



2.8.3. Security trends

During the reference period, the main security development in Raqqa governorate was the SDF's loss of territorial control and the takeover of the governorate by the transitional government authority.^{[888](#)} This shift in control was accompanied by clashes, especially in the areas of Tabqa^{[889](#)} and Raqqa city.^{[890](#)} During the fighting in January 2026, allegations of abuses committed by both parties emerged in north-eastern Syria.^{[891](#)} Civilians were reportedly killed while fleeing on the road between Raqqa and Hasaka.^{[892](#)}

Following the takeover by the transitional government authorities, ISIL attacks targeting security forces in the governorate were recorded.^{[893](#)}

From March 2026 onwards, SOHR and local sources documented mistreatment of Kurdish residents of Raqqa governorate, including threatening and intimidating behaviour,^{[894](#)} obstruction of Kurdish students' continued education,^{[895](#)} property confiscation,^{[896](#)} torture in detention,^{[897](#)} arbitrary arrests^{[898](#)} and a series of arrests of persons accused of affiliation with the SDF.^{[899](#)} No wider reporting of the described incidents could be found as part of the research.

Compared with the preceding reporting period, the configuration of actors involved in hostilities in the governorate changed. While late 2024 and early 2025 were marked by attacks of Türkiye/SNA against the SDF,^{[900](#)} the reference period was characterised by confrontations involving government forces and the SDF.^{[901](#)} Incidents affecting civilians that were attributed mainly to the SDF were recorded from December 2024 until mid-January 2026. From mid-January 2026 onwards, attacks against civilians mainly involved the security forces of the transitional government or unidentified armed groups.^{[902](#)}

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