



2.3.2. Territorial control and main armed actors

Hama governorate used to be a stronghold of former President Bashar Al-Assad's forces during the civil war.[593](#) On 5 December 2024 Hama city was captured by HTS[594](#) and as of mid-December 2024 virtually the entire governorate was shown as controlled by HTS-led opposition forces on a map produced by ISW and CTP. [595](#) In spring 2025 ISW and CTP depicted pockets of 'pro-regime insurgent presence' in the western part of the governorate.[596](#) As of 31 January 2026, the governorate is shown as fully under control of Syrian government forces.[597](#) The following units of the new Syrian Army were based in Hama governorate as of November 2025: the 54th Division, the 62nd Division, the 74th Special Forces Division and the 82nd Special Forces Division.[598](#) The 62nd Division is the reflagged civil war faction Suleiman Shah Division, a former SNA group,[599](#) which had been sanctioned because of atrocities against civilians.[600](#) Members of the 62nd Division participated in the March 2025 sectarian violence against Alawites.[601](#)

Multiple reports describe acts of violence carried out by unidentified armed groups.[602](#) ISIL activity was also reported in Hama governorate by SOHR: armed men reportedly linked to ISIL set up a temporary checkpoint in the northern Hama countryside in December 2025 but had left before security forces arrived.[603](#) One ISIL member was reported killed and another one injured during an ambush presumably staged by other ISIL west of Hama city in April 2026.[604](#)

- [593](#)

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- [594](#)

BBC, Syrian rebels capture second major city after military withdraws, 5 December 2024, [url](#)

- [595](#)

ISW and CTP, Reported Control of Terrain in Syria as of December 19, 2024 at 2:00 PM ET [Map], 20 December 2024, [url](#)

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28, 2025 at 2:00 PM EST [Map], 28 July 2025, [url](#)

- [597](#)

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ISW and CTP, The New Syrian Army: Order of Battle, 14 November 2025, [url](#), pp. 46-47

- [599](#)

Syria in Transition, What's left of the SNA, December 2025, [url](#); UN Human Rights Council, Violations against civilians in the coastal and western-central regions of the Syrian Arab Republic (January–March 2025), A/HRC/59/CRP.4, 11 August 2025, [url](#), para. 83

- [600](#)

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- [603](#)

SOHR, Security concerns after monitoring checkpoints bearing the hallmarks of “ISIS” in Hama countryside, 18 December 2025, [url](#)

- [604](#)

SOHR, Ambush by ISIS | Member killed and another injured in western Hama countryside, 13 April 2026, [url](#)