



2.4.2. Territorial control and main armed actors

Territorial control in Latakia governorate remained entirely under the control of the transitional government during the reporting period.[651](#) For spring 2025, multiple pockets with pro-regime insurgent presence across the governorate were mapped by ISW and CTP.[652](#)

Forces of the new Syrian army present in the governorate comprised the 50th Coastal Division, which included former members of the National Liberation Front; the 56th Division, consisting of former HTS fighters; and the 84th Division.[653](#) In May 2026, the International Crisis Group stated that the Turkistan Islamic Party, consisting mainly of Uyghur fighters, had been transformed into three brigades of the 84th Division.[654](#)

Non-state armed groups in the governorate that were active during the reporting period included a number of Assad-loyalist insurgent groups. The militia Men of Light-Saraya Al-Jawad) was formed in August 2025 in the Syrian coastal region.[655](#) The Alawite militia is linked to the former Assad regime, and is reportedly loyal to Suheil al-Hassan, a former brigadier general of an elite unit in the regime's army.[656](#) According to the Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper, citing the Mol, members of the militia took part in the attacks in the coastal region in March 2025.[657](#) Furthermore, the Coastal Shield Brigade, led by the former Assad regime officer Miqdad Fatiha, remained active.[658](#) Reports indicated that the Coastal Shield Brigade shifted its focus towards targeting Alawite civilians perceived as collaborating with the transitional government, rather than directing attacks against government security forces. Both insurgent groups, Coastal Shield Brigade and Men of Light-Saraya al-Jawad, operated limited attacks on government forces during the reporting period.[659](#) In the reporting period at least three persons affiliated with the Coastal Shield Brigade were arrested.[660](#)

- [651](#)

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