



2.5.2. Territorial control and main armed actors

Territorial control in Tartous governorate remained entirely under the control of the transitional government during the reporting period.[706](#) For spring 2025, multiple pockets with pro-regime insurgent presence across the governorate were mapped by ISW and CTP.[707](#)

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.[708](#) 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.[709](#)

Non-state armed groups in the governorate that were active during the reporting period include 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.[710](#) The Alawite militia is linked to the former Assad regime, as it is reportedly loyal to Suheil Al-Hassan, an army officer under the former regime.[711](#) According to the Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper, citing Syria's Mol, members of the militia took part in the attacks in the coastal region in March 2025.[712](#) The militia remained active in Tartous.[713](#) Furthermore, the Coastal Shield Brigade, led by the former Assad regime officer Miqdad Fatiha, remained active in Tartous during the reporting period.[714](#) Reports indicated that, after March 2025, 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.[715](#)

- [706](#)

ISW and CTP, Assessed Control of Terrain Western Syria September 30, 2025 [Map], 30 September 2025, [url](#); ISW and CTP, Assessed Control of Terrain in Syria, February 16, 2026 at 2:00 PM ET [Map], 16 February 2026 [url](#)

- [707](#)

ISW and CTP, Assessed Control of Terrain in Western Syria, November 25, 2025 at 2:00 PM ET [Map], 25 November 2025, [url](#)

- [708](#)

ISW and CTP, The New Syrian Army: Order of Battle, 14 November 2025, [url](#), pp. 47-48

- [709](#)

International Crisis Group, The Struggle to Pacify Syria's Foreign Legions, 13 May 2026, [url](#)

- [710](#)

Enab Baladi, Leader of "Saraya al-Jawad" killed in clashes with Internal Security, 24 February 2026, [url](#); New Arab (The), Is an Assadist insurgency emerging on the Syrian coast?, 1 October 2025, [url](#)

- [711](#)

Al Jazeera, Syria faces twin battles as Assad loyalists and ISIL attack in west, east, 25 February 2026, [url](#)

- [712](#)

Asharq Al-Awsat, Syrian Interior Ministry Airs Confessions of 'Saraya al-Jawad' Members, 10 March 2026, [url](#)

- [713](#)

Asharq Al-Awsat, Syrian Interior Ministry Airs Confessions of 'Saraya al-Jawad' Members, 10 March 2026 [url](#); Al Jazeera, [الروسال لحاسللا في ةموكحلل ةئوانملا ةحلسملا تاليكشتلا](#) [Anti-government armed groups in the Syrian coastal region], 3 January 2026, [url](#)

- [714](#)

Al Jazeera, [الروسال لحاسللا في ةموكحلل ةئوانملا ةحلسملا تاليكشتلا](#) [Anti-government armed groups in the Syrian coastal region], 3 January 2026, [url](#)

- [715](#)

ISW and CTP, Iran Update, December 30, 2025, 30 December 2025, [url](#)