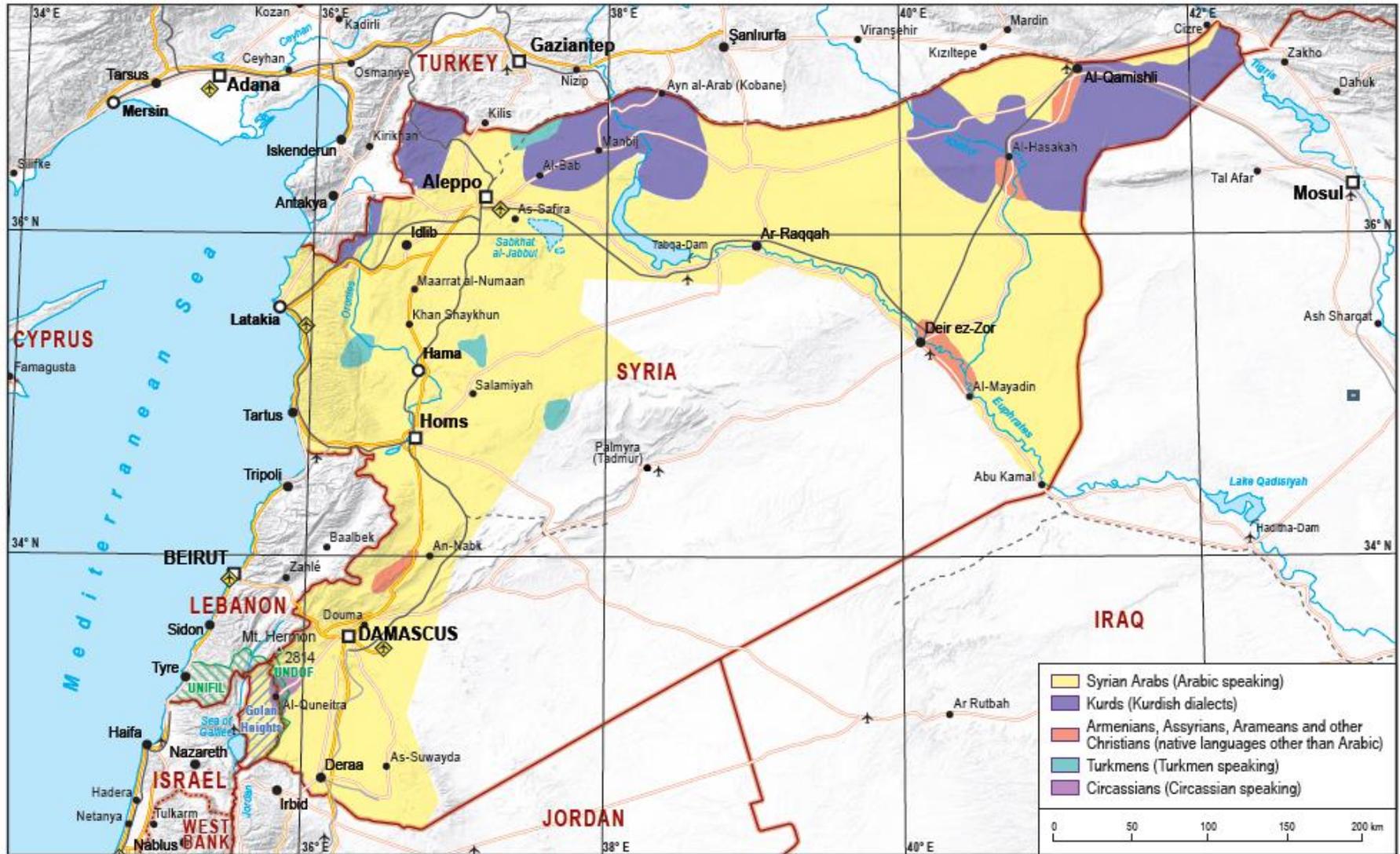
Syria: Religious and Ethnic Groups: March 2011



Source: www.ecoi.net/atlas_syria_sources.pdf

This map shows only the main areas of settlement of religious and sectarian groups. The Syrian population is very heterogeneous in terms of religious and sectarian affiliation, especially in urban centers.

Syria: Ethnic and Linguistic Groups: March 2011



Source: www.ecoi.net/atlas_syria_sources.pdf
 This map shows only the main areas of settlement of ethnic and linguistic groups. The Syrian population is very heterogeneous in terms of ethnic and linguistic affiliation, especially in urban centers.

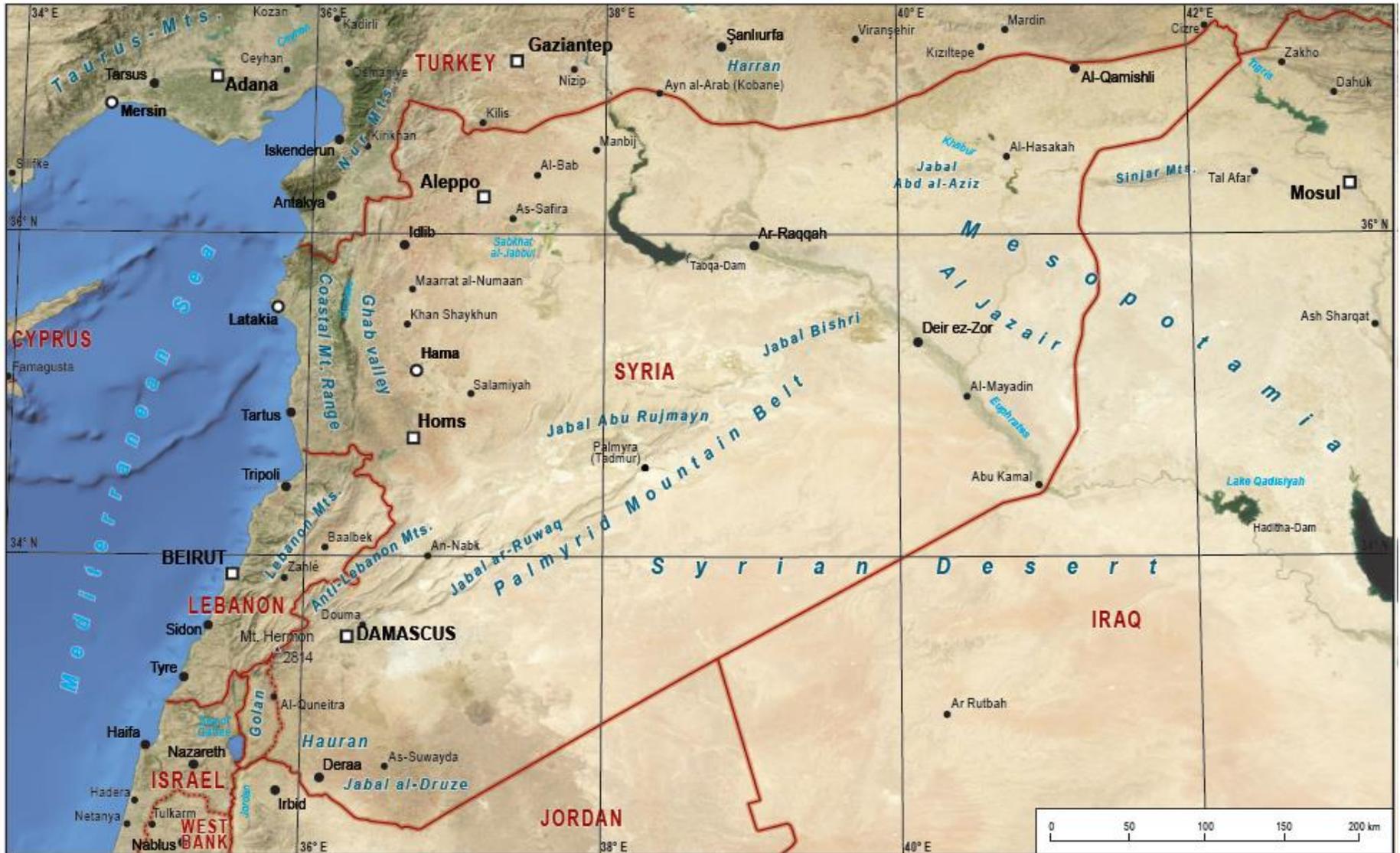
Syria: Topography and Regional Divisions



Source: Collins World Explorer Premium, Shuttle Radar Topography Mission

Source: Atlas-Syria: Federal Ministry of the interior, Republic of Austria, 2015, http://www.ecoi.net/atlas_syria.pdf, p. 8

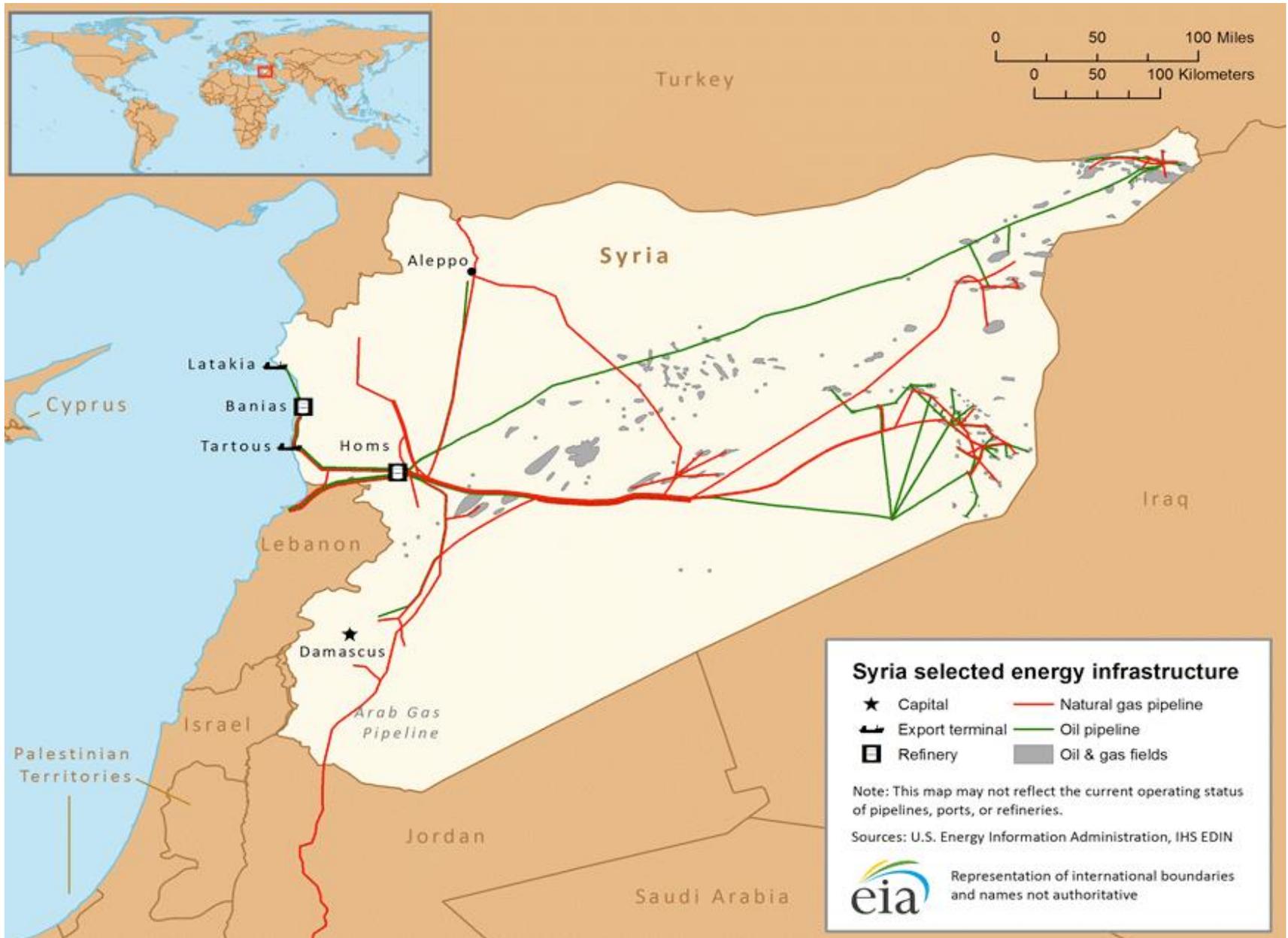
Syria: Physiography



Source: NASA Blue Marble Next Generation, Shuttle Radar Topography Mission

Source: Atlas-Syria: Federal Ministry of the interior, Republic of Austria, 2015, http://www.ecoi.net/atlas_syria.pdf, p. 9

Energy Vulnerability in Syria



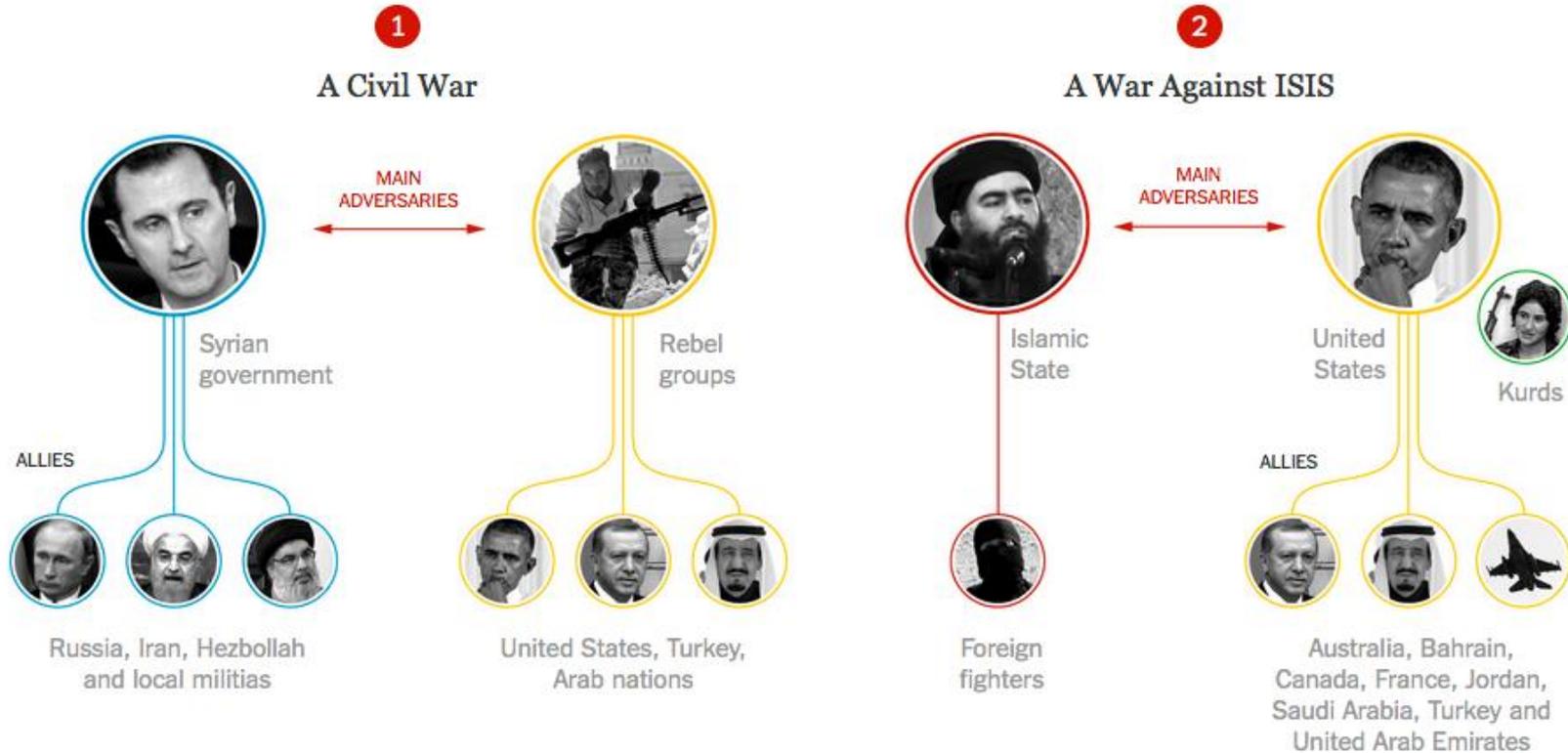
Damascus: Satellite Image



Source: OpenStreetMap

Source: Atlas-Syria: Federal Ministry of the interior, Republic of Austria, 2015, http://www.ecoi.net/atlas_syria.pdf, p. 10

Multiple Wars in Syria



Interactive Conflicts and Tensions:

Conflict in Iraq, US and Arab Gulf vs. Iran, Kurds vs. Turkey, US vs. Russia, Refugee crisis in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq; Hezbollah vs. Other factions in Lebanon, Syrian Border with Israel

Key Elements of Syria's Four Main Fighting Factions

1. ISIS:

Claim 200,000. Probably 44,000-60,000 core fighters with some 30,000 volunteers. Mostly captured Syrian and Iraqi weapons supplied by U.S. and Russia. Some armor, modern ATGMs and Manpads.

2. Assad and Allied Forces:

Remnants of Syrian armed forces – Cut from 300,000 in Army to some 125,000-176,000, major active land and air weapons strength unclear but may retain up to 3,000 tanks, 2,500 field artillery pieces, 500 MLRS, 1,000 mortars and some 2,000 ground fire-capable anti-aircraft guns. Active fixed wing air strength may be down to 200-215, rotary wing unknown, but more than 30 attack helicopters.

Russian fighters, attack helicopters, SAMs (SA-22, MRLs (?), and advisors at forward combat unit level.

Also **Alawite Militias, National Defense Forces** paramilitary units with 30,000-60,000 partly trained fighters; at least 6 military groups; **Hezbollah forces**; 6,000-7,000 **Iranian “volunteers and IRGC forces**.

3. Kurdish Forces:

Include **Kurdish People's Protection Units** (YPG) (claim 65,000), Jabhat al-Akrad (7,000) Kurdistan Workers' Party; and Islamist elements. No reliable estimates, but some

20,000-35,000 possible. Largely U.S. supplied arms and small arms. Some Special Forces trainers.

4. Rebel and Independent Forces:

Many small armed groups, increasingly Islamist and non-secular. 25,000-35,000 full and part time fighters. No central command and differ by area. Main groups are:

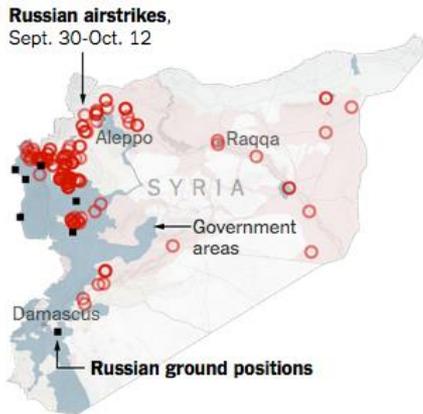
Aleppo Province: more moderate Fatah Halab Operations Room excludes hard-line groups. Ansar al-Shariah Operations Room, formed as a response to Fatah Halab, works with Al Nusra Front, an affiliate of Al Qaeda.

Central Syria around Idlib, Latakia and Hama: largest group is **Army of Conquest** or Jaish al-Fatah, an alliance of Islamist factions, including the Nusra Front which is an Al Qaeda's affiliate/ Ahrar al-Sham is another large group. Also are more moderate rebel factions, some of which have received covert arms support from CIA, Arab Gulf states, others.

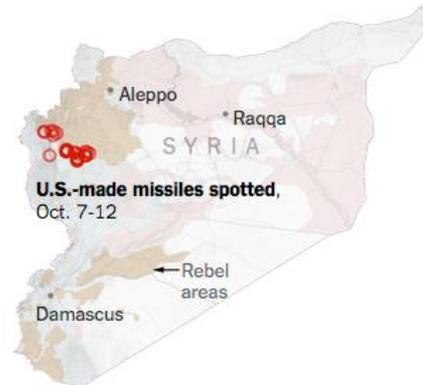
Damascus region: Army of Islam, a group with financial backing from Saudi Arabia, has declared war on Russia. It is one of several armed groups that form the East Gouta Council.

Southeast: Southern Front coalition of small armed groups like the New Syrian Force that have U.S. aid and support a secular government.

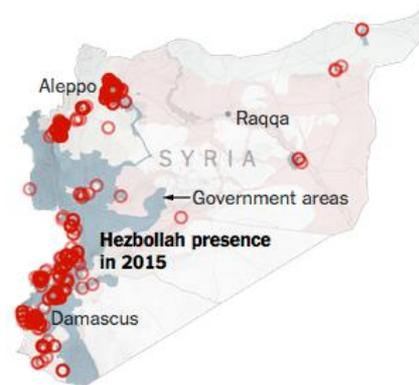
Key Factional Fighting in 2015



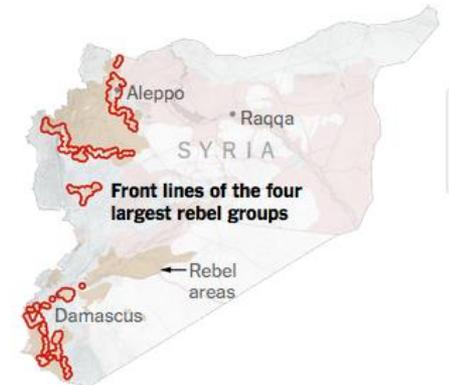
Russia has bases and advisers in several government-controlled locations. It has mainly targeted rebels in areas where the government had been losing ground.



Rebels in areas targeted by Russian airstrikes have used antitank missiles made in the **United States**.



Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps and **Hezbollah** have been advising and shoring up pro-Assad forces since 2012.



Most rebel groups supported by the **United States, Saudi Arabia, Qatar** and **Turkey** are in western Syria.

Sources: IHS Conflict Monitor (control areas and Hezbollah incidents); Institute for the Study of War (Russian ground positions); Carter Center (rebel front lines)

Belligerents in Syria: Late November 2015

Belligerents		
Aerial combat	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant	Free Syrian Army ^[3]
Russia		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levant Front^[4] Muslim Brotherhood^[4]
Syria		Islamic Front
Ground forces		Supported by:
Syria		Saudi Arabia ^{[5][6]}
Hezbollah		Turkey ^[7]
Iran		United States ^{[8][9]}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias^[1] 		Army of Conquest ^[10]
YPG ^[2]		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> al-Nusra Front / al-Qaeda^[11] Ahrar ash-Sham^[12] Turkistan Islamic Party^{[13][14][15][16][17][18]}
Supported by:		Supported by:
Iraq		Saudi Arabia ^{[5][19]}
		Turkey ^{[20][21]}
		Qatar ^[19]

Units involved		
Russian Armed Forces:	Military of ISIL	Falcons of Mount Zawiya Brigade ^[38]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russian Aerospace Forces^[12] Russian Navy^[28] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black Sea Fleet Caspian Flotilla^[29] Main Intell. Directorate of the Gen. Staff of the Armed F. of the RF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. <i>Spetsnaz</i> 		Tajammu al-Izzah ^[39]
Russian Foreign Intelligence Service:		13th Division ^[40]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zaslou Unit^[30] 		al-Nusra Front ^[12]
Syrian Armed Forces:		Ahrar ash-Sham ^[12]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrian Army^[12] Syrian Air Force^[31] National Defence Forces^[32] 		Jaysh al-Islam ^[41]
Iranian Armed Forces:		Liwa al-Haqq
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRGC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quds Force IRGC Ground Forces Iranian Air Force (IRIAF)^{[33][34]} 		Ajnad al-Sham ^[42]
Iranian-backed Shi'ite militias ^{[35][36][37][37]}		

Strength		
Russia: 4,000 personnel ^[43]	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant: From 30,000 to 100,000 fighters (according to the CIA and the Iraqi Kurdistan Chief of Staff) ^[58]	Free Syrian Army: Between 45,000 and 60,000 fighters (disputed) ^[61]
Naval ships 3 Buyan-M class corvettes ^[44] 1 Gepard-class frigate ^[44] 1 Vishnya-class intelligence ship 1 Improved Kilo-class submarine ^[45] 1 Slava-class cruiser ^[46]	At least a few hundred tanks and assorted armored vehicles ^{[59][60]}	Islamic Front : 40,000 ^[62] –70,000 ^[63]
Strategic bombers 14 Tu-22M3 ^[47] 6 Tu-95MSM ^[47] 5 Tu-160 ^[47]		al-Nusra Front: 10,000 ^[64]
Tactical bombers 12 Su-24M2 6 Su-34 ^[48]		Ahrar ash-Sham: 10,000–20,000 ^[65]
Attack bombers 12 Su-25SM ^[49]		
Fighter aircraft 4 Su-30SM ^[50]		
Reconnaissance aircraft Il-20M1		
Attack helicopter 12 Mi-24P ^[51]		
Utility helicopter 4 Mi-8MTV-5		
Ground equipment SA-22 SAM ^[52] Other anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons, ^[53] including S-400 ^[54]		
Syria: 150,000 personnel ^[55]		
Iran: 7,000–15,000 ^{[56][57]}		
Shi'ite militias: 20,000 ^[56]		

Source:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8e/Russian_military_action_in_Syria_in_November_2015.gif

The Complex Mix of Belligerents in Syria: Early January 2016 - I

Syrian government and allies [edit]

Name	Leader	Involved since	Strength	Description	Ideology
Syrian Armed Forces	Bashar al-Assad	March 2011	Approximately 178,000 ^[186]	Government's primary military force.	Ba'athism Secularism
National Defense Force	Bashar al-Assad	2013 ^[186]	80,000 ^[187]	Government counter-insurgency force.	Secularism
Syrian Resistance	Mihraq Ural	2011	2,000	Pro-government Marxist militia.	Socialism Marxism-Leninism
Ba'ath Brigades	Bashar al-Assad	2012	7,000 ^[186]	Pro-government counter-insurgency militia.	Ba'athism Secularism
Arab Nationalist Guard		2013	1,000+ ^[186]	Pan-Arabic group from various Arab Countries.	Secularism Pan-Arabism
Shia Militias:					
Hezbollah	Hassan Nasrallah	2012 ^[186]	2,000 ^[190]	Militant group based in Lebanon.	Shia Islamism
Liwa Abu al-Fadhal al-Abbas	Abu Ajeeb	2012	10,000 ^[191]	Shia Syrian militant group formed due to desecration of shrines, heritage sites and place of worship by the rebels. It is Active around Damascus.	Shia Islamism
Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq	Akram al-Kaabi	2012		An offshoot of Iraqi Shia insurgent group. It is active around Aleppo.	Shia Islamism
Kata'ib Hezbollah		2012		An Iraqi Shia militia	Shia Islamism
Badr Organization		2012		An Iraqi Shia militia	Shia Islamism
Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada		2013		An Iraqi Shia militia	Shia Islamism

Syrian opposition and allies [edit]

Name	Leader	Involved since	Strength	Description	Ideology
Free Syrian Army	Abdul-Ilah al-Bashir	July 2011	40,000 ^[191]	Main opposition group. Initially an umbrella term for defected Syrian soldiers, later became more organized.	Freedom and democracy
Sunni Militias:					
Ajnad al-Sham Islamic Union	Muhammad Abu al-Fatih	December 2013	15,000 ^[192]	Merger of Damascus area rebel groups ^[192]	Sunni Islamism
Sham Legion	Mondher Saras ^[72]	10 March 2014 ^[72]		Alliance of 19 different groups ^[193]	Islamic democracy ^[72]
Authenticity and Development Front	Khalid al-Hammad	November 2012	13,000 ^[194]		Sunni Islamism
Army of Mujahedeen		January 2014 ^[195]	≈5,000 ^[196]	Coalition of Aleppo area Islamist rebels formed to fight ISIL.	Sunni Islamism ^[197]

Al-Qaeda network [edit]

Name	Leader	Involved since	Strength	Description	Ideology
Al-Nusra Front	Abu Mohammad al-Golan ^[198]	January 2012	7,000 ^[198] –15,000 ^[200]	Designated by the US as a terrorist group. Pledged allegiance to Al-Qaeda.	Salafist jihadism Islamic fundamentalism
Jabhat Ansar al-Din ^[117]		25 July 2014 ^[117]		Alliance of independent jihadist groups ^{[117][201]}	

The Complex Mix of Belligerents in Syria: Early January 2016 - II

Syrian opposition and allies [edit]

Name	Leader	Involved since	Strength	Description	Ideology
Free Syrian Army	Abdul-Ilah al-Bashir	July 2011	40,000 ^[121]	Main opposition group. Initially an umbrella term for defected Syrian soldiers, later became more organized.	Freedom and democracy
Sunni Militias:					
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Jabhat Ansar al-Din ^[117]		25 July 2014 ^[117]		Alliance of independent jihadist groups ^{[117][201]}	

The Complex Mix of Combat Forces in Syria: Early January 2016

 Syrian Arab Republic and allies	 Syrian Opposition and al-Qaeda network and allies	 Kurdish self-administration and allies	 Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and allies
<p>Syrian government forces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrian Armed Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrian Arab Army Syrian Arab Air Force Syrian Arab Navy Republican Guard National Defence Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaysh al-Sharbi Suqur al-Sahara Ba'ath Brigades^[1] <p>Allied armed groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrian Social Nationalist Party^[2] Arab Nationalist Guard^[3] Syrian Resistance^[4] Arab Democratic Party^[5] Jaysh al-Muwahhideen^[2] Forces of Abu Ibrahim^[6] Sootoro PFLP-GC^[7] Liwa Al-Quds^[8] Palestine Liberation Army^[9] Liwa Abu al-Fadhal al-Abbas^[10] Liwa Fatemiyoun^[11] Faylak Wa'ad al-Sadiq^[12] Fatah al-Intifada^[13] Popular Mobilization Forces (Iraq) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada Badr Organization^[14] Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq^[14] Kata'ib Hezbollah^[15] Peace Companies^[16] DHKP-C^[17] Houthis^[18] Jaysh al-Wafa'a^[19] Liwa Dhu al-Fiqar^{[20][21]} Dareh al-Sahef^[22] Dareh al-Areen^[22] Al-Hosn^[22] Dareh al-Watan^[22] al-Betr clan^{[23][24]} Tayy tribe militias^[25] al-Jhesh tribe militias^[26] Maghawir Forces^[27] Far right volunteers^{[28][29]} Popular Committees (2012) Slavonic Corps^{[30][31][3013]} <p>Hezbollah^[32]</p> <p>Iran^{[33][34][35]}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revolutionary Guards^[36] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quds Force^[37] Basij^{[38][39][40]} <p>Russia^[41]</p> <p>Armament support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Russia^{[42][43]} Iran^[44] North Korea^{[45][46][47]} Iraq^[48] Egypt (from 2015)^[49] Belarus^[50] <p>Non-lethal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Venezuela^{[51][52][53][54][55]} Angola^[56] China^{[57][58]} Algeria^[59] Armenia^[60] Cuba^[61] 	<p>Syrian opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Syrian Army <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Southern Front Homs Liberation Movement^{[62][63]} Jaysh al-Nasr^[64] Falcons of Mount Zawiya Brigade Northern Division^{[65][66]} 13th Division 16th Division^[67] 46th Division^[68] 1st Coastal Division 2nd Coastal Division al-Rahman Legion Islamic Front <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahrar ash-Sham Jaysh al-Islam Al-Fawj al-Awwal^[69] Northern Storm Brigade Ansar al-Sham Jalsh al-Sham^[70] Levant Front Aljad al-Sham Islamic Union^[71] Sham Legion^[72] Jabhat Ansar al-Islam <p>Allied armed groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criterion Brigades Syrian Turkmen Brigades Grey Wolves^{[73][74][75]} Muslim Brotherhood of Syria^[76] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shields of the Revolution Council Hamas^{[77][78]} <p>Joint operations rooms^[79]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Army of Conquest Unified Military Command of Eastern Ghouta^{[80][81]} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaysh al-Islam/al-Rahman Legion^{[82][83]} Fatah Halab^{[84][85]} Mare' Operations Room^[86] Northern Homs Countryside Operations Room^{[87][88]} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nisam bi Allah^[89] Houla Operations Room^[90] Jaysh al-Tawheed^{[91][92]} Ansar al-Sharia^[93] Jalsh al-Haramoun^[94] Saraya Ahl al-Sham^[95] Jund al-Malahm^[96] al-Marj Operations Room^[97] <p>Armament support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qatar^{[98][99]} Saudi Arabia^{[99][100]} Turkey United States^{[101][102]} France^[103] Libya (until 2014)^[104] <p>Non-lethal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Kingdom^[105] Canada^[106] Germany^[107] Netherlands^[108] Italy^{[109][110]} United Arab Emirates^{[111][112][113]} Jordan^[114] Egypt (until 2013) <p>Salafi jihadists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al-Nusra Front <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khorasan Group^[115] Jalsh al-Muhalineen wal-Ansar^[116] Jabhat Ansar al-Din^[117] Ghuraba al-Sham^[118] Fatah al-Islam^{[119][120][121]} Muhajirin wa-Ansar Alliance^[122] Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan^[123] Turkistan Islamic Party^[124] Islamic Muthanna Movement^[125] Imam Bukhari Jamaat Abdulrah Azzam Brigades 	<p>Kurdish Supreme Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's Protection Units (YPG) Women's Protection Units (YPJ) Asayish^[130] Self-Defence Forces (HQP)^[131] Self Protection Force (HPC)^[132] <p>Syriac Union Party</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syriac Military Council (MFS)^[133] Sutoro^[134] <p>Syrian Democratic Assembly^{[135][136][137]}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syrian Democratic Forces <p>Allied armed groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurdistan Workers' Party <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People's Defence Forces Free Women's Units Al-Sanadiq Forces Army of Revolutionaries^[138] Liwa Thuwwar al-Raqqa Jabhat al-Akrad International Freedom Battalion^{[139][140]} TKP-Kivlicim Yekiti Party Liwa Siqu El-Badiye^[141] Shammer tribe militias^[142] Sharabiyya tribe militias^[143] Zubayd tribe militias^[144] Al-Shaitat tribe militias^[145] Sinjaar Resistance Units^[146] <p>Iraqi Kurdistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peshmerga <p>Armament support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Iraqi Kurdistan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kurdistan Regional Government^[147] Kurdistan Democratic Party^[148] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan^[149] France^[149] United States^[150] Russia^{[151][152]} Syria (alleged)^{[153][154][155][156][157]} <p>Airstrikes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United States Saudi Arabia Jordan Bahrain United Arab Emirates Morocco France Australia^[158] United Kingdom^[159] Canada^[160] Russia^{[161][162][163][164]} <p>Non-lethal support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germany^[165] Finland^[166] 	<p>Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Military of ISIL <p>See: Syrian opposition-ISIL Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade^{[167][168]} (allegedly)^[169] Jaysh al-Jihad^[170] Dokumaciya^{[171][172]}

Source: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_armed_groups_in_the_Syrian_Civil_War, January 29, 2016

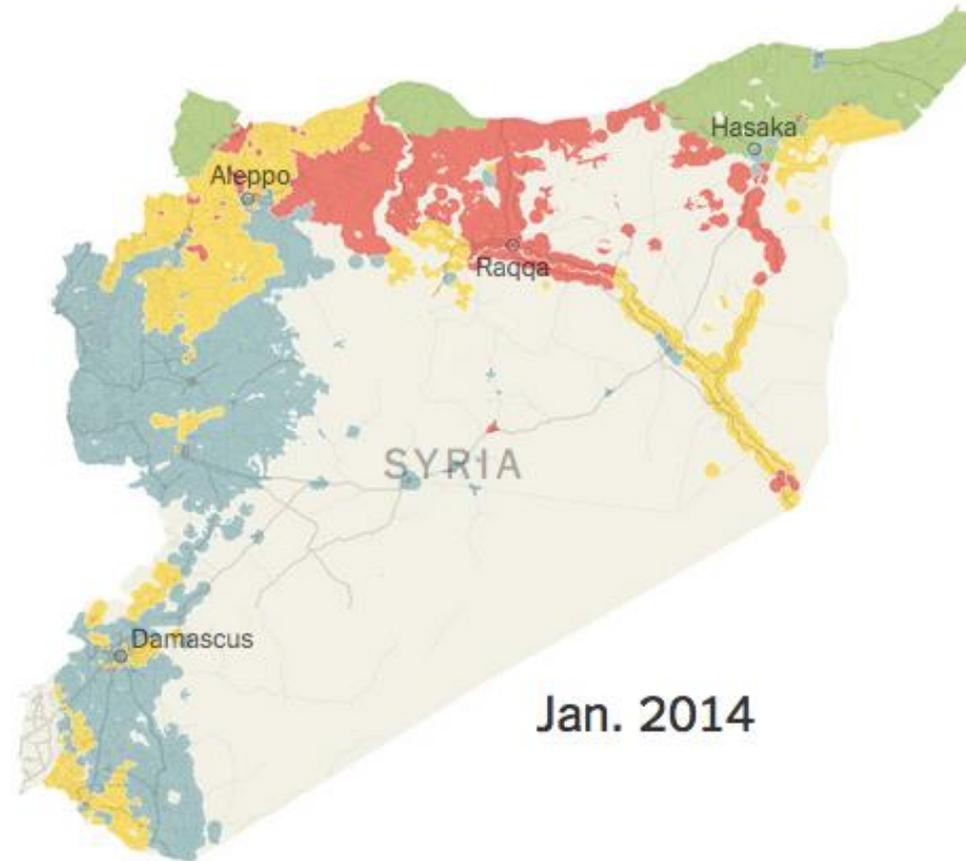
New U.S. Strategy in Syria

- **Shift away from Iraq first strategy, which is “tactically stalemated,” to more active role in Syria.**
- **Step up air strikes in support of moderate forces.**
- **Downplay or abandon major formal training efforts (5,000 a year, 15,000 total) of New Syrian Army/Syrian Arab Coalition forces by U.S. military advisors.**
- **Focus on CIA and forward Special Forces efforts to support Kurdish and Arab Sunni forces. Provide more ammo. Light weapons.**
- **Work with Arab Gulf states, Turkey, Jordan to support other more moderate rebel forces. Help expedite flow of ammo and weapons.**
- **In the north, work with Syrian Kurds (20,000-25,000) and U.S. CIA-Special Forces-Qatar-Saudi trained Arab volunteers (3,000-5,000) to move on ISIS and advance toward Raqqa. Provide them with far more air support.**
- **In south, use rebels trained in Jordan to funnel more ammo and weapons, support advances on ISIS.**
- **Role of existing three U.S.-backed factions of Free Syrian Army -- Liwa Suqour al-Jabal rebel and others -- in area now under Russian air attack unclear.**

Source:

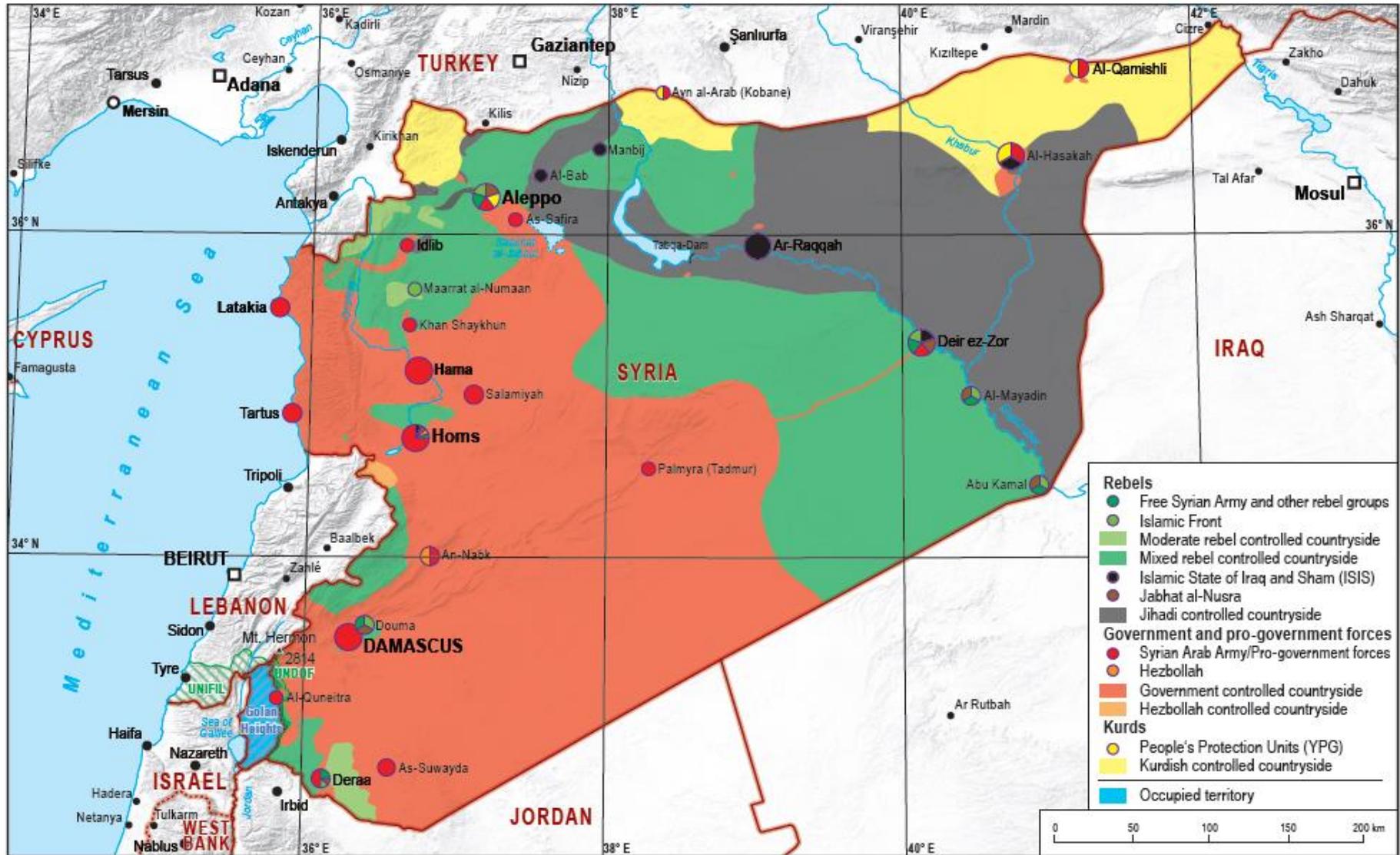
Shifting Areas of Control in Syria: 1/2014

■ Government ■ Rebels ■ ISIS ■ Kurds



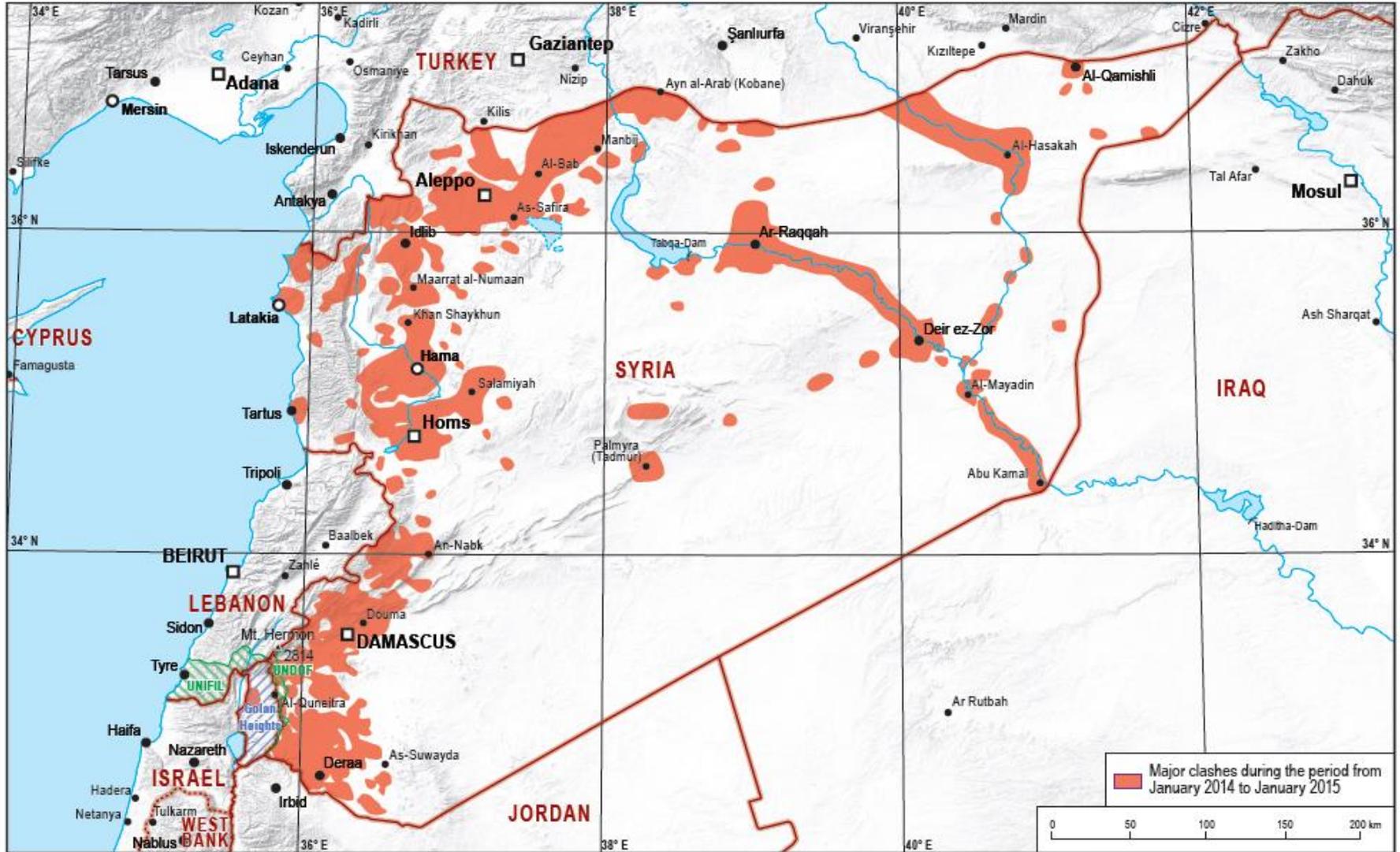
Rebel groups held areas throughout Syria, while the Islamic State controlled territory mostly in the northwest.

Syria: Control of Territory: January 2014



Source: ISW - Institute for the study of war, SOHR - Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, CENTCOM - US Central Command, Agathocle de Syracuse - Understanding modern conflicts, Pletervanostaeyen - Musings on Arabism, Islamism, History and current affairs
 Moderate Rebels: Rebels who have been identified as „moderate“ by the U.S.-led coalition and are being supported by the coalition through ongoing airstrikes against ISIS in Syria (e.g.: FSA, Syria Revolutionaries Front).
 Mixed Rebels: Rebels who are being perceived as moderate but are also working alongside hardline groups (e.g. Jabhat al-Nusra). In some cases they coexist without interacting and in other cases they clash.

Syria: Major Clashes: January 2014- January 2015

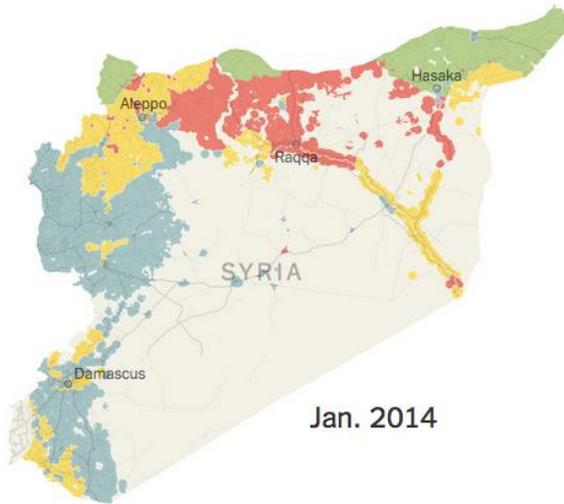


Source: ISW - Institute for the study of war, SOHR - Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, CENTCOM - US Central Command

Major clash: Every military/violent confrontation between armed actors (including airstrikes, artillery fire, bombings, suicide vests, Suicide Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices [SVBIED] and Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Devices [VBIED]).

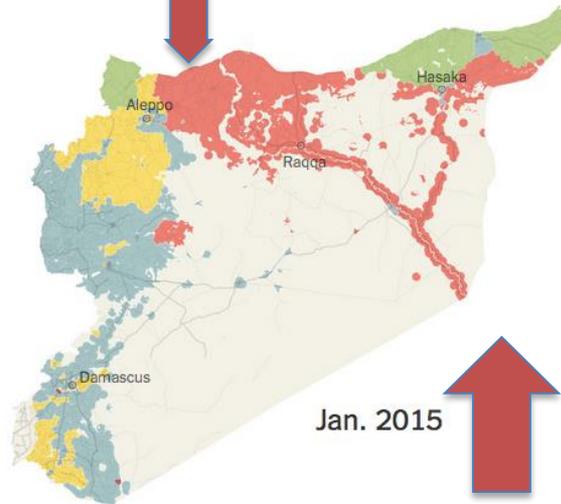
Shifting Areas of Control in Syria: 1/2014 to 10/2015

Government Rebels ISIS Kurds



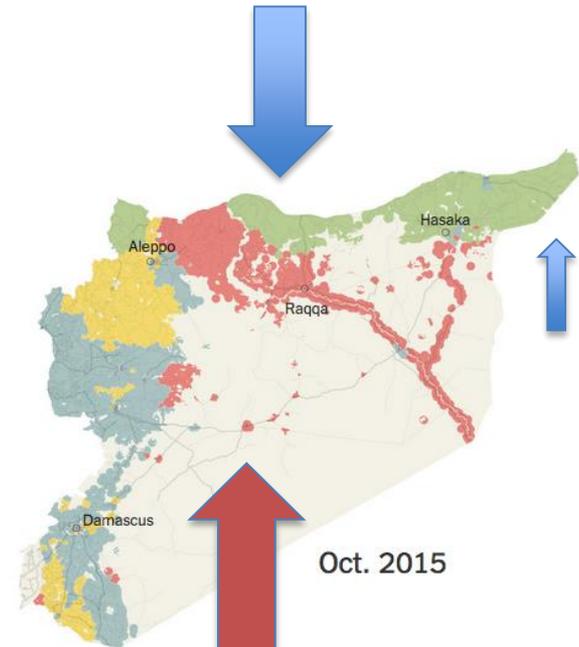
Jan. 2014

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Jan. 2015

The Islamic State rapidly gained territory in 2014, establishing governance in Raqqa and controlling the Euphrates River to Iraq.

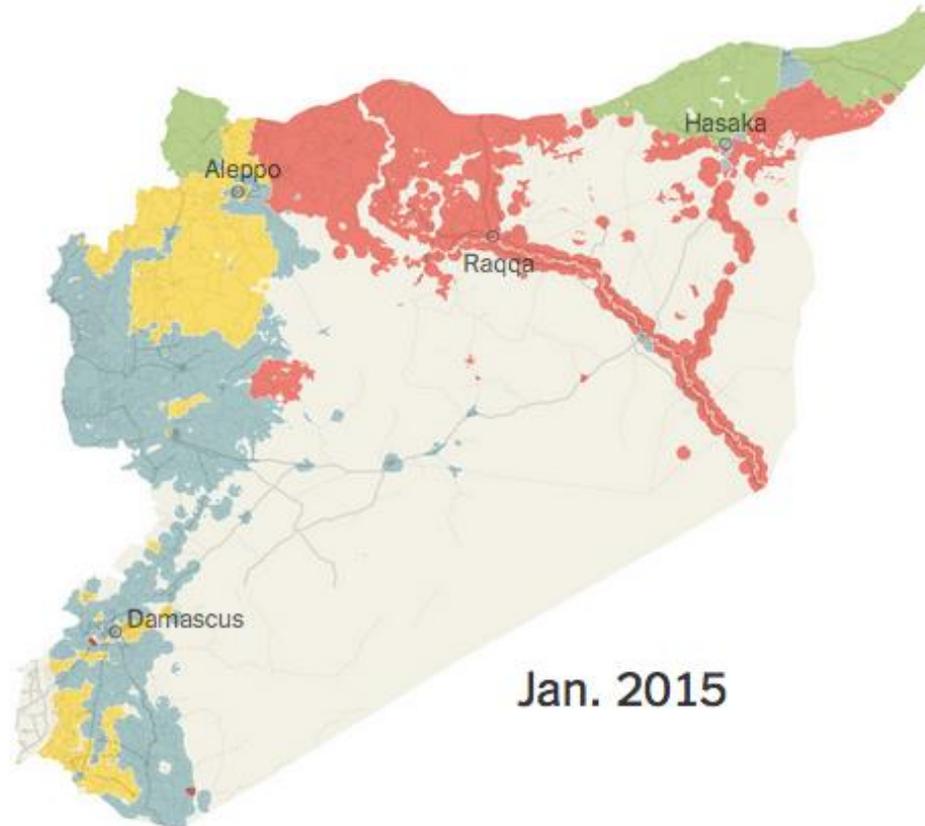


Oct. 2015

Kurdish groups pushed the Islamic State out of some northern regions. Rebel forces gained control of some areas in Idlib province.

Shifting Areas of Control in Syria: 1/2015

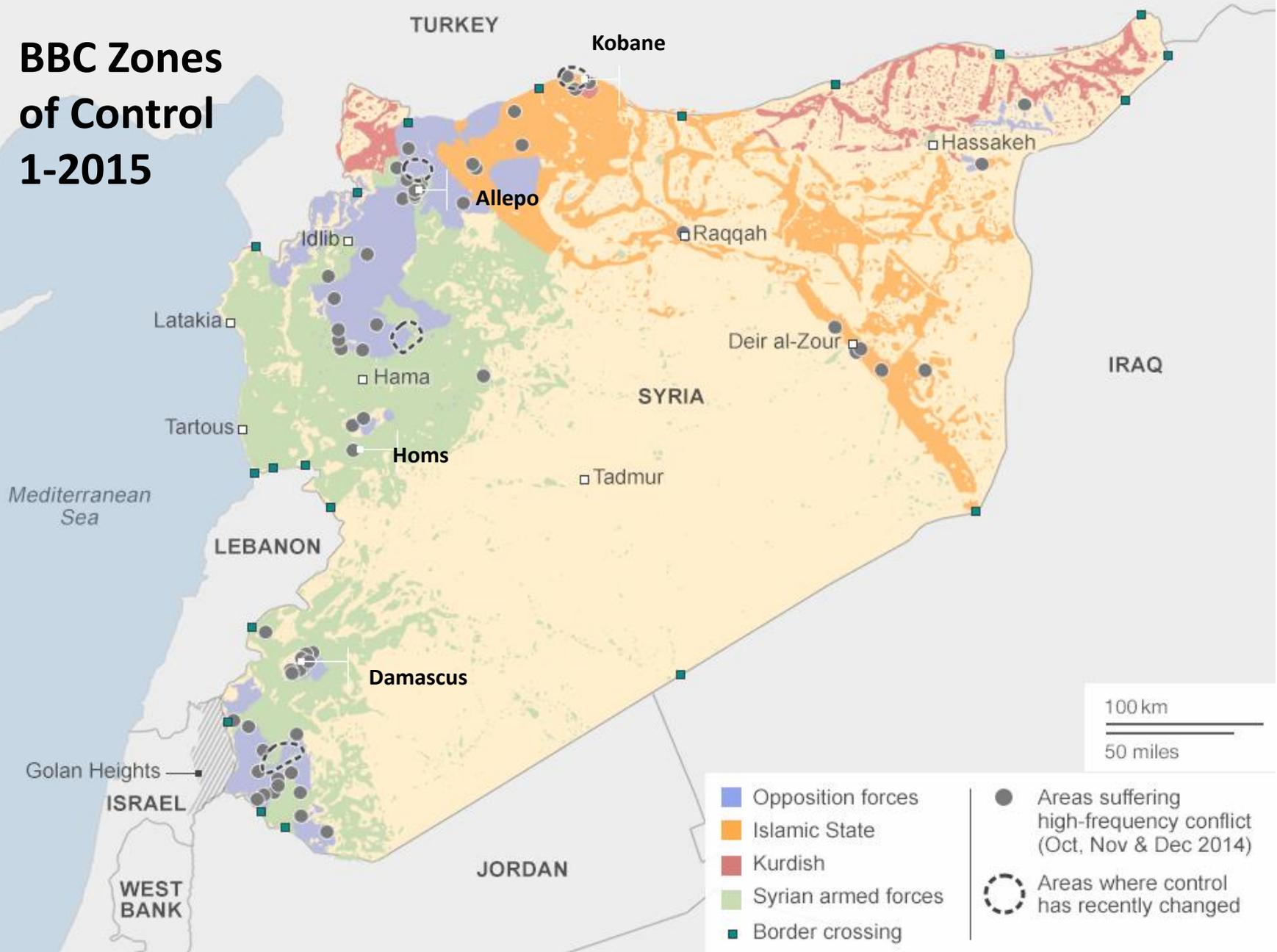
■ Government ■ Rebels ■ ISIS ■ Kurds



Jan. 2015

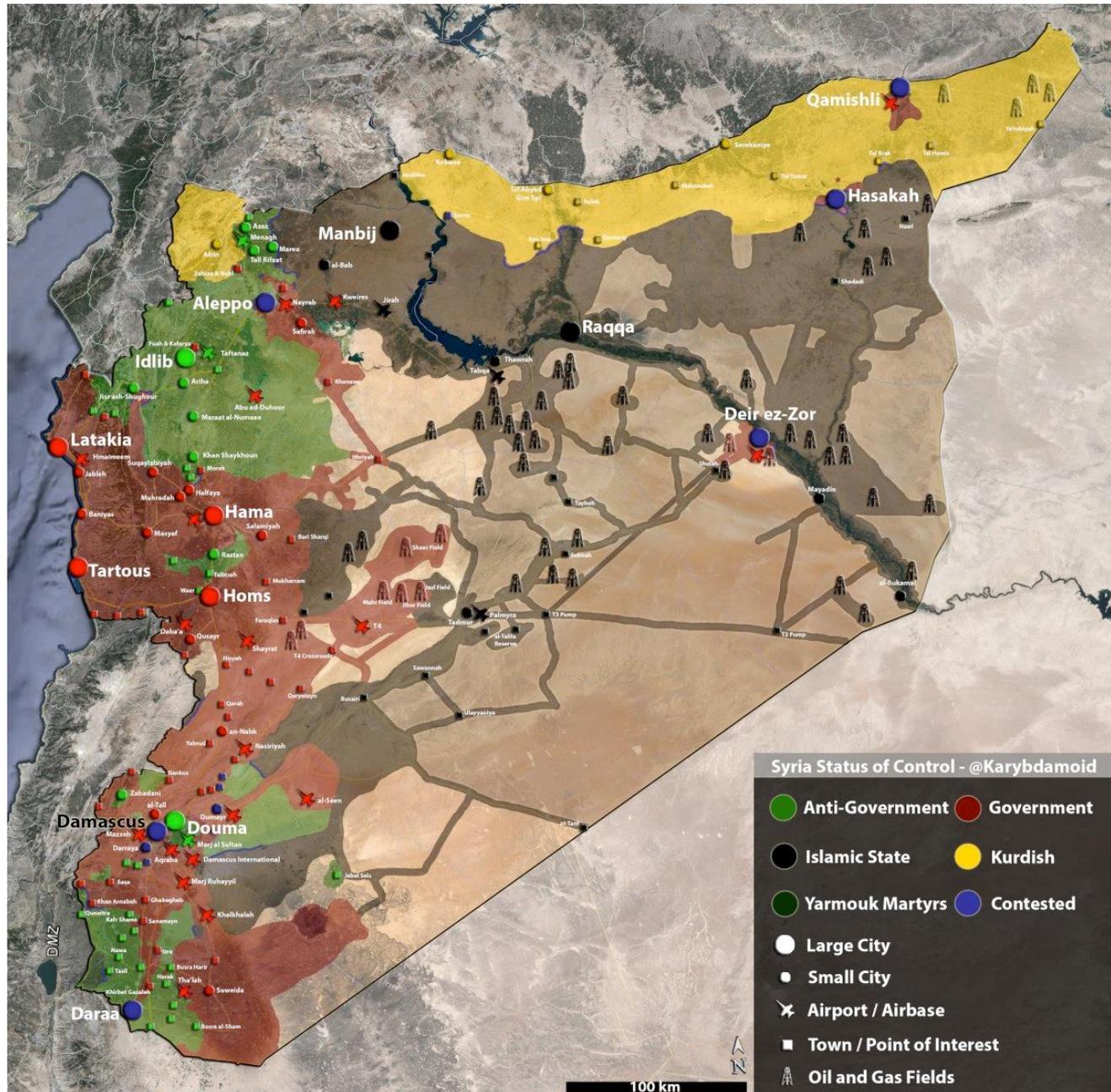
The Islamic State rapidly gained territory in 2014, establishing governance in Raqqa and controlling the Euphrates River to Iraq.

BBC Zones of Control 1-2015



Map sources: areas of control and border crossings from the [Syria Needs Analysis Project](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-22798391); all other geographical detail from humanitarian organisations and Google, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-22798391>

Rough Estimate of Current Areas of Control – 6-30-2015



Source: [Pamela Engel](#), This detailed Syria map shows what territory ISIS is truly fighting for, Business Insider, June 30, 2015,; <http://www.businessinsider.com/map-of-syria-shows-what-isis-is-truly-fighting-for-2015-6#ixzz3kOBnu5GO>

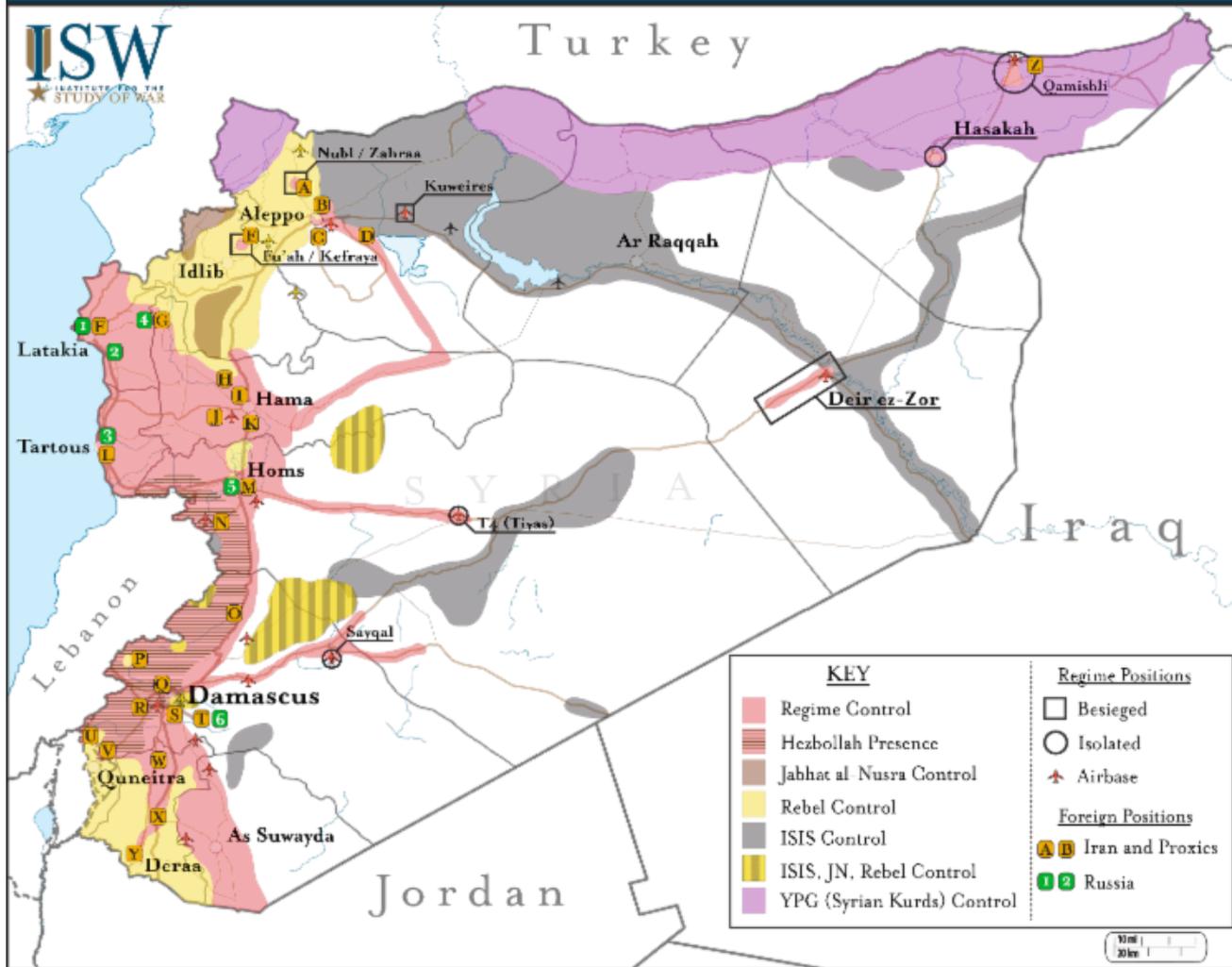
Posture of Syrian Regime and Allies: September 14, 2015



Zones of Control in Syria

ISW Estimate

September 2, 2015



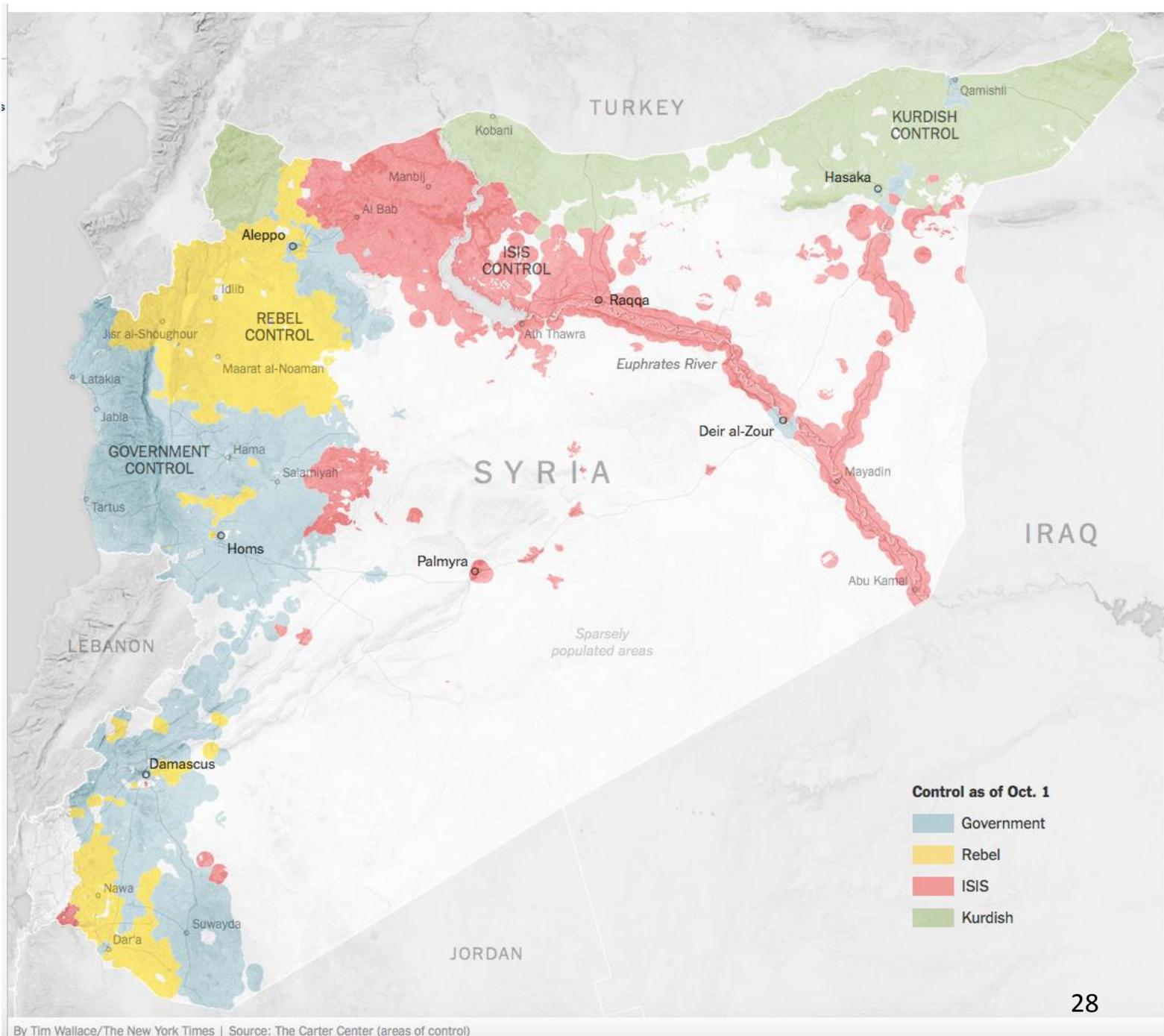
Source: Institute for the Study of War,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#search/ISW/14fdf9c79b69ce51>

KNOWN IRANIAN REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS (IRGC) OR PROXY POSITION			KNOWN RUSSIAN POSITION
A - Nubl and Zahraa	K - Brigade 47 and Tel Qartal	U - Amal Farms	1 - Port of Latakia
B - Bashkuy and Handarat	L - Tartous City	V - Nabi al-Fawwar	2 - Bassel al-Assad Airport
C - Neyrab Airbase / Aleppo Airport	M - Homs City	W - Sanamayn	3 - Tartous Naval Facility
D - As-Safira Defense Factories	N - Qusayr	X - Izraa	4 - Slinfah
E - Fu'ah and Kefraya	O - Yabroud	Y - Dera'a Municipal Stadium	5 - Homs City
F - Latakia City	P - Zabadani	Z - Qamishli Airport	6 - Damascus International Airport
G - Joureen	Q - Jamraya		
H - Tel al-Nasiriyah	R - Mezze District and Airbase		
I - Qumhana	S - Sayyida Zeinab District		
J - Hama Military Airport	T - Damascus International Airport		

Local Force Postures in Syria:

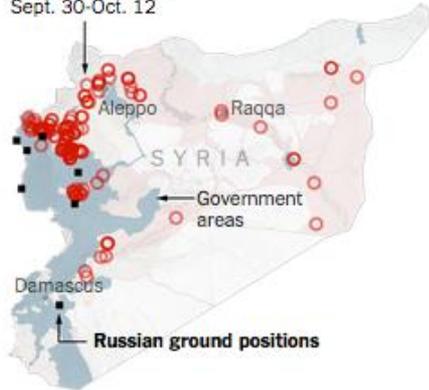
NYT Map
1/10/2015

Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/09/29/world/middleeast/100000003948336.app.html?_r=0

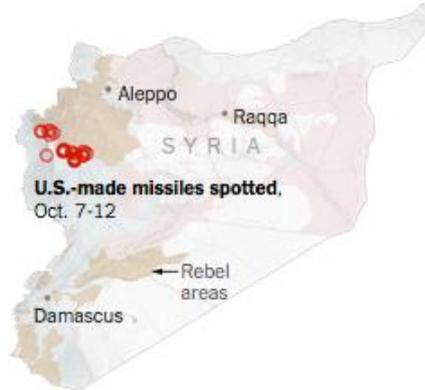


Syria War 30/9/15 to 12/10, 2015: NYT Estimate

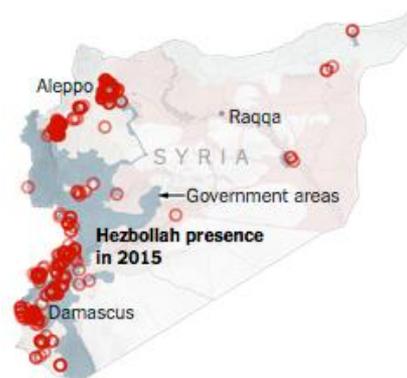
Russian airstrikes,
Sept. 30-Oct. 12



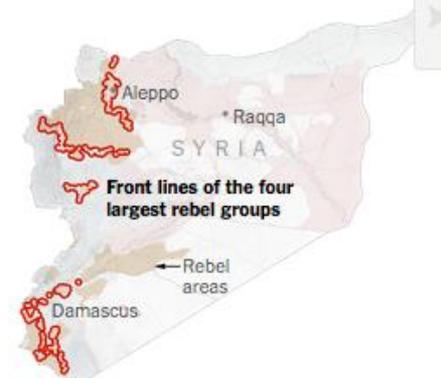
Russia has bases and advisers in several government-controlled locations. It has mainly targeted rebels in areas where the government had been losing ground.



Rebels in areas targeted by Russian airstrikes have used antitank missiles made in the United States.



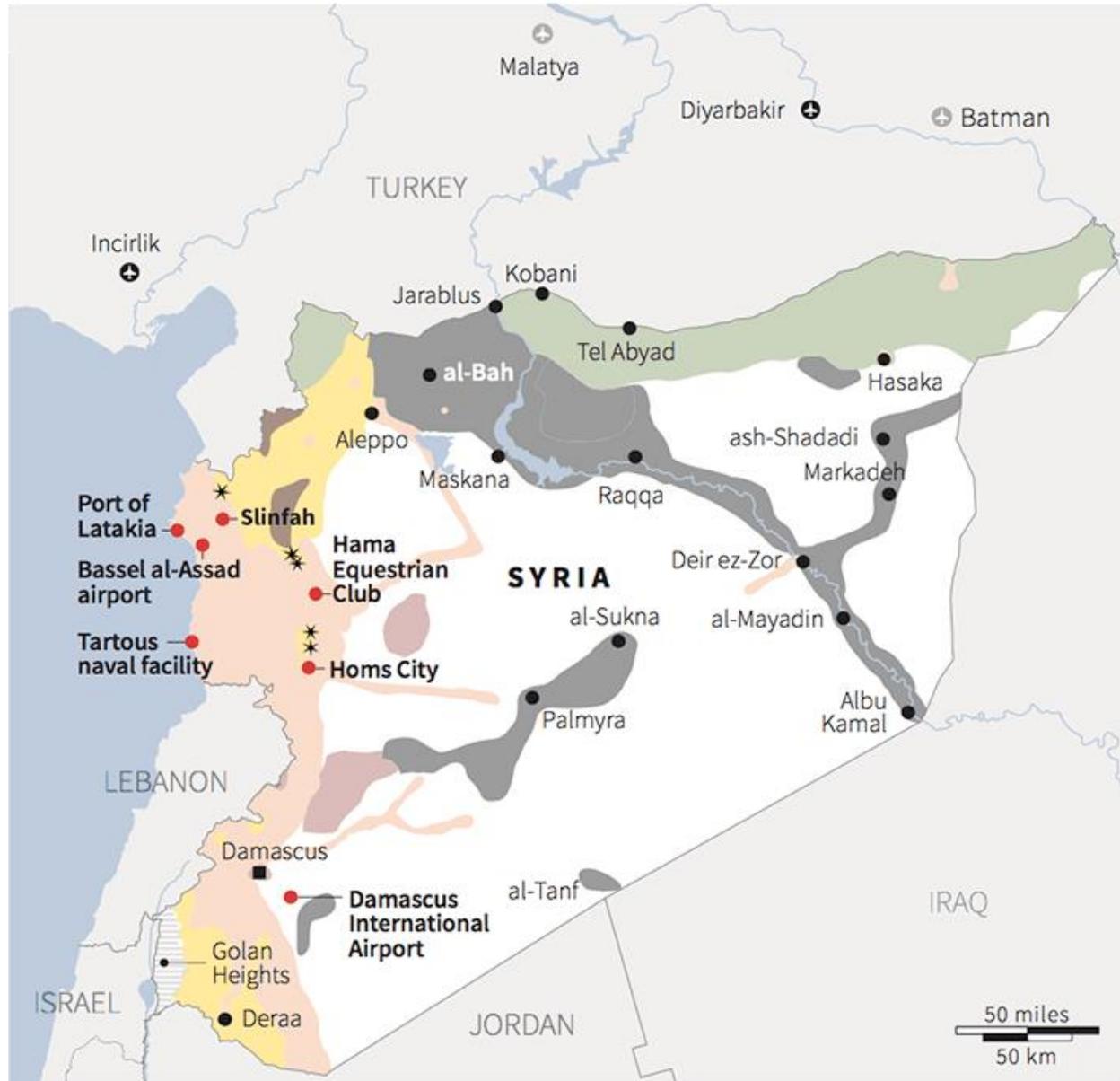
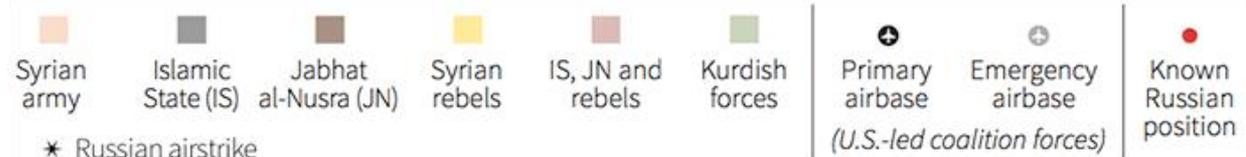
Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps and Hezbollah have been advising and shoring up pro-Assad forces since 2012.



Most rebel groups supported by the United States, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey are in western Syria.

Local Force Postures in Syria:

Reuters Map
4/10/2015

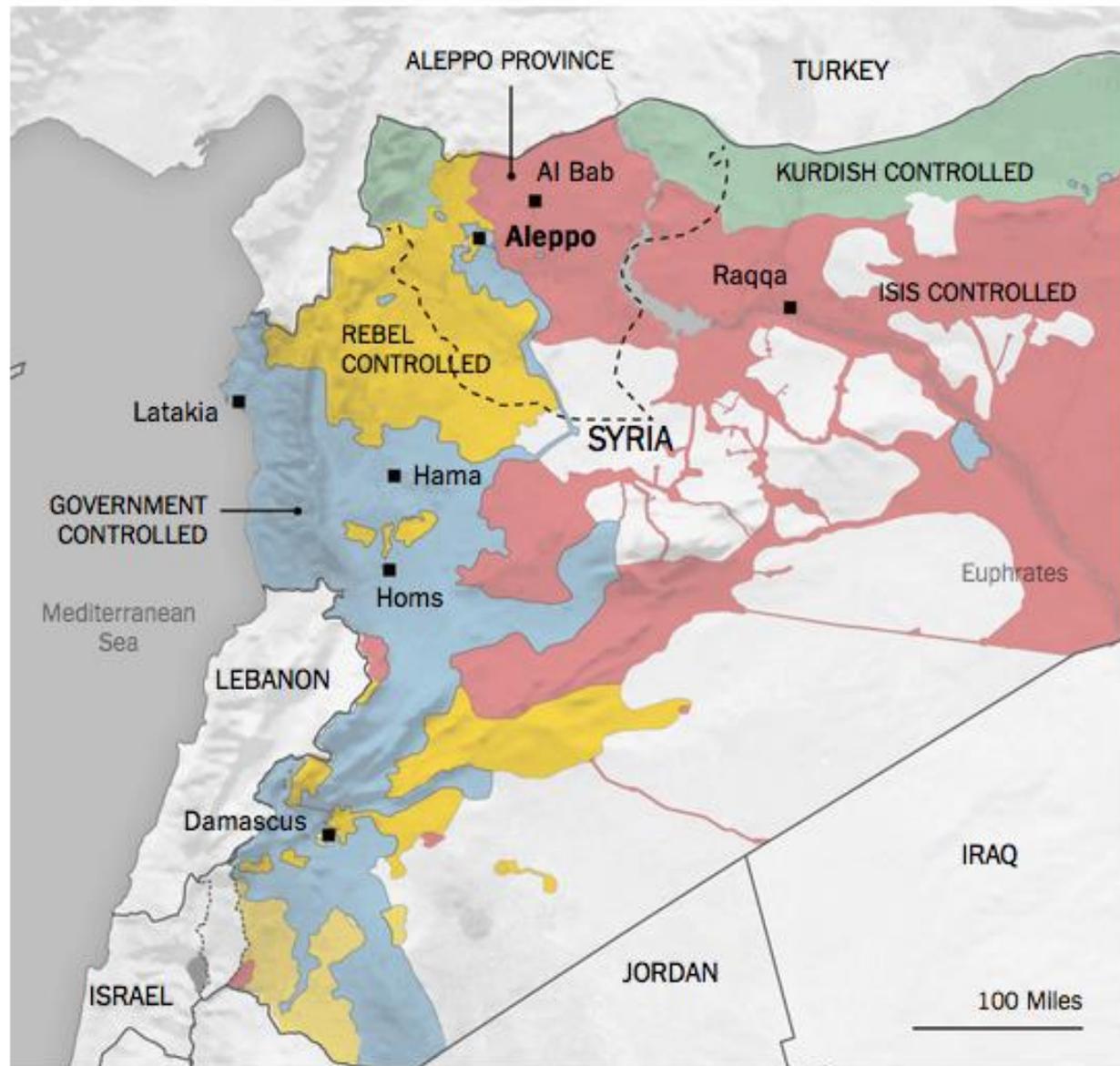


Source:
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-10-02/iran-troops-to-join-syria-war-russia-bombs-group-trained-by-cia/6821822>

Areas of Control in Western Syria:

New York Times Map 5/10/2015

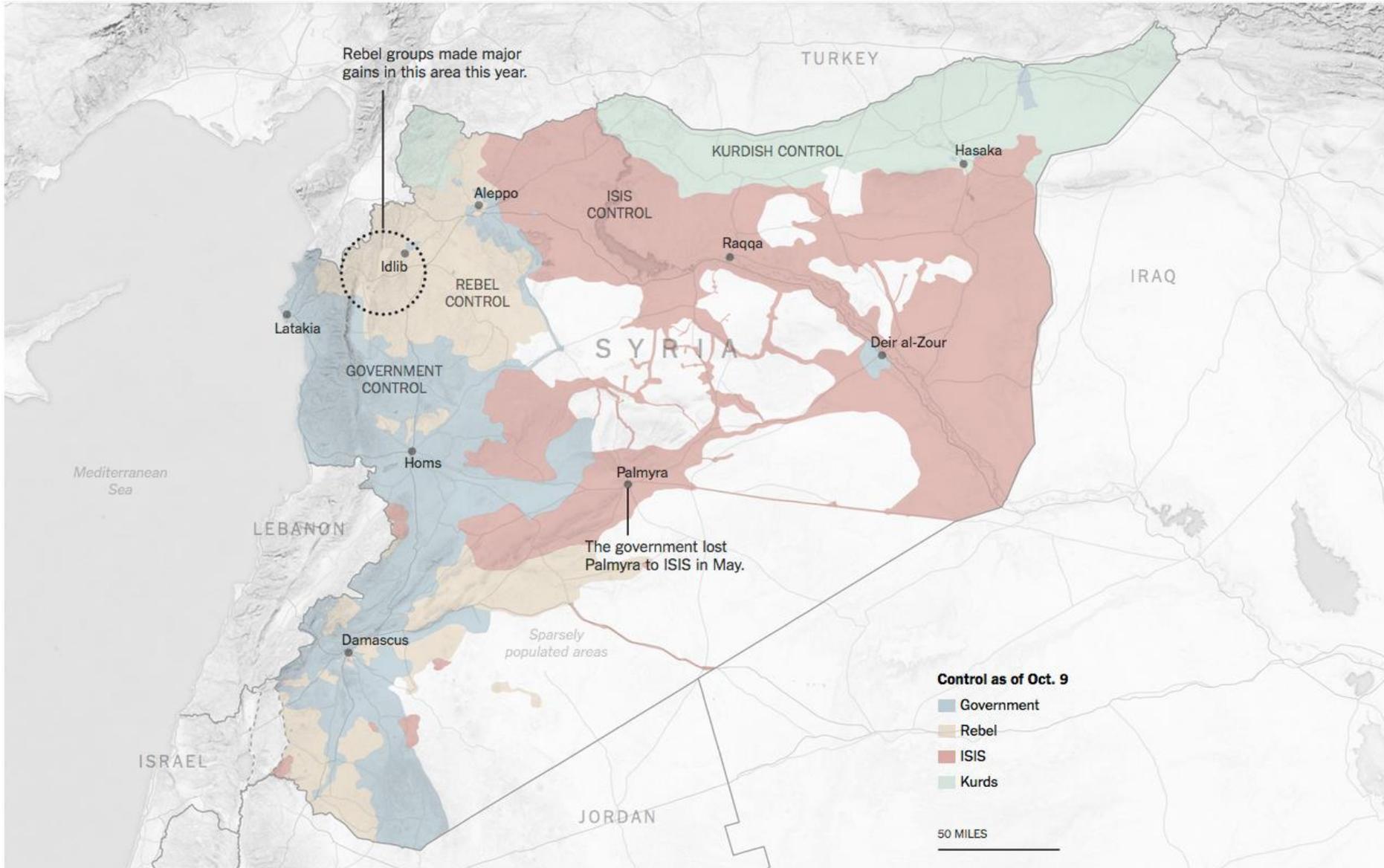
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/10/world/middleast/hussein-hamedani-iran-general-killed-in-syria.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share>



Source: IHS Conflict Monitor (control areas as of Oct. 5)

By The New York Times

Broader View of Zones of Control in Syria 10.15



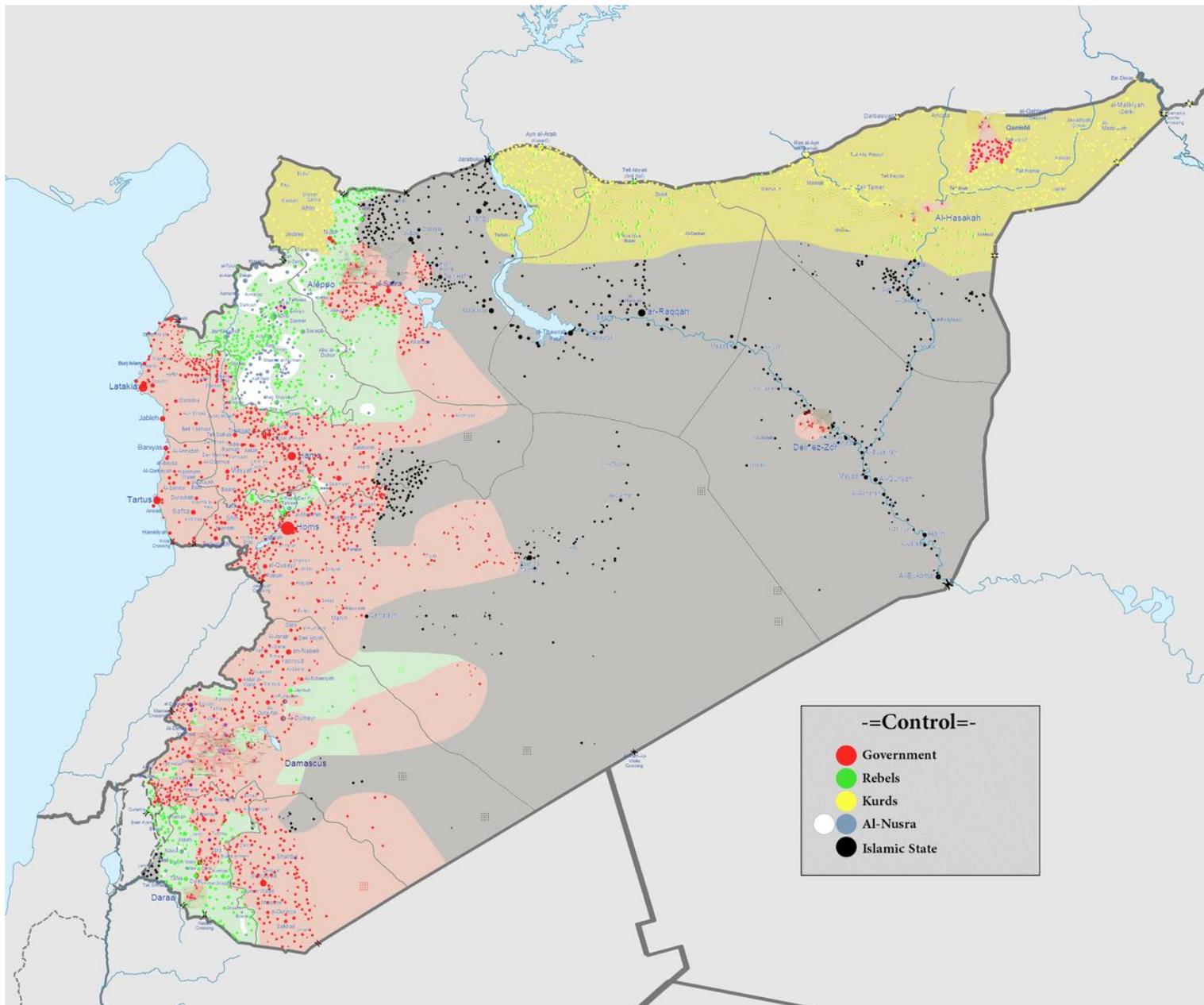
Source: IHS Conflict Monitor

Source: Pencana, Almkhtar, and Lai; *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/16/world/middleeast/untangling-the-overlapping-conflicts-in-the-syrian-war.html>.

Wikipedia Estimate of Location of Combat Forces in Syria

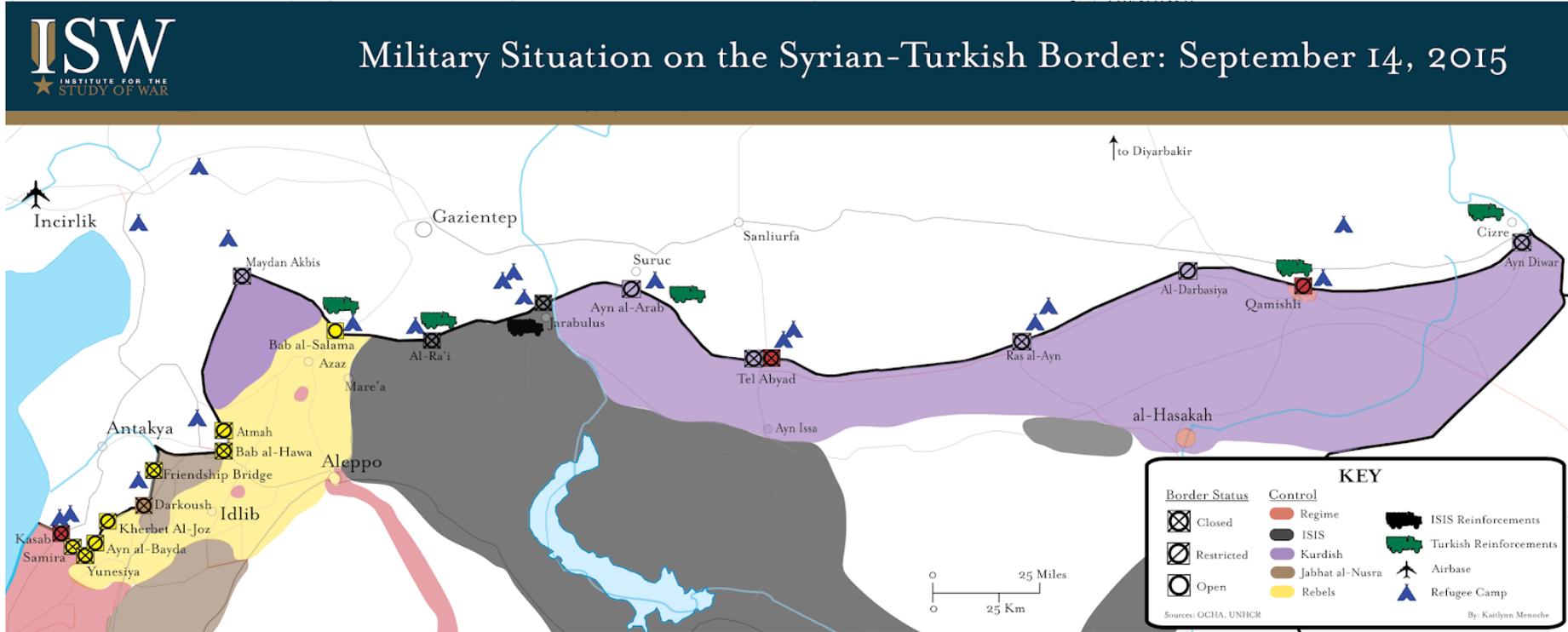
As of
January
24, 2016

Source: Wikipedia,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_armed_groups_in_the_Syrian_Civil_War#/media/File:Syrian_civil_war.png



Military Situation on the Turkish Border: ISW Estimate

September 14, 2015



Source: Institute for the Study of War.
<http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2015/09/military-situation-on-syrian-turkish14.html>

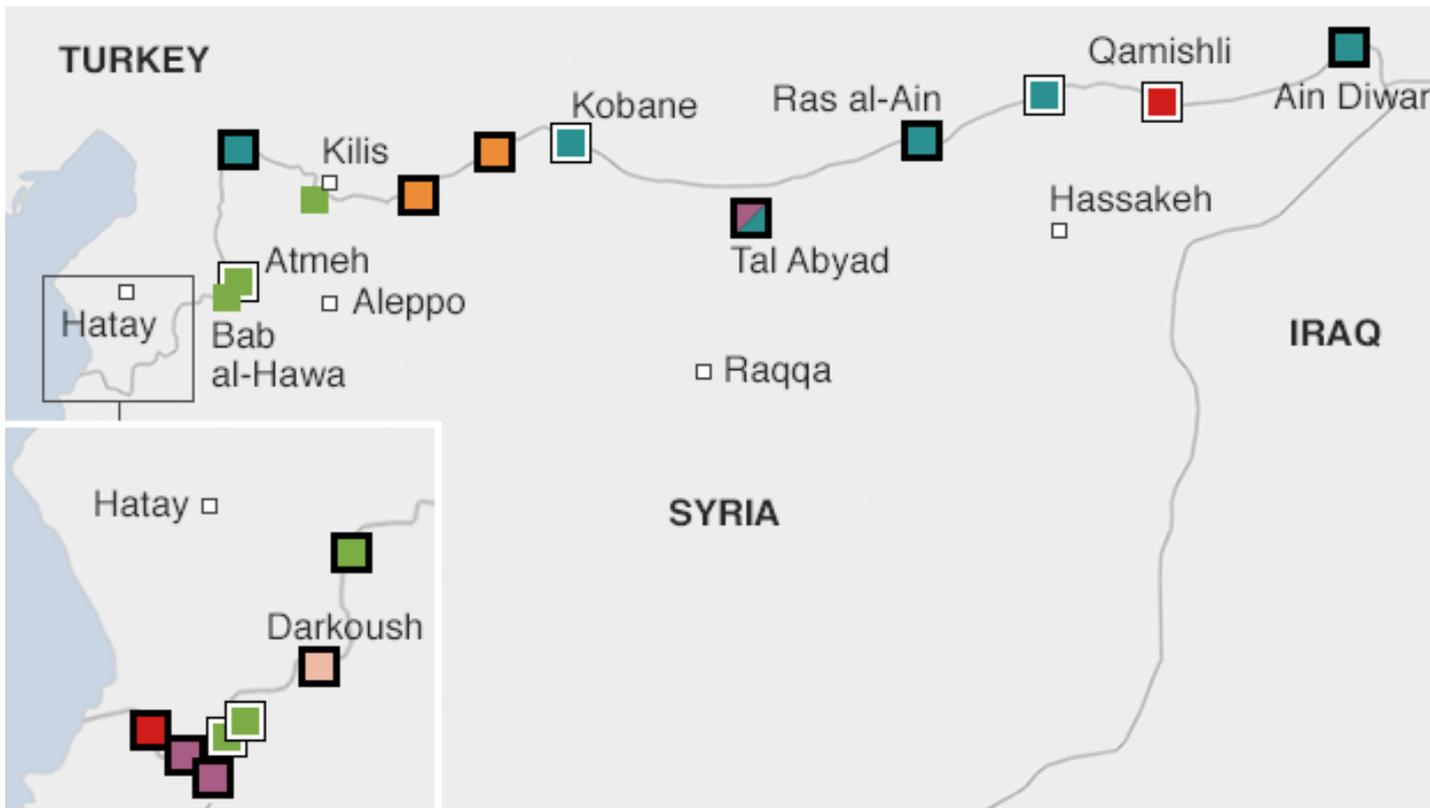
Control of Turkish–Syrian border: October 9. 2015

Turkey - Syria border crossings

Border status on 9 October 2015: Open Restricted Closed

Groups controlling Syrian side:

Syrian government Free Syrian Army (FSA) Islamic Front
 al-Nusra Front Kurdish YPG militia Islamic State

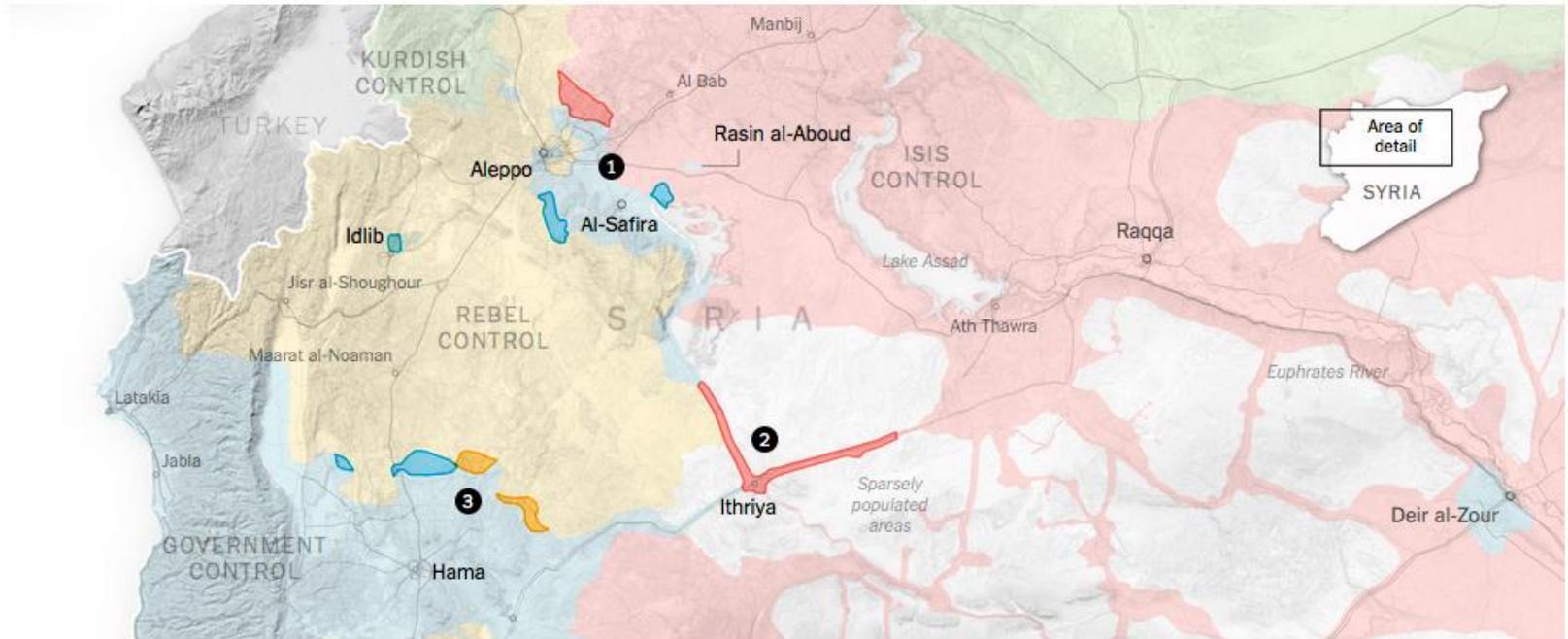


Source: Ocha

BBC

Ground Gains in Syria: 9/21 to 10.27.2015

Control and gains since Sept. 21: ■ ISIS ■ Government ■ Rebel



1 Aleppo

Government forces have made gains south and east of the city, as they build strategic depth around their Al-Safira stronghold and push closer to **Rasin al-Aboud**, an important air base that ISIS has surrounded for more than a year. Employing an often-used strategy, ISIS launched a counterattack in the north to draw government fighters away from the air base and gained some territory in the process.

2 Key Supply Routes

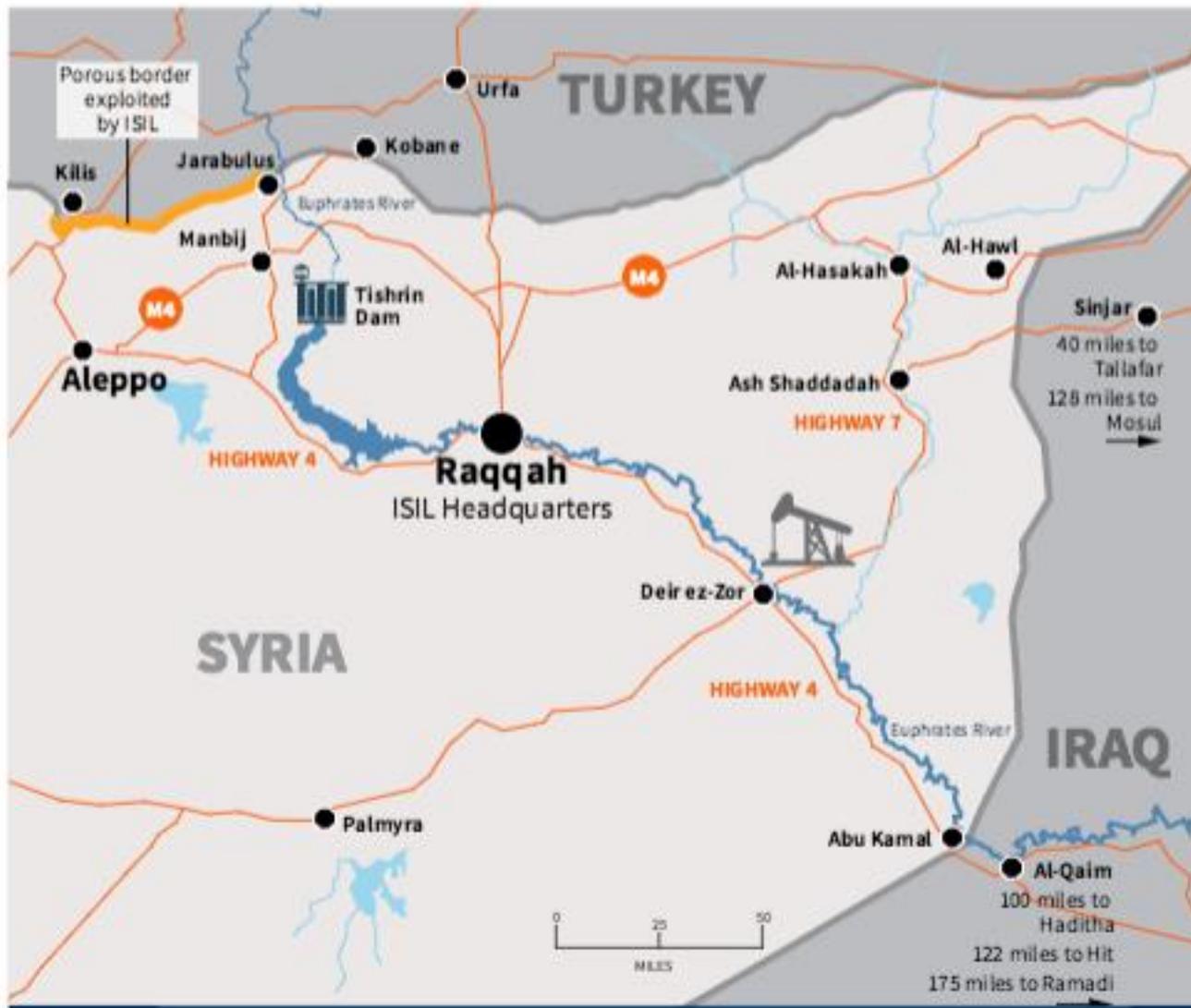
ISIS has gained control of a long stretch of road north of Ithriya. The road remains highly contested because it is the only overland route for supplying government fighters around Aleppo.

3 Between Idlib and Hama

Rebel and government forces continue to fight for territory along the front lines between Idlib and Hama. Small areas changed hands in October, but the government has yet to make significant advances.

By Tim Wallace/The New York Times | Source: IHS Conflict Monitor

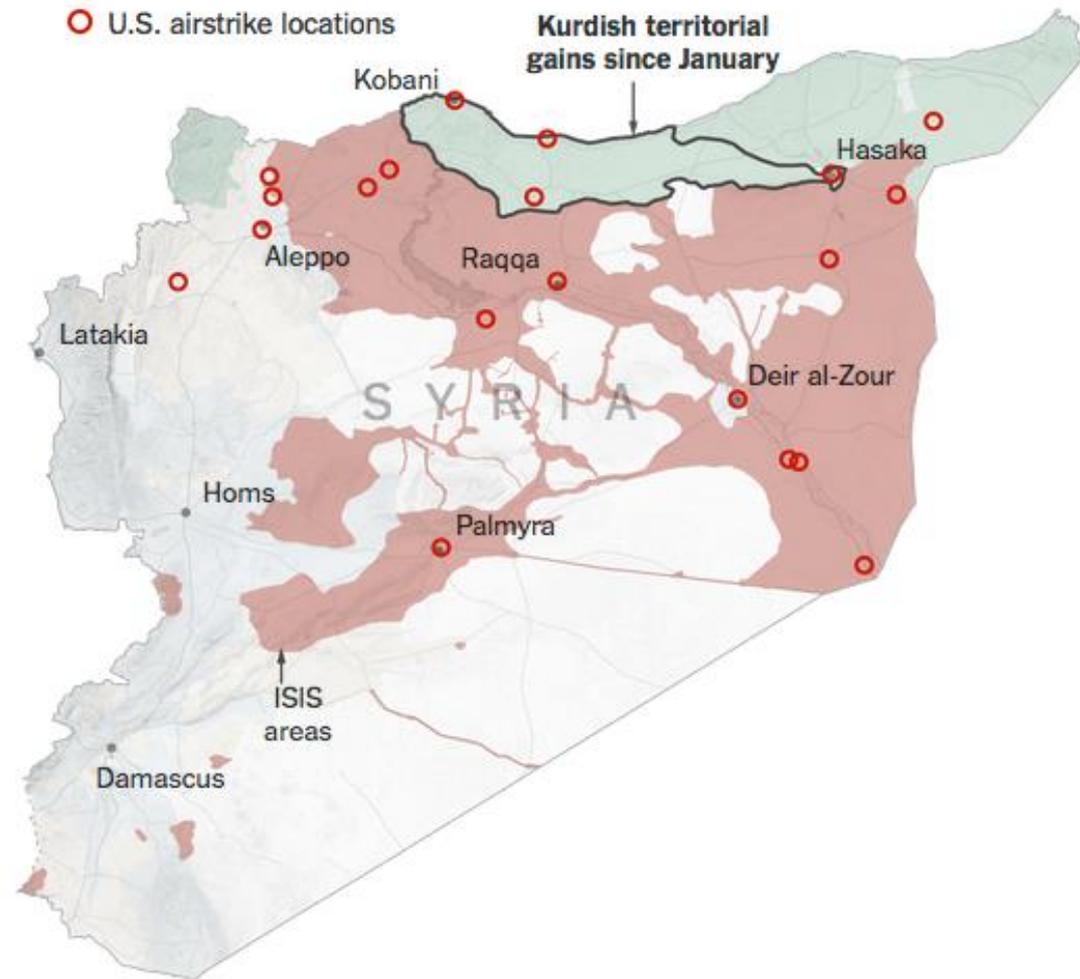
Locations of Counter ISIL Activity in Northeast Syria



Sources: Adam Entous, Gordon Lubold, and Dion Nessenbaum, "U.S. Urges Turkey to Seal Border," *The Wall Street Journal*, 11/27/2015; President Obama, "Press Conference by President Obama," OECD Centre, France, 12/1/2015, www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/12/01/press-conference-president-obama, accessed 1/6/2016.

Kurdish Expansion in Syria

Kobani has been the focal point of the U.S.-Kurdish battle with ISIS. American airstrikes have hit more than 1,000 targets there, almost half of all their strikes in Syria, helping the Kurds push back ISIS in the north.



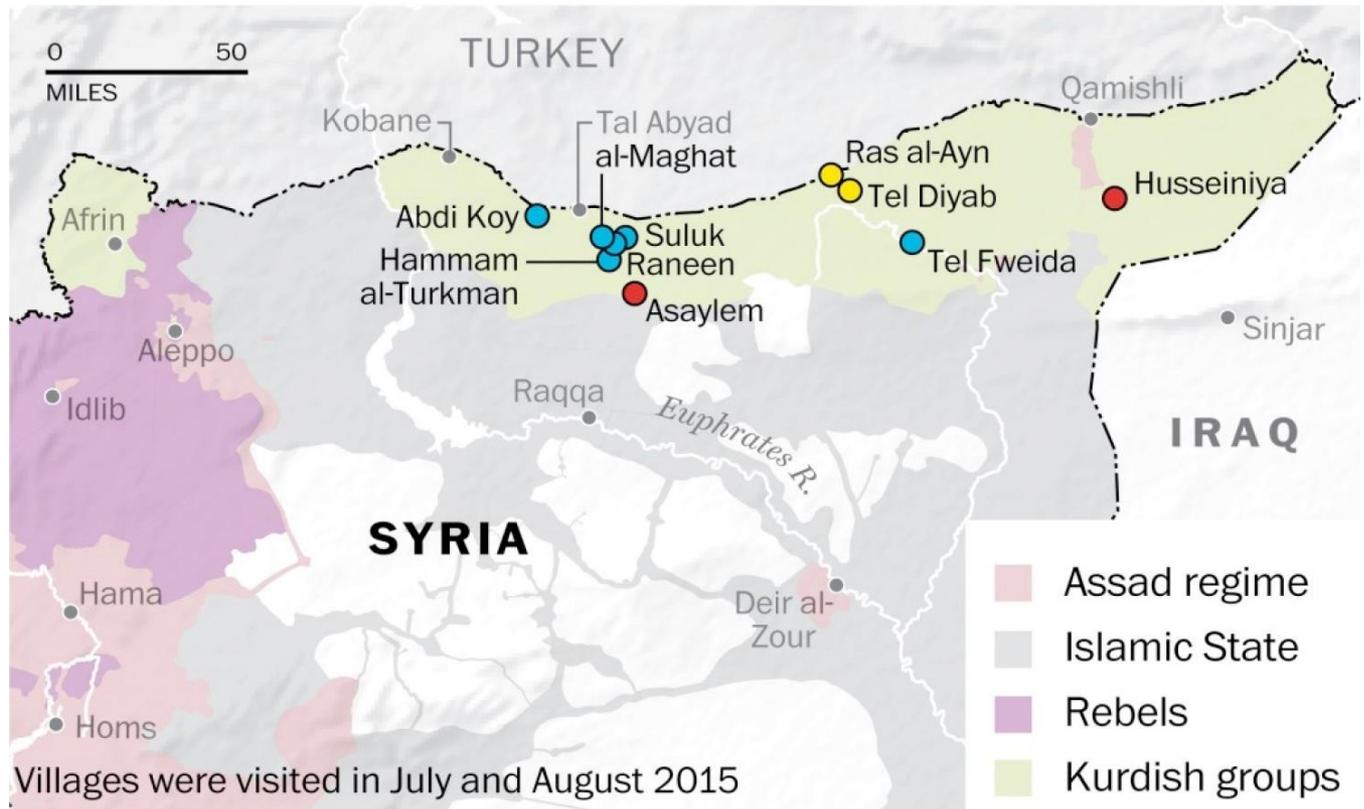
Sources: IHS Conflict Monitor (control areas); U.S. Central Command (airstrikes)

Source: Source: Pencana, Almkhtar, and Lai; *New York Times*, <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/16/world/middleeast/untangling-the-overlapping-conflicts-in-the-syrian-war.html>.

Syrian Kurds and Tensions with Syrian Arabs

Amnesty International visited 14 towns and villages in the Kurdish controlled areas of northern Syria. In ten of these villages, they found the local population had either had their homes demolished or faced either forced displacement as a group or targeted displacement.

Abuse: ● Village demolished ● Forced displacement ● Targeted displacement

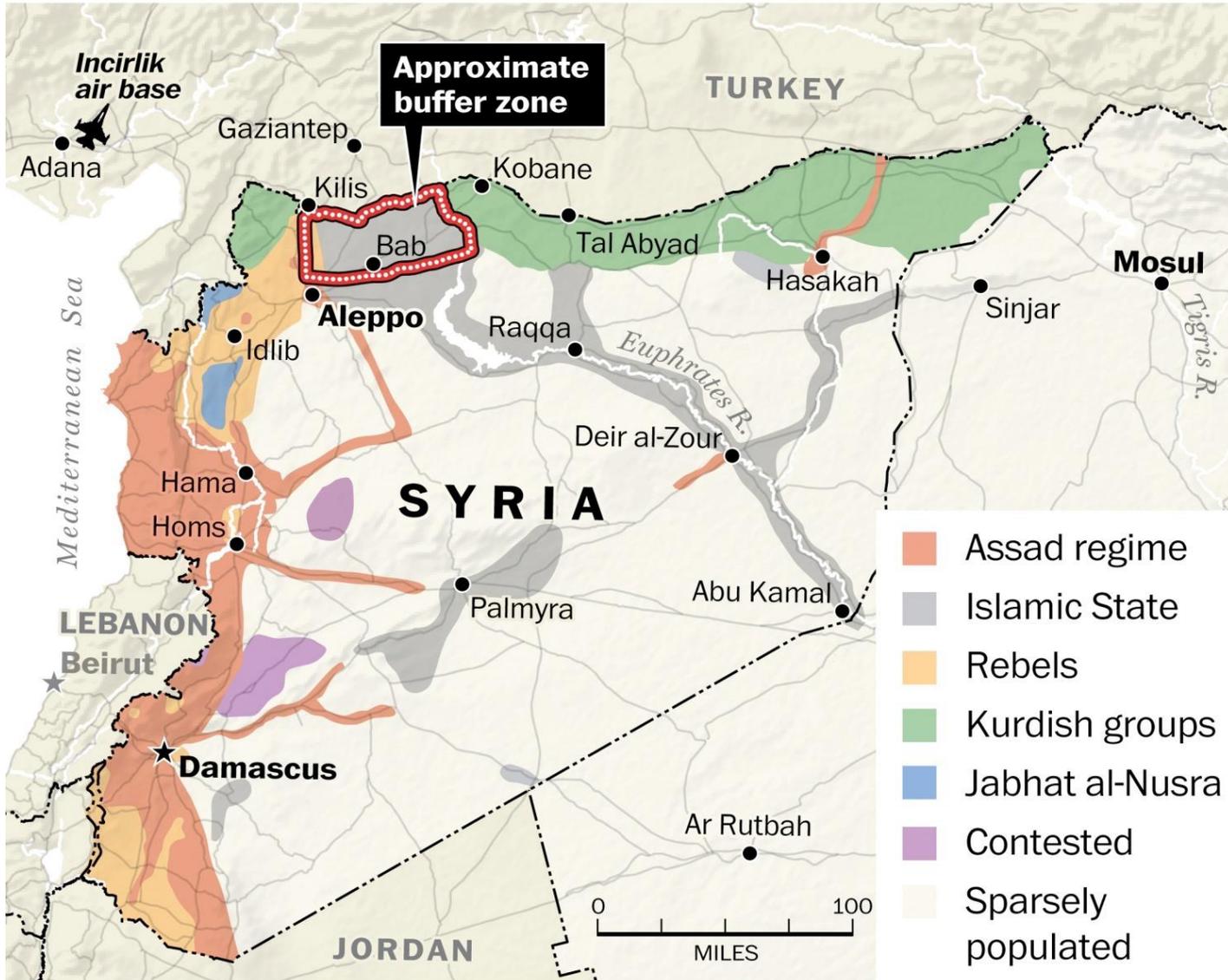


Source: Amnesty International; control area provided by Janes

THE WASHINGTON POST

Source: Adam Taylor, "Report: U.S.-backed Kurdish rebels may have committed war crimes in Syria," Washington Post, October 11, 2012, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/a-new-fight-over-oil-shows-why-its-so-hard-to-keep-iraq-from-splintering/2015/08/09/a17fd04e-240a-11e5-b621-b55e495e9b78_story.html.

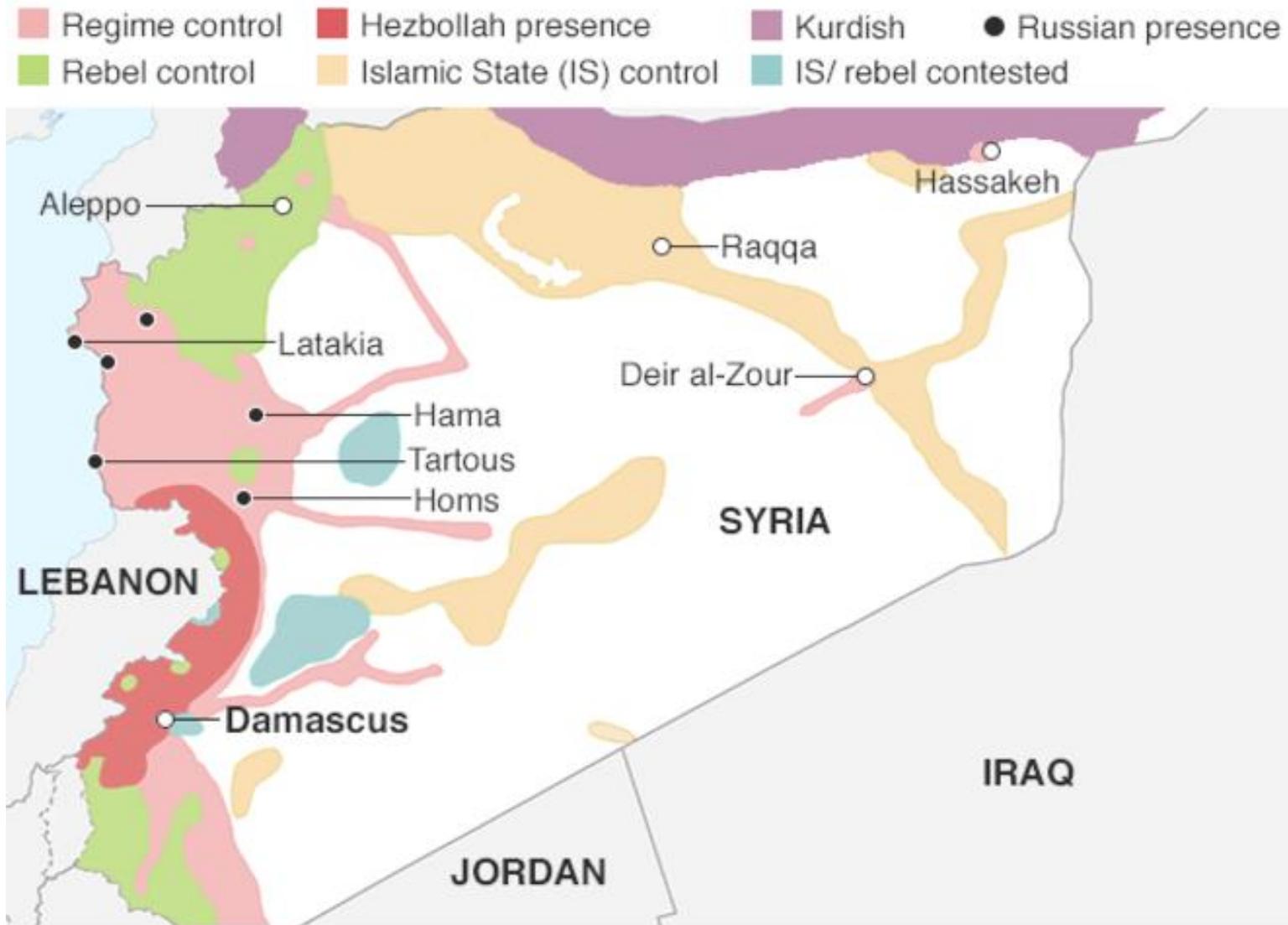
Buffer Zone Guesstimate



Sources: Institute for the Study of War, Hurriyet Daily News

THE WASHINGTON POST

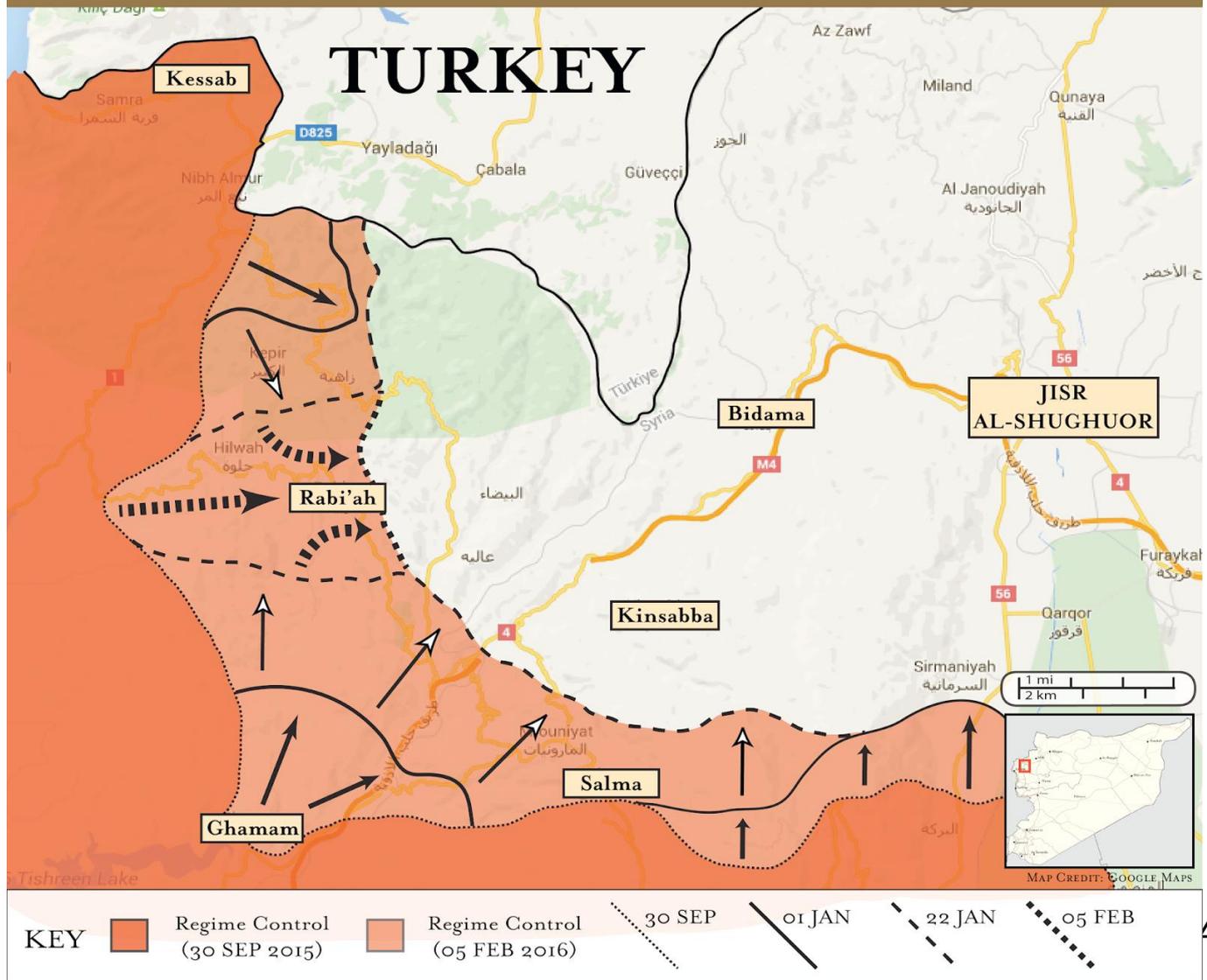
BBC/ISW Estimate of Zones of Control: 2.2016



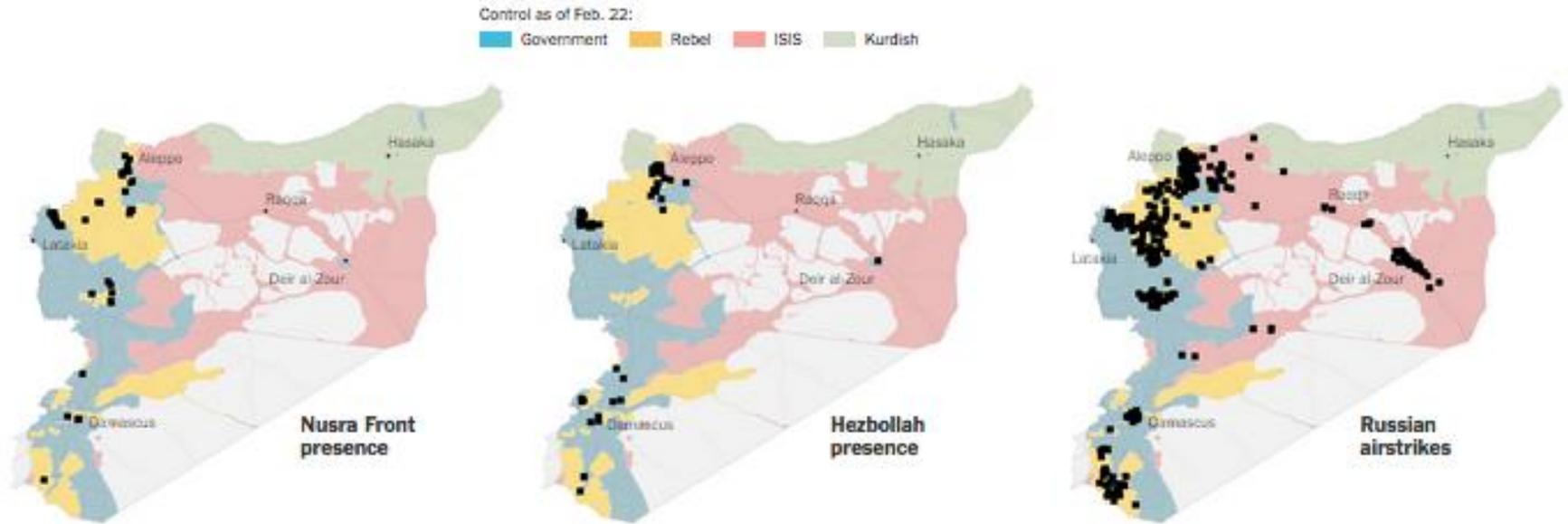
Source: ISW

The Campaign for Latakia Province: September 30, 2015 - February 5, 2016

ISW http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/02/assad-regime-gains-in-aleppo-alter.html?utm_source=Assad+Regime+Gains+in+Aleppo+Alter+Balance+of+Power+in+Northern+Syria+v2&utm_campaign=Assad+Regime+Gains+in+Aleppo+Alter+Balance+of+Power+in+Northern+Syria&utm_medium=email



NYT Estimate of Growing Intensity of War: February 2016



The Nusra Front is embedded in rebel-controlled areas. It recently became more active in parts of Aleppo as rebels welcomed their help against the government.

Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group that is allied with Iran, fights alongside Syrian government forces and other Iranian-backed militias. Although its initial priority was to protect supply routes to Lebanon, Hezbollah has increased its presence near the Aleppo and Latakia fronts.

Russian airstrikes have been key to the Syrian government's rapid advances in both Aleppo and Latakia as it has bombarded insurgent areas primarily in the northwestern provinces. In one week, Russia conducted hundreds of airstrikes around the country.

Source: IHS Conflict Monitor. Nusra Front and Hezbollah presence data are based on reports of activity attributed to those groups.

Air War in Syria January 19- February 2, 2016

UK, Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

UK

☀ 19 Jan - 2 Feb 2016

☀ 3 Dec 2015 - 18 Jan 2016

Other coalition forces

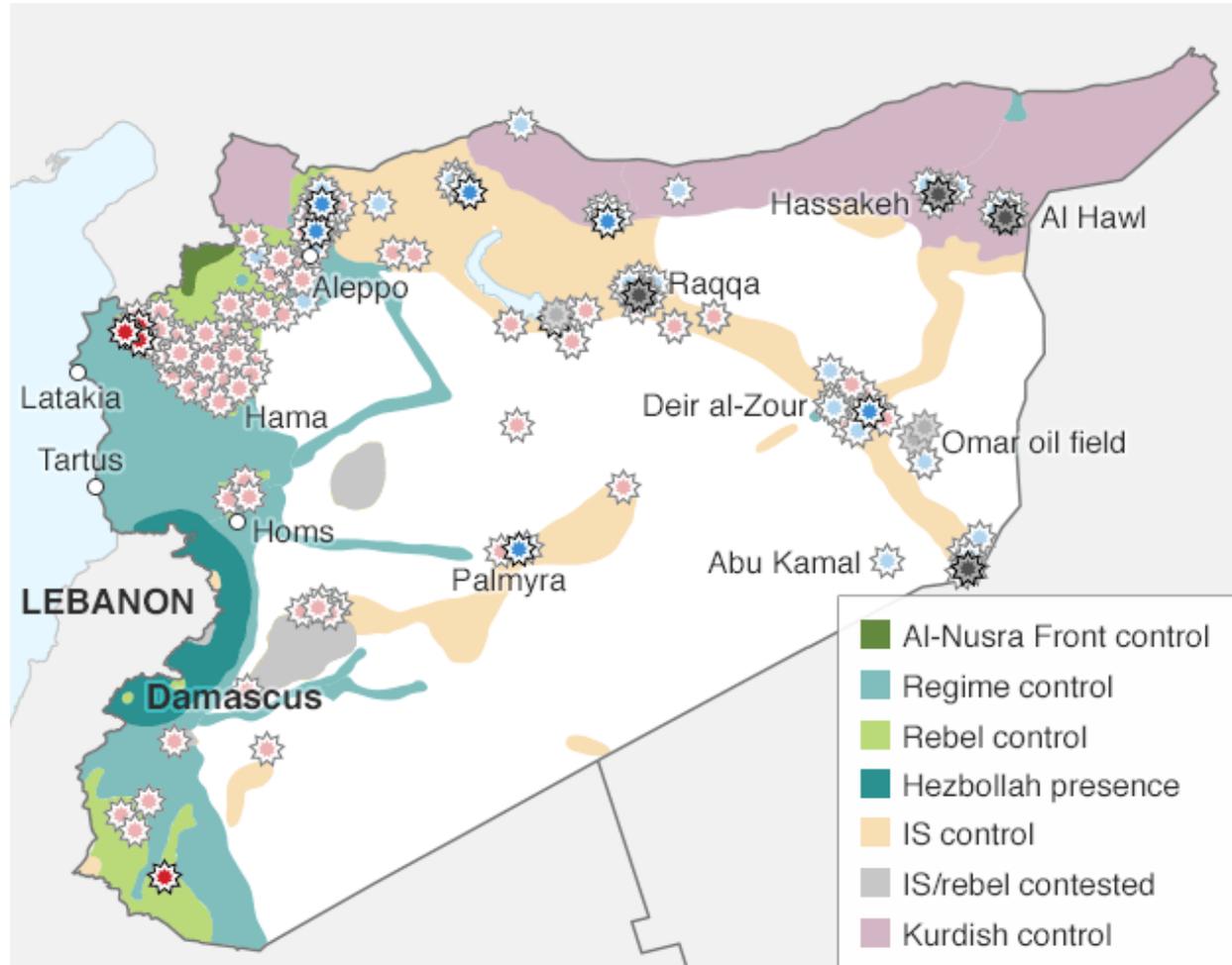
☀ 28 Jan - 3 Feb 2016

☀ 30 Sep 2015 - 27 Jan 2016

Russian air & cruise missile strikes

☀ 26 Jan - 1 Feb 2016

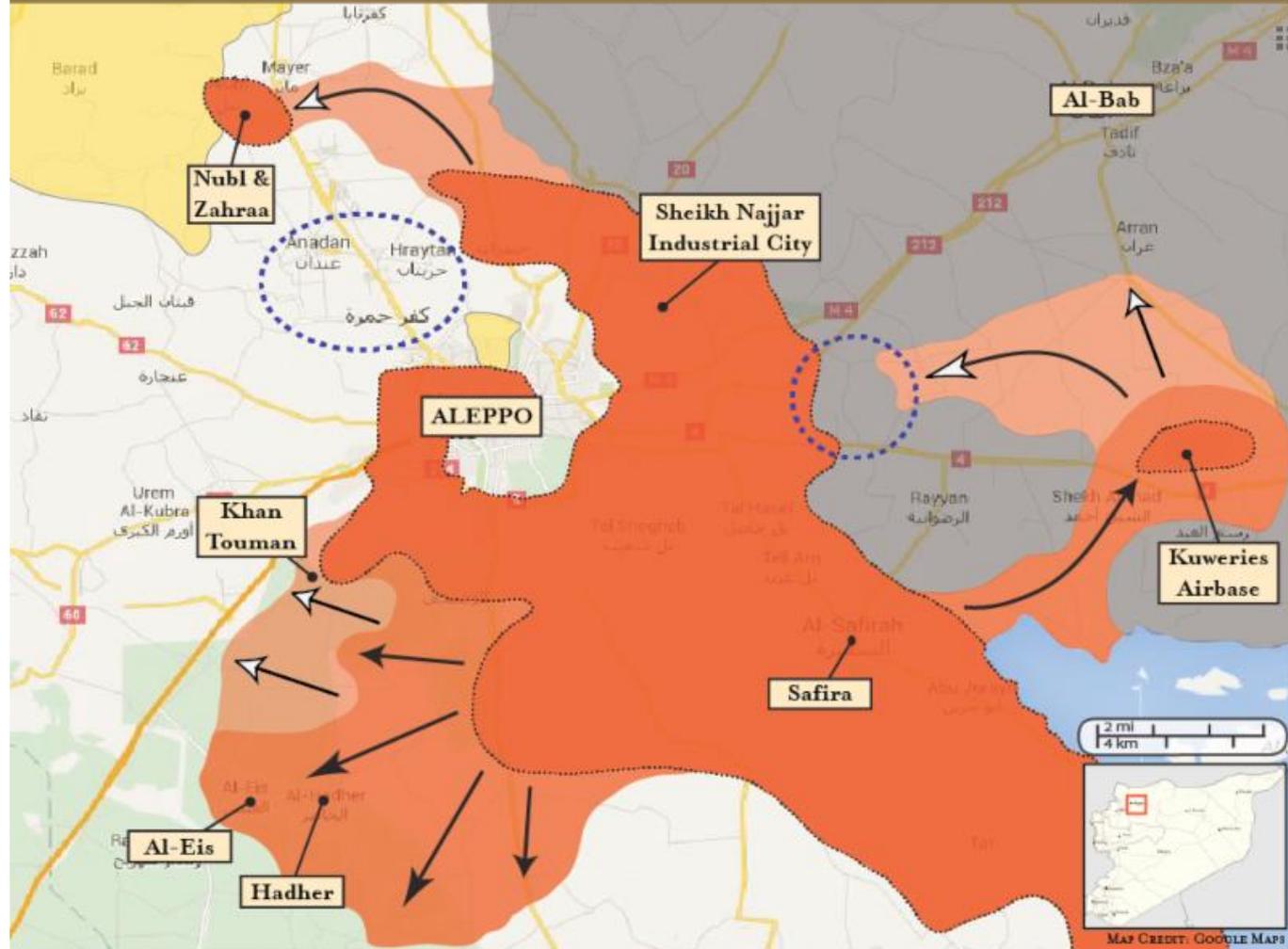
☀ 30 Sep 2015 - 25 Jan 2016



BBC,
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>.

Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military, UK MoD, French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes

The Campaign for Aleppo: September 30, 2015 - February 5, 2016



ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/152b232cf353b332>.

KEY

Regime Control (30 SEP 2015)

Regime Control (01 DEC 2015)

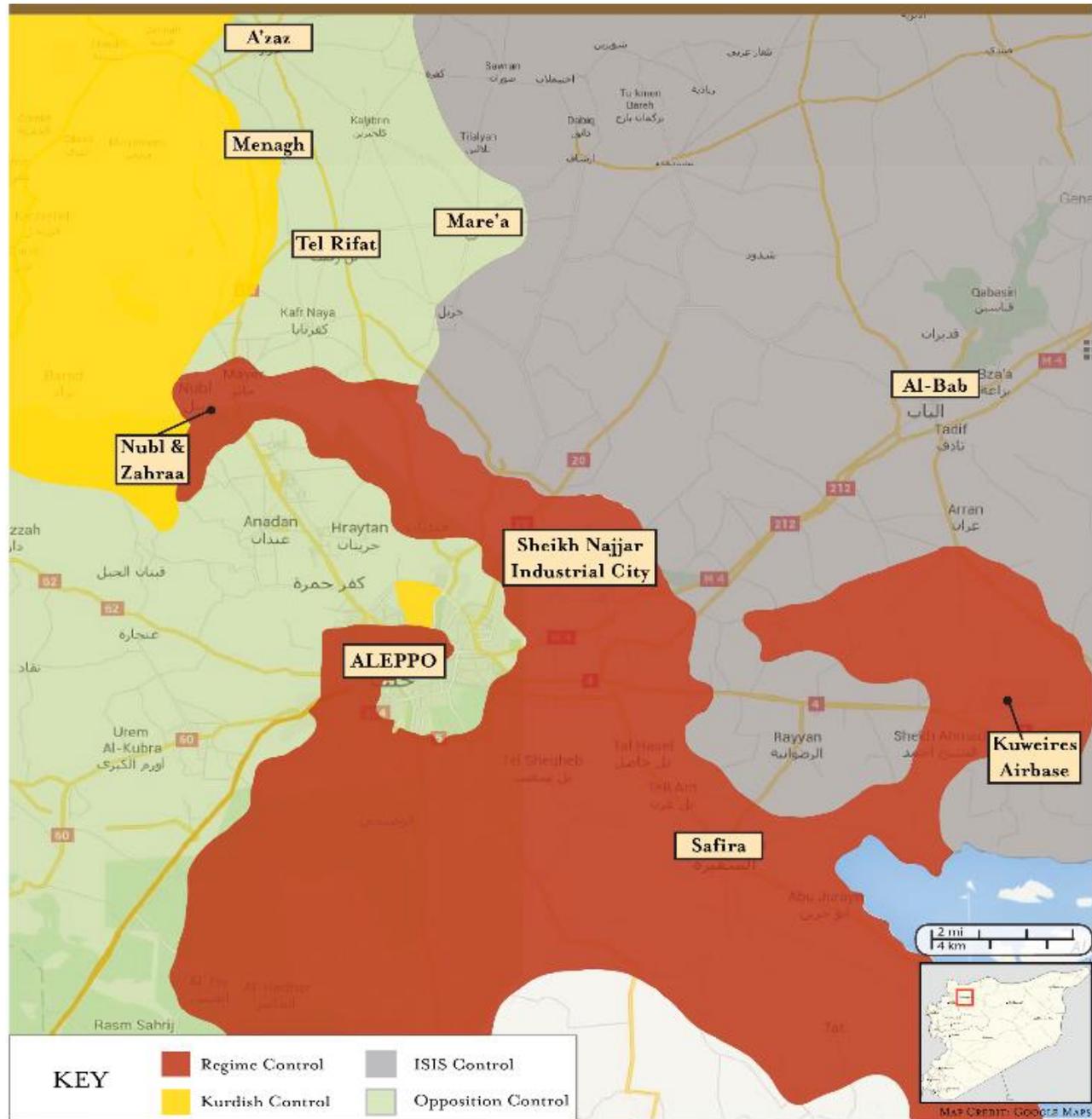
Regime Control (05 FEB 2016)

ISIS Control
Kurd Control

Likely Targets Of Future Operations

ISW Estimate of Situation Around Aleppo February 13, 2016

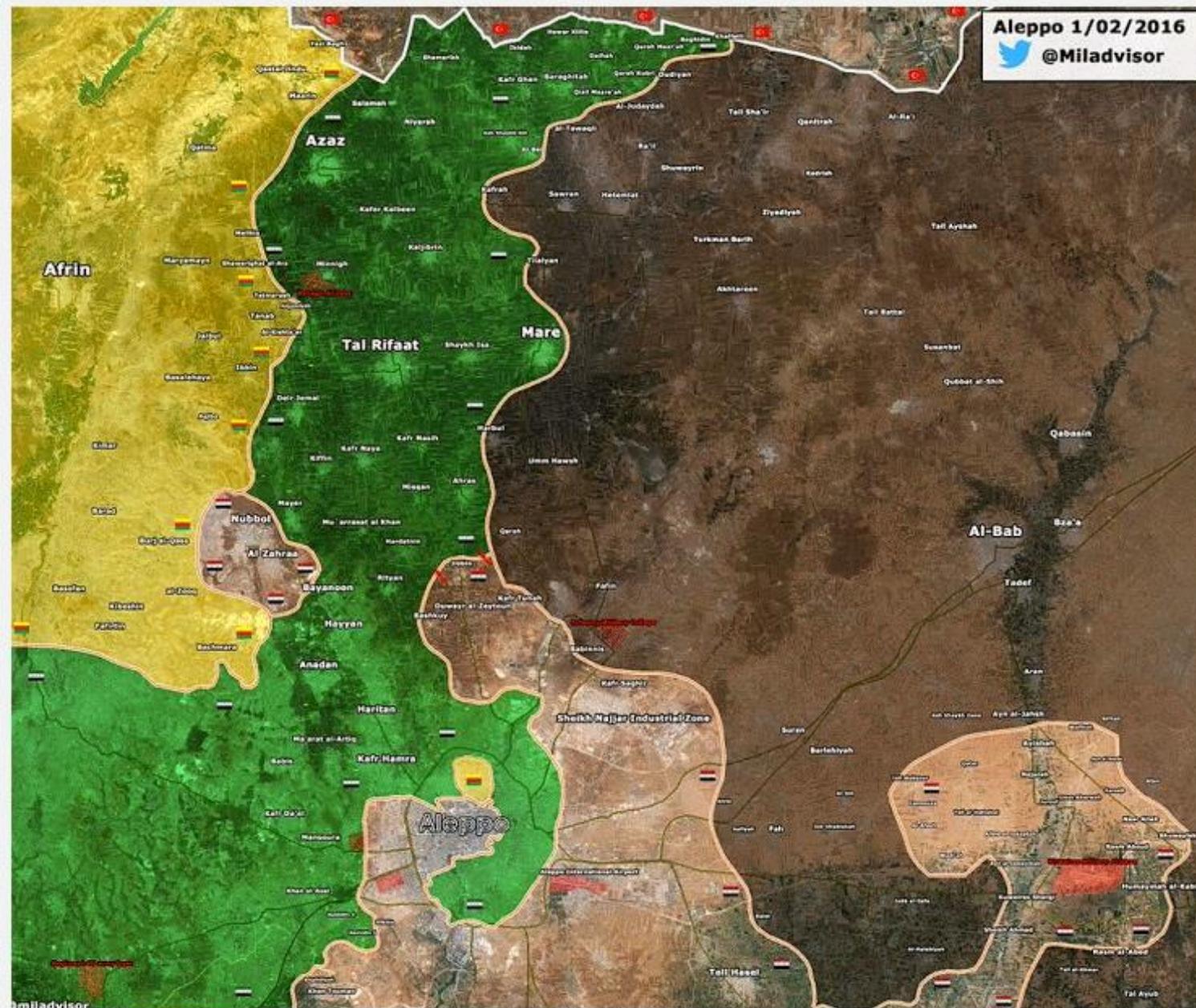
Source: ISW,
http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Syrian%20Armed%20Opposition%20Forces%20in%20Aleppo_0.pdf



Miladvisor, Mahmoud Ayad Estimate of Situation Around Aleppo February 1, 2016

The rebels (in green) are clearly losing ground to the government (in tan). ISIS (in black) is also losing territory, while the Kurds (in yellow) are taking advantage of real weakness to seize some of their nearby territory:

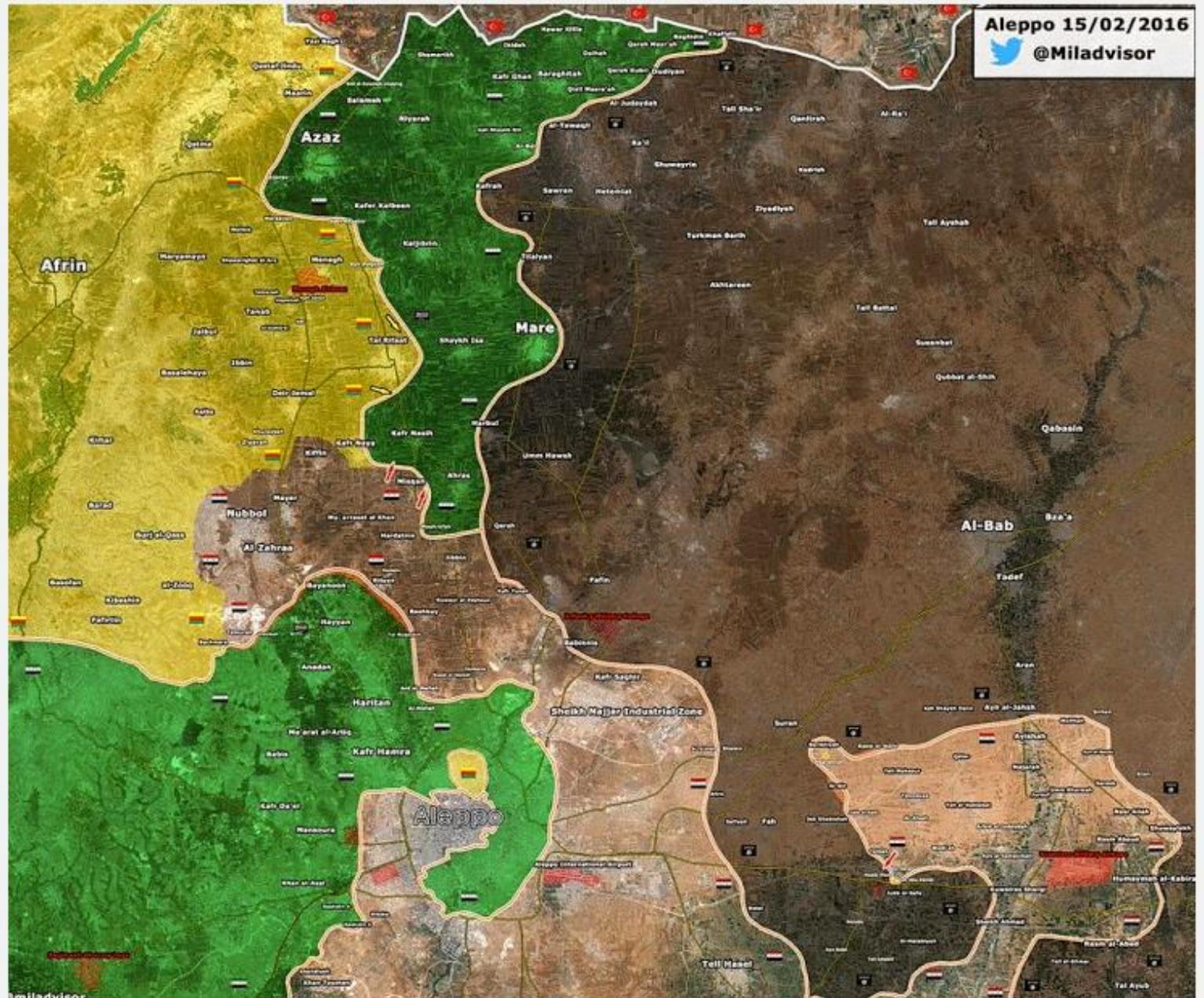
Source: Vox World,
<http://www.vox.com/2016/2/16/11020140/russia-syria-bombing-maps>



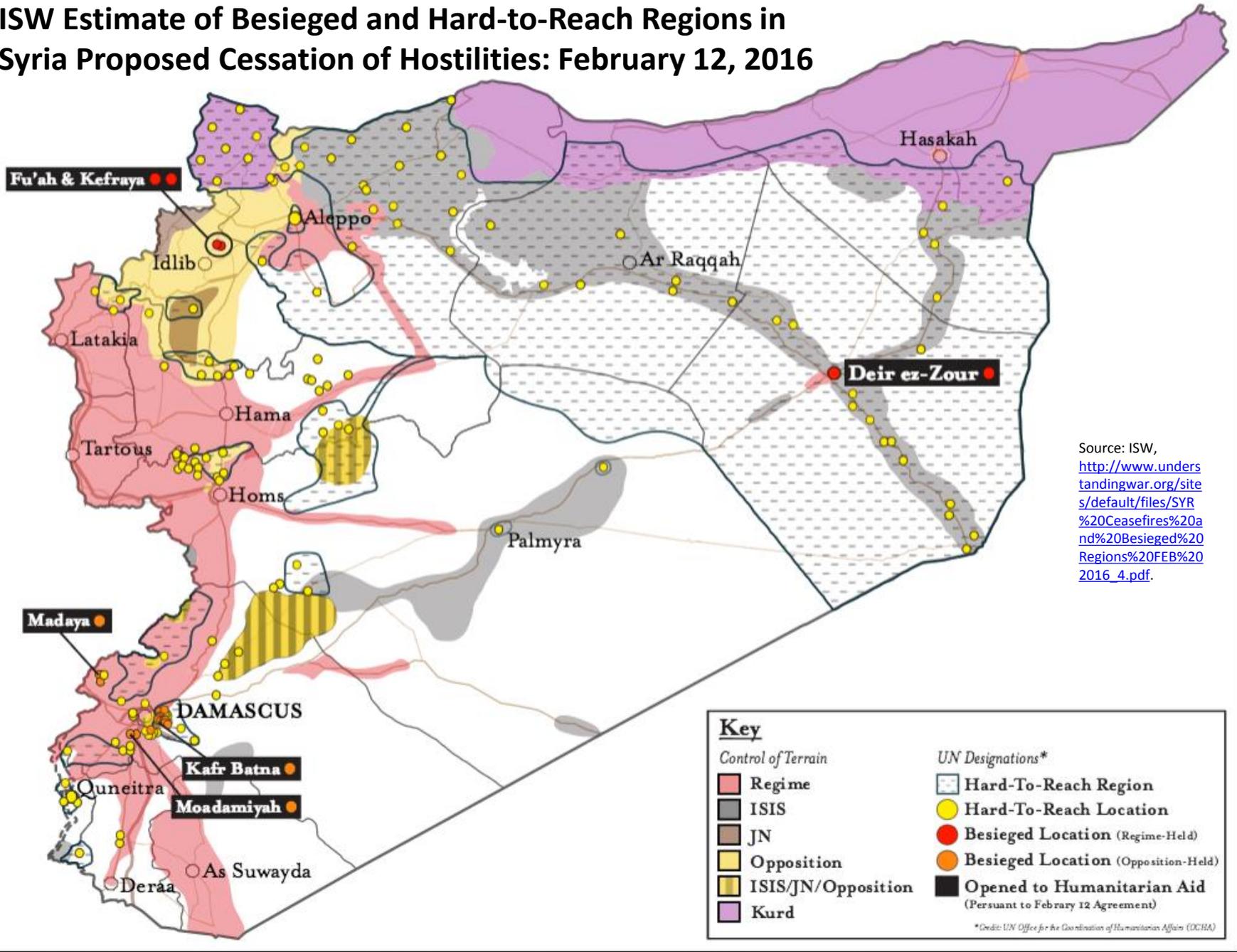
**Miladvisor,
Mahmoud
Ayad
Estimate of
Situation
Around
Aleppo
February
15, 2016**

The rebels (in green) are clearly losing ground to the government (in tan). ISIS (in black) is also losing territory, while the Kurds (in yellow) are taking advantage of real weakness to seize some of their nearby territory:

Source: Vox World,
<http://www.vox.com/2016/2/16/11020140/russia-syria-bombing-maps>

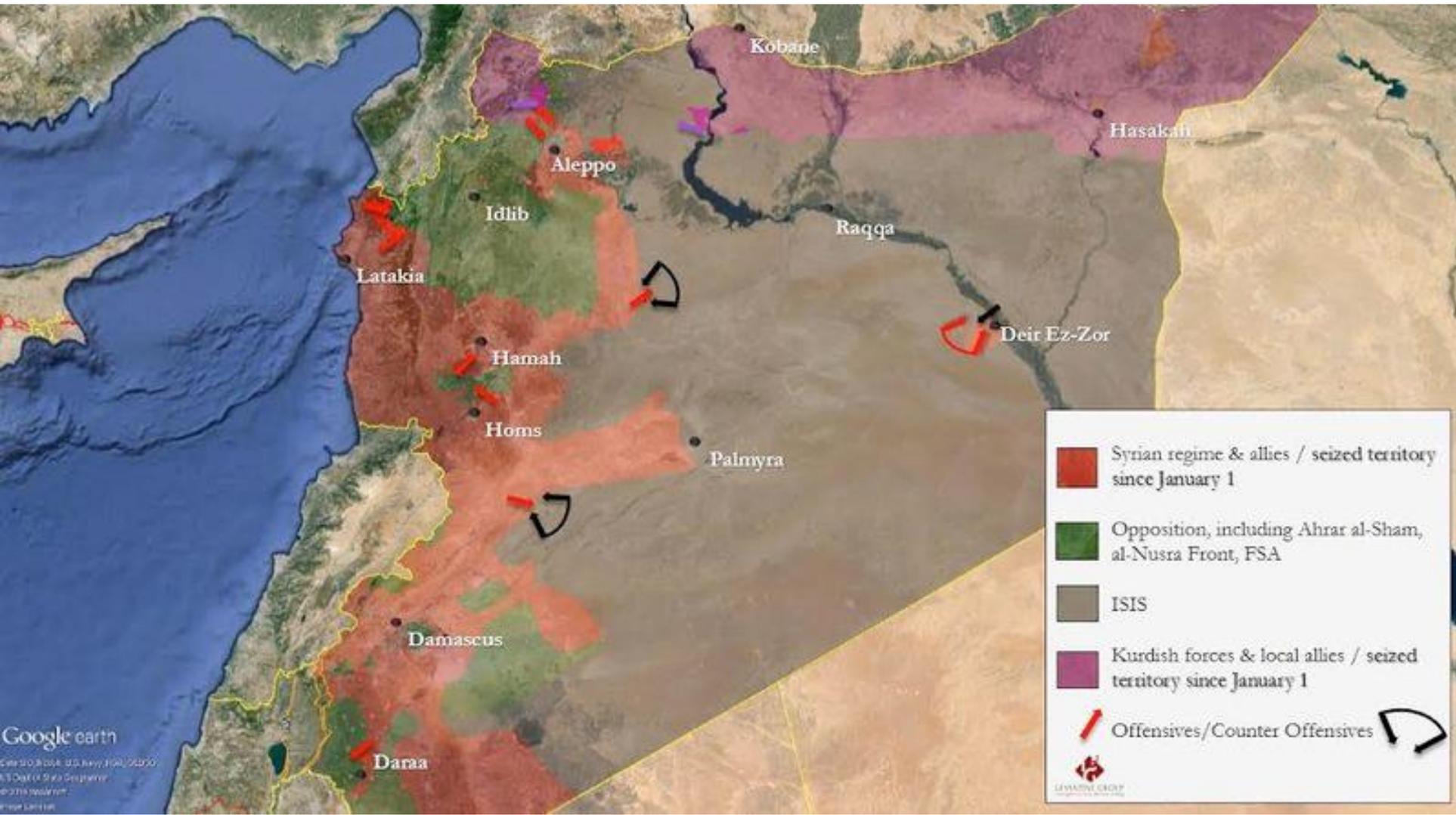


ISW Estimate of Besieged and Hard-to-Reach Regions in Syria Proposed Cessation of Hostilities: February 12, 2016



Source: ISW, http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/SYR%20Ceasefires%20and%20Besieged%20Regions%20FEB%202016_4.pdf.

Horowitz and the Levantine Group Estimate of Assad Regime Gains and Offensives Hostilities: February 15, 2016, 2016



Source: Vox World, [Zack Beauchamp](http://www.vox.com/2016/2/16/11020140/russia-syria-bombing-maps), <http://www.vox.com/2016/2/16/11020140/russia-syria-bombing-maps>

Air Strikes and the Growing Russian Role in Syria

The Russian Build Up: 10/2015 - I

- Expanding Russian port facilities in naval base at Tartus and expanding an airfield south of Latakia into an air base.
- New construction at the Assad International Airport in Latakia, and soon after, satellite imagery confirmed the presence of Russian T-90 tanks, artillery and large transport aircraft at the airfield.
- Deployed 4 Su-30SM fighters, 12 Su-24M2 strike fighters, 6 Su-34 modern strike fighters, 12 Su-25 close support fighters, and Pchela-1T UAVs.
- Deployed 14 helicopters — Mi-24 Hind gunships and Mi-17 Hip transport helicopters
- Start air strikes on 30.9.15.
- Providing R-166-0.5 (ultra) high-frequency signals (HF/VHF) vehicles with jam-resistant voice and data communications which have been seen driving through Syria
- An unknown number of new artillery weapons, reportedly 152mm systems.
- Deploying six or more T-90 main battle tanks, 35 or more new BTR-82A/B wheeled AFVs with 30mm cannon turrets , and an unknown number of Russian Humvee equivalent
- Deploying prefabricated housing for up to 2,000.
- Deploying at least two unit sets of SA-22 land-based air defense systems.
- Possibly deploying 200 marines and housing for as many as 1,500 personnel at the airfield near the Assad family's ancestral home.

The Russian Build Up: 10/2015 - II

Russian sea and air assets move into Syria

The Russian Defense Ministry last month announced the deployment of ships from its Black Sea Fleet to the eastern Mediterranean Sea to carry out military drills. Included were:

1 Cruiser (Moskva)



1 Destroyer (Smetlivy)



2 Frigates (Pytlivy and Ladny)



Russia has deployed a variety of military aircraft to Bassel al-Assad International Airport in Latakia, including:

4 Su-34 Fullback fighter-bombers



12 Su-24 Fencer attack aircraft



12 Su-25 Frogfoot close-air-support aircraft



Other aircraft at the airport in Latakia:

4 Su-30 Flanker multi-role fighters



12+ Mi-24 Hind attack helicopters

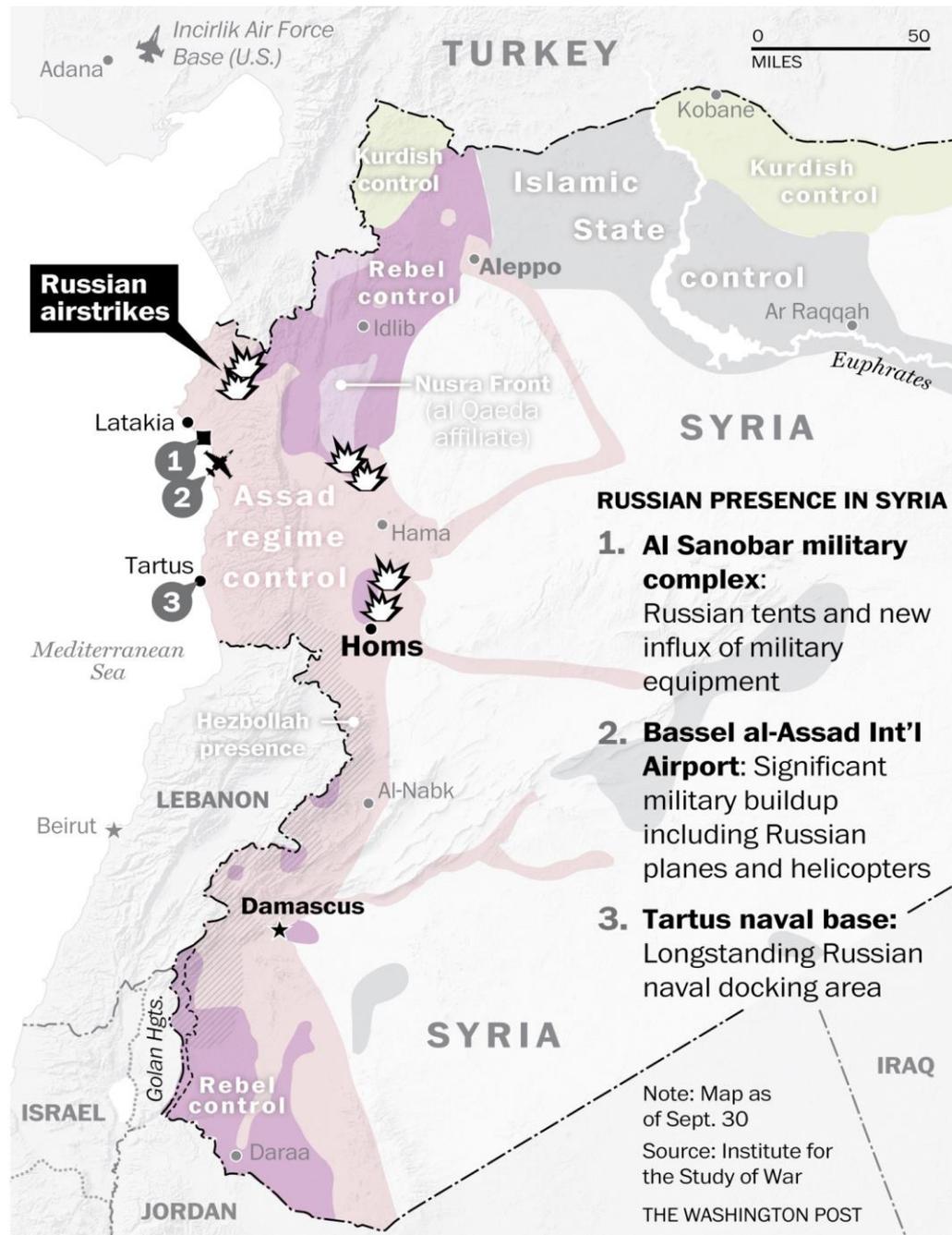


Source: Washington Post, October 4, 2014, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/russias-military-is-unlikely-to-turn-the-tide-in-syrias-war/2015/10/03/1b9fff04-686a-11e5-bdb6-6861f4521205_story.html

Sources: Institute for the Study of War; Pentagon

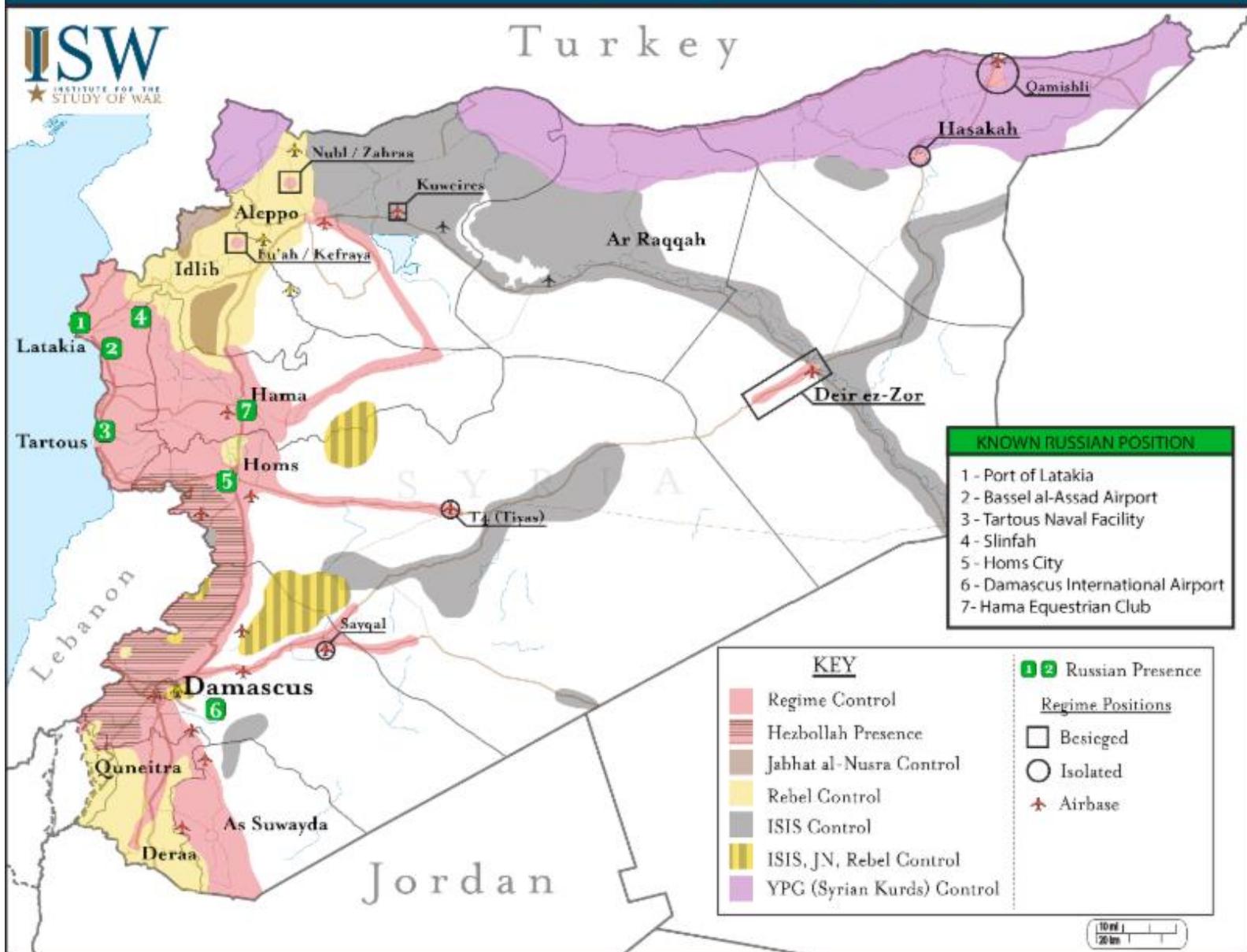
THE WASHINGTON POST

Russian Facilities in Syria: 9/2015



Source: Ishaan Tharoor, "Why Russia's Syria war is bad news for the U.S. (and why it isn't)", <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2015/09/30/why-russias-syria-war-is-bad-news-for-the-u-s-and-why-it-isnt/>

Russian Posture in Syria: September 27, 2015

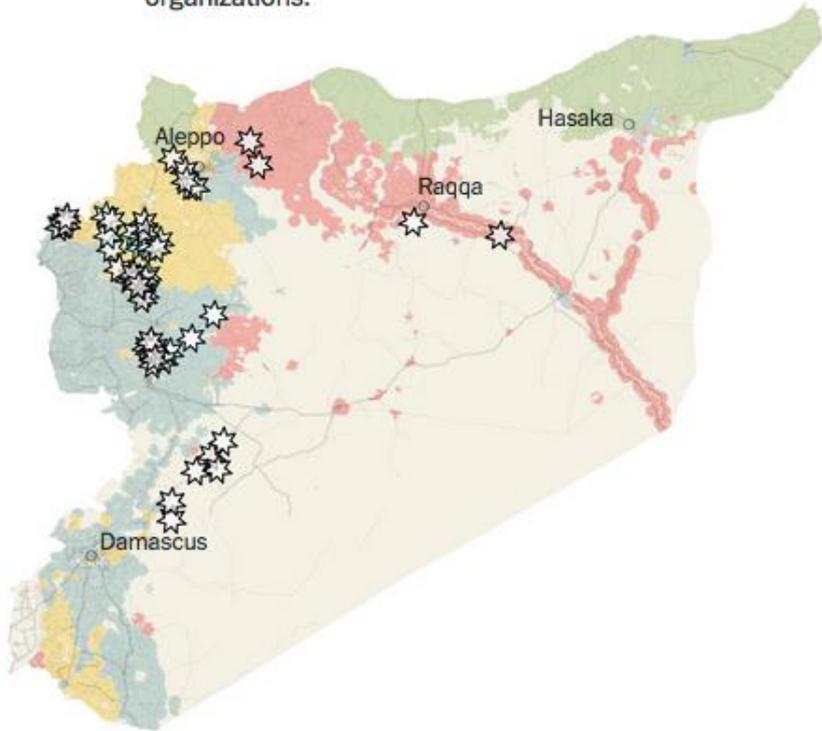


Comparative Russian and U.S. Air Strikes in Syria: 9/30/15 to 10/4/15

Government Rebels ISIS Kurds

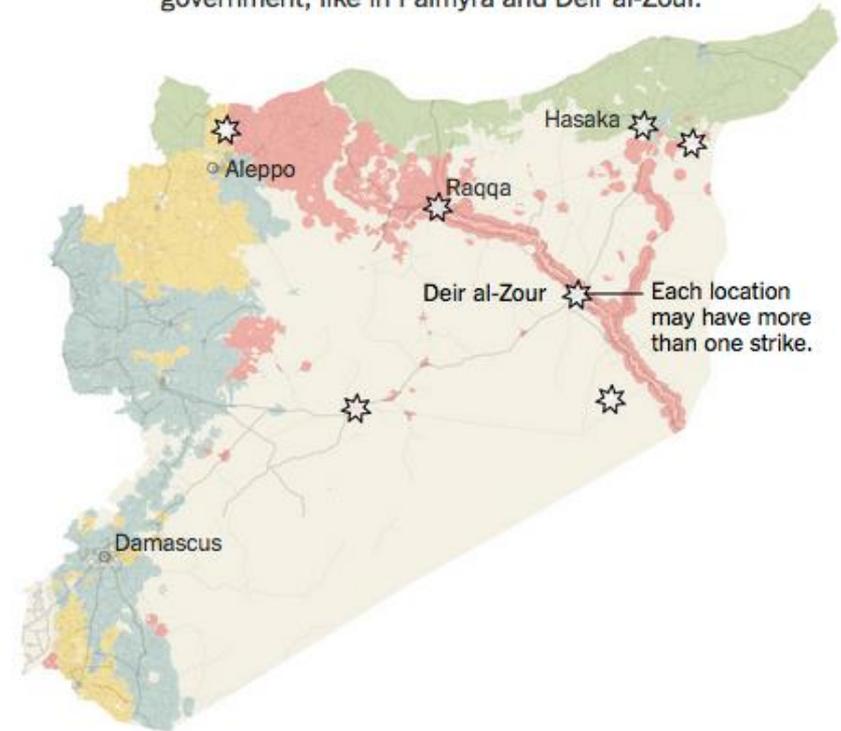
Russian airstrikes, Sept. 30 to Oct. 4

Russia has mostly attacked rebels fighting the government, not ISIS. Targets include some American-backed rebel groups and groups which the United States considers terrorist organizations.



U.S. airstrikes, Sept. 25 to Oct. 4

The United States has focused on ISIS and on supporting Kurdish forces. But Americans have also hit some targets that could benefit the Syrian government, like in Palmyra and Deir al-Zour.



Source: New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/09/29/world/middleeast/10000003948336.app.html?_r=0.

Comparative Russian and U.S. Air Strikes in Syria: 9/30/15 to 10/16/15

Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

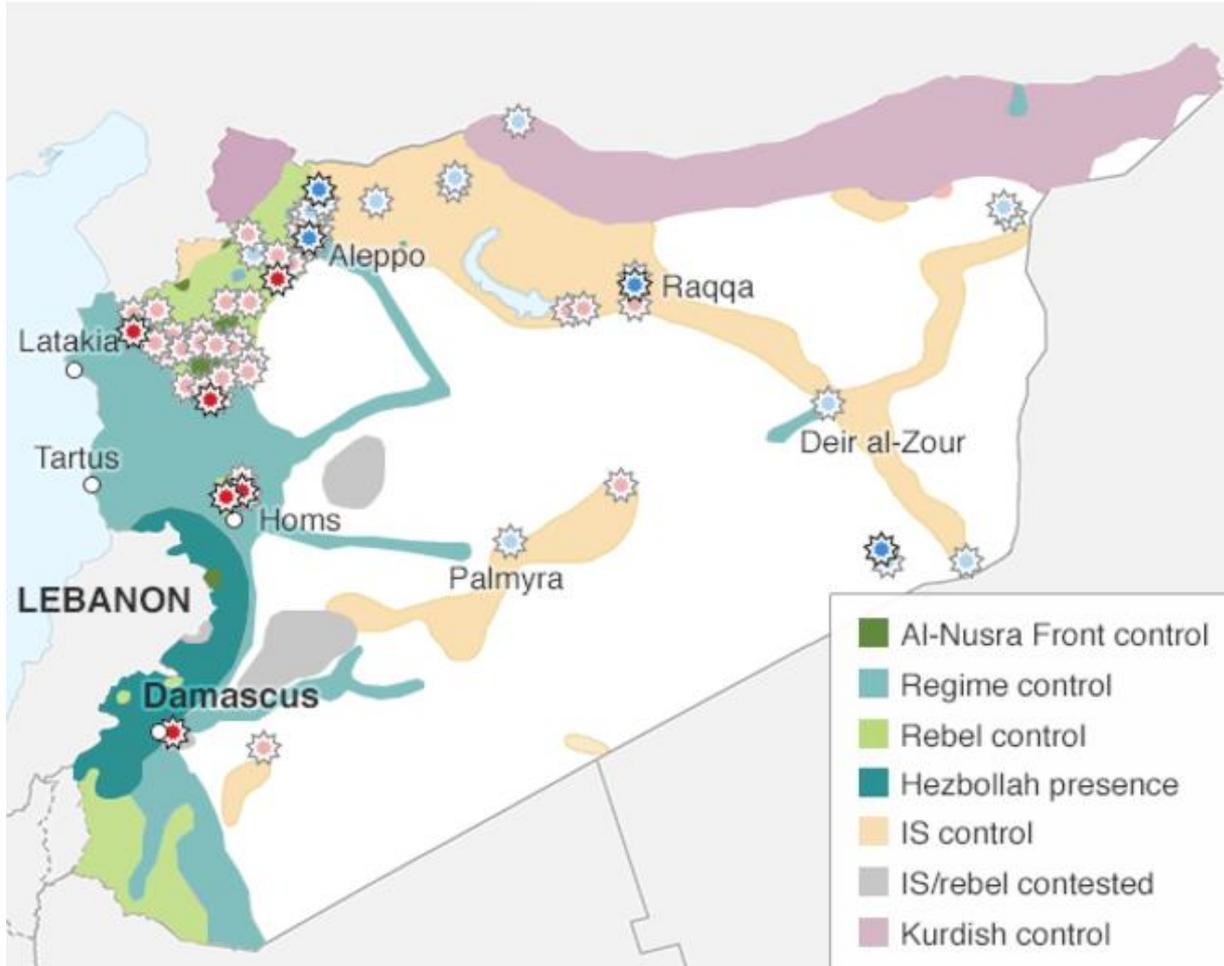
★ 17 – 18 Oct

★ 30 Sep – 16 Oct

Russian air and cruise missile strikes

★ 17 – 18 Oct

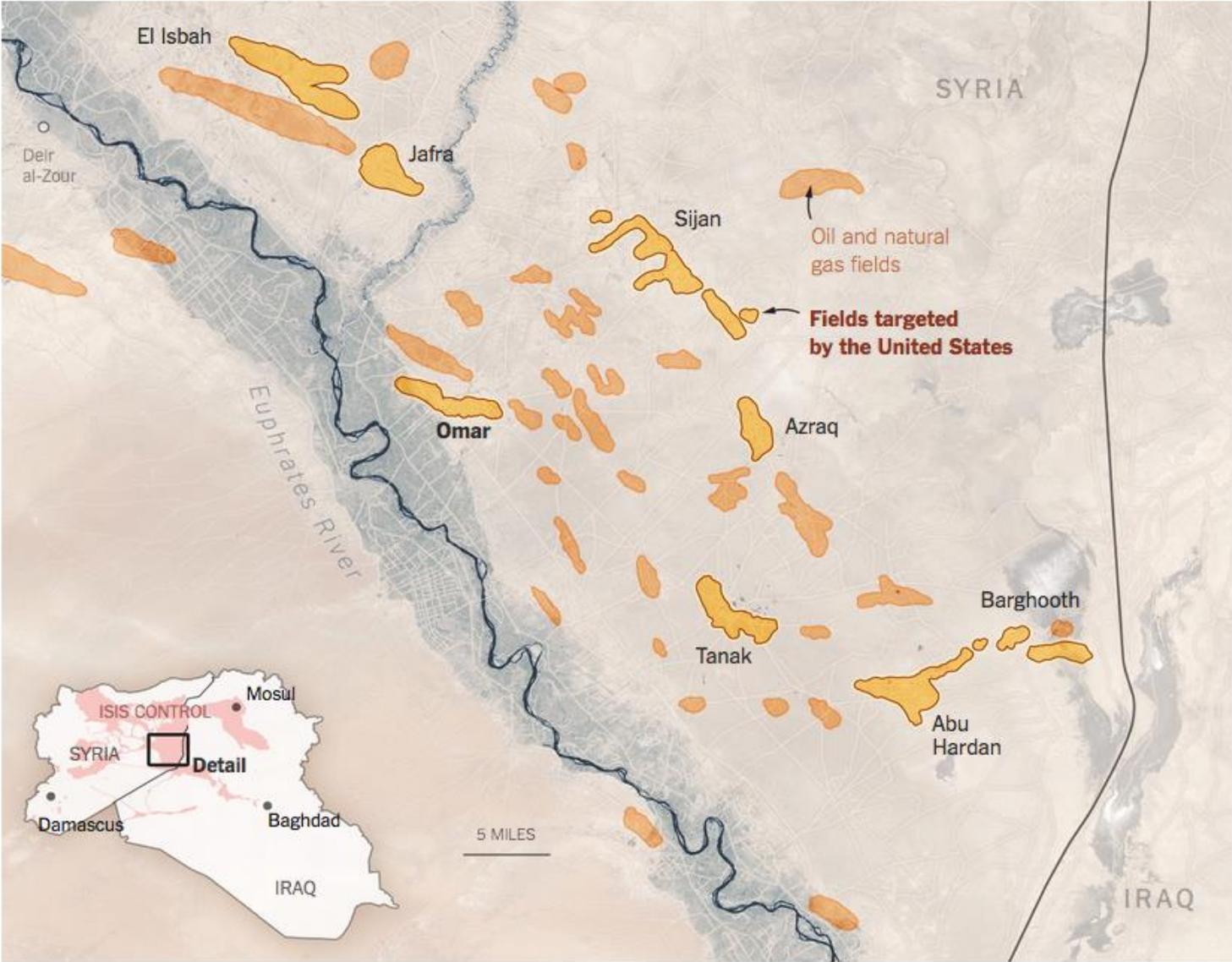
★ 30 Sep – 16 Oct



Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military. Locations may have multiple strikes



Air Strikes on ISIS Oil Fields: 12.11.15



Russian Cruise Missile Strikes in Syria: 7/10/15



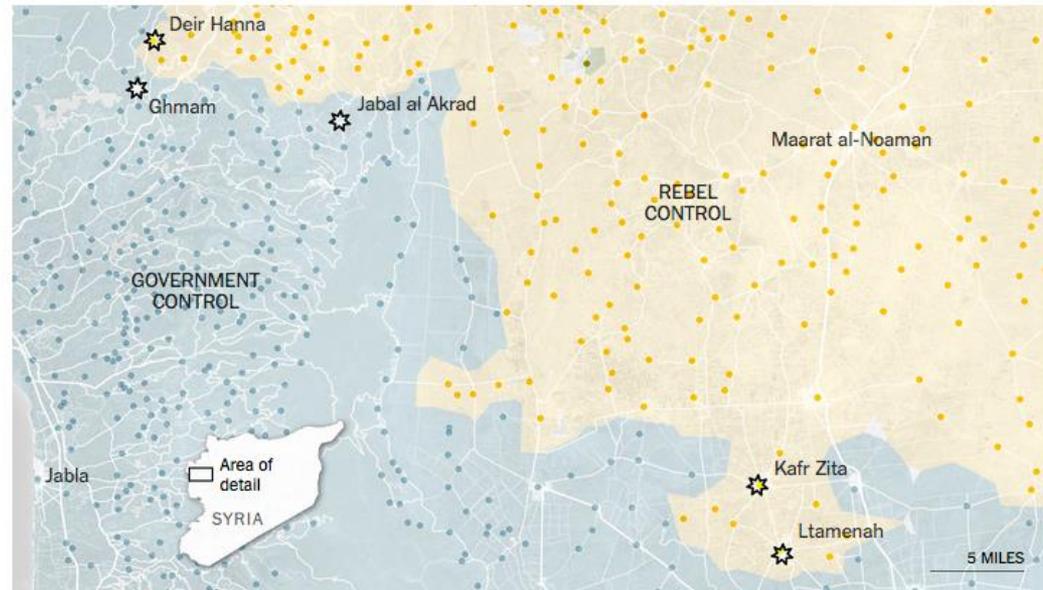
Source: Russian Defence Ministry, ISW



Russian Air Attacks in Syria - II

NYT Map
2/10/2015

✳ Russian airstrikes on Sept. 30 Control: ● Government ● Rebel ● ISIS



Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/09/29/world/middleeast/100000003948336.app.html?_r=0

By The New York Times | Source: The Carter Center (areas of control)

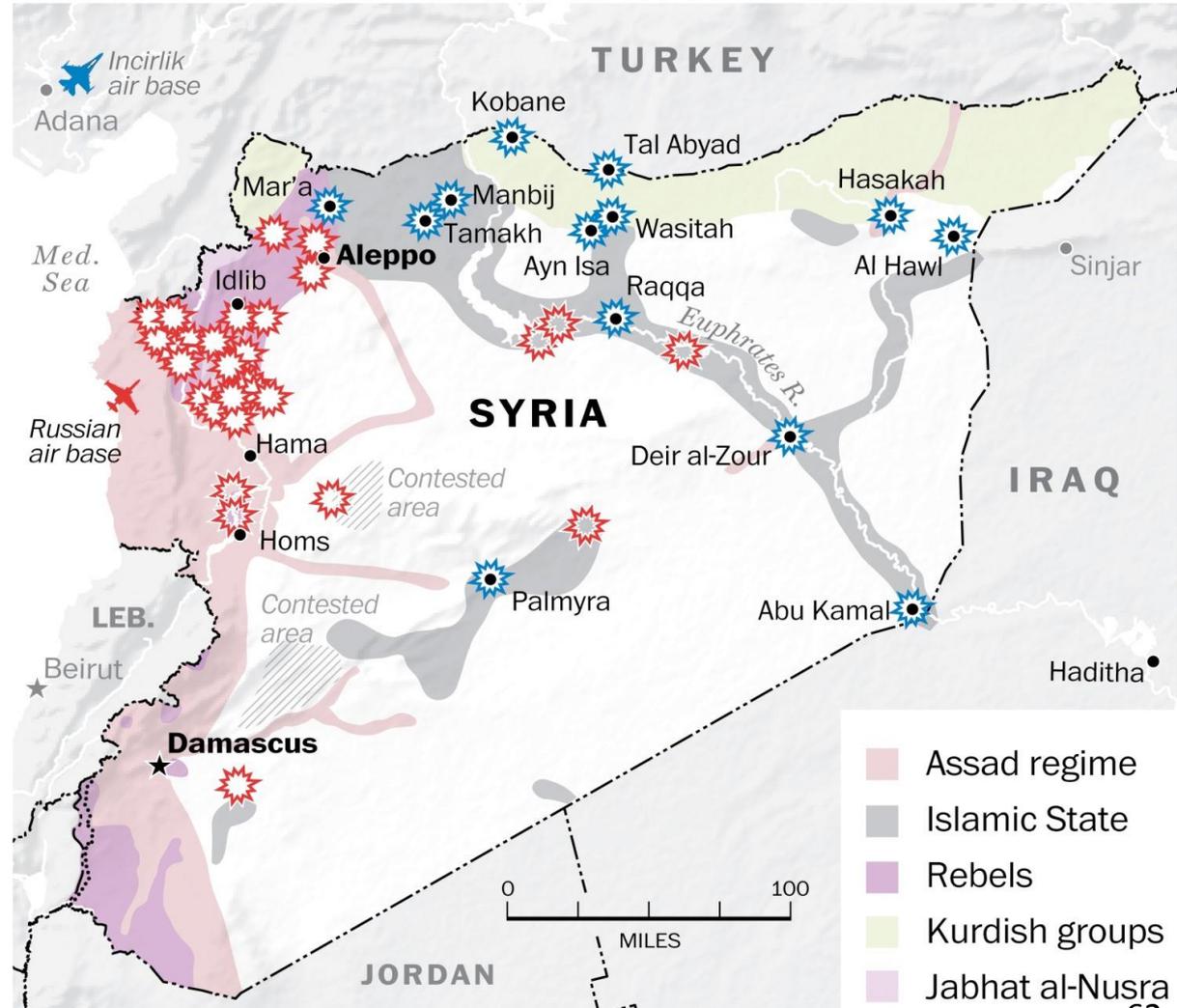
Russian and Coalition airstrike locations in Syria

September 30–October 12, 2015

Airstrikes:  Russian  Coalition

Note: Only high-confidence airstrikes shown. Most airstrike locations have been hit multiple times. Coalition aircraft also conducted numerous airstrikes in Iraq.

High Confidence Locations of Russian and Coalition Air Strikes



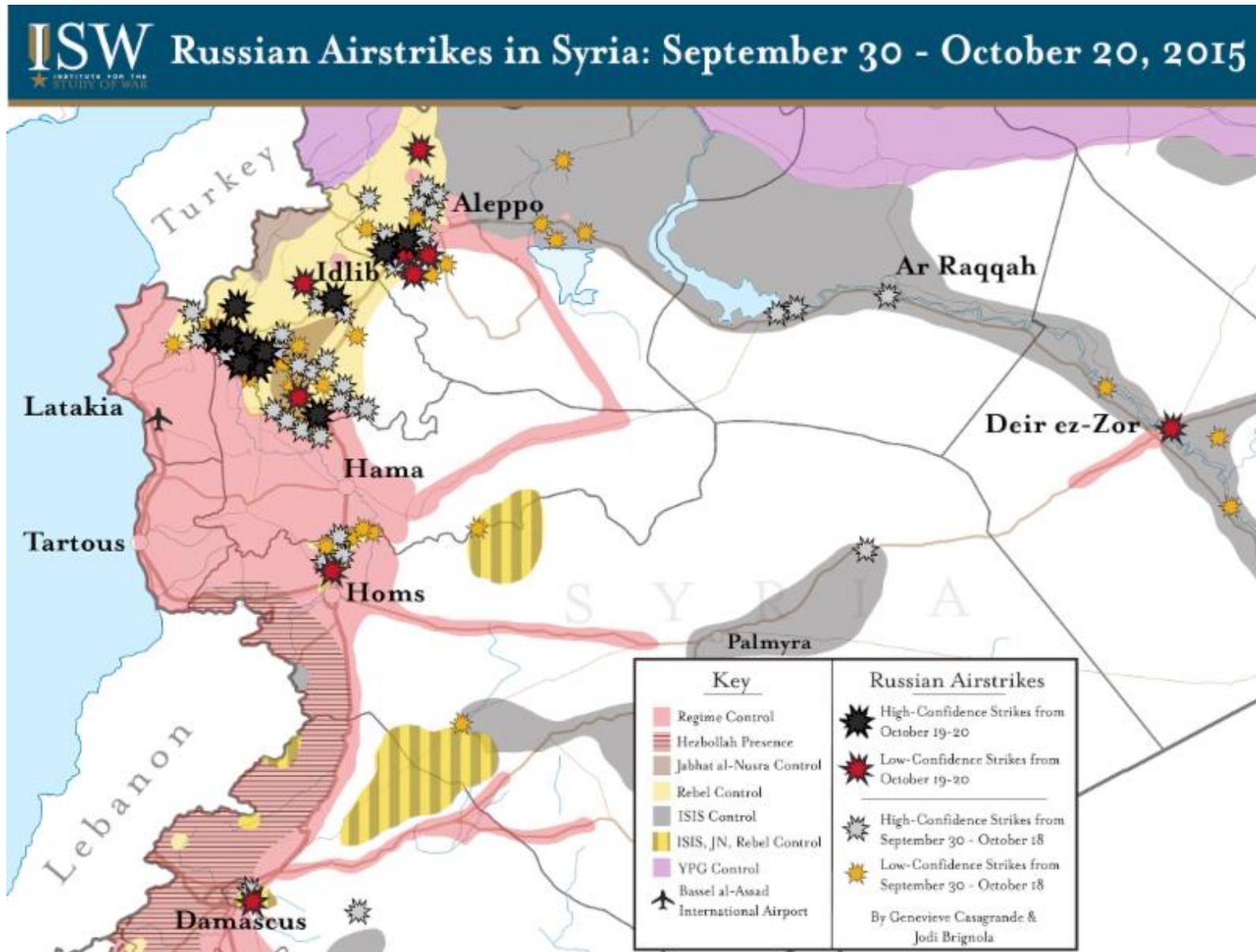
Source: Washington Post, Mapped: Russian vs. U.S. airstrikes in Syria, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2015/10/13/mapped-russian-vs-u-s-airstrikes-in-syria/>

Source: Institute for the Study of War

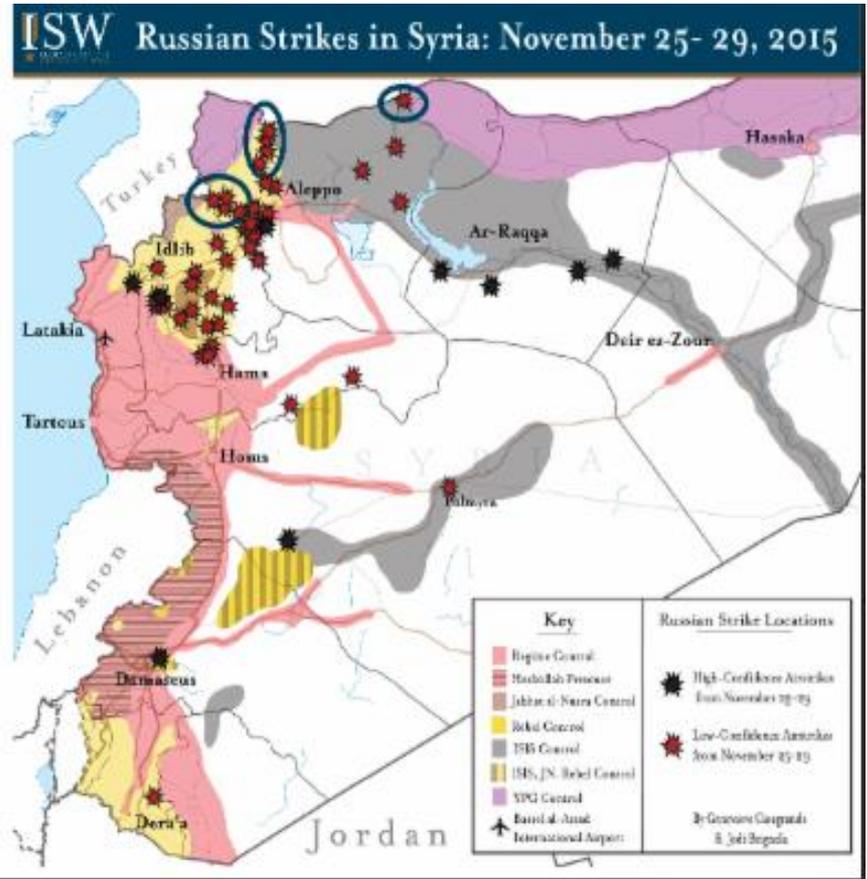
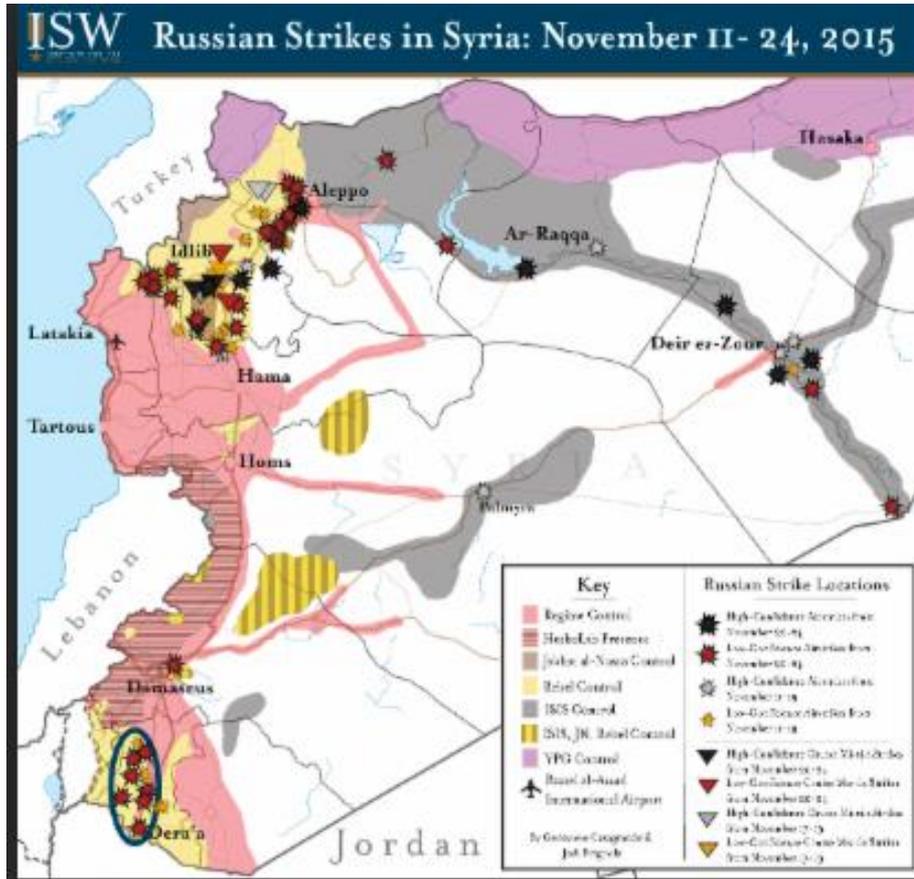
**Russia:
Pro-
Assad,
Not
Anti
ISIS**

**NYT Map
1/10/2015**

Source:
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1508afcc7372b349>



Syria: Continued Russian Focus on other Rebel Forces: November 11-29, 2015



Source: ISW, <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=30f86d1605&view=pt&q=Map&qs=true&search=query&th=15163767>, 3.12.15

Air Campaign: New Patterns in Air Strikes 3-20 December

UK, Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

UK

☀ 3 - 20 Dec

Other coalition forces

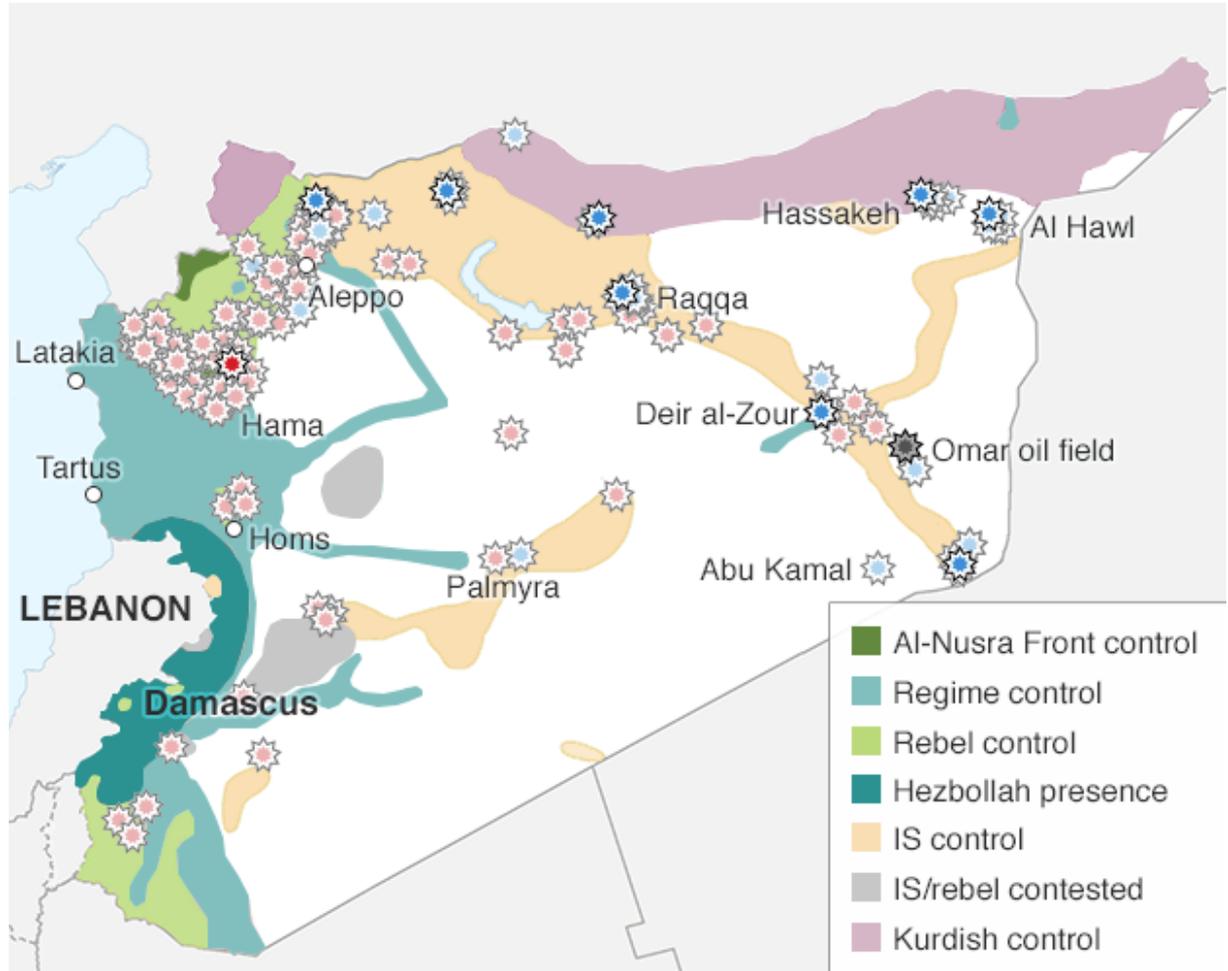
☀ 13 - 22 Dec

☀ 30 Sep - 12 Dec

Russian air & cruise missile strikes

☀ 13 - 21 Dec

☀ 30 Sep - 12 Dec



Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military, UK MoD, French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes



Source: BBC,
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35162523>

Russian Air Strikes in Syria:

9/11/15-25/11/15

Declared targets of Russia and the U.S.-led coalition's bombing campaigns in Syria.

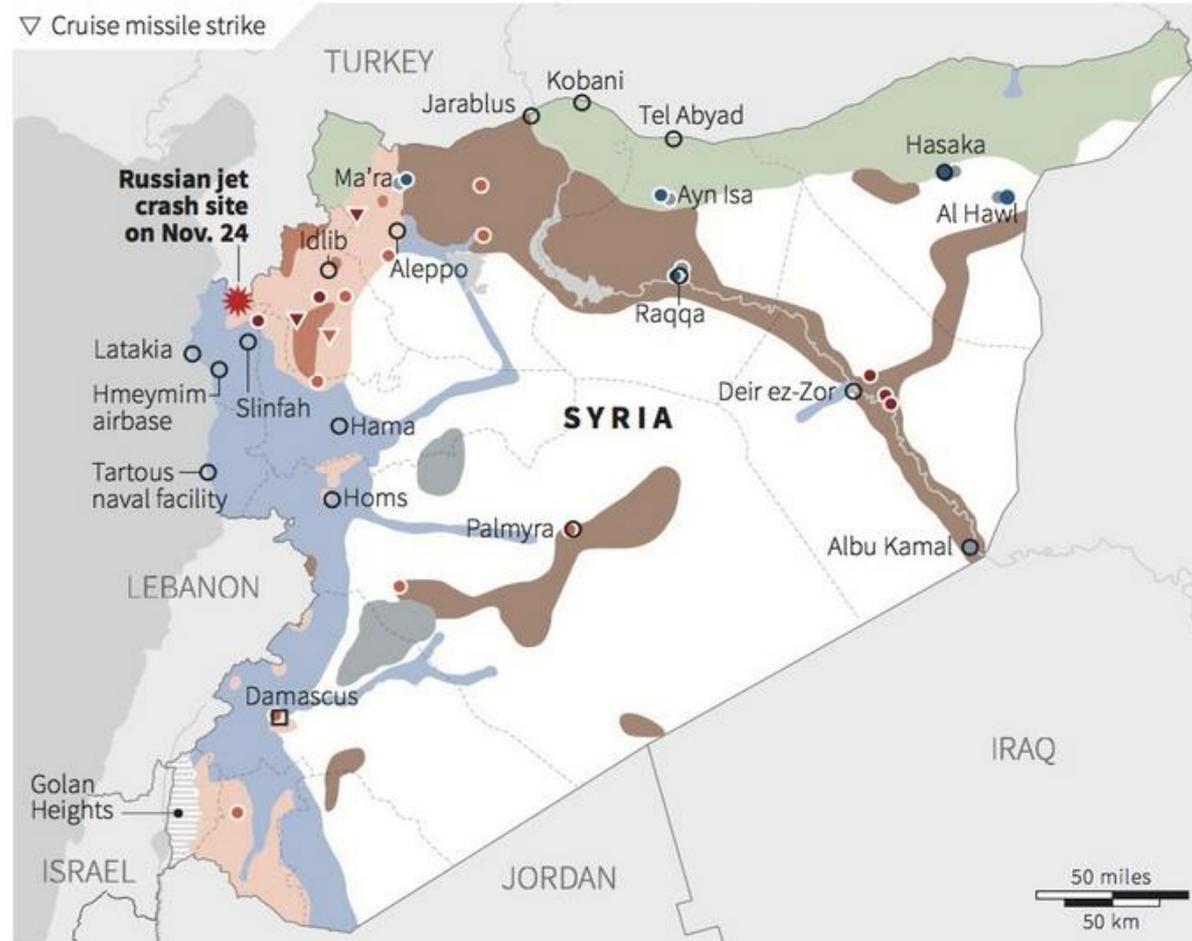
CONTROL AREAS



REPORTED AIR STRIKES



▽ Cruise missile strike



Note: U.S. air strikes are marked on the nearest identified town in the report. Russian air strike locations are from reports corroborated by official government statements reported through credible channels and documentation from rebel factions or activist networks. Markers does not represent strike frequency.

Sources: Institute for the Study of War; U.S. Central Command.

Source: Business Insider, <http://www.businessinsider.com/russia-opening-second-military-airbase-in-syria-2015-12>

Comparative Russian and U.S. Coalition Air Strikes in Syria: 9/30/15 to 14/1/16

Russia has also uses Tu-22, Tu-95 and Tu-160 bombers and cruise missiles.

In early December, 2015, Russian Tu-160 Blackjack Bombers fly long range missions Around Europe to attack targets in Syria

UK, Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

UK

★ 12 Jan-18 Jan 2016

★ 3 Dec 2015-11 Jan 2016

Other coalition forces

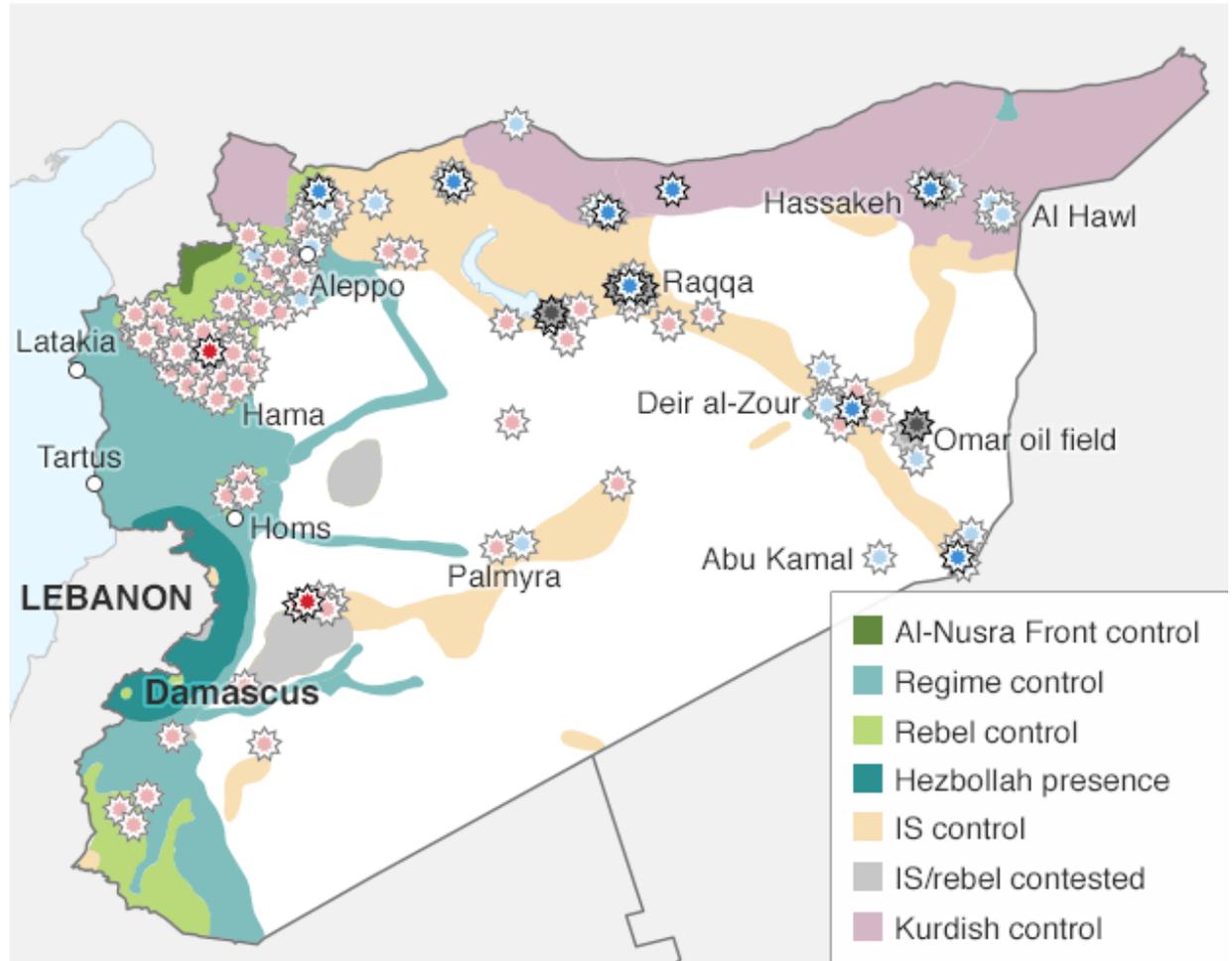
★ 13-20 Jan 2016

★ 30 Sep 2015-12 Jan 2016

Russian air & cruise missile strikes

★ 28 Dec 2015-14 Jan 2016

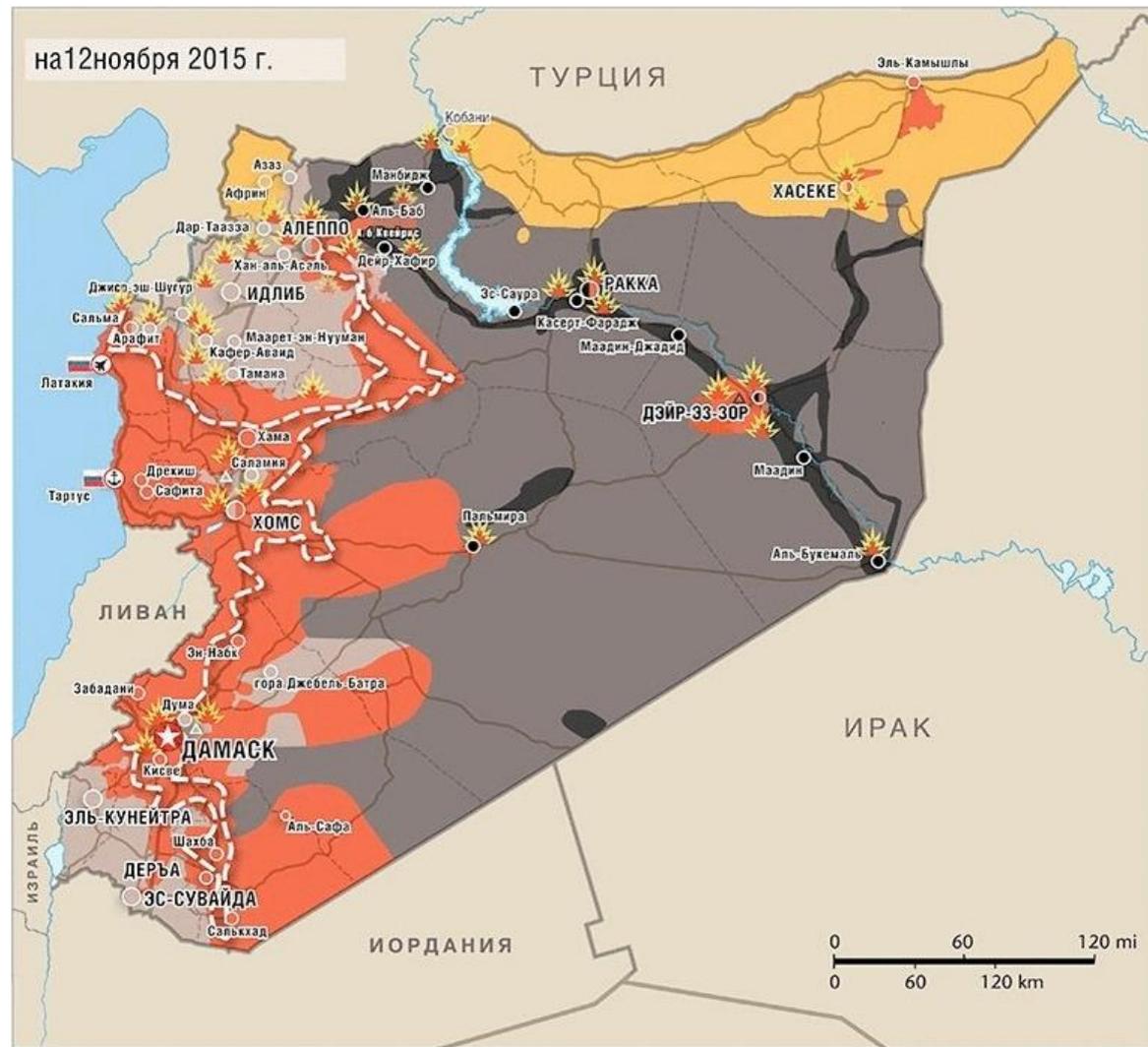
★ 30 Sep-27 Dec 2015



Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military, UK MoD, French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes



Russian Tsar'grad TV Estimate of Military Activity in Syria: 10/11/2015 to 30/10/15



Source:
https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/8e/Russian_military_action_in_Syria_in_November_2015.gif

- Территории под контролем ИГИЛ
- Укрепрайоны ИГИЛ
- Джебхат ан-Нусра и др. террористические группировки
- Правительственные войска и ополчение
- Линия соприкосновения сил по состоянию на 30 сентября
- ✈ Место базирования группировки ВКС РФ
- ⚓ Место базирования группировки ВМФ РФ
- Окруженные анклавы

Expanding Russian Air Action in Mid to late November 2015 – Wikipedia Estimate

On 17 November 2015, in the wake of the [Russian jet crash](#) over Sinai and the [Paris attacks](#), according to the Russian defence minister's public report to the president of Russia Vladimir Putin, Russia employed the Russia-based [Tu-160](#), [Tu-95](#)MSM, and [Tu-22M3](#) long range [strategic bombers](#) firing [air-launched cruise missiles](#) to hit what he claimed were the IS targets in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor as well as targets in the provinces of Aleppo and Idlib.^{[144][145]}

The Russian minister of defence said that, pursuant to Putin's orders, the Russian aviation grouping that at the time comprised more than 50 aircraft was intensifying their campaign.^[146] Besides, Putin said he had issued orders for the [Moskva cruiser](#) that had been in eastern Mediterranean since the start of the Russian operations to "work as with an ally",^{[142][144][147]} with the French naval group led by flagship [Charles De Gaulle](#) that had been on its way to eastern Mediterranean since early November.^[148]

The following day, according to the Russian Defence ministry, strikes by long-range bombers firing cruise missiles in the same areas in Syria continued.^{[149][150]} The mass cruise missile strikes carried out against ISIS in Deir Ezzor province on 20 November resulted in the death of more than 600 militants according to the ministry.^[151]

A Russian [Sukhoi Su-24](#) strike aircraft was [shot down](#) by a Turkish Air Force F-16 on 24 November 2015.^{[152][153]} According to Turkey's claims presented to the UN Security council, two planes, whose nationalities were unknown to them at the time, violated Turkish airspace over the [Yayladağı](#) province up to 1.36 miles for 17 seconds.^[154] The planes were given 10 warnings within the span of 5 minutes to change their course.

According to Turkey, the planes disregarded the warnings and were subsequently fired upon by Turkish F-16s patrolling the area. After the Turkish fire, one of the planes left Turkish airspace and the other crashed into Syrian territory.^[154] The Russian Ministry of Defense denied that any of their planes had violated Turkey's airspace, claiming they had been flying south of the [Yayladağı](#) province.^[155]

Russia also announced it would deploy additional air defense weapons in the area and accompany its bombers with fighter jets.^[156] The incident followed over month-long tensions over alleged repeated violations of Turkish airspace by Russian military jets —over nine times in October,^[157] one of which Russia admitted^[158]— and Turkish declaration from 17 October that it will "with no hesitation" shoot down any airplanes violating its airspace.^[159]

On 26 November 2015, deployment of [S-300](#) and [S-400](#) anti-aircraft systems was reported by Russia's official news media,^[154] to Latakia and on board the [Russian cruiser Moskva](#).^[160]

On 29 November 2015, Russian aircraft were reported to have struck targets in the Syrian Idlib province, including the town of [Ariha](#) that had been [captured](#) by the [Army of Conquest](#) 6 months prior, causing multiple casualties on the ground.^{[161][162]} Other targets hit included the [Turkistan Islamic Party](#)'s office in [Jisr al-Shughur](#) and a relief office of [Ahrar ash-Sham](#) group in the town of [Saraqib](#).^[163]

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_military_intervention_in_the_Syrian_Civil_War

Russian Strength in Syria in late November 2015 – Wikipedia Estimate

- 4,000 personnel^[43]
- Naval ships
 - 3 Buyan-M class corvettes^[44]
 - 1 Gepard-class frigate^[44]
 - 1 Vishnya-class intelligence ship
 - 1 Improved Kilo-class submarine^[45]
 - 1 Slava-class cruiser^[46]
- Strategic bombers
 - 14 Tu-22M3^[47]
 - 6 Tu-95MSM^[47]
 - 5 Tu-160^[47]
- Tactical bombers
 - 12 Su-24M2
 - 6 Su-34^[48]
- Attack bombers
 - 12 Su-25SM^[49]
- Fighter aircraft
 - 4 Su-30SM^[50]
- Reconnaissance aircraft
 - Il-20M1
- Attack helicopter
 - 12 Mi-24P ^[51]
- Utility helicopter
 - 4 Mi-8MTV-5
- Ground equipment 3 SA-22 SAM^[52]
Other anti-aircraft and anti-missile weapons,^[53] including S-400
- 3–4 dead (1–2 non-combat)^{[66][67]}
 - 1 Su-24M2 shot down^[68]
 - 1 Mi-8 destroyed[[]

Russian Strength in Syria in mid December 2015 – WINEPEstimate - I

- Russian Air Force has deployed over thirty sophisticated attack aircraft to launch strikes and support Syrian army ground offensives from Hmeimim, a west coast air base adjacent to Bassel al-Assad International Airport near Latakia.
- Key air-to-ground strike package consists of ten to twelve each of the Sukhoi Su-25SM and the Su-24M -- the former known for its close air support capacity and the latter for its precision bombing effects. These aircraft, while dated, are easier to repair, have proven reliable in air-to-ground combat, and fit the mission requirements for Syria.
- Four or so Su-30SMs add a significant air-to-air capability and bolster precision strikes. They have most likely been escorting bombers since Turkey shot down a Russian Su-24 on November 24.
- Moscow appears to be testing performance more modern Su-34 fighter bombers, reportedly six total in Syria. The Su-34 is eventual replacement for Su-24; brought online in Russia over the past two years, it is seeing combat for the first time in Syria. It possesses both an air-to-air capability with a range of over thirty miles and a precision bombing capability with up to six KAB-500 smart bombs, similar to the American Paveway GBU-12 laser-guided bomb.
- The Il-20 electronic warfare/surveillance plane is in country, tasked with intelligence collection. Russian drones are reportedly there for the same purpose, like the one shot down over Turkey in October. In addition to these fixed-wing aircraft, an estimated twenty or more Mi-24 attack helicopters and Mi-8 command-and-control/transport helicopters have been deployed.
- While it is difficult to determine total personnel numbers with precision, the British-based Royal United Services Institute assessed in November that between 1,200 and 1,350 Russian Air Force personnel are currently in Syria supporting air operations, including pilots, navigators, maintainers, air traffic controllers, airfield managers, weather monitors, and intelligence officers. Adding the naval and land units directly involved in the Syria campaign would triple this figure to approximately 3,500.
- According to widely cited figures released by IHS Jane's in October, the entire war effort -- including maritime, ground, and air activities -- will cost Russia approximately \$1 billion per year, excluding potential aircraft losses. Some estimates now triple that figure. Moreover, Moscow has deployed extra missile-defense assets since the Jane's report, including S-400 systems that require numerous additional vehicles and personnel.
- Compared to the Kremlin's overall 2015 defense budget, estimated at \$50 billion (3.1 trillion rubles) by the Moscow Times, the cost of the Syrian adventure does not seem extraordinary. Yet that budget is already under considerable pressure; it was originally set at 3.3 trillion rubles until a recession hit and the ruble collapsed. The cut came at a time when Moscow was forecasting pay raises, greater modernization efforts to meet its 2020 rearmament objectives, and larger "snap" training exercises as a deterrent message. The 2016 defense budget does not look any stronger.

Russian Strength in Syria in mid December 2015 – WINEP Estimate - II

- Several sources have reported that Moscow may deploy another fifty or more combat planes to Syria in the near future. Maintaining air operations for three dozen highly employed attack aircraft in an expeditionary environment is an extensive effort, and the burden will only increase as more aircraft arrive. According to a USA Today article citing U.S. Defense Department and Air Force officials, almost one-third of Russia's aircraft in Syria were grounded at any given time within weeks of commencing operations, whether due to local climate (which differs greatly from Russia's) or the lack of readily available parts. In comparison, USAF combat aircraft readiness rates hover above 80 percent on average.
- Recent activity at al-Shayrat Air Base, about twenty miles southeast of Homs, indicates that it is being populated by Russian equipment and fortified, and that its runway is being upgraded, possibly to support fixed-wing aircraft. Although some Russian forces are reportedly using Syrian bases at Hama and Tiyas for helicopter and ground support operations, having a second fixed-wing air base fully at their disposal would offer redundancy should Hmeimim encounter operational obstacles, and increase response time to targets of opportunity. Yet moving supplies from Tartus port and Latakia to al-Shayrat would mean passing closer to rebel elements and not far from territory controlled by the Islamic State, increasing the potential for interruptions.
- In terms of costs, adding a second base to increase combat runs could easily double the current price of Moscow's campaign. It could also mean increasing the number of Russian personnel to approximately six or seven thousand if Syrian or Iranian forces cannot adequately defend al-Shayrat and its supply route -- which is unlikely because they are already heavily engaged as the campaign's ground offensive component. Moreover, Russian personnel and aircraft will eventually require replacement, further bumping up the operational costs.
- As tensions continue to simmer between Russia and Turkey, the Kremlin is no doubt keenly aware that the naval route from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea to resupply Latakia and Tartus is a logistics chokepoint. The straits through which Russian ships transit are governed by the Montreux Convention of 1936, but there are differing interpretations regarding when and how Turkey could intervene to safeguard its national interests. Direct intervention would be quite provocative and dangerous, so Ankara would probably not attempt to stop Russian vessels. Yet delaying them could send a message, and hamper a steady sea resupply to Syria that involves dozens of commercial cargo and military landing ships every month. Such a delay would increase demand on the air bridge and other sea supply lanes.
- Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry announced that approximately two dozen long-range bombers traveled thousands of miles to strike Syrian targets in mid-November and again this month. The Tu-22M Backfire was the most prevalent, but other bombers were also involved, including the Tu-95 Bear and Tu-160 Blackjack, each employing a mix of guided and nonguided munitions as well as cruise missiles. Additionally, the firing of twenty-six Kalibr-class cruise missiles from the Caspian Sea in October certainly captured the attention of regional stakeholders. And earlier this month, a Russian Rostov-on-Don-class submarine launched Kalibr missiles from the Mediterranean for the first time.
- These long-range strikes indicate that Russia has the ability to periodically alleviate the burden on its Syria-based aircraft and munitions depot if necessary. Munitions will be a determining expenditure, costing approximately \$750,000 a day for Syria-based strikes alone. Yet the long-range option comes with its own costs: each 3M14E ship-launched cruise missile runs from \$1.2 to \$1.5 million, which likely makes it an occasional option only. Should Russia have to conduct extensive long-range attacks, the operational expense would increase exponentially.

Second Russian Air Base?

- Improve main runway and 3 Km back up runway?
- 45 aircraft shelters?
- 12 more Sukhoi Su-30SM or Su-27SM3
- Rise to 100-120 combat aircraft in country?
- S-21 and S-400 SAM defenses?
- More Mi-24 Hind? KA-52 and Mi-28 helicopters?
- 24 tube TOS-1 MRL on ground with thermobaric warhead?



Range and Impact of Russian S-400 SAM in Syria

Russia's introduction of the S-400 Trium p h weapons system in Syria near Latakia, confirmed by CJTF-OIR officials on December 2, poses additional risk to U.S. and coalition forces in the airspace over the battlefield in Syria.

The S-400 is a mobile surface-to-air defense missile system with long-range strike capability of about 400 kilometers. See Figure 4 for key cities and airspace positions in full range of the missiles.

In December, CJTF

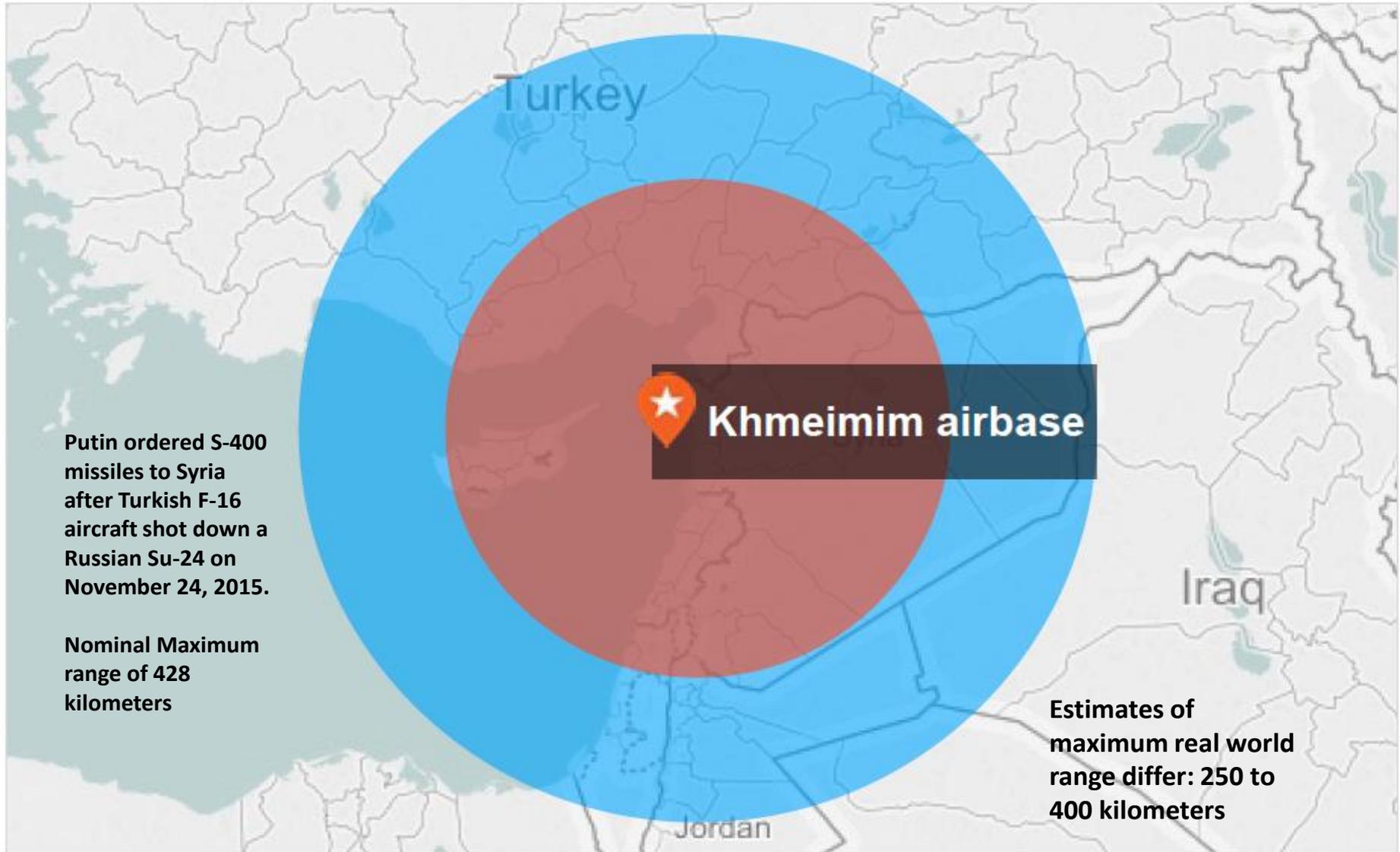
OIR reported that Russia's SA- 17 air-defense radar system is located in Aleppo, but its location was not influencing coalition airstrikes.

CJTF-OIR officials repeatedly denied that the deployment of these advanced systems had any effect on the U.S. air mission.

DoD reported that, over a 27-day span during December 5–31, the coalition conducted 172 airstrikes in Syria (6.37 per day). The month prior, during November 7–27, it conducted 185 strikes (8.01 per day).



Maximum S-400 Surface-to-Air Missile Coverage



Source: adapted from *Military Times*, <http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/pentagon/2015/11/30/new-russian-surface-air-missiles-syria-dod-confirms/76567120/>; <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/25/middleeast/syria-turkey-russia-warplane-shot-down/>

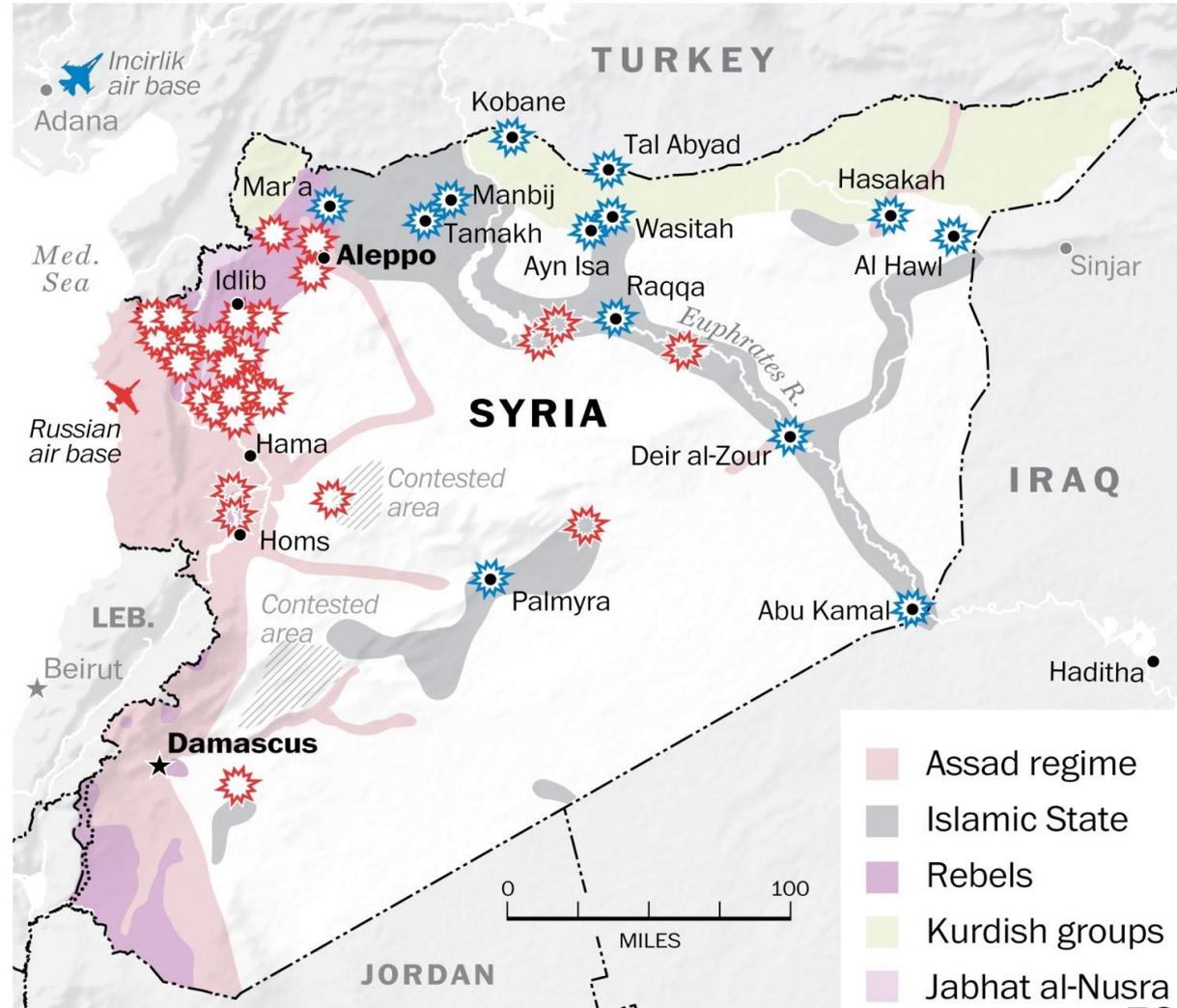
Russian and Coalition airstrike locations in Syria

September 30–October 12, 2015

Airstrikes:  Russian  Coalition

Note: Only high-confidence airstrikes shown. Most airstrike locations have been hit multiple times. Coalition aircraft also conducted numerous airstrikes in Iraq.

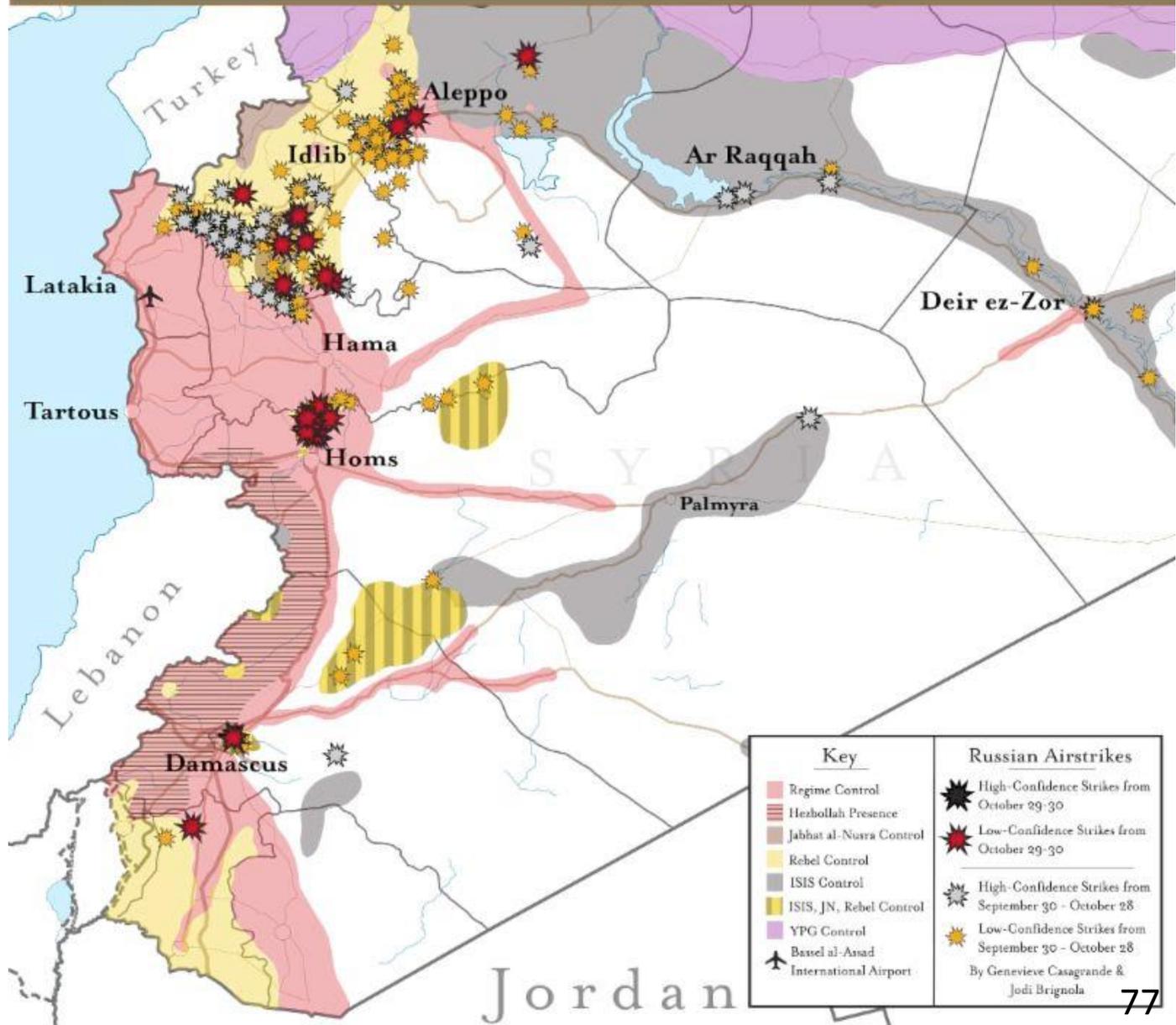
High Confidence Locations of Russian and Coalition Air Strikes



Source: Washington Post, Mapped: Russian vs. U.S. airstrikes in Syria, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2015/10/13/mapped-russian-vs-u-s-airstrikes-in-syria/>

Source: Institute for the Study of War

Syria: Russian airstrikes focus on other Rebel Forces: September 30-October 30, 2015



Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=30f86d1605&view=pt&q=map&qs=true&search=query&th=150c1d4650dc1ce8&siml=150c1d4650dc1ce8;>
 1.11.2015

Air Campaign: New Patterns in Air Strikes 30 September- 15 November

Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

☀ 9 – 16 Nov

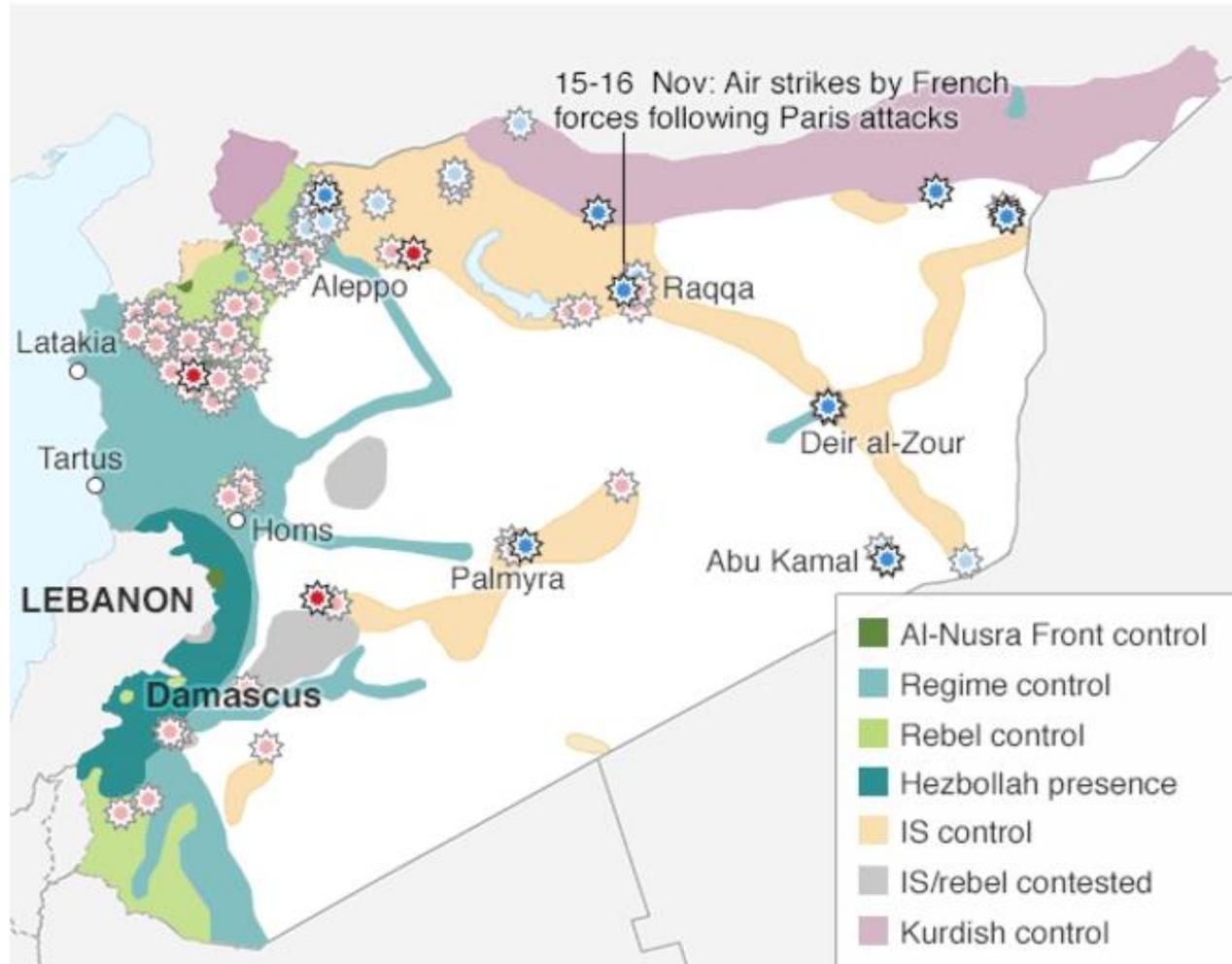
☀ 30 Sept – 8 Nov

Russian air and cruise missile strikes

☀ 9 – 15 Nov

☀ 30 Sept – 8 Nov

Source:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>



Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military (excl French strikes 15-16 Nov)
French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes



Air Campaign: New Patterns in Air Strikes

September 30 to December 2

Russia has also uses Tu-22, Tu-95 and Tu-160 bombers and cruise missiles.

In early December, 2015, Russian Tu-160 Blackjack Bombers fly long range missions Around Europe to attack targets in Syria

UK, Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

UK

☀ 3 - 8 Dec

Other coalition forces

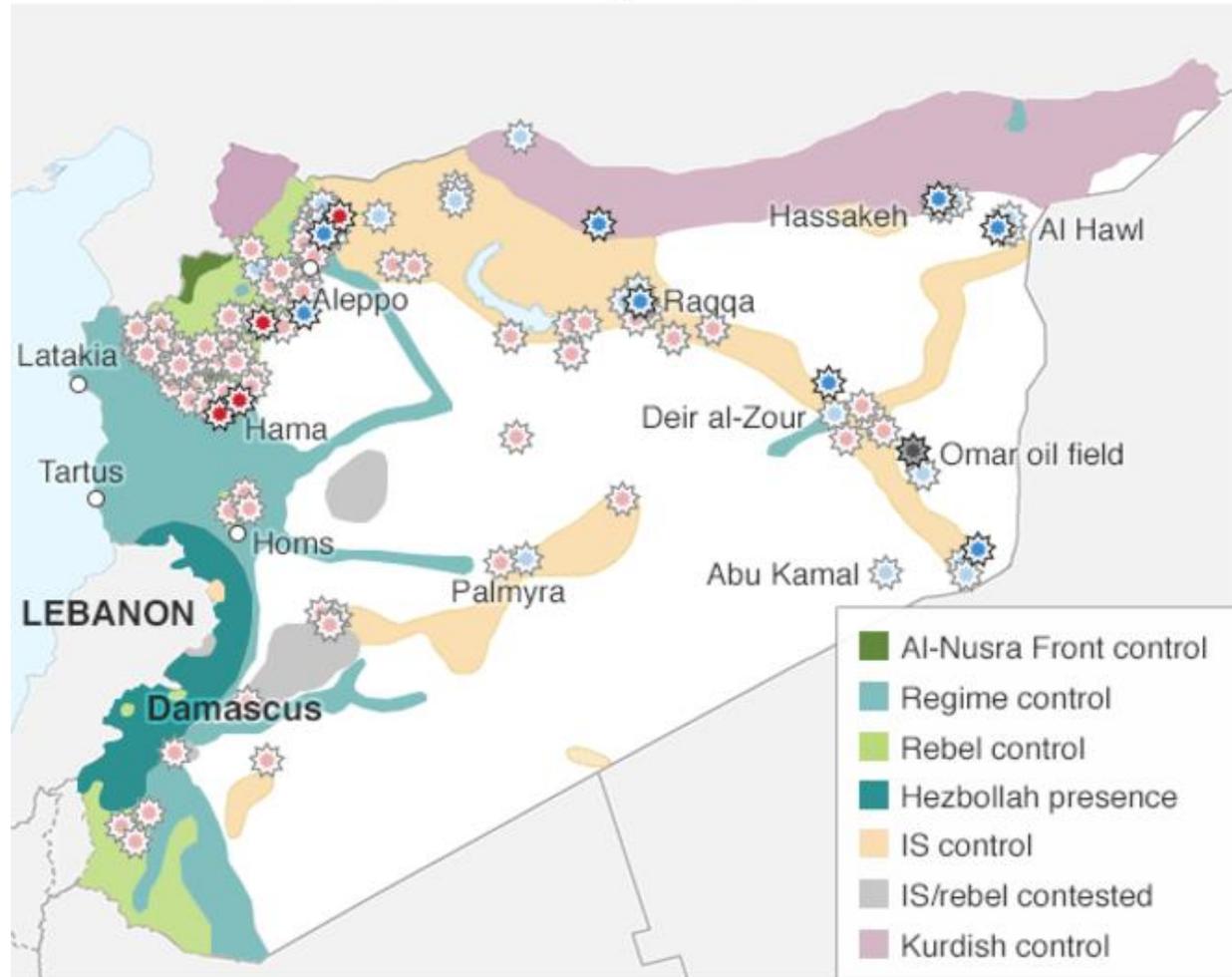
☀ 3 - 7 Dec

☀ 30 Sep - 2 Dec

Russian air & cruise missile strikes

☀ 3 - 7 Dec

☀ 30 Sep - 2 Dec



Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military, UK MoD, French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes

Air Campaign: New Patterns in Air Strikes December 3 to February 23rd

UK, Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

UK

☀ 3 Feb-23 Feb 2016

☀ 3 Dec 2015-2 Feb 2016

Other coalition forces

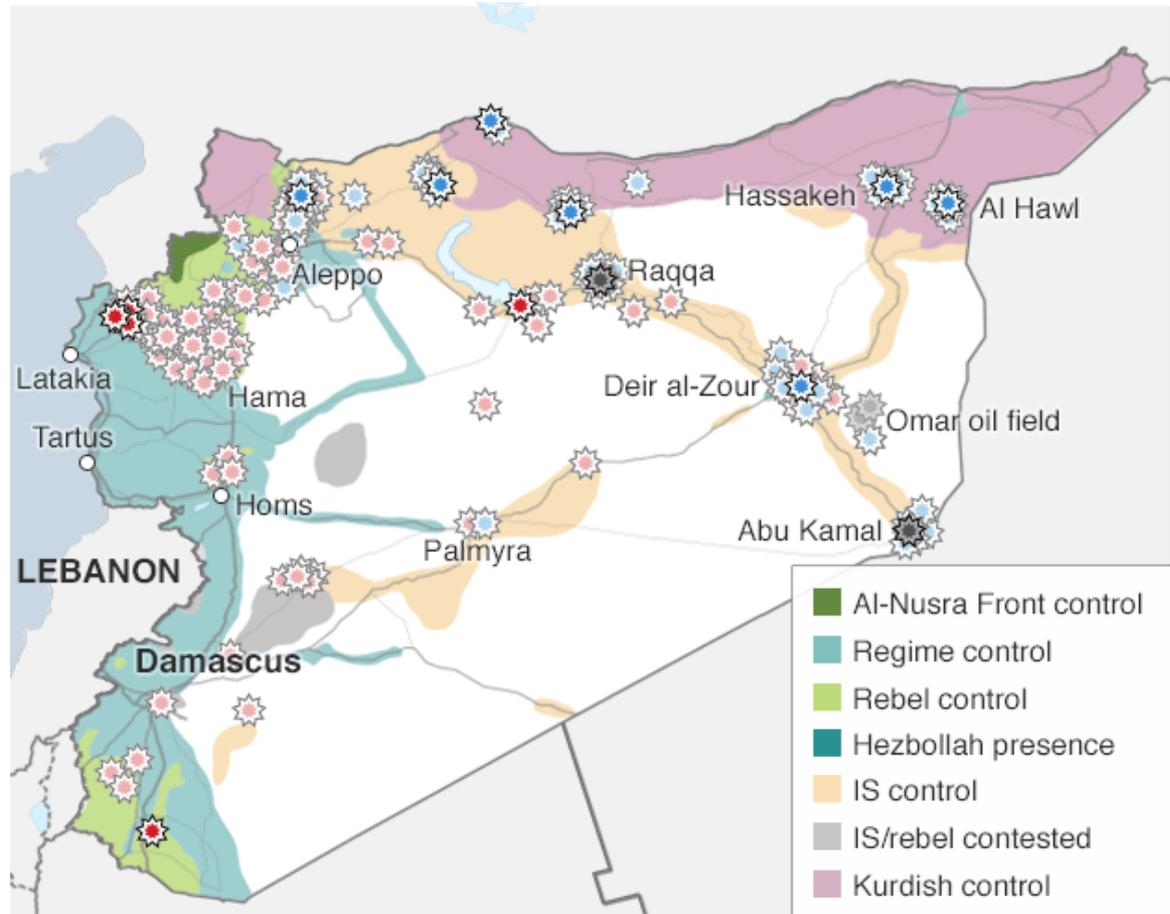
☀ 4 Feb-23 Feb 2016

☀ 30 Sep 2015-3 Feb 2016

Russian air & cruise missile strikes

☀ 26 Jan-16 Feb 2016

☀ 30 Sep 2015-25 Jan 2016



Source:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

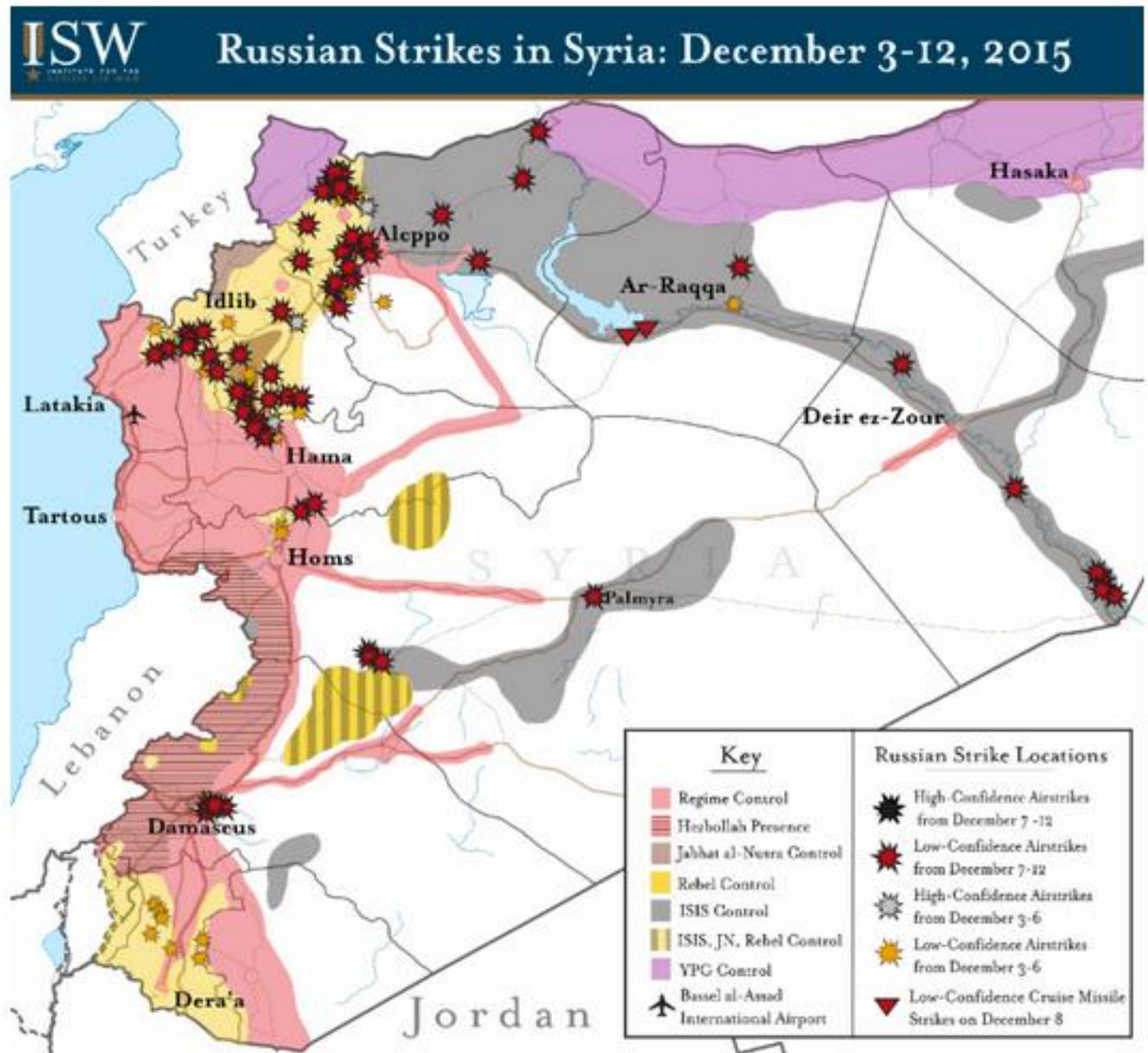
Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military, UK MoD, French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes

Air Campaign: Russian Strikes 3-12 December 2015

High-Confidence reporting. ISW places high confidence in reports corroborated both by official government statements reported through credible channels and documentation from rebel factions or activist networks on the ground in Syria deemed to be credible.

Low-Confidence reporting. ISW places low confidence in secondary sources that have not been confirmed or sources deemed likely to contain disinformation.

Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=30f86d1605&view=pt&q=m ap&search=query&th=1519d5e23e23d399&siml=1519d5e23e23d399>

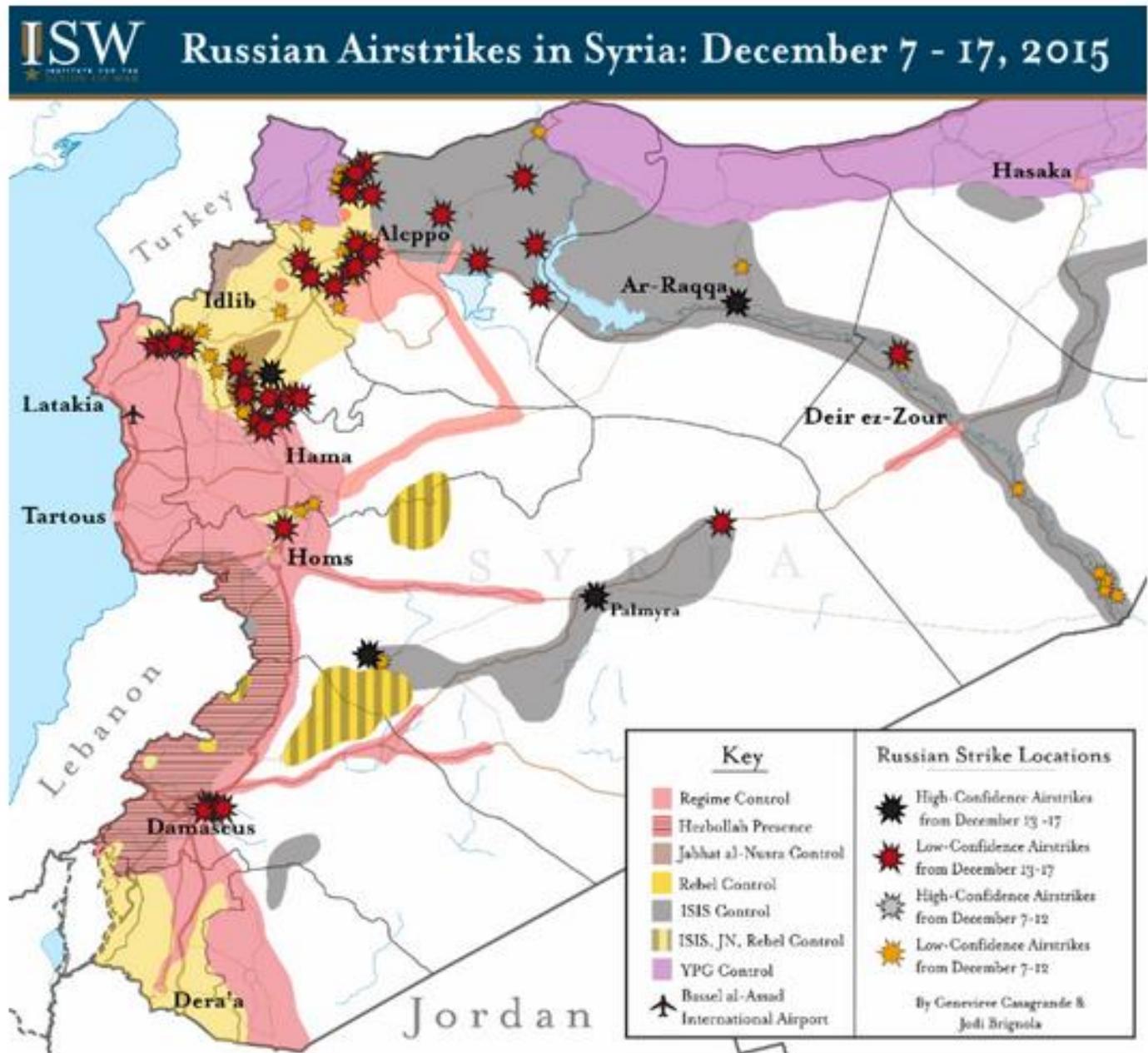


Air Campaign: Russian Strikes 7-17 December 2015

High-Confidence reporting. ISW places high confidence in reports corroborated both by official government statements reported through credible channels and documentation from rebel factions or activist networks on the ground in Syria deemed to be credible.

Low-Confidence reporting. ISW places low confidence in secondary sources that have not been confirmed or sources deemed likely to contain disinformation.

Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ui=2&ik=30f86d1605&view=pt&q=m%20ap&search=query&th=1519d5e23e23d399&siml=1519d5e23e23d399>

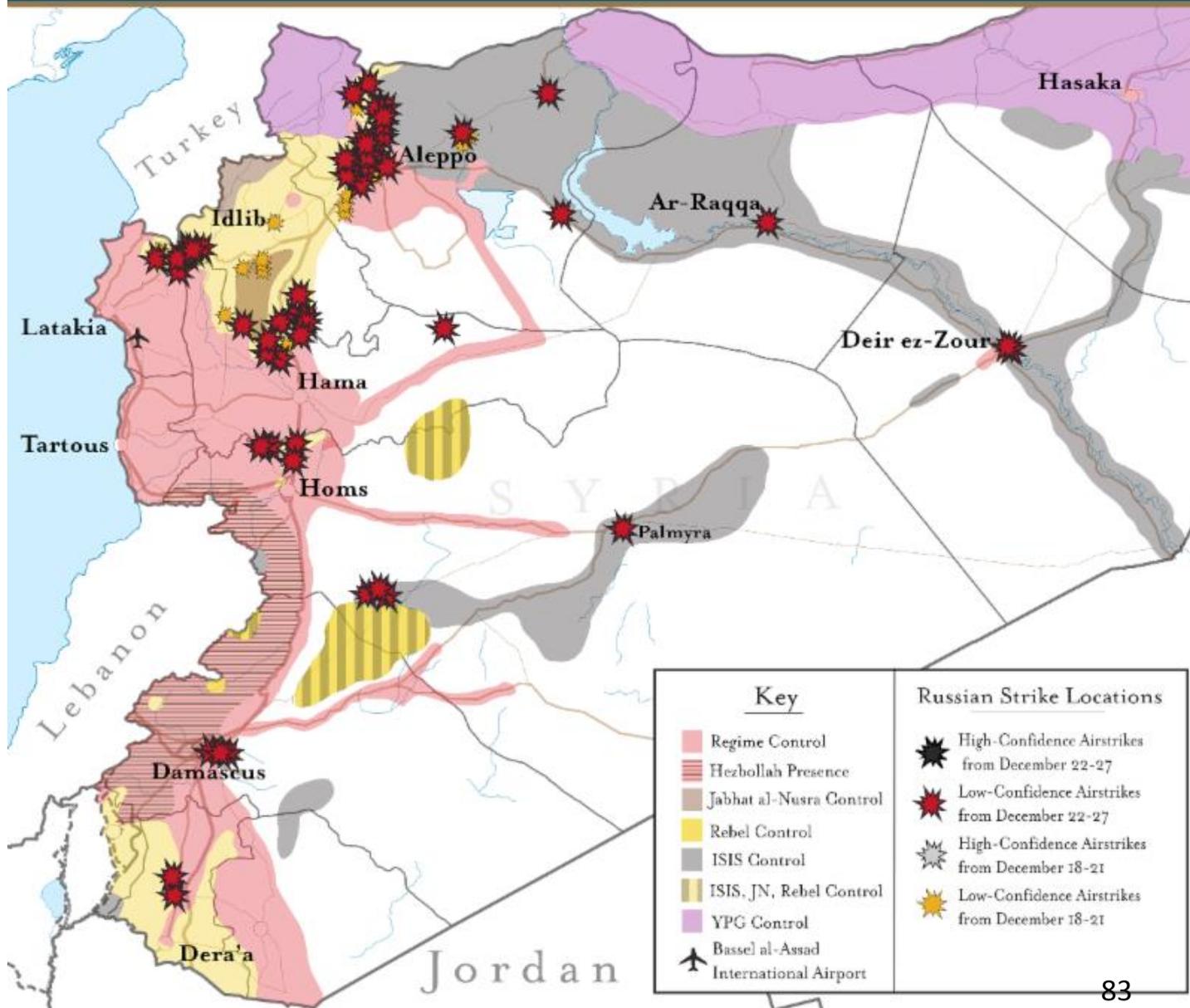


**Air Campaign:
Russian
Strikes
18-27
December
2015**

High-Confidence reporting. ISW places high confidence in reports corroborated both by official government statements reported through credible channels and documentation from rebel factions or activist networks on the ground in Syria deemed to be credible.

Low-Confidence reporting. ISW places low confidence in secondary sources that have not been confirmed or sources deemed likely to contain disinformation.

Source: ISW,
<http://campaign.r20.com/stantcontact.com/render?ca=c511c55f-b16b-4a0f-85ca-0ddf36cd8188&c=7d155a90-40d5-11e3-80e2-d4ae526edc76&ch=7e7a8fe0-40d5-11e3-81e2-d4ae526edc76>

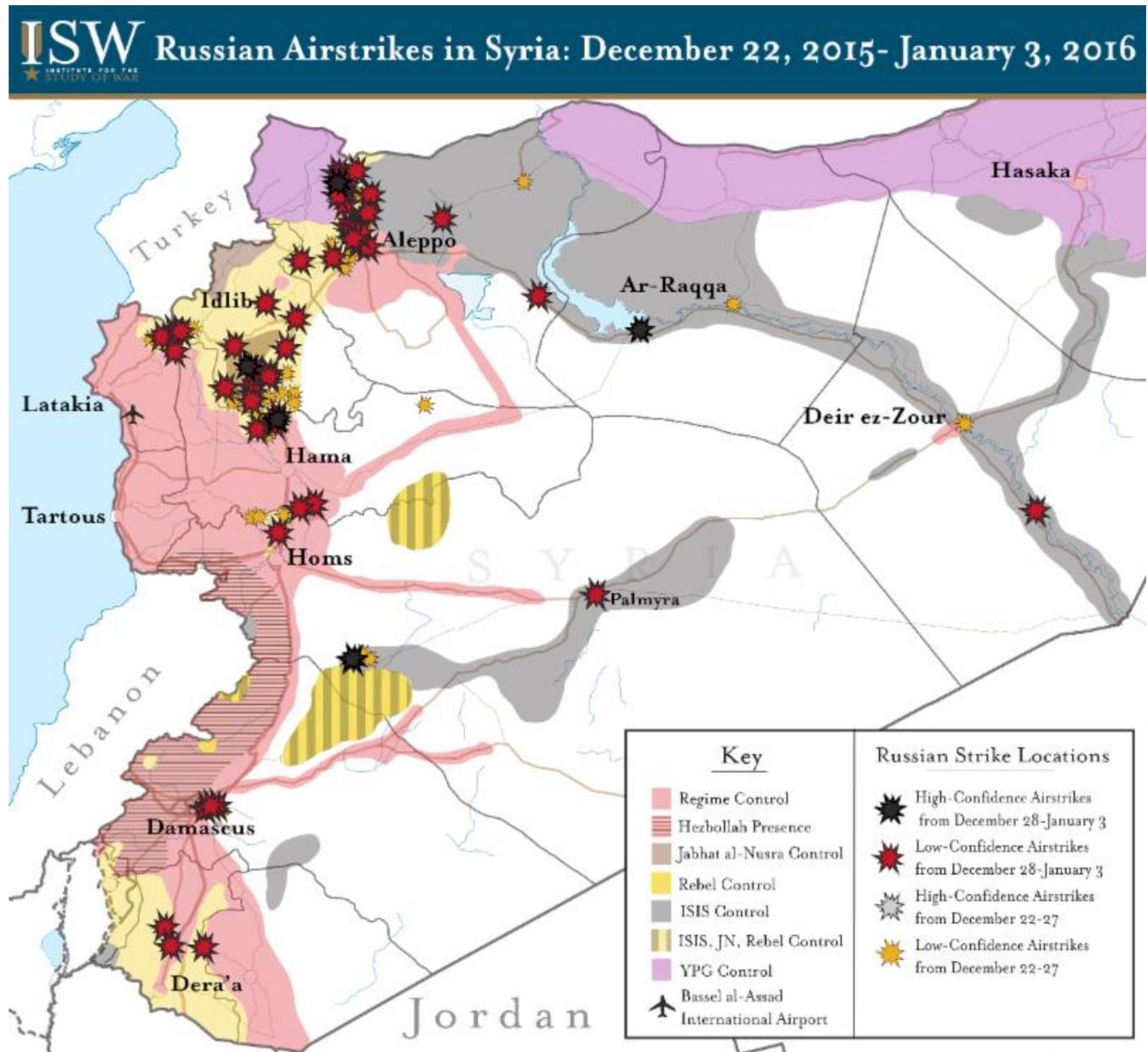


Air Campaign: Russian Strikes 22.12.2015- 3.1.2016

High-Confidence reporting. ISW places high confidence in reports corroborated both by official government statements reported through credible channels and documentation from rebel factions or activist networks on the ground in Syria deemed to be credible.

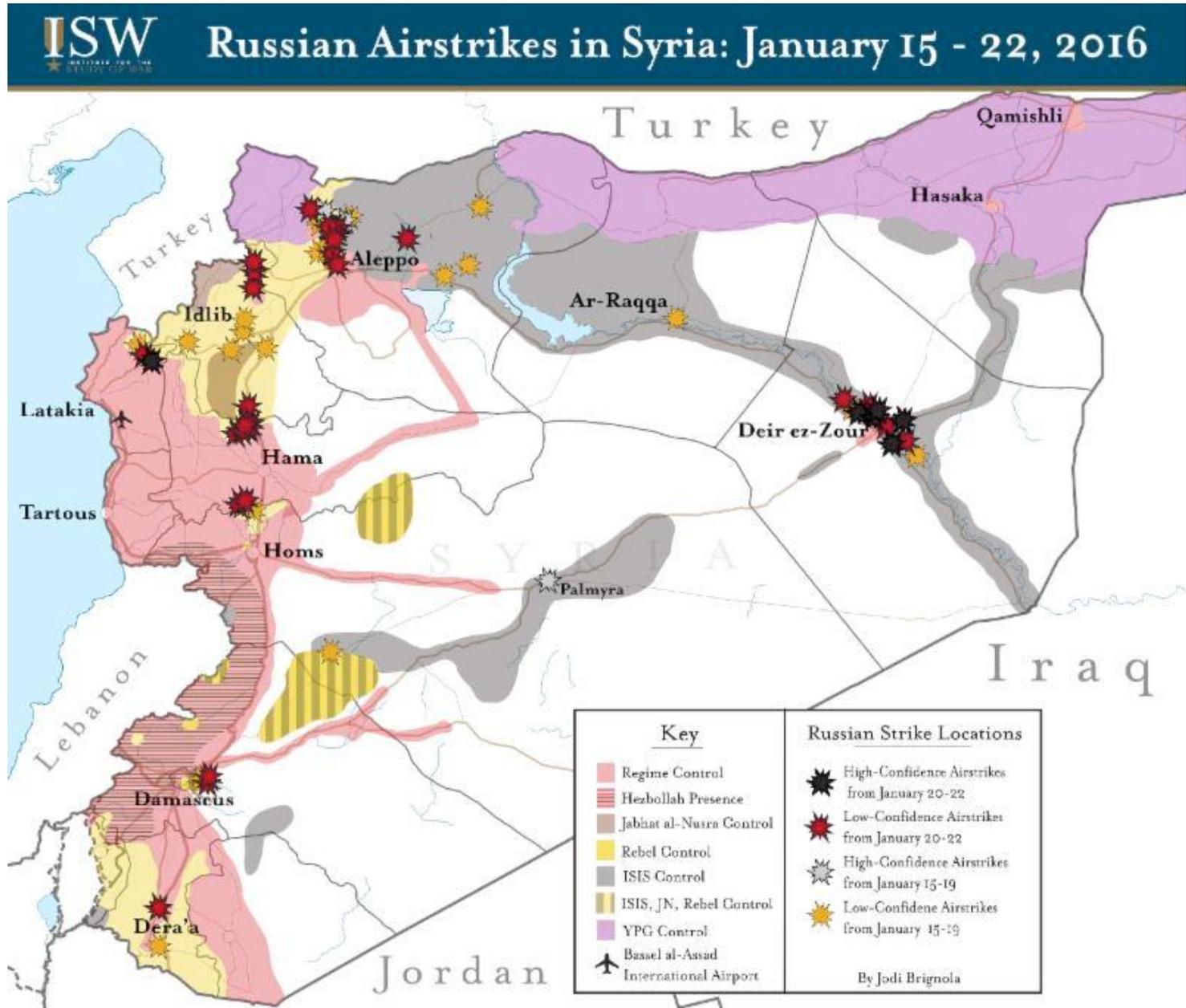
Low-Confidence reporting. ISW places low confidence in secondary sources that have not been confirmed or sources deemed likely to contain disinformation.

Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/15211e137d31fcd5>

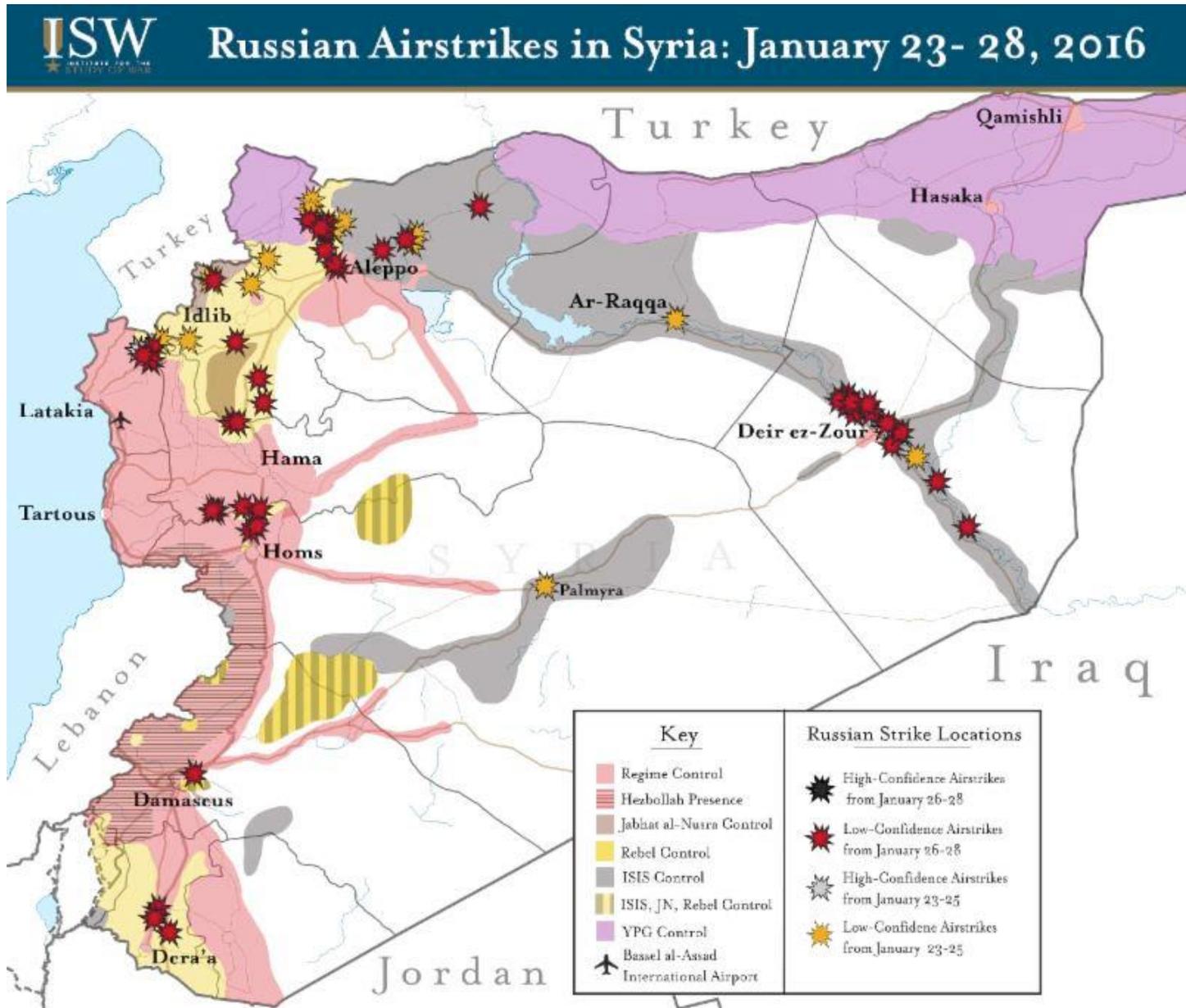


**Syria:
Russian
airstrikes
focus on
other
Rebel
Forces**

Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/152704fd1e0b8f44>

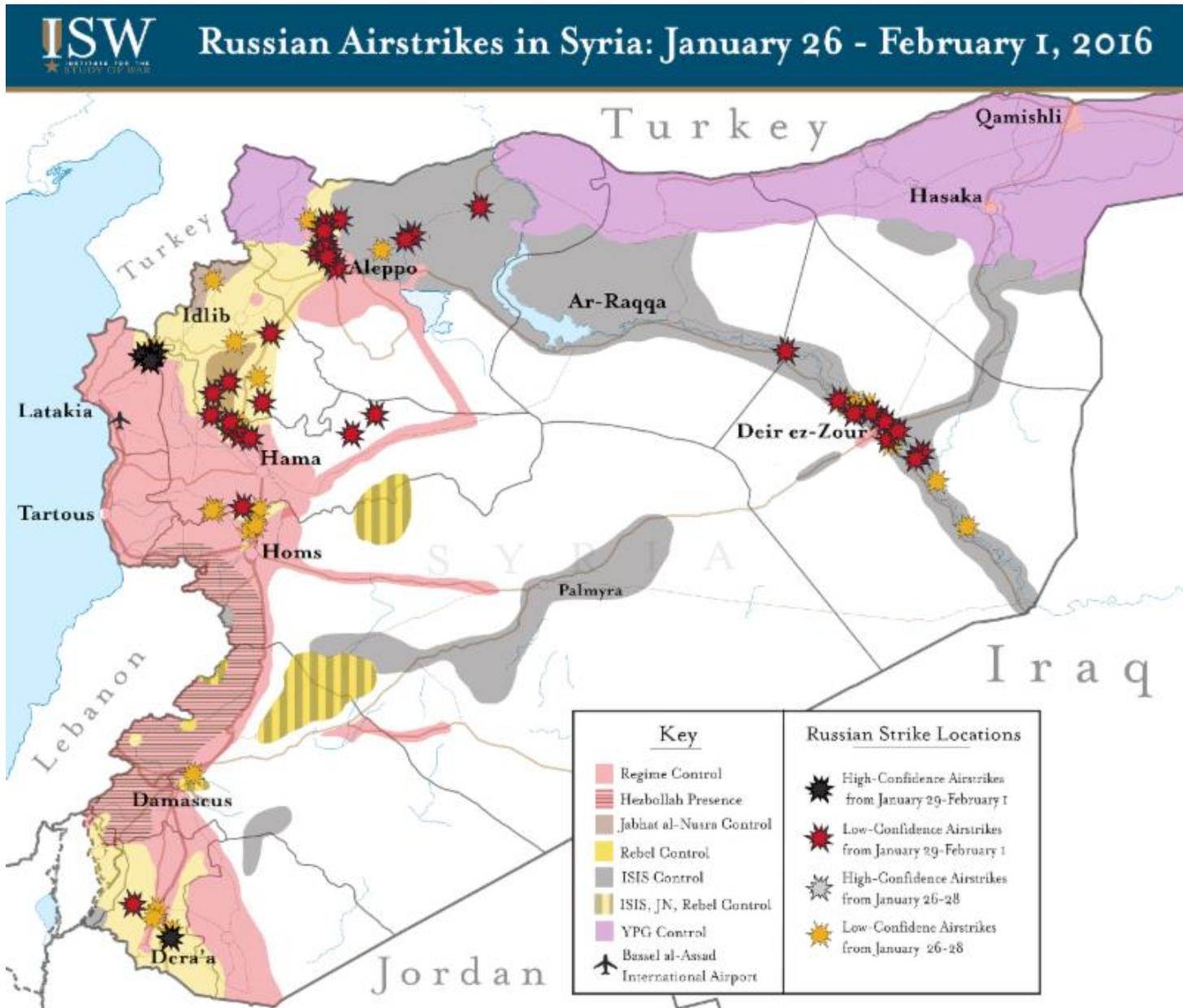


Syria:
 Russian
 airstrikes
 focus on
 other
 Rebel
 Forces:



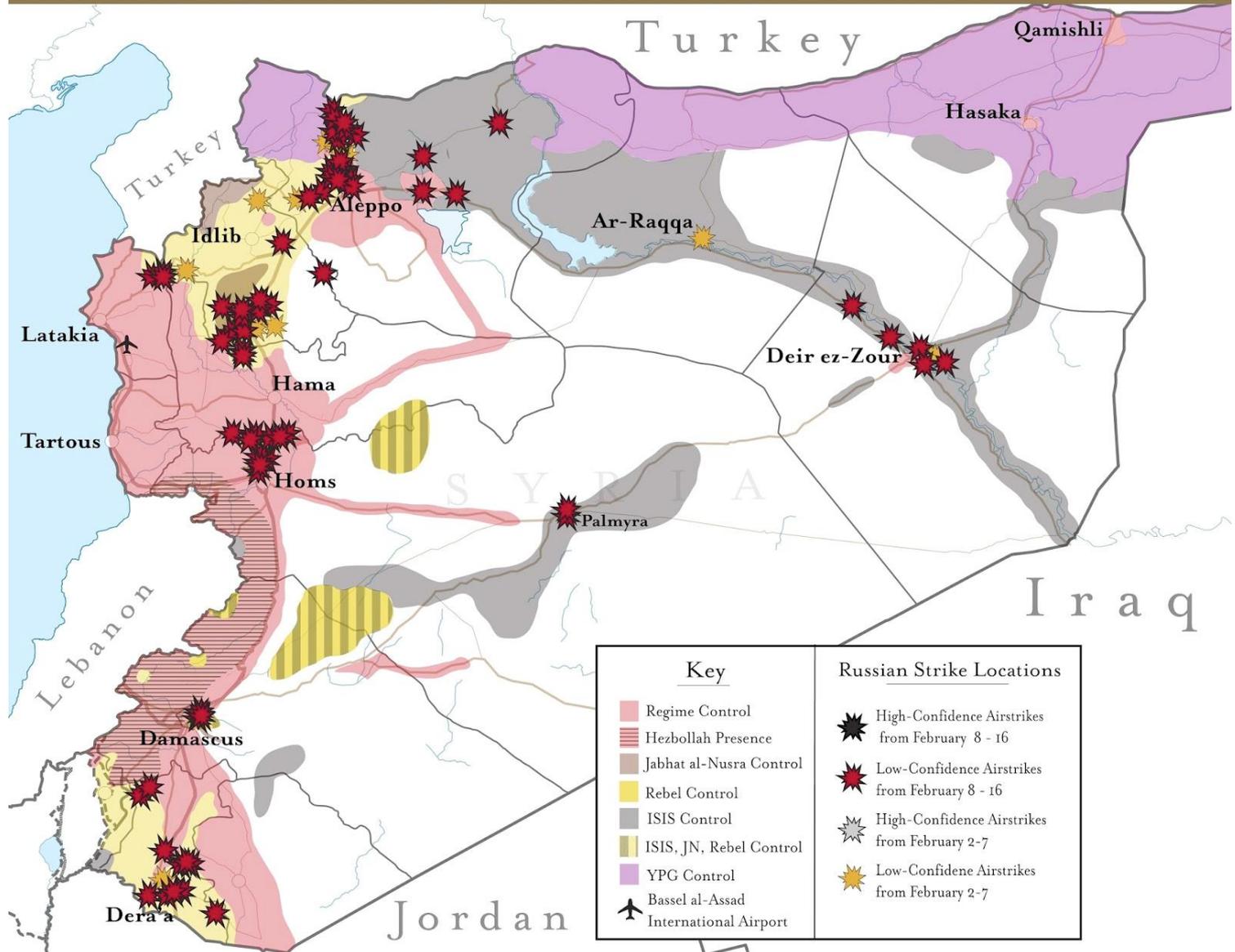
Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/152959ada85bd13>

**Syria:
Russian
airstrikes
focus on
other
Rebel
Forces:**



Source: ISW,
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/152a80a15ea2a1a9>

**Syria:
Russian
air strikes
Still focus
on other
Rebel
Forces:**



Source: ISW, <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/02/russian-airstrikes-in-syria-february-8.html>

Air Campaign: New Patterns in Air Strikes December 3 to February 23rd

UK, Russian and US-led strikes in Syria

US-led coalition air strikes

UK

☀ 3 Feb-23 Feb 2016

☀ 3 Dec 2015-2 Feb 2016

Other coalition forces

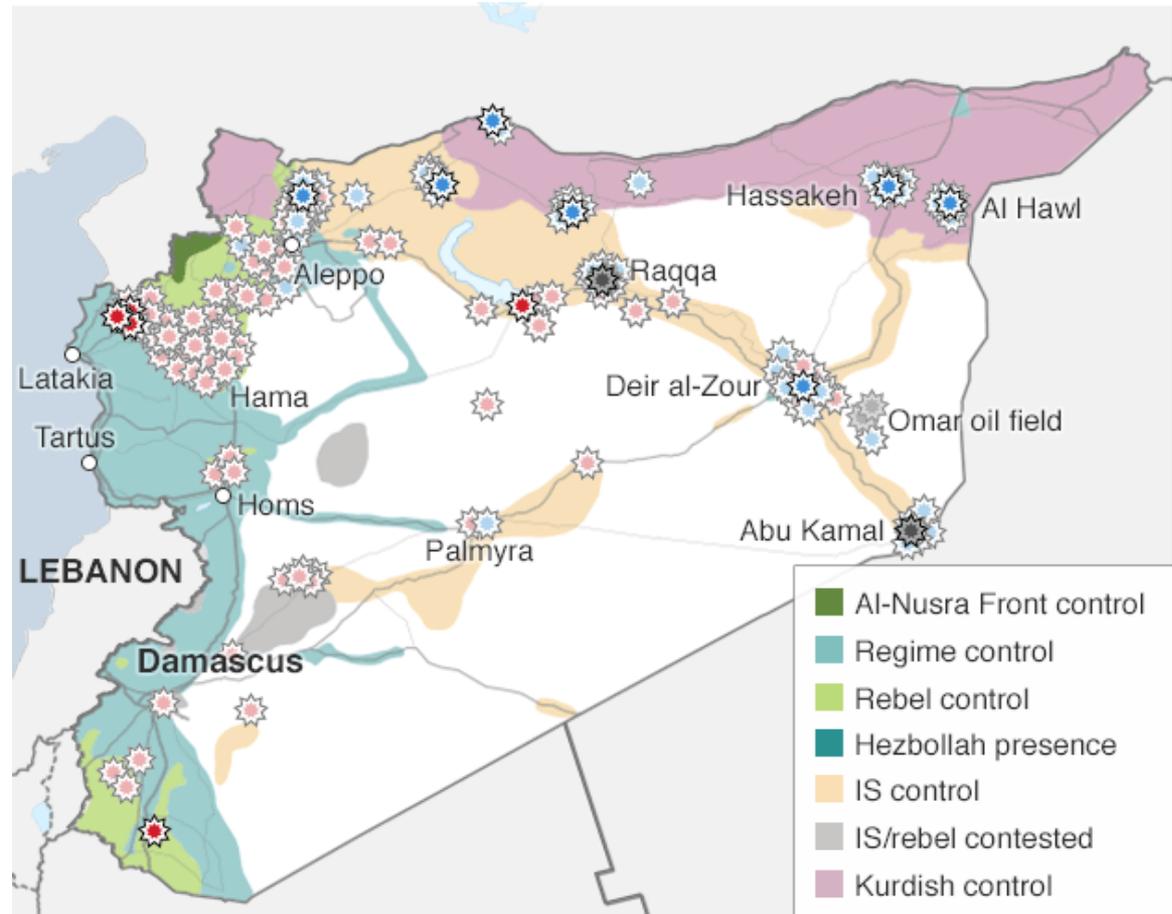
☀ 4 Feb-23 Feb 2016

☀ 30 Sep 2015-3 Feb 2016

Russian air & cruise missile strikes

☀ 26 Jan-16 Feb 2016

☀ 30 Sep 2015-25 Jan 2016



Source: Institute for the Study of War, US military, UK MoD, French Defence Ministry. Locations may have multiple strikes

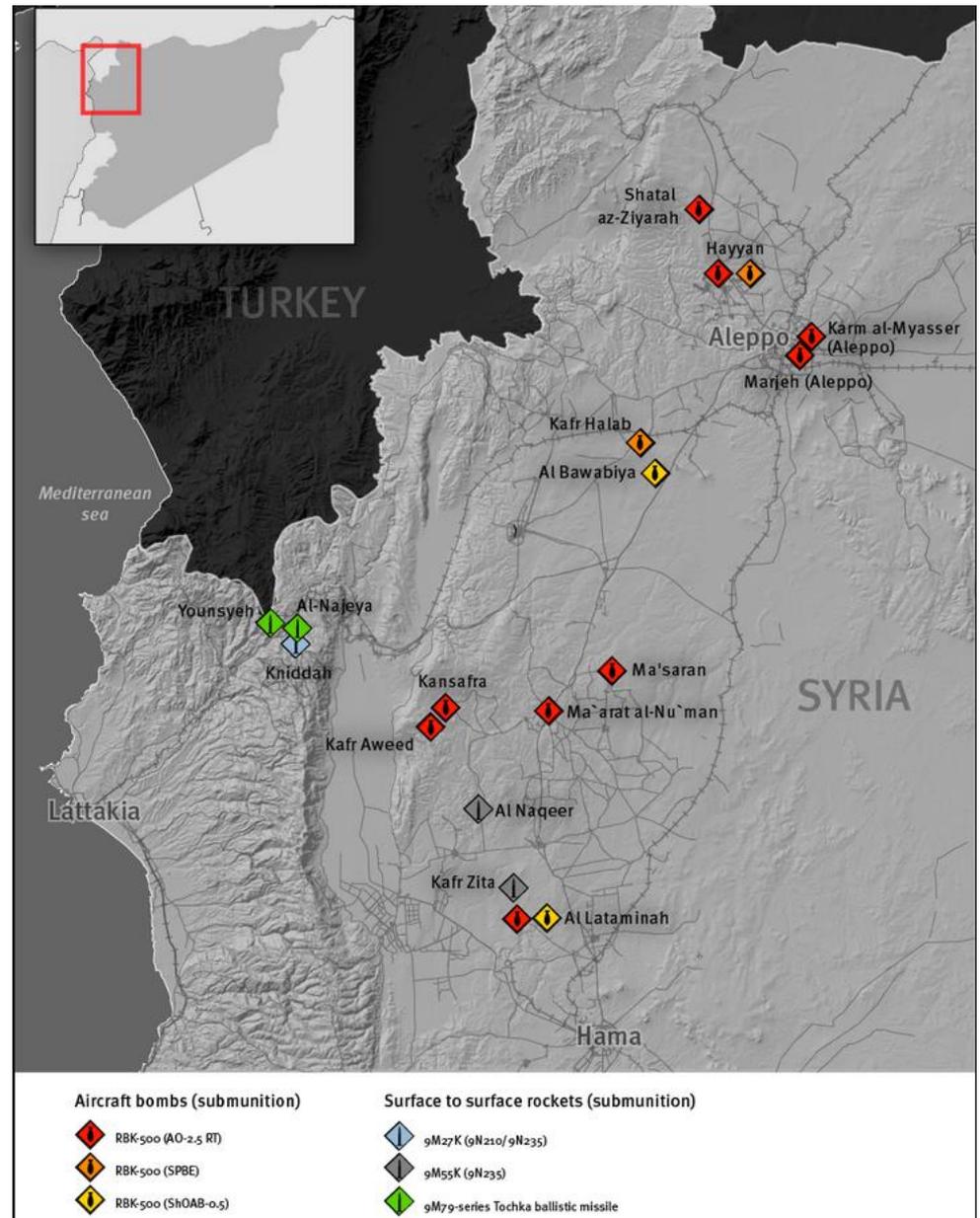


Source:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

Human Rights Watch Charges that Russia is Using Cluster Munitions: December, 2015 - I

Human Rights Watch documented that cluster munitions were used on at least 20 occasions since Syria and Russia began their joint offensive on September 30. Human Rights Watch collected detailed information about attacks in nine locations that have killed at least 35 civilians, including five women and 17 children, and injured dozens. Two attacks hit camps for the displaced. For the other attacks, Human Rights Watch obtained visual confirmation of the cluster munition used and a second source confirmed the attack. The cluster munitions used in Syria recently that Human Rights Watch was able to confirm were manufactured in the former Soviet Union or Russia.

Delivery method	Carrier type	Submunition type	Number of submunitions per carrier	Number of attacks documented
Ground-launched	9M27K/9M27K1 rocket (BM-27 Uragan)	9N210/9N235	30	1
Ground-launched	9M55K rocket (BM-30 Smerch)	9N235	72	2
Ground-launched	308 projectile	O-10	14	1
Ground-launched	9M79-series Tochka ballistic missile	9N24	50	2
Air-dropped	RBK-500 bomb	AO-2.5 RT/RTM	108	10
Air-dropped	RBK-500 bomb	ShOAB-0.5	565	2
Air-dropped	RBK-500 bomb	SPBE	15	2



Source: Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/20/russia/syria-extensive-recent-use-cluster-munitions>

Human Rights Watch Charges that Russia is Using Cluster Munitions - II

Date	Location	Type	Visual confirmation
October 4	Kafr Halab, Aleppo	RBK-500 bomb with SPBE submunitions	Photo: submunitions Video: mid-air dispersal
October 7	Ma'saran, Idlib	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Video: submunition remnants Video: bomb and submunition remnants
October 7	Kafr Zita, Hama	9M55K rocket with 9N235 submunitions	Video: smoke trails or rocket launch and impact. Video: sound of impact. Photo: rocket remnant.
October 9	Al-Naqeer, Idlib	9M55K rocket with 9N235 submunitions	Photo: cargo section and submunition. Video: camp, rocket remnants and submunition. Video: impact, camp and wounded.
October 13	Shatal az-Ziyarah	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2RTM submunitions	Video: collected submunitions
October 22	Hayyan, Aleppo	RBK-500 bomb with SPBE submunitions	Video: bomb and submunition remnants
October 24	Hayyan, Aleppo	RBK-500 with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Video: submunitions and submunition remnants Photo: submunition remnants

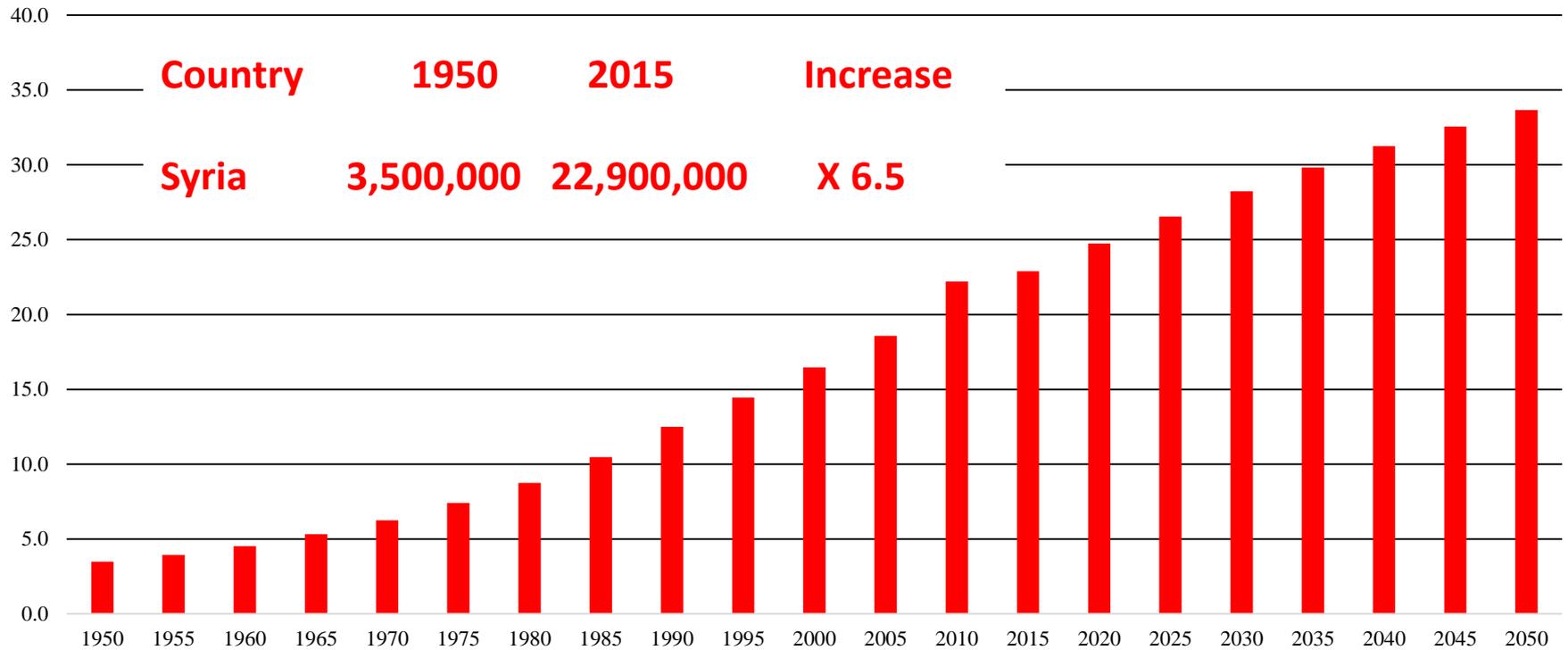
October 28	Karm al-Myasser, Aleppo city	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Photo: submunition remnants
October 28	Kansafra, Idlib	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Video: submunition remnants
October 29	Kafr Aweed, Idlib	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Photos: bomb and submunition remnants
November 9	Younsyeah, Idlib	9M79-series Tochka ballistic missile	Photos on file with HRW
November 13	Kniddah, Idlib	9M27K-series rocket with 9N210/9N235 submunitions	Photos on file with HRW
November 20	Al Bawabiya, Aleppo	RBK-500 bomb with ShOAB-0.5 submunitions	Photo: bomb and submunition remnants
November 23	Al Lataminah, Hama	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Video: submunition remnants
November 28	Al Lataminah, Hama	RBK-500 bomb with ShOAB-0.5 submunitions	Video: submunition remnants
December 3	Al-Najeya, Idlib	9M79-series Tochka ballistic missile	Photo: missile remnant
December 13	Douma, Damascus	308 cluster munition projectile with O-10 submunitions	Photo: unexploded remnants Video: submunition remnants
December 14	Marjeh district, Aleppo city	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Video: submunition remnants
December 14	Ma'arat al-Nu'man, Idlib	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Photo: bomb and submunition remnants
December 14	Douma, Damascus	RBK-500 bomb with AO-2.5RT submunitions	Video: submunition remnants

Source: Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/12/20/russia/syria-extensive-recent-use-cluster-munitions>

Governance, Economic, and Humanitarian Impacts in Syria

Demographic Pressures on Syria

Syria Total Population (in millions)

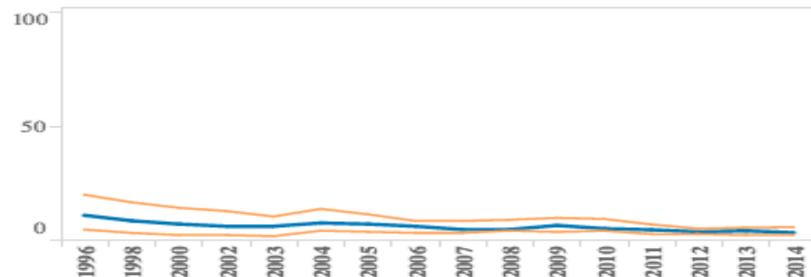


	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Total Population (millions)	3.5	3.9	4.5	5.3	6.3	7.4	8.8	10.5	12.5	14.4	16.5	18.6	22.2	22.9	24.7	26.5	28.2	29.8	31.3	32.6	33.7
Population Growth Rate (percent)	NA	3.6%	3.9%	2.7%	2.5%	2.3%	2.0%	1.4%	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.6%						
Total Annual Births (millions)	NA	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4						

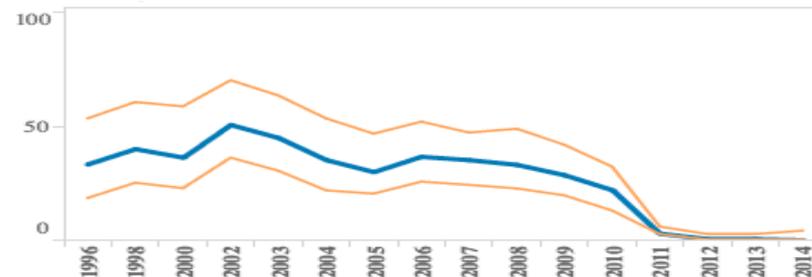
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base (IDB), <http://www.census.gov/population/international/data/idb/informationGateway.php>, Accessed May 20, 2015.

World Bank Rankings of Failed Governance in Syria - I

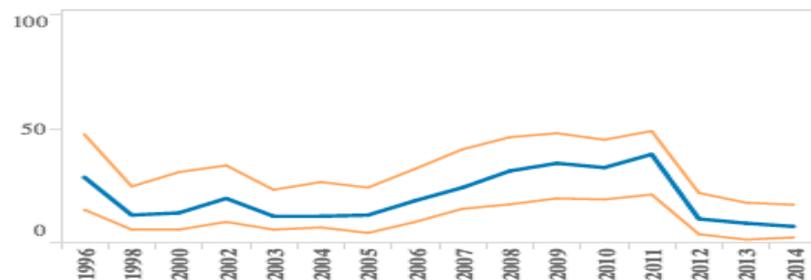
Voice and Accountability



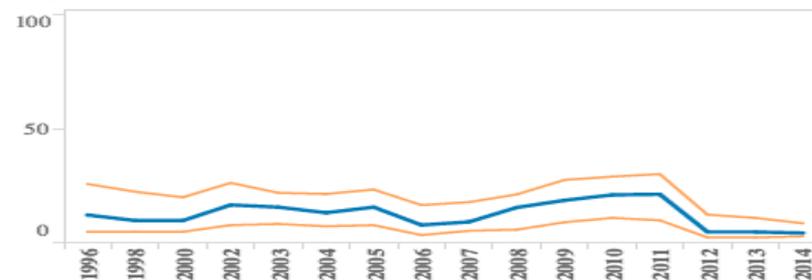
Political Stability and Absence of Violence



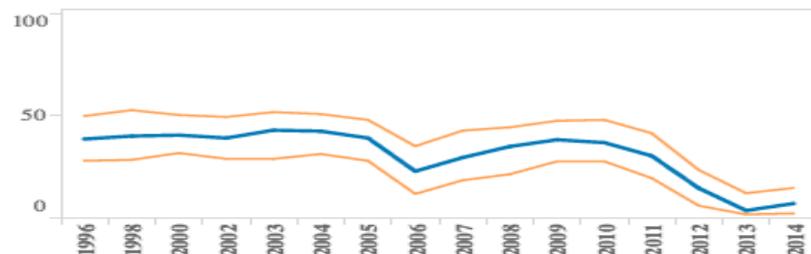
Government Effectiveness



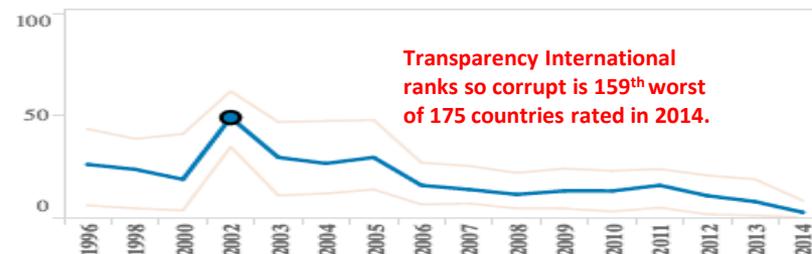
Regulatory Quality



Rule of Law



Control of Corruption



The inner, thicker blue line shows the selected country's percentile rank on each of the six aggregate governance indicators. The outer, thinner red lines show the indicate margins of error.

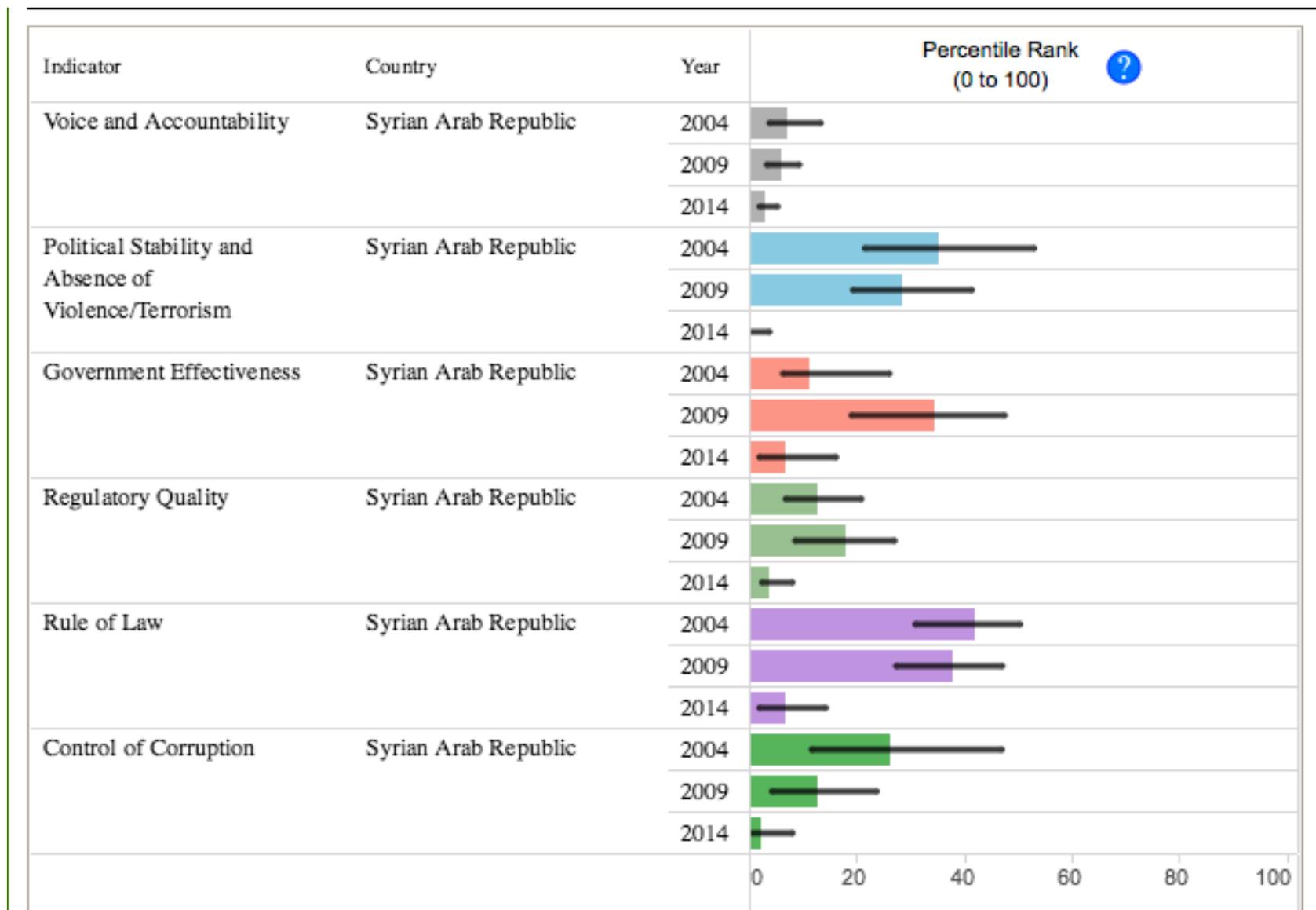
Source: Kaufmann D., A. Kraay, and M. Mastruzzi (2010), *The Worldwide Governance Indicators: Methodology and Analytical Issues*

The Worldwide Governance Indicators are available at: www.govindicators.org

Note: The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) are a research dataset summarizing the views on the quality of governance provided by a large number of enterprise, citizen and expert survey respondents in industrial and developing countries. These data are gathered from a number of survey institutes, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and private sector firms. The WGI do not reflect the official views of the World Bank, its Executive Directors, or the countries they represent. The WGI are not used by the World Bank Group to allocate resources.

World Bank, World Wide Governance Indicators, Syria: <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports>.

World Bank Rankings of Failed Governance in Syria - II



Estimates of Human Cost of Syria War as of 9.9.2015

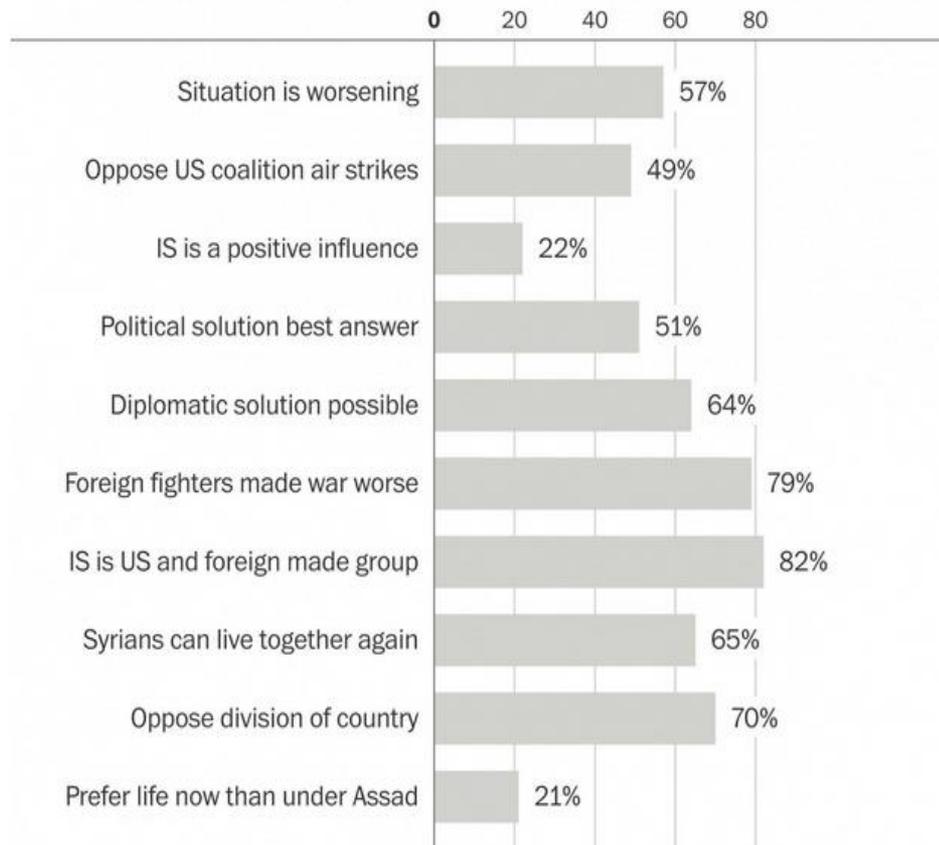
UNHCR Estimate of Human Costs: 9.2015

- 12.2 million People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria (6.2015)
- 7.6 million IDPs in Syria
- 5 million People Reached per Month by USG Assistance in Syria (USG 9.2015)
- 4.1 Million Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries
- 1.9 million Syrian Refugees in Turkey
- 1.1 million Syrian Refugees in Lebanon
- 628,887 Syrian Refugees in Jordan
- 248,503 Syrian Refugees in Iraq
- 132,375 Syrian Refugees in Egypt

- From October 2014 to August 2015, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR)—A United Kingdom-based human rights organization—documented more than 33,000 Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) air raids in Syria, including more than 18,000 barrel bomb attacks and more than 15,000 other aerial attacks, according to a mid-August report
- During the same period, SOHR documented nearly 5,500 civilian deaths, including more than 1,100 children, and injuries to at least 30,000 civilians
- .Since the start of the Syrian civil war in March 2011, SOHR has documented the deaths of at least 240,000 people.
- ¶On August 7, the UN Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted a resolution to create an investigative panel to hold chemical weapon users accountable for war crimes in Syria.
- In 2013, the UNSC mandated that the SARG dismantle and destroy its chemical weapon stockpile under international supervision. While the UNSC has repeatedly condemned chemical attacks as violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention, chemical attacks on civilians continue to occur, according to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- The newly adopted resolution will establish a UN–OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism to gather and test evidence with the aim of identifying perpetrators of chemical attacks, confronting impunity for war crimes in Syria, and preventing future abuses.

Syrian Attitudes About the Fighting: July 2015

How Syrians feel about their 4-year conflict



Source: ORB International

THE WASHINGTON POST

A recent survey of 1,365 Syrians from all 14 governorates of the country found some surprising attitudes.

Consider this: A fifth of those interviewed said the Islamic State -- the brutal Islamist group known for its beheadings, that rules over large swaths of Syria and Iraq -- is a *positive* influence on the country.

And 82 percent said that they believe the Islamic State was created by the United States and its allies.

The Syria survey was conducted by ORB International, a U.K.-based market research firm, from June 10 to July 2. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points.

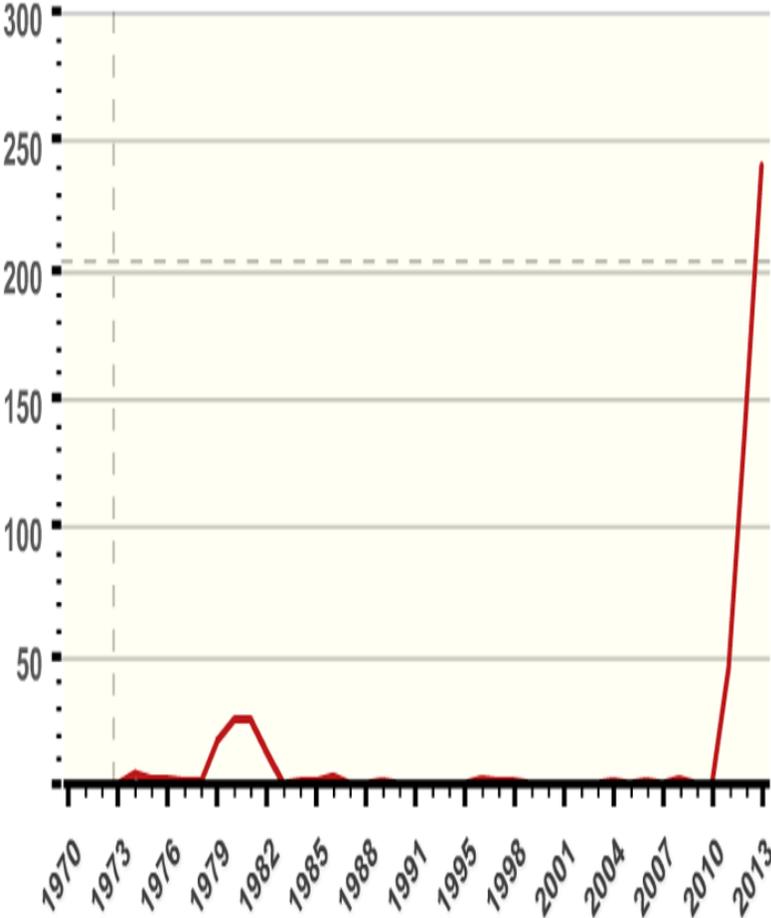
The majority of Syrians interviewed said they believe that the situation is worsening, and only 21 percent said they preferred their life today than when Syria was fully controlled by Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Nearly half of Syrians surveyed said they opposed U.S.-coalition airstrikes, and nearly 80 percent said that the war has gotten worse because of the influx of foreign fighters.

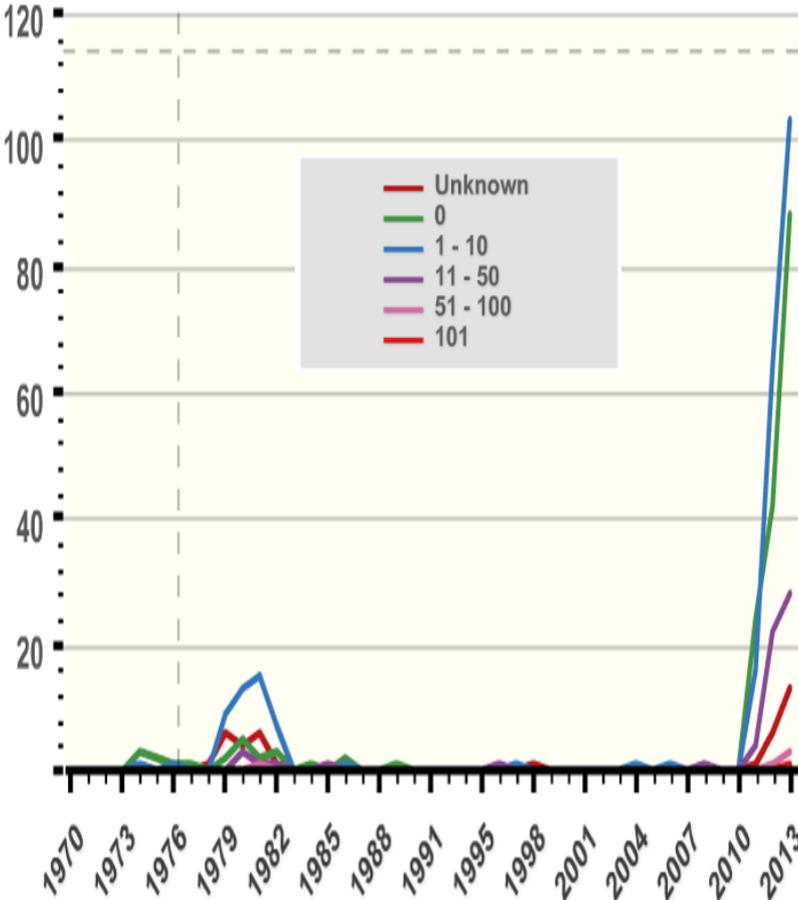
Yet there is also sense of hope: The majority of Syrians surveyed said a diplomatic solution was possible to end the war, and that Syrians can set aside their difference and live side by side again.

Rise in Terrorism in Syria

Syria – Terrorist Incidents



Syria - Fatalities



Source: START Global Terrorism Database, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

Syrian Terrorism Deaths: I



GTI RANK | **5**
GTI SCORE | **8.108**

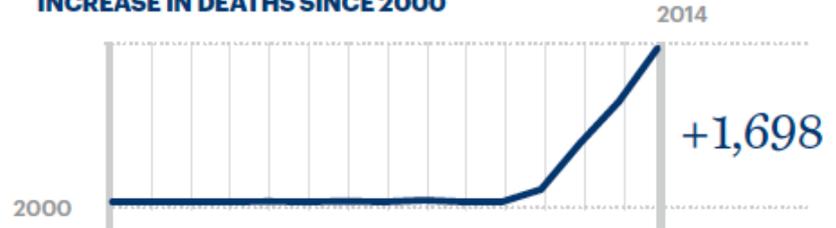
INCIDENTS 232

PROPERTY DAMAGE 301

DEAD 1,698

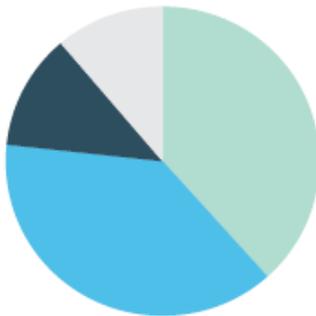
INJURED 1,473

INCREASE IN DEATHS SINCE 2000



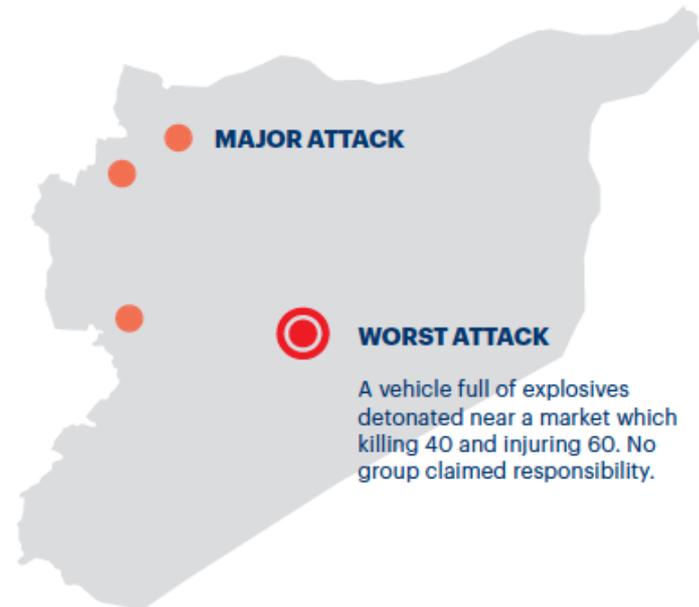
ATTACKS BY TARGET

- Private citizens & property
- Business
- Military, militia or terrorist groups
- Religious
- Other



DEATHS BY GROUP

- Unknown
- Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)
- Al-Nusra Front
- Other



Syrian Terrorism Deaths: II

The continual impact of terrorism in Syria is a direct result of the Syrian civil war. There were no recorded acts of terrorism in the two years prior to the civil war commencing in 2011. In 2014 there were 1,690 deaths compared to 600 in 2012. Most of the deaths in Syria are accounted for as battlefield deaths.

The present-day civil war in Syria began in March of 2011 as protests against President Bashar-al-Assad's government. These protests were similar to the various democratic uprisings occurring throughout the Arab region since December 2010, known as the Arab Spring. In several of the Arab Spring nations, the uprisings led to the toppling of some authoritarian leaders, but in the case of Syria the Assad regime aggressively responded to the demonstrations, which unwound into civil war. From its inception, the core of the opposition has been the Free Syrian Army, with many other groups entering the war and establishing themselves as opposition forces, including Islamist rebel groups such as ISIL and the al-Nusra Front.

It is estimated that over 200,000 people have been killed in the civil war. The majority of these deaths are classified as a result of conventional warfare rather than acts of terrorism. However, terrorism has been deployed as a tactic by some of the rebel forces to bring about a political, economic, religious, or social goal rather than purely military objectives.

As of September 2015, there are 4.1 million Syrian refugees and 6.5 million people displaced within Syria. Many have fled to nearby countries, with a growing number fleeing to Europe, underlining the worldwide spill-over effects of the Syrian civil war.

A quarter of terrorist attacks in Syria are from unknown perpetrators. The biggest terrorist group in Syria is ISIL who killed 615 people, or 36 per cent. The second biggest group, the Sunni and al-Qa'ida linked al-Nusra Front, claimed responsibility for 27 per cent of deaths or 461 people.

Whilst there were terrorist attacks in 76 cities in 2014, over half of all attacks occurred in just four cities. Damascus, the capital and second largest city in Syria, had 37 attacks which resulted in 63 deaths. Homs recorded the most fatalities with 345, representing 20 per cent of total deaths from terrorism in Syria.

Palmyra, an area 215 kilometres north-east of Damascus, had 310 deaths. Palmyra has also seen many sites of historical significance destroyed by ISIL, including the Temple of Bel which was nearly 2000 years old. The largest city of Aleppo had 23 attacks which resulted in 193 deaths. Kobani in northern Syria near the border with Turkey had 34 attacks resulting in 71 deaths.

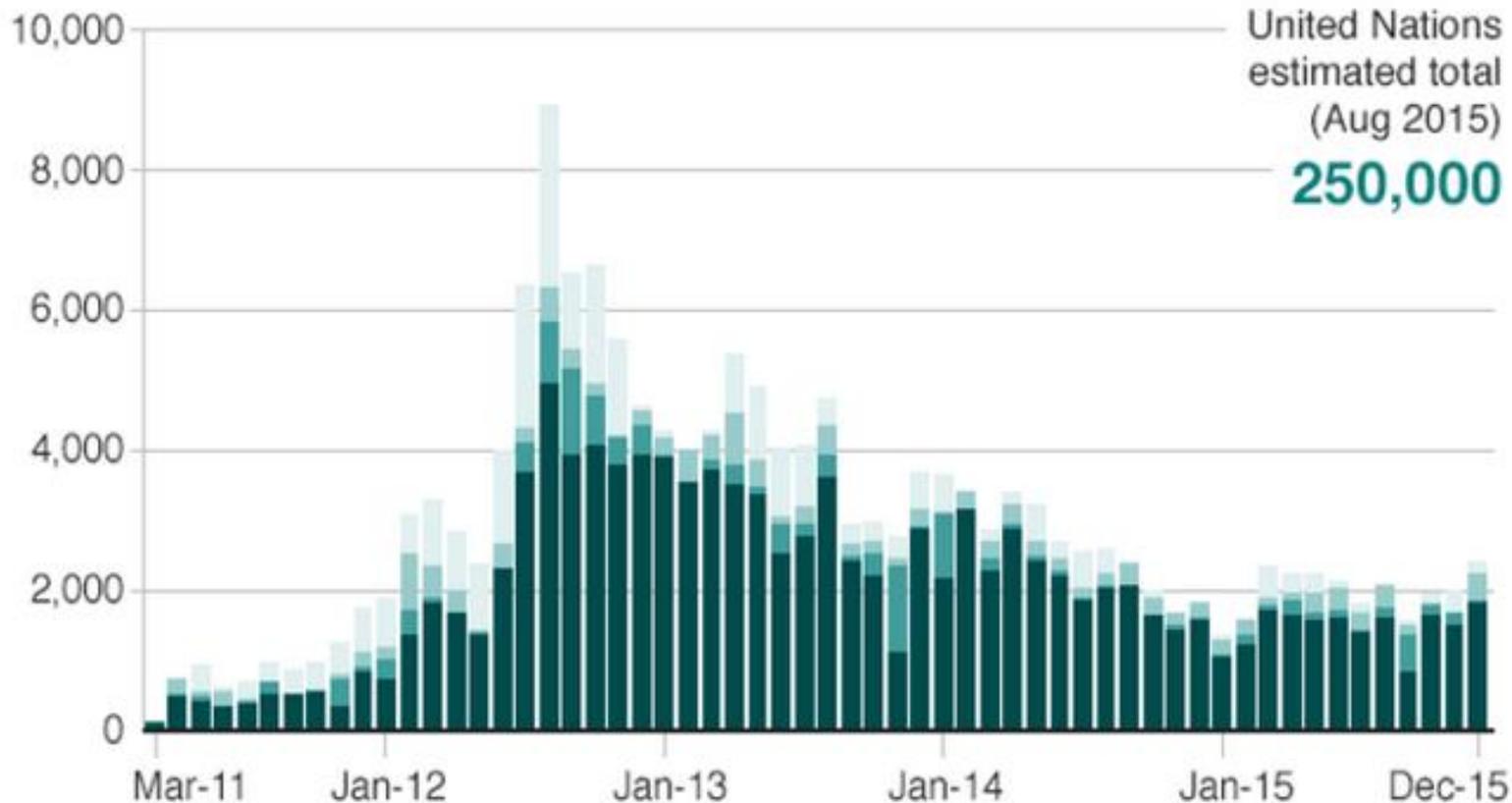
Most deaths from terrorism in Syria have been from bombings. Bombings can be extremely deadly. There were two bombings in 2014 which killed more than 50 people and at least 19 bombings that killed ten or more people. Private citizens are the target of 53 per cent of attacks, with 475 people being killed. There were at least 30 different kidnapping incidents which resulted in 382 deaths. This includes two American journalists, James Foley and Steven Sotloff, who were kidnapped in Syria and murdered by ISIL in late 2014.

BBC Estimate of Syria Death Toll: 2.2016

Syria conflict death toll

Documented killings per month

Number of sources for each killing

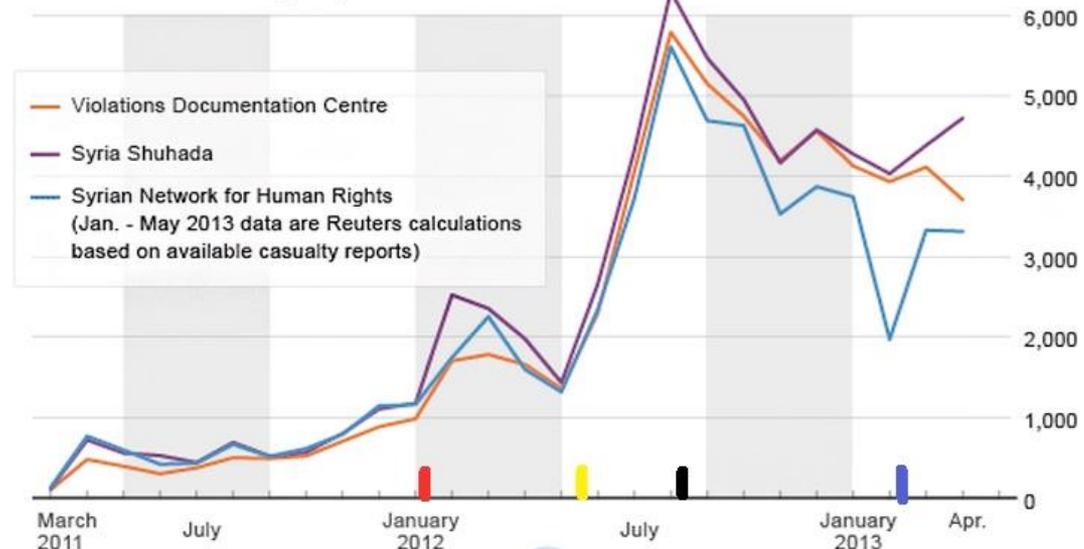


Sources: Violations Documentation Center, Syrian Shuhada, Syrian Network for Human Rights, Syrian Center for Statistics and Research

Comparative Casualty per Month Estimate: 2011-2013

The opposition Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that least 82,000 people have been killed after two years of civil war in Syria. The number of casualties documented by opposition activist groups vary.

CASUALTIES BY MONTH
From select activist groups



Source: Reuters,
https://www.google.com/search?q=trend+graphs+for+Syrian+casualties&tbm=isch&imgil=YGIffJlki6As0M%253A%253Baacmvbd6LOjViM%253Bhttp%25253A%25252F%25252F6storiesfromthe7continents.blogspot.com%25252F2013_06_01_archive.html&source=iu&pf=m&fir=YGIffJlki6As0M%253A%252Caa cmvbd6LOjViM%252C_&biw=1491&bih=976&ved=0CDAQyjdqFQoTCMej89jJgMgCFUtzjgodOTALSg&ei=XQL8VYeBNcvmuQS54KzQBA&usg=__twkWLalmgNnRKRmq_WnWQeP81oQ%3D#imgrc=Zmg7LcF3vwoiOM%3A&usg=__twkWLalmgNnRKRmq_WnWQeP81oQ%3D

- First shipments of arms from Qatar, according to The New York Times
- 'Significantly more and better weapons' start to be sent in by Gulf states and US, according to The Washington Post.
- CIA begins to 'limit supplies of weapons . . . reaching rebel forces', according to The Times.
- Gulf states and U.S. begin to 'sharply increase their military aid to Syrias opposition fighters', according to The New York Times.

Syrian Observatory of Human Rights Casualty Estimate of 28.2.2016 - I

More than 370000 people are thought to be killed since the rise of Syrian revolution

February 23, 2016 Comments Off on More than 370000 people are thought to be killed since the rise of Syrian revolution

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has documented death of 271138 persons since the rise of the Syrian revolution in Mars 18th 2015 the date of the first person killed in Daraa countryside, until February 22nd 2016. The casualties are as follows:

Civilians: 122997 civilians, including:

13597 children

8760 female over the age of 18

43891 Rebel and Islamic fighters

Defected soldiers and officers: 2561

Regime soldiers and officers: 55042

Combatants from Popular Defense Committees, al-Ba'eth battalions, National Defense Forces, al Shabiha, pro-regime informers and the "Syrian resistance to liberate the Sanjak of Alexandretta": 37966

Militiamen from Hezbollah guerrilla: 1025

Pro- regime Shia militiamen from Arab and Asian nationalities, Al Quds Al Filastini Brigade and other pro-regime militiamen from different Arab nationalities: 3809

Arab, European, Asian, American and Australian and many other nationalities of fighters fighting with ISIS, al-Nusra Front, Junoud al-Sham battalion, Jund Al-Aqsa battalion, Jund al-Sham organization, al-Khadra'a Battalion, the Islamic Turkestan Party, Junud al-Sham al-Shishan and the Islamic movements: 44254

Unidentified dead people documented by photos and videos: 3484

It is worth noting that the numbers do not include the fate of over 20000 of missing detainees people inside regime prisons and thousands of others who disappeared during the raids and massacres by the regime forces and the militiamen loyal to them.

These statistics do not include also the more than 5000 abductees from the civilians and fighters inside ISIS jails from Deir Ezzor tribes who were kidnapped from their areas.

Syrian Observatory of Human Rights Casualty Estimate of 28.2.2016 - II

This statistics also do not include the fate of more than 1500 fighters from the rebel and Islamic factions, the “Islamic State” organization, Jabhat Al-Nusra (al-Qaeda in Levant), YPG and local fighters loyal to these parties who were kidnapped during the clashes between these parties.

We also would like to refer that this statistics also do not include the fate of more than 6000 captured and missing person from the regime forces and the militiamen loyal to them, nor the fate of about 2000 kidnapped person by the rebel and Islamic factions, the “Islamic State” organization or Jabhat Al-Nusra (al-Qaeda in Levant) on charge of cooperating with the regime forces.

The statics also do not include hundreds of non-Syrian Kurdish fighters who were killed fighting with YPG in Syria.

We in the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates the real number of casualties from the rebel battalions, the Islamic battalions, Junud al-Sham, The Turkestan Islamic Party, the “Islamic state” organization, Jund al-Sham, Al-Nusra Front, Jund al-Aqsa organization, al-Umma Brigade, al-Battar battalion, al-Mohajereen and al-Ansar army, and the regime forces and militiamen loyal to them of Syrian, Arab and Asian nationalities to be approximately 95000 more than the documented numbers, due to the extreme discretion by all parties about the human losses caused by the conflict and due to the difficulty of communication in Syria.

UN OCHA Estimate of Human Cost of Syria War

In the absence of a political solution, human rights violations and abuses continue to occur in the context of widespread insecurity and in disregard of international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights law. Over 250,000 people have been killed and over one million injured. More than half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their homes, often multiple times, making Syria the largest displacement crisis globally. As of 31 July 2015, almost 1.2 million people have been internally displaced anticipating another million to be displaced by the end of the year in light of the growing humanitarian and protection needs of civilians.

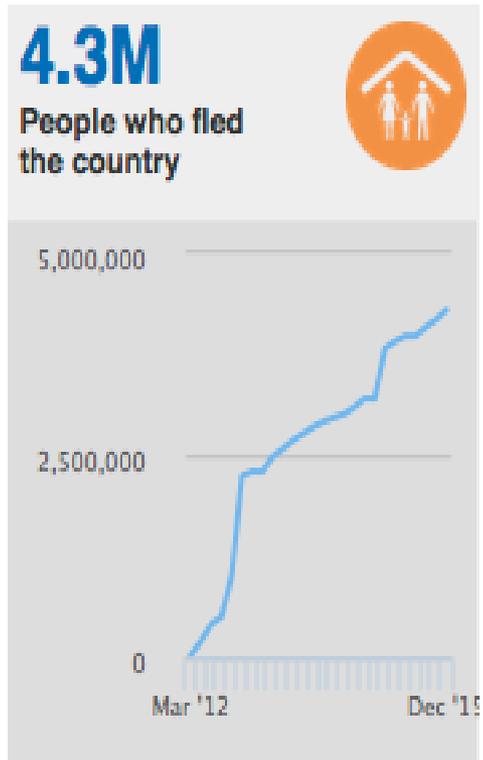
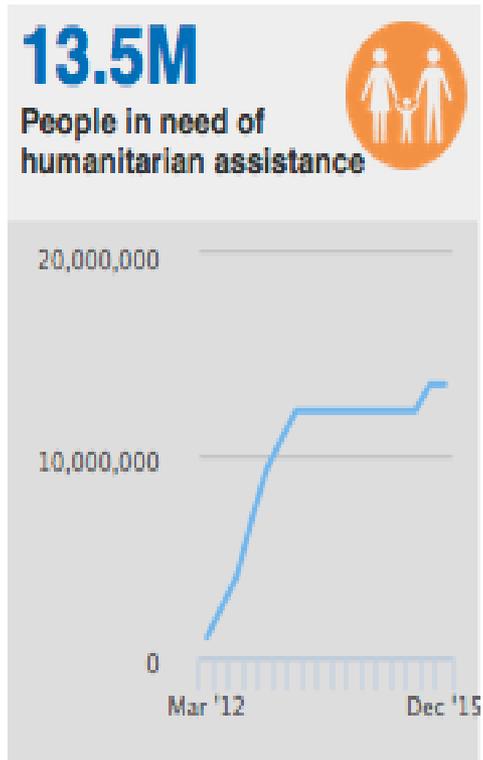
Inside Syria today, 12.2 million people remain in need of humanitarian assistance – a twelve fold increase since 2011 - including more than 5.6 million children. 7.6 million people have been displaced by this conflict. An estimated 4.8 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in hard to reach and besieged locations. Palestine refugees are particularly affected, with 560,000 in need of assistance and 64 per cent of registered Palestine refugees displaced, 280,000 internally and a further 80,000 abroad.

In addition, Syria's development situation has regressed almost by four decades. Since the onset of the crisis in 2011, life expectancy is estimated to have shortened by almost 13 years (Q4, 2013) and school attendance dropped more than 50 per cent. Syria has also seen reversals in all 12 Millennium Development Goal indicators. The Syrian economy has contracted by an estimated 40 per cent since 2011, leading to the majority of Syrians losing their livelihoods. By the end of 2013, an estimated three in four Syrians were living in poverty, and 54 per cent were living in extreme poverty.

Humanitarian access to people in need in Syria remains constrained by shifting frontlines, administrative and bureaucratic hurdles, violence along access routes and general safety and security concerns, especially in areas under the control of terrorist groups listed in United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution 2170 and 2178. It is increasingly difficult for Syrians to find safety, including by seeking asylum. These difficulties have resulted in a marked decline in the number of newly arriving registered refugees and in their ability to access international protection.



Status of Syrian Crisis: OCHA December 2015

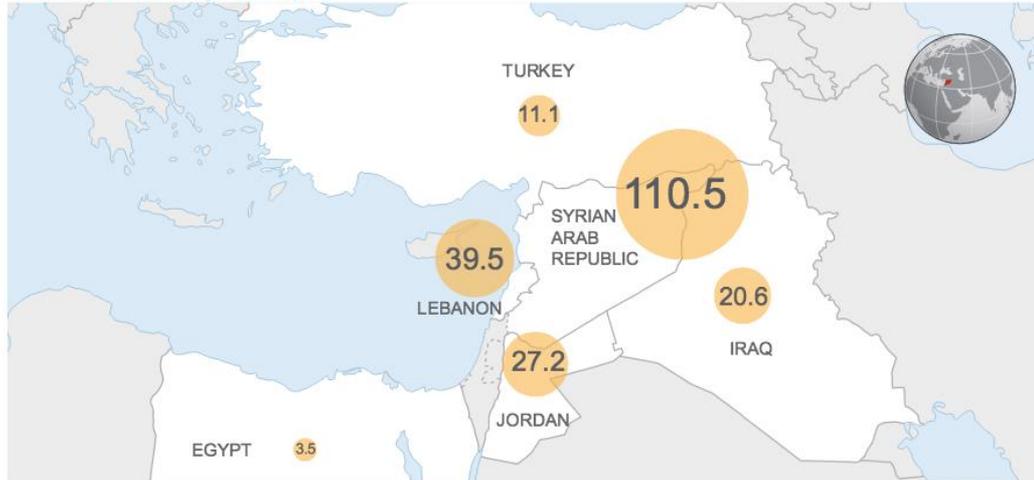


Data source: OCHA (as of Dec 2015).

Status of Syrian Crisis: UN CERF-funded response 2011-2015

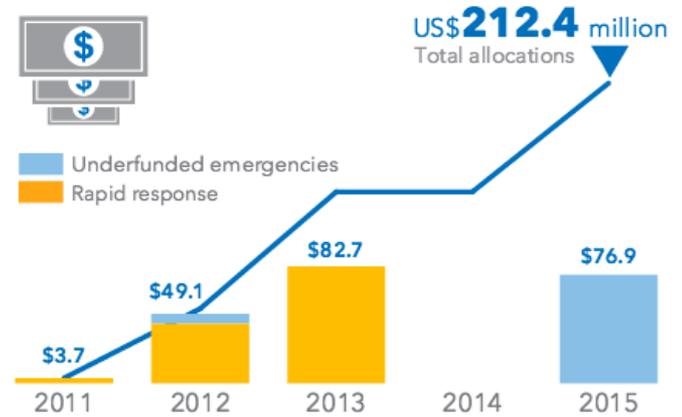
As of 17 December 2015

CERF allocations by country (in US\$ million)

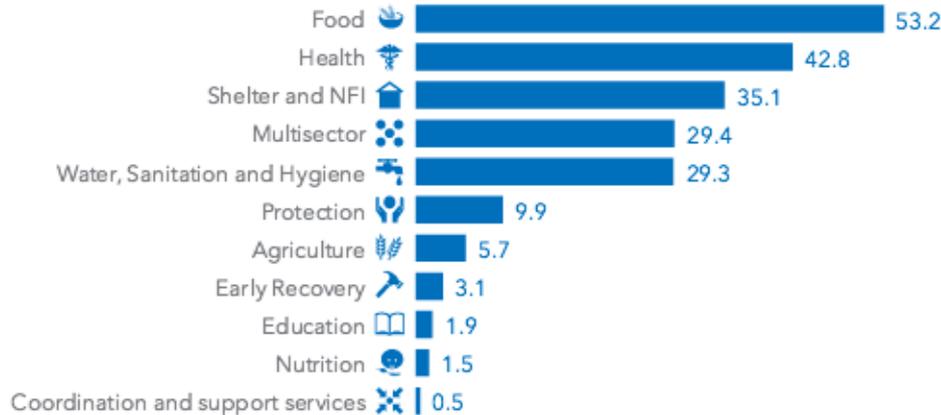


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

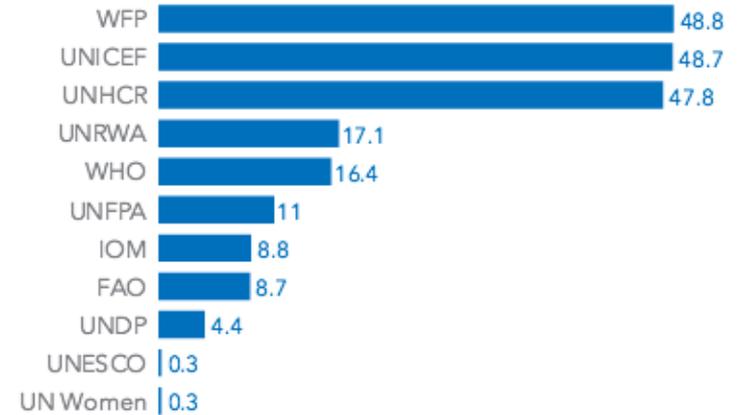
CERF allocations 2011-2015



CERF allocations by sector (in US\$ million)

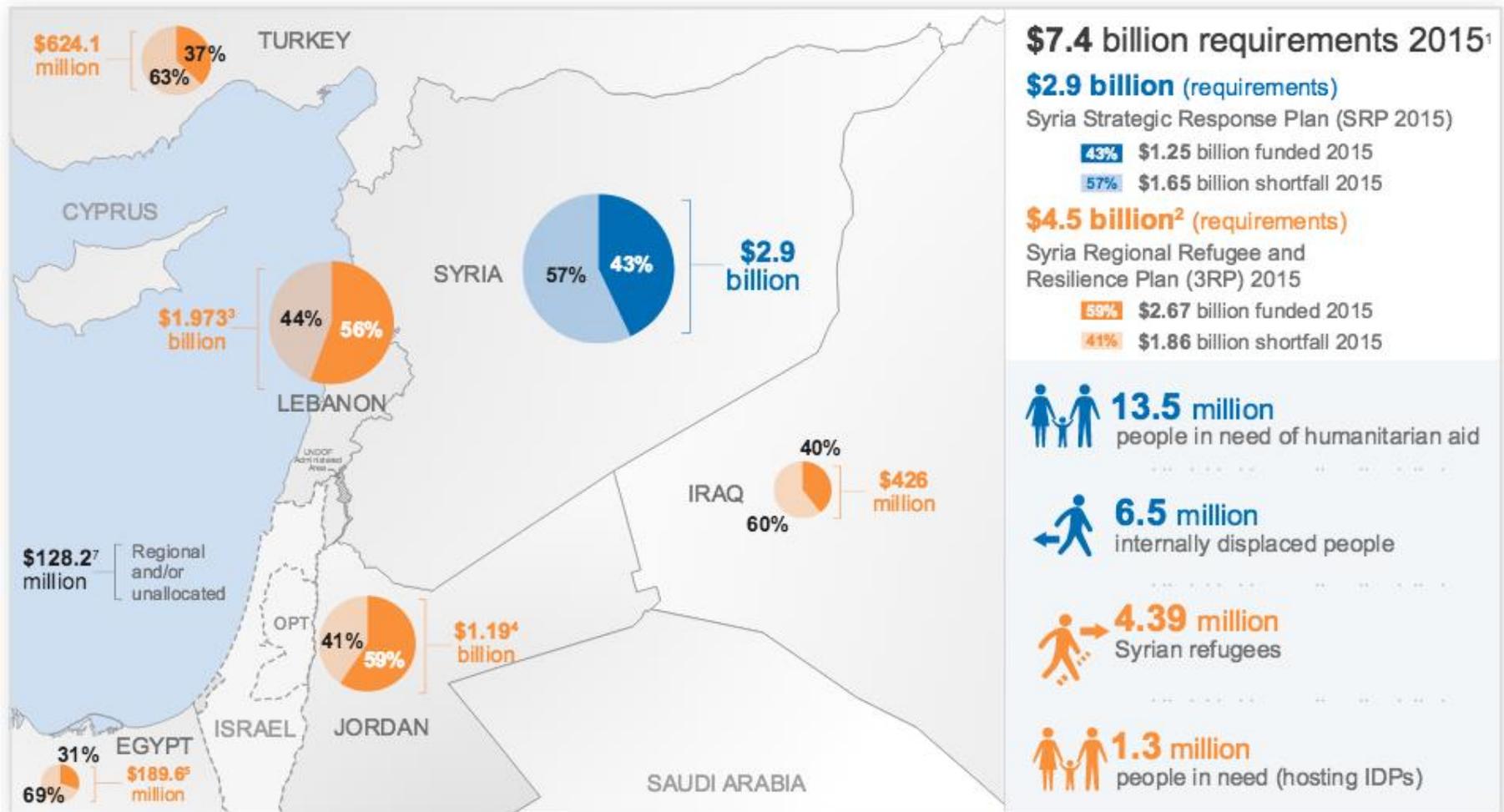


CERF allocations by agency (in US\$ million)



The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is managed by United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), receives voluntary contributions year-round from United Nations Member States and Observers, regional governments, private sector, foundations and individuals.

Syrian Crisis Humanitarian Funding Requirements in 2015



Syrian Crisis Humanitarian Donors and Spending in 2015

Top 20 Donors (SRP and 3RP) 2015

(million \$)

	3RP	SRP	others
United States	703.9	314.5	546.8
United Kingdom	254.3	259.6	113
Germany	394.8	35.7	74.3
European Commission	273.9	83.5	130.8
Kuwait	168.2	103.6	41.7
Netherlands	151	19.2	26.2
Canada	107.7	27.2	37.7
Norway	56.3	35.2	55.5
Japan	93.3	24.3	22.2
Private (individuals & organisations)	54.4	20.4	44.5
Switzerland	27.3	19.6	47.5
Saudi Arabia	5.8	10.1	67.9
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	46.2	29.9	1.3
Denmark	39.5	13.2	18.1
Sweden	30.4	14.1	8.9
Belgium	21.7	20.5	11.1
United Arab Emirates	0	0	44.5
Australia	23.8	5.6	11.9
France	25.5	0	7.1
Finland	10.6	11.3	3.4
Various (details not yet provided)	20.4	0	2.3
Allocation of unearmarked funds by UN agencies	12.4	35	55.3
Carry-over (donors not specified)	111.9	122.3	4.8

3RP is total Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2015-2016

Syria Strategic Response Plan (SRP 2015) by Sector

(million \$)

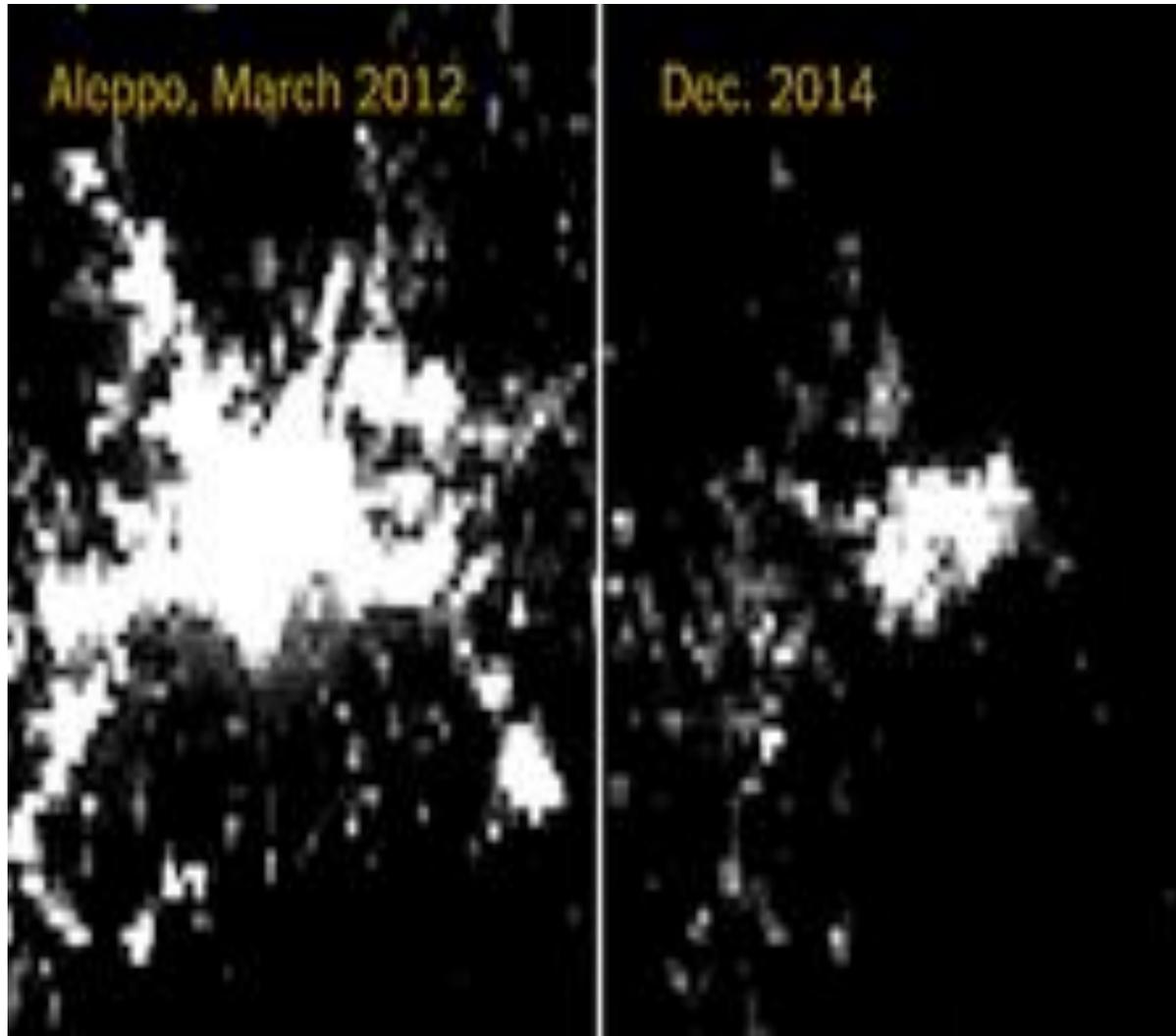
	Funded	Unmet	Requirements
FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE	574.7	643.3	1,218
NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs) AND SHELTER	145.3	494.2	639.5
HEALTH	111.2	206.7	317.9
EDUCATION	45.7	178.3	224
WASH	70.1	98.8	168.9
PROTECTION	25.5	79.3	104.8
EARLY RECOVERY AND LIVELIHOODS	27.7	74.6	102.3
COORDINATION	45.6	17	62.6
NUTRITION	9.1	41.6	50.7
CCCM	0	12.2	12.2
LOGISTICS	3.6	6.2	9.8
ETC	0.6	0.7	1.3
CLUSTER NOT YET SPECIFIED	188.9		

Source : FTS 31 Dec 2015

- 1- Total requirement
- 2- Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan 2015-2016 (3RP), excluding the total requirements mentioned in footnotes 3, 4 and 5
- 3- Overall a \$1.87 billion request. This excludes the requirements of the Government of Lebanon: Ministry of Education and Higher Education (USD 22,600,000), Ministry of Energy and Water (USD 22,200,000), Ministry of Agriculture (USD 6,000,000), Ministry of Public Health (USD 33,000,000) and Ministry of Social Affairs (USD 85,540,068). The total USD 169,340,068 is broken down by USD 53,267,607 for the Refugee component and USD 116,072,461 for the Resilience component.
- 4- Excluding the direct budget support of the Government of Jordan.
- 5- Excluding the requirements of the Government of Egypt: Ministry of Education (USD 102,000,000) and the Ministry of Health (USD 88,182,000). The total USD 190,182,000 is broken down by USD 104,682,000 for the Refugee component and USD 85,500,000 for the Resilience component.
- 6- Funding has not been allocated yet to a specific sector by agencies and would increase the funding for certain sectors once agencies have a breakdown available.
- 7- Includes funds received for: Syria and neighboring countries, UN agencies for some 3RP activities and UN agency funds not yet allocated to specific country programmes.

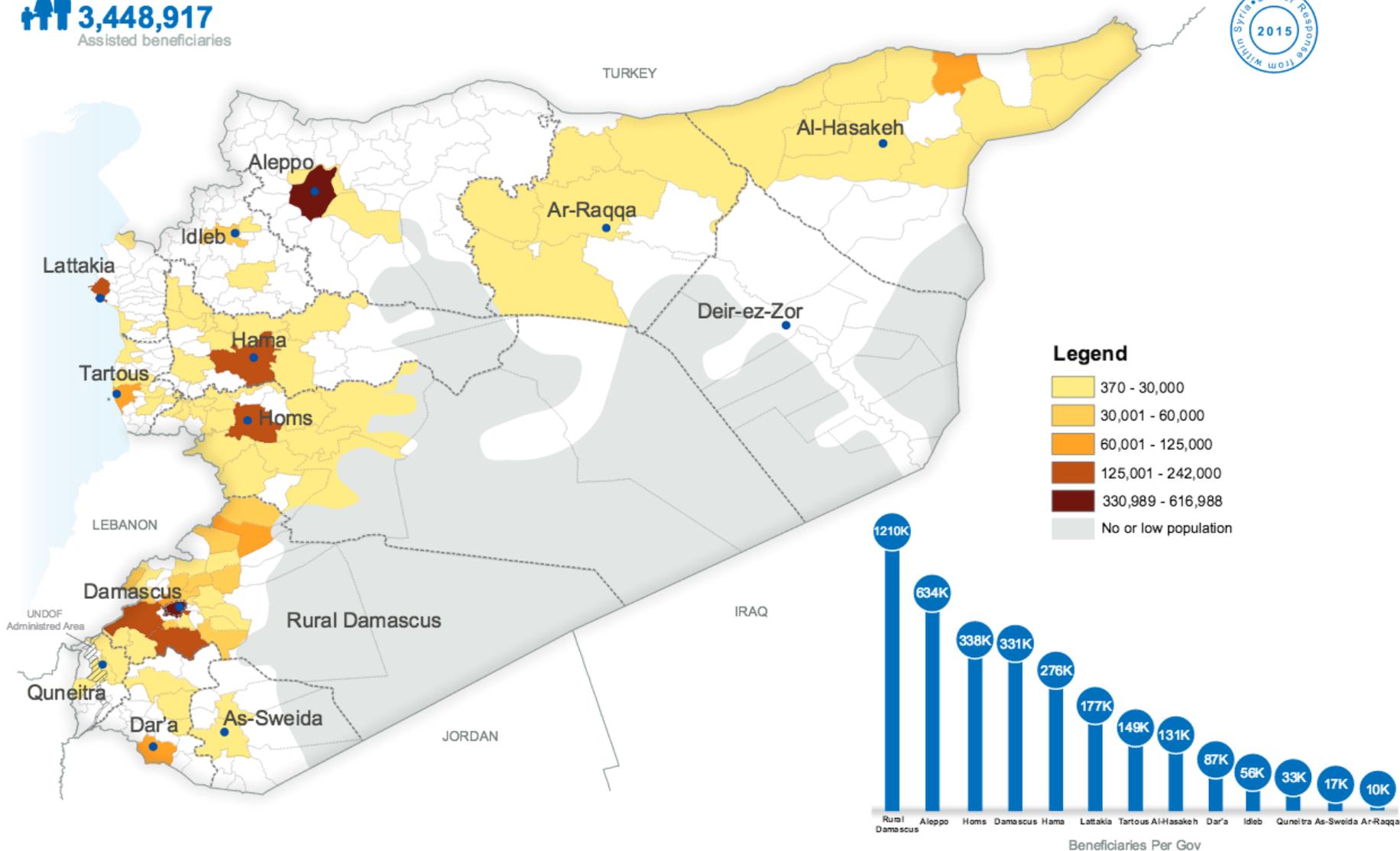
Feedback: Regional Office for the Syria Crisis (ocharosyr@un.org)

Syria: The Lights Go Out in Aleppo: 3/2012-12/2014





3,448,917
Assisted beneficiaries



-Humanitarian reach to a sub-district does not necessarily imply full geographical coverage. The boundaries and names shown and the designation used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 23 December 2015 | Source: NFI & Shelter Sector from within Syria | Website: Syria.unocha.org | www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/syria

Syria: UNICEF January 2016



© UNICEF/MQ/2015/Tornilaw-Geragiev
Larsoy, 6, has travelled with her mother for just over 3 months from Syria to the Gazigilja border

unicef 

Syria Crisis

Monthly Humanitarian Highlights & Results

SEPTEMBER 2015: SYRIA, JORDAN, LEBANON, IRAQ, TURKEY AND EGYPT

SITUATION # NUMBERS

Highlights

- In response to persisting severe water shortages in Aleppo, UNICEF continued to truck 10,000 m3 of water per day, reaching 700,000 people, while continuing to develop alternative water supply modalities.
- In September, Jordanian schools nationwide reopened to welcome approximately 143,000 new and returning Syrian students, a 10% increase from last year. UNICEF's ongoing nationwide Learning for All campaign with 13 partners is encouraging families to enroll children in school where possible, and pursue other learning opportunities (including Makanis) where it is not.
- In Iraq, two new pre-fab schools in Gawelan and Domiz 2 have been completed in time for the start of the new academic year. Through its partner War Child, UNICEF conducted Back to School campaigns in both Domiz 1 and 2 with approximately 13,000 individuals attending.
- In Lebanon, UNICEF has equipped a new well in Majdel Anjar in Bekaa. Majdel Anjar is a large locality near the El Masma border crossing. The locality is home to over 15,000 Lebanese inhabitants and 17,000 Syrian refugees.
- Two UNICEF teams were deployed to assess the situation of women and children in transit in Izmir, Istanbul and Edirne – the majority of whom are Syrians. A mobile CFS was deployed to serve 100 children a day on the move in Izmir, and was deployed in partnership with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) as part of UNICEF's commitment to providing rapid child protection services in the border areas.

In Syria

5,600,000
of children affected

12,184,000
of people affected
(HNO, 2014)

Outside Syria

2,073,905
of registered refugee children and children awaiting registration

4,180,631
of registered refugees and persons awaiting registration

(UNHCR, 9 October 2015)

Syria Appeal 2015*

US\$ 279 million

Regional Appeal 2015*

US\$ 624 million

US Aid to Syria FY2015 and FY2016 as of 12/31/2015

UN Appeals and Funding Received for the Syria and Iraq Crises, as of 12/31/2015

UN Reponse Plan	Requested	Received
2015 Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan	\$4.3 billion	\$2.7 billion (63% of request)
2015 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan	\$2.8 billion	\$1.2 billion (43% of request)
2015 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan	\$704 million	\$518 million (74% of request)

Source: OCHA, Financial Tracking Services: "Total Funding to the Syrian Crisis," 12/31/2015, fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=special-syriancrisis&year=2015, accessed 1/11/2016, and "Iraq: Humanitarian Snapshot (as of 31 December 2015)," 12/31/2015, reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_iraq_humanitarian_snapshot_december_2015.pdf; PRM, Response to DoS OIG request for information, 1/11/2016.

Status of Cumulative FY 2015 and FY 2016 U.S. Government Humanitarian Assistance Funds for the Syria Complex Crisis, as of 12/31/2015

(\$ Millions)

Office	Obligated	Disbursed
PRM	752.2	586.7
FFP	583.0	721.6
OFDA	304.7	21.7
Total	1,639.9	1,330.0

Note: Whereas PRM only reported disbursements of funds obligated from FY 2015 forward, USAID reported disbursements of funds obligated at any prior point. As a result, USAID reported disbursements may exceed obligations because disbursements may have been made against obligations from a prior fiscal year. Data on disbursements can provide valuable information about how much money has been spent on activities as well as the amounts of funding that remain available for expenditure. Provided a letter of credit from the U.S. government, however, humanitarian assistance implementing partners may accrue expenses before drawing down on agency funds. For this reason, expenditures on humanitarian assistance activities sometimes exceed disbursements.

Sources: USAID, response to Lead IG request for information, 1/21/2016; DoS, response to Lead IG request for information, 1/11/2016.

U.S. government financial commitments to the current Syria and Iraq complex crises have totaled approximately \$5.13 billion.

About 88% of these funds have been focused on responding to the Syria complex crisis, which predates the current humanitarian situation in Iraq by 2 years.

From October 1, 2014, to December 31, 2015, USAID and DoS obligated nearly \$1.64 billion in humanitarian assistance in response to the Syria complex crisis. Over that period, USAID and DoS disbursed \$1.33 billion to related programs and activities. During the first quarter of FY 2016, OFDA, FFP, and PRM disbursed a total of \$194.2 million.

Source: Lead IG for Operation Inherent Resolve, Quarterly report to Congress, January 2016, p. 91, http://www.dodig.mil/IGInformation/archives/LIG_OCO_OIR_December2015_rev_TAGS.PDF.

Syria: Syria: USAID Estimate of Situation, January 2016 - - I

Numbers At A Glance

13.5 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Syria

6.5 million

IDPs in Syria

5 million

People Reached per Month by USG Assistance in Syria

4.4 million

Syrian Refugees in Neighboring Countries

2.3 million

Syrian Refugees in Turkey

1.1 million

Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

632,762

Syrian Refugees in Jordan

244,527

Syrian Refugees in Iraq

The Syrian Arab Republic Government (SARG) and the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) began coordinating airstrikes across Syria on September 30. The UN reports that SARG and GoRF airstrikes, in addition to ground offensives, have displaced thousands of Syrians, including approximately 80,000 people in northern Syria's Hamah and Idlib governorates in October. During an October 22 UN Security Council meeting, U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Samantha Power condemned GoRF involvement, noting that GoRF actions are worsening humanitarian conditions in Syria.

Relief organizations in Syria and neighboring countries have prepared for the potential spread of cholera from Iraq, following the declaration of a confirmed outbreak in 16 of the 18 Iraqi governorates in mid-September. The Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) clusters—which coordinate humanitarian health and WASH activities, respectively, and comprise UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other relevant stakeholders—have procured a contingency supply of cholera treatment centers, trained health and WASH staff, and distributed chlorine tablets in preparation for a potential outbreak. Health organizations expect Syrian vulnerability to cholera to decline during the winter months.

U.S. Government (USG) partners plan to assist nearly 970,000 vulnerable people inside Syria to prepare for the winter season and mitigate cold weather-related risks during the 2015/2016 winter season. Partners are distributing winter relief items, including blankets, fuel, warm clothing, and shelter supplies to displaced populations across Syria, as well as to Syrian refugees in neighboring countries.

Parties to the conflict continue to use siege as a tactic of war in Syria, where the UN estimates that approximately 393,700 people were living under siege as of late October. An estimated 200,000 people were besieged by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in areas of Dayr az Zawr Governorate, a decrease from the approximately 228,000 people reported in September, while some 12,500 people were besieged by opposition groups, including Al Nusra Front, in the towns of Al Fu'ah and Kafrayya, Idlib. Approximately 181,200 people were besieged by the SARG in various locations in Rif Damascus Governorate's Eastern Ghouta region and the cities of Al Zabadani and Darayya in Rif Damascus— representing a nearly 10 percent increase in the population besieged by the SARG since May. Overall, the SARG is accountable for 12 of 15 UN-identified besieged towns, 10 of which are located in Eastern Ghouta.

Heightened insecurity and active fighting, including GoRF airstrikes that began on September 30, continue to displace people and kill civilians throughout Syria. The conflict displaced nearly 131,400 people from and within Aleppo, Hamah, and Idlib governorates between early October and mid-November, while thousands of others fled fighting in Al Hasakah, Damascus, Dar'a, Latakia, and Rif Damascus governorates. The UN reports that the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the estimated 13.5 million people in need remains extremely challenging due to ongoing conflict and deliberate access constraints and obstructions imposed by parties to the conflict, including onerous administrative processes.

Syria: USAID Estimate of Situation, January 2016 - II

Although many agencies are unable to serve populations located within close proximity to the fighting, humanitarian agencies, including USAID partners, have scaled up relief activities in response to the new displacement. By the end of November, relief agencies had distributed more than 9,000 tents to newly arrived internally displaced persons (IDPs) at IDP camps in Aleppo and Idlib. Between November 6 and 19, Food Security and Livelihood Cluster members, including USAID/FFP partners, delivered approximately 18,000 food baskets and 100 metric tons of bread, reaching nearly 13,500 households in Aleppo and Idlib. In addition, health organizations are providing health care services via nine mobile clinics and emergency trauma care via 90 medical facilities in Aleppo, Hamah, and Idlib.

Increased violence impeded IDP access to services and hindered the delivery of some humanitarian assistance in areas of Al Hasakah, Ar Raqqah, Aleppo, Dar'a, Dayr az Zawr, Hamah, Homs, and Rif Damascus governorates during October, the UN reports. The UN World Food Program (WFP), for instance, was unable to deliver emergency food assistance to approximately 220,000 people in need in Aleppo, an estimated 720,000 people in need in nearly all of Ar Raqqah and Dayr az Zawr, and areas of Al Hasakah, Aleppo, Hamah, and Homs.

In October, aerial bombardment and fighting intensified in the opposition-held Eastern Ghouta region of Rif Damascus and areas surrounding the capital city of Damascus, according to the UN. In Eastern Ghouta's town of Douma, the SARG and its allies conducted airstrikes on the town, hitting civilian infrastructure, including health care facilities and public markets, causing the deaths of at least 75 people and injuring more than 200 people, the UN reports. Additionally, airstrikes targeted the Eastern Ghouta towns of Dayr al-Assafir, Erbeen, Hamouria, Harasta, Kafr Batna, Madira, Saqba, and Zamalka, resulting in nearly 30 deaths in mid-October. Further, SARG barrel bombs struck the town of Marj and temporarily displaced an estimated 1,400 households across Eastern Ghouta and severely damaged infrastructure in the town during the same reporting period.

In late October, USAID/FFP partner WFP released the results of a food security assessment conducted inside Syria, which surveyed 19,000 households in all governorates except Ar Raqqah and Dayr az Zawr between May and June 2015. Results of the survey indicate that approximately 6.3 million people are food-insecure. The survey found a high prevalence of food insecurity in Aleppo, Al Hasakah, Al Qunaytirah, and Hamah, where more than 45 percent of the population were food-insecure. However, the severity of food insecurity varied across the surveyed governorates. While the assessment identified 164 critical sub-districts where at least 20 percent of people were experiencing food insecurity, in 20 of those sub-districts, 80 percent of the populations were food-insecure. The assessment results also reveal that nearly 40 percent of IDPs and returnees in settlements and unfinished buildings are food-insecure, compared to an estimated 30 percent of people residing in host communities. Additionally, the WFP survey results indicate that more than 60 percent of Syrians are employing negative coping mechanisms, such as begging, child labor, and accumulating debt to meet basic food needs.

Following the declaration of a confirmed cholera outbreak in Iraq in mid-September, locally based relief agencies have prepared for the potential spread of the disease to Syria, given the geographical proximity to Iraq and the cyclical movement of people between the two countries. However, no cholera cases had been confirmed in Syria as of December 4, and health organizations expect the population's vulnerability to cholera to decline during the winter months. From November 19–24, a USAID/OFDA partner and other Health Cluster members conducted a training of trainers for nearly additional 70 participants in the city of Sanliurfa, Turkey; participants are now equipped to train other health care workers inside Syria on cholera preparedness and isolation and treatment procedures. Health Cluster members have also pre-positioned more than 3,300 cholera rapid diagnostics tests (RDTs) in all governorates except Rif Damascus. Further, WASH Cluster members continue assessing cholera contingency stocks—including bulk chlorine, household water purification tablets, and soap—available in Aleppo, Dayr az Zawr, and Idlib, and have distributed up to 3,000 kilograms of chlorine to treat drinking water in northern Syria.

Syria: USAID Estimate of Situation, January 2016 - III

Airstrikes on civilian infrastructure in northern Syria, including health facilities, have intensified since the commencement of GoRF aerial support to the SARG in late September. In October, alleged SARG and GoRF airstrikes accounted for attacks on USG-supported health facilities in northern and southern Syria. In addition, a recent study attributed more than 70 percent of security incidents and approximately 77 percent of civilian casualties in Syria to the SARG. The NGO Physicians for Human Rights has documented at least 90 attacks on medical facilities between January and November, marking 2015 as the year with the most recorded health facility attacks in Syria to date.

The UN released the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) on October 19, which identified 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria. The HNO also identified 6.5 million IDPs in Syria, 1.3 million people who are hosting IDPs, and nearly 4.5 million people living in hard-to-reach locations, including 360,000 people in besieged areas. Priority humanitarian needs for 2016 include emergency food assistance, health care, shelter, and WASH assistance. Of the 13.5 million people in need, at least 8.7 million people are unable to fully meet basic food needs and have adopted negative coping strategies, according to the HNO. Further, approximately 70 percent of people in Syria lack regular access to safe drinking water, and an estimated 5.3 million people are in need of safe shelter.

To respond to large-scale displacement since the end of September, the UN allocated \$10 million to emergency response activities in Syria from the Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF)—a multi-donor, country-based pooled fund whose objective is to enable humanitarian assistance in Syria. The funds will address the needs of approximately 400,000 conflict-affected people in Aleppo, Hamah, and Idlib, including more than 123,800 recently displaced people, according to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster. Syrian NGOs received an estimated 80 percent of the allocation to deliver life-saving food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance. HPF funding also prioritized the provision of 6,000 tents to protect newly displaced households from harsh winter conditions; distribution of emergency food items, including ready-to-eat meals; and support to mobile health clinics and ambulances, according to the UN.

According to the HNO, 2.6 million displaced and vulnerable Syrians are in need of assistance in preparation for winter conditions. USAID/OFDA plans to provide winterization assistance to nearly 970,000 Syrians for the 2015/2016 winter season. In October, USAID/OFDA partners began distributing blankets, clothing, fuel, mattresses, plastic sheeting, and other relief items to help vulnerable communities prepare for the impending winter and mitigate cold-weather related risks. Partners are also providing shelter support, such as sealing kits and tarps, for approximately 15,300 people in northern Syria. USAID/OFDA partners operating in southern Syria are delivering winter relief items—including sleeping mats, thermal blankets, and winter clothing—to more than 274,000 people in Al Qunaytirah, As Suwayda', Damascus, Dar'a, and Rif Damascus. Additionally, with support from State/PRM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aims to reach approximately 220,000 IDPs in Syria with winter assistance, including thermal blankets, plastic tarpaulin, stoves, kerosene containers, and seasonally appropriate clothing.

USG partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched its winterization response plan in October, which aims to distribute blankets, heaters, and winterization kits to more than 1 million Syrian children throughout Syria. UNICEF plans to introduce a voucher program in December that will enable families to access seasonally appropriate relief items through local markets in five Syrian governorates. UNICEF also continues winter preparedness efforts in neighboring countries and the region. While UNICEF's regional winter preparedness strategy differs slightly by country, the primary focus is to provide vulnerable children and households with cash assistance, electronic vouchers, and weatherappropriate clothing kits.

Syria: USAID Estimate of Regional Aid, January 2016 - I

Iraq

With USG support, UNHCR initiated the procurement, transport, and warehouse storage of essential winter items in July and August 2015 to ensure that all relief commodities were ready for distribution to Syrian refugees residing in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) beginning in November. From November 2015 to February 2016, heating fuel will be available to vulnerable Syrian families living inside and outside of IKR refugee camps through vouchers or the direct distribution of 100 liters of kerosene per household per month. As part of UNHCR's winter programming, vulnerable households will also receive a monthly cash supplement of \$250 between November and February. UNHCR and implementing partners have identified beneficiaries based on vulnerability criteria in adherence to guidelines supported by the Cash Assistance Working Group in Iraq.

Jordan

The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (GoHKJ) Ministry of Interior (MoI) is allowing refugees to use a UNHCR statement of address when applying for their MoI service card, bypassing the previous requirement that refugees needed a certified lease agreement or have their landlord present to receive the card. As of October 15, the MoI had issued approximately 222,300 Syrian MoI service cards; of this total, more than 204,000 are Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR. The verification exercise requires all Syrians, both refugees and non-refugees, residing outside of camps to register with the GoHKJ and obtain new documents that permit access to GoHKJ-provided services such as education and health care.

With financial support from the USG, the E.U., and Germany, camp managers officially opened two newly built school complexes in the Za'atri refugee camp in northern Jordan on October 27, bringing the total number of schools in Za'atri to 24. The schools will reduce overcrowding in classrooms and improve the overall quality of learning among Syrian refugee children attending formal schools. In October, approximately 143,000 Syrian students accessed formal education in camp and host community settings in Jordan.

With USG support, UNHCR is providing cash assistance to nearly 39,000 families, or approximately 150,000 refugees in Jordan to help meet critical needs during the winter season. To date in 2015, UNHCR has delivered \$35.1 million to more than 27,400 refugee families living in Jordanian urban areas.

Lebanon

Results from the Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR)—a collaborative assessment undertaken in May and June and released in October—UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP confirm that the food security of refugees in Lebanon has significantly worsened since the previous assessment in 2014. Moderate food insecurity doubled, affecting one quarter of households, while the proportion of food-secure households fell from 25 percent to 11 percent. Findings from the assessment also indicate that the use of negative coping strategies has more than doubled among refugee households during the past year, increasing from 28 percent in 2014 to 61 percent in 2015. Further, an estimated 70 percent of refugee households are living below the national poverty line, compared to 50 percent in 2014, according to the survey. Recent funding from donors, however, will increase food voucher values for refugees from more than \$13 to nearly \$22 per person per month beginning in November and lasting through January 2016 at current funding levels.

On November 12, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched an aid campaign to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon in coordination with the Lebanese Red Cross. According to the head of the KRCS delegation to Lebanon, KRCS has distributed emergency food assistance and hygiene kits to nearly 350 Syrian refugee households in Akkar District in northern Lebanon. The campaign will cover the needs of more than 7,000 Syrian refugee households for one month and will provide additional aid for refugees this winter.

With USG support, UNICEF has helped establish a new water distribution network in Majdel Anjar village in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon, where more than 17,000 Syrian refugees and 15,000 Lebanese people reside. Additionally, by installing a new 7,200-foot water-supply line in the town of Jeb Janine, Bekaa Valley, UNICEF is ensuring the transmission of approximately 3 million liters of water per day and improving access to safe drinking water for local populations, including more than 8,000 Syrian refugees and 5,600 Lebanese people.

Syria: USAID Estimate of Regional Aid, January 2016 - II

Turkey

On November 16, the UK announced that it plans to contribute up to \$419 million in bilateral assistance to Turkey during the next two years to assist with the Syrian conflict and resultant refugee crisis. The new funding will likely target humanitarian projects; support schools, hospitals, and housing for Syrian refugees; and assist communities hosting refugees. The new UK announcement builds upon existing funding through the UK Department for International Development (DFID), which has provided approximately \$52 million for humanitarian projects in Turkey since the beginning of the Syrian complex emergency. In collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), WFP continues to assess the vulnerability of the refugee population residing outside of camps in Turkey in an effort to channel assistance to those most in need. WFP plans to maintain its off-camp program, which has supported more than 25,000 Syrians to date in 2015, through the end of the year. The program aims to reach up to 45,000 Syrian households in total by the end of 2015. According to WFP, in refugee camp settings, TRCS, Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), and WFP have worked together to provide Syrian refugees with sufficient food assistance to enable the refugees to cover their food requirements. The number of refugees in camps assisted by voucher support from WFP and AFAD is limited to approximately 150,000 individuals in 11 camps. AFAD covers the entirety of the voucher amount to the population of the remaining 14 camps.

Aid to Syria in FY2015

	USD committed/contributed	USD pledged
Total:	5,347,337,789	382,866,854
Allocation of funds from Red Cross / Red Crescent	408,303	
Allocation of unearmarked funds by UN agencies	110,443,873	
Australia	41,299,765	
Austria	9,871,730	
Belgium	53,167,473	5,202,475
Brazil	5,000,000	
Bulgaria	113,122	
Canada	172,608,312	
Carry-over (donors not specified)	239,006,284	
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)	77,419,314	
Chile	100,000	
Cyprus	21,930	
Czech Republic	5,874,409	
Denmark	70,839,735	
Estonia	783,626	
European Commission	488,119,485	
Finland	25,269,792	
France	32,637,856	
Germany	504,803,117	
Holy See	24,828	
Hungary	328,947	
Iceland	875,000	
India	1,000,000	
Indonesia	500,000	
Ireland	14,525,231	
Italy	23,661,340	
Japan	139,779,390	23,360,000
Jordan	200,000	
Korea, Republic of	10,550,000	
Kuwait	313,496,347	215,390,000
Latvia	111,366	
Lithuania	43,573	56,117
Luxembourg	7,532,560	

Malaysia	500,000	
Malta	133,873	
Monaco	588,183	
Netherlands	196,429,726	30,652,419
New Zealand	1,506,024	2,903,226
Norway	147,020,250	
Poland	2,811,767	
Portugal	184,372	
Private (individuals & organisations)	126,851,491	
Qatar	9,966,165	
Romania	498,803	
Russian Federation	6,740,087	
Saudi Arabia	83,720,529	
Slovakia	362,618	
Slovenia	133,788	
Spain	11,305,486	
Sweden	53,424,963	
Switzerland	94,406,802	312,000
Turkey	1,000,000	
United Arab Emirates	44,521,743	62,370,971
United Kingdom	626,974,880	
United States	1,565,168,476	42,619,646
Various (details not yet provided)	22,671,055	

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO SYRIA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE FY 2012 – FY 2015

USAID/OFDA¹ \$866,283,413

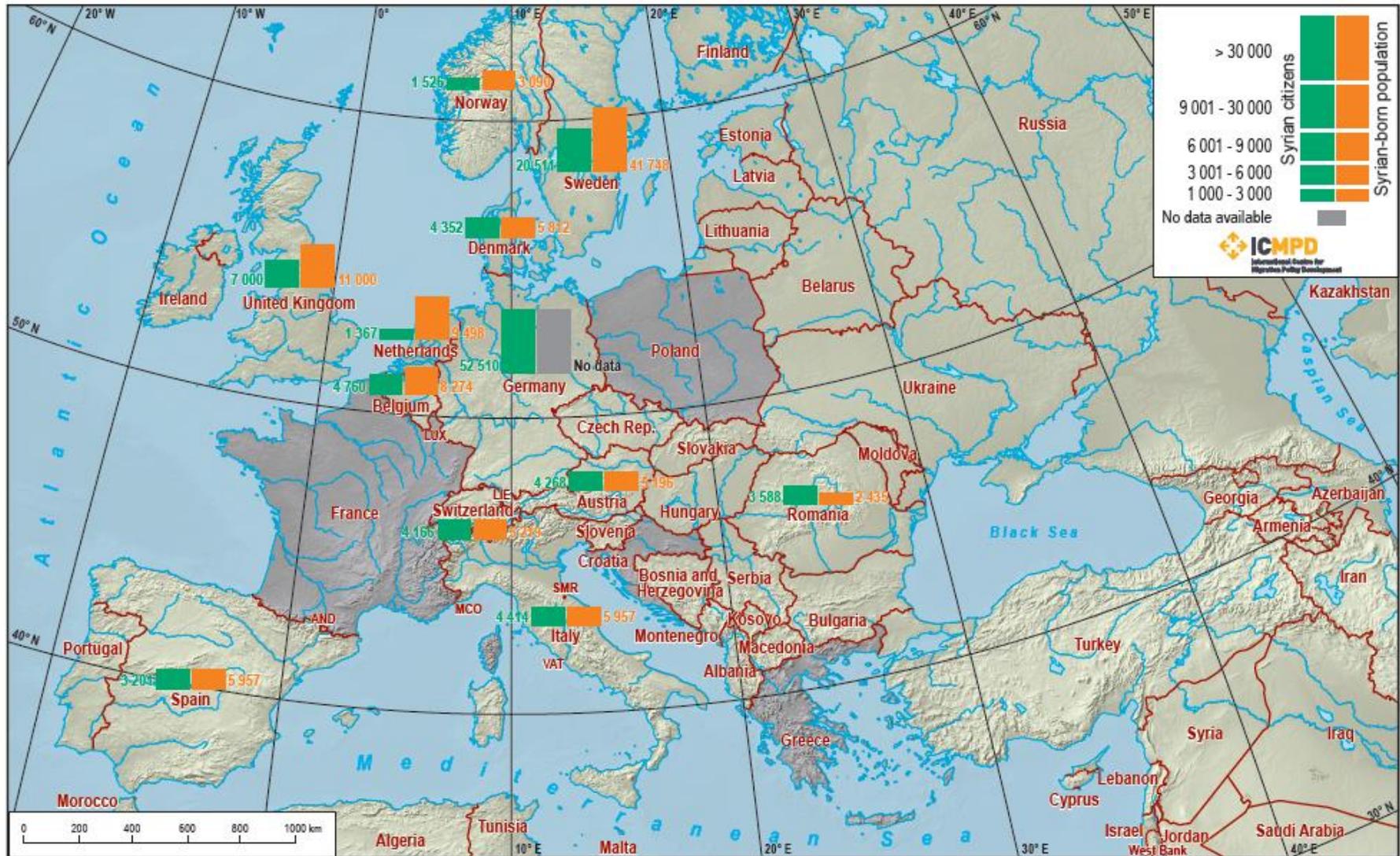
USAID/FFP² \$1,550,694,720

State/PRM³ \$2,112,085,086

\$4,529,063,219

TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG)
ASSISTANCE TO THE SYRIA
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Syrian Citizens and Syrian-born Population: 2014



Source: EUROSTAT (latest update: 17 April 2015), Statistics Austria, and the UK Office for National Statistics (data available only for 2013). Map includes EU 28 as well as Switzerland and Norway. No data was available for Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Malta, and Poland. In the cases of Germany, Ireland, and Portugal data was available on Syrian citizens but not on the Syrian-born population. The map only includes the top 10 countries in the categories Syrian citizens and Syrian-born population.

Asylum applications of Syrian Citizens : 2014



Source: EUROSTAT (latest update: 01 April 2015).
Data includes asylum and new asylum applicants by citizenship; only included if > 100

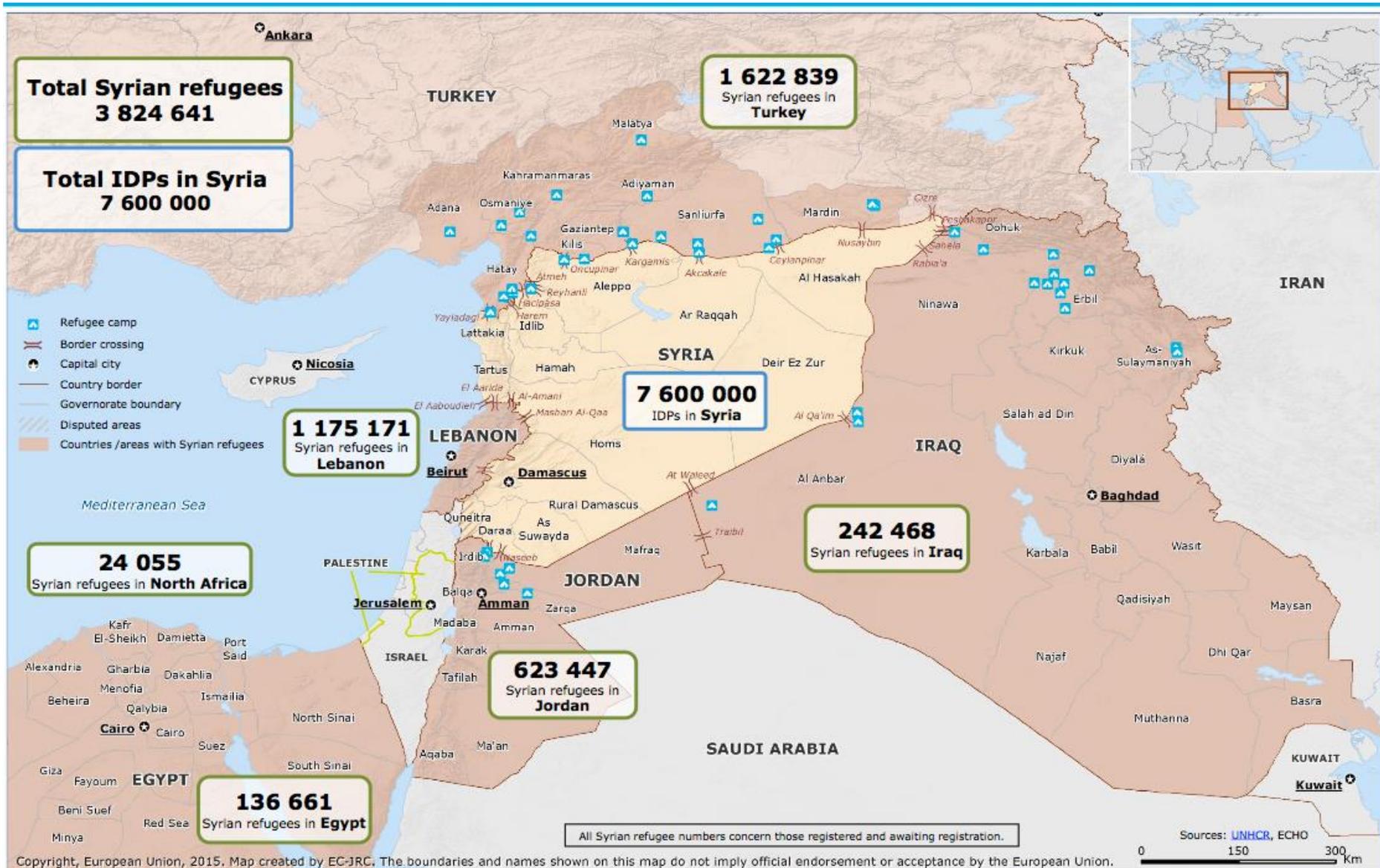
Source: Atlas-Syria: Federal Ministry of the interior, Republic of Austria, 2015, http://www.ecoi.net/atlas_syria.pdf, p. 19

Syrian Refugees, Asylum Seekers and IDPs : 2014-2015

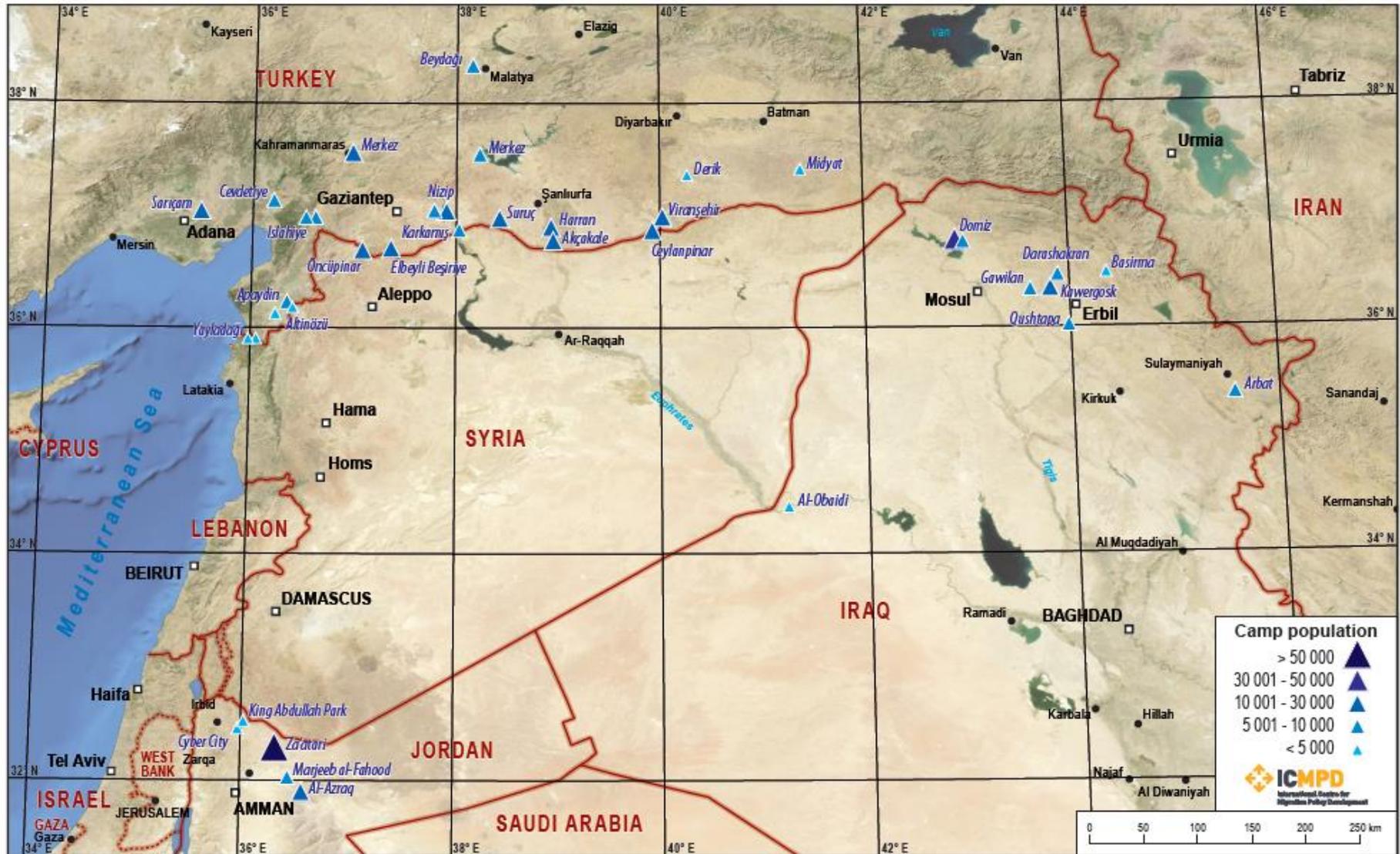


Source: Syrian Population of UNHCR Concern: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> (latest updates: Egypt: 14 April 2015, Iraq: 31 March 2015, Jordan: 08 April 2015, Lebanon: 10 April 2015, Turkey: 10 April 2015). Persons of Concern to UNHCR include refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons, as well as returnees. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): <http://www.internal-displacement.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/syria/> (latest update: December 2014).

Syrian Refugee and IDP Crisis: March 1, 2015



Camps for Syrian Refugees: April 2015

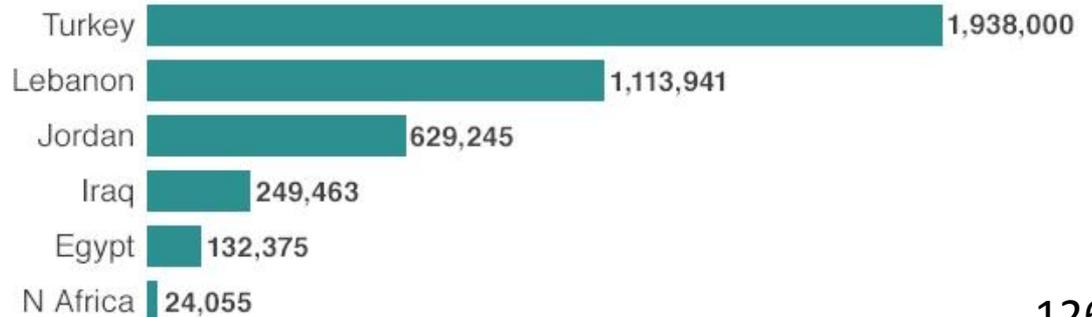


Source: Refugee camps in Iraq and Jordan: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> (latest updates: Iraq: 31 March 2015, Jordan: 08 April 2015). King Abdullah Park Refugee Camp and Cyber City Refugee Camp in Jordan (temporary refugee camps): Camp population is based on estimates of aid workers in April 2015. Refugee camps in Turkey: <https://www.afad.gov.tr/TR/icerik/Detay1.aspx?ID=16&icerikID=848> (latest update: 13 April 2015). This map only depicts official camps for Syrian refugees and does not make reference to informal tent camps set up by refugees without shelter.

Registered Syrian Refugees as of August 31, 2015



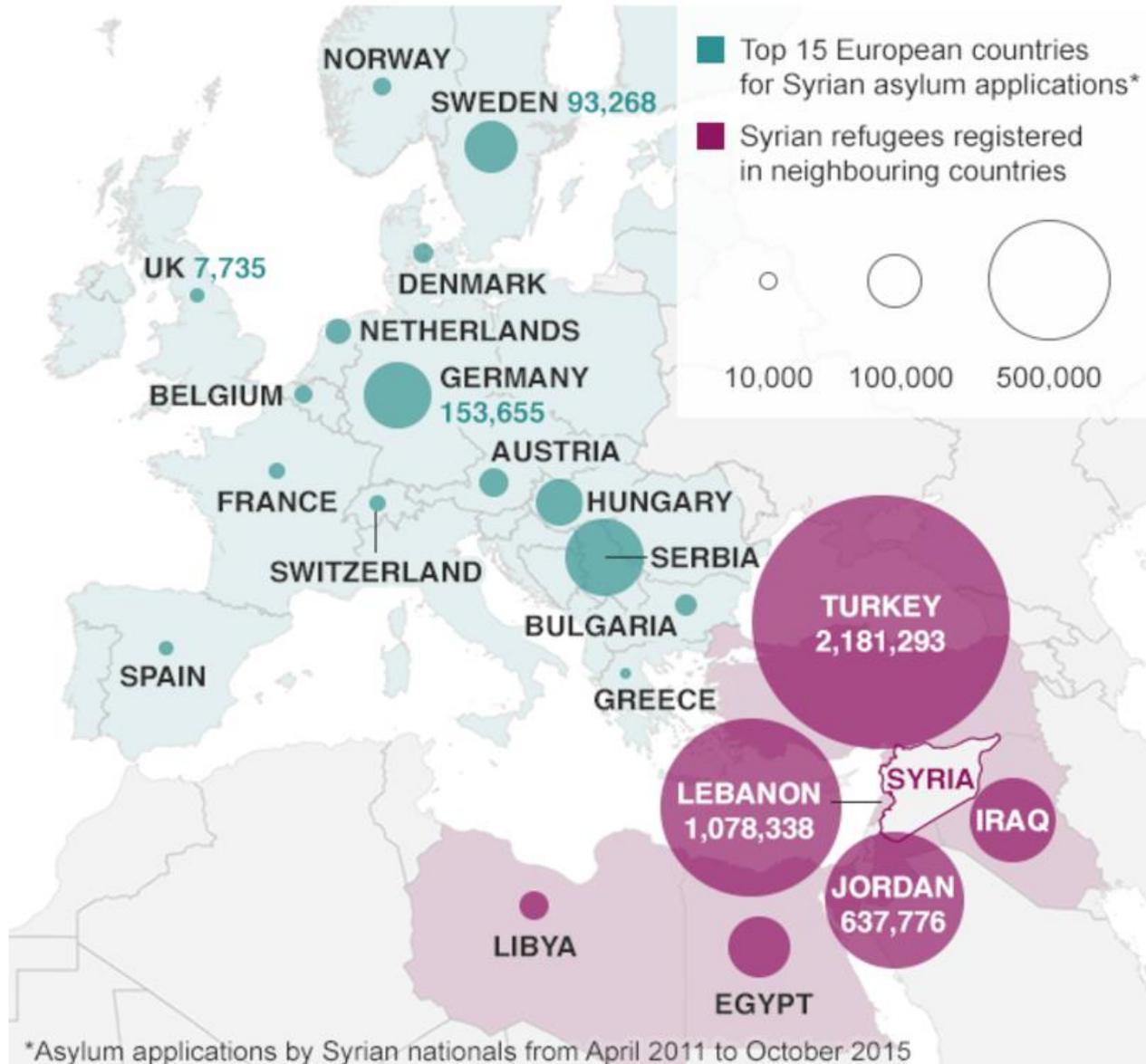
Registered refugees: **4,088,078**



Source:
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

Syrians in neighbouring countries and Europe

Syrians in Neighboring Countries and Europe: End-October 2015



Source: UNHCR



Rising Syrian Aid Costs: 2012-2016

Funding and targets of UN appeals for Syria



Source: UNOCHA FTS



Sixty countries are represented at the [conference](#), including 30 world leaders. They are aiming to help the 4.6 million refugees and 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria

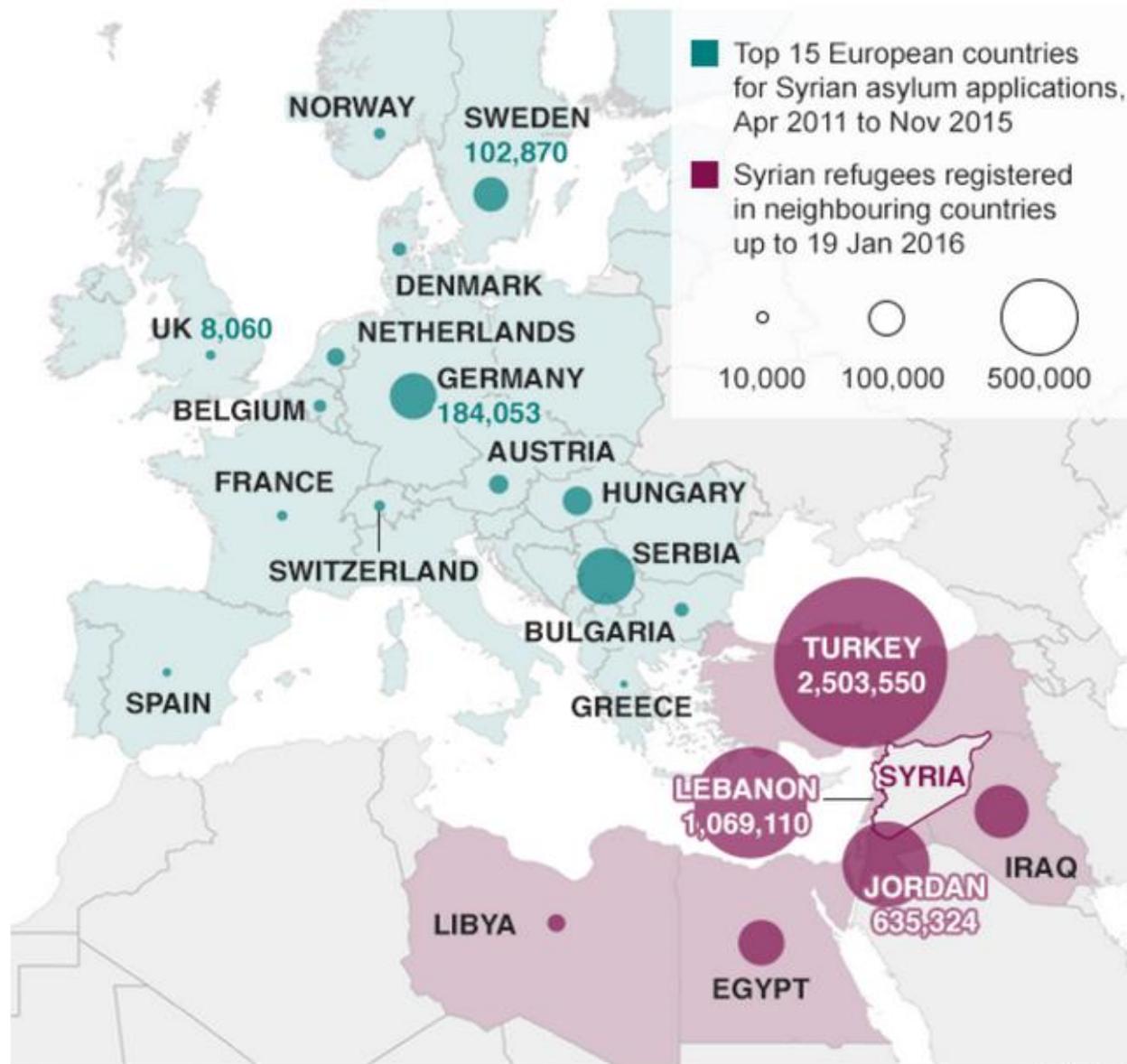
.The pledges included \$2.6bn from Germany, \$1.7bn from the UK, \$1bn from France and \$925m from the US. Australia, Belgium, Italy, Poland, Japan, the UAE, Austria, Switzerland, Estonia, Denmark and Finland also committed funds...the EU would commit €3bn this year and intended to "maintain this level of financing" for 2017 and beyond. He said the European Investment Bank would also "play its part", offering to lend as much as €23bn "for the whole of the Middle East and North Africa".

The \$9bn being sought on Thursday is made up of a [UN appeal for \\$7.7bn](#) and about \$1.3bn requested by regional host governments. Part of the reason for the record request is the underfunding of previous appeals. [Only 43%](#) of the \$2.9bn pledged to the UN's 2015 appeal has so far been funded. Delegates from Turkey - which hosts the largest number of refugees, 2.5 million - Jordan and Lebanon said their societies would need long-term support in order to adapt to the influx from Syria.

Source: BBC, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35488674>.

Syrians in neighbouring countries and Europe

Syrians in Neighboring Countries and Europe: 19 January 2016



Source: UNHCR

BBC