Please cite as: EUAA, '5.1.1. Syrian Democratic Forces' in *COI Report - Syria: Country Focus*, July 2025.

5.1.1. Syrian Democratic Forces

Following the 10 March agreement between the government and SDF, several de-escalation and reintegration steps were taken, including the SDF's withdrawal from the Kurdish neighbourhoods of Sheikh Maksoud and Ashrafieh in Aleppo city in early April[738] and a partial handover of the Tishreen Dam to government forces.[739] As of late April Etana Syria reported that the initial implementation of the SDF-government agreement over the Tishreen Dam brought early progress, including joint patrols and a stated SDF commitment to withdraw from front-line areas.[740]

Meanwhile, Kurdish groups publicly called for decentralisation[741] and convened a national conference in Qamishli, gathering around 400 representatives from major Kurdish political and armed groups, including the SDF, its political arm the Democratic Union Party (PYD), and the rival Kurdish National Council (KNC). Participants collectively rejected the interim authorities' Constitutional Declaration, which they criticised as an attempt to centralise power in Damascus.[742] While reaffirming their commitment to a unified Syria, they issued a joint political statement calling for a federal system in Syria that would unify the administration of all Kurdish-majority areas in the northeast.[743] The conference outcomes sparked a sharp reaction from interim President al-Sharaa, who denounced the resolutions and accused Kurdish groups of attempting to fragment Syrian sovereignty. Al-Sharaa reiterated that decentralisation remains a 'red line' for the transitional government.[744]

As of late April, tensions between the government and the SDF had escalated, leading both sides to reinforce their military positions around the Tishreen Dam.[745] Sporadic clashes between the two sides were reported in May[746] and early June.[747] Negotiations over the disputed Tishreen Dam on the Euphrates River remained unresolved as of late May, with no clear agreement reached.[748]

In May, ISW reported that SDF have not disarmed, citing fears that elements of the Turkish-backed SNA may target Kurdish communities.[749] In late May, PYD representatives announced that a DAANES delegation plans to negotiate with the government on key national issues, including the structure of the Syrian government and army, as well as potential amendments to the Constitutional Declaration.[750] As of early June, negotiations between the two parties were ongoing and agreements were reached on prisoner exchanges and establishing specialised committees for the implementation of the March 10 agreement.[751]

- 5.1.2. Assad-aligned militias
- 5.1.3. ISIL

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