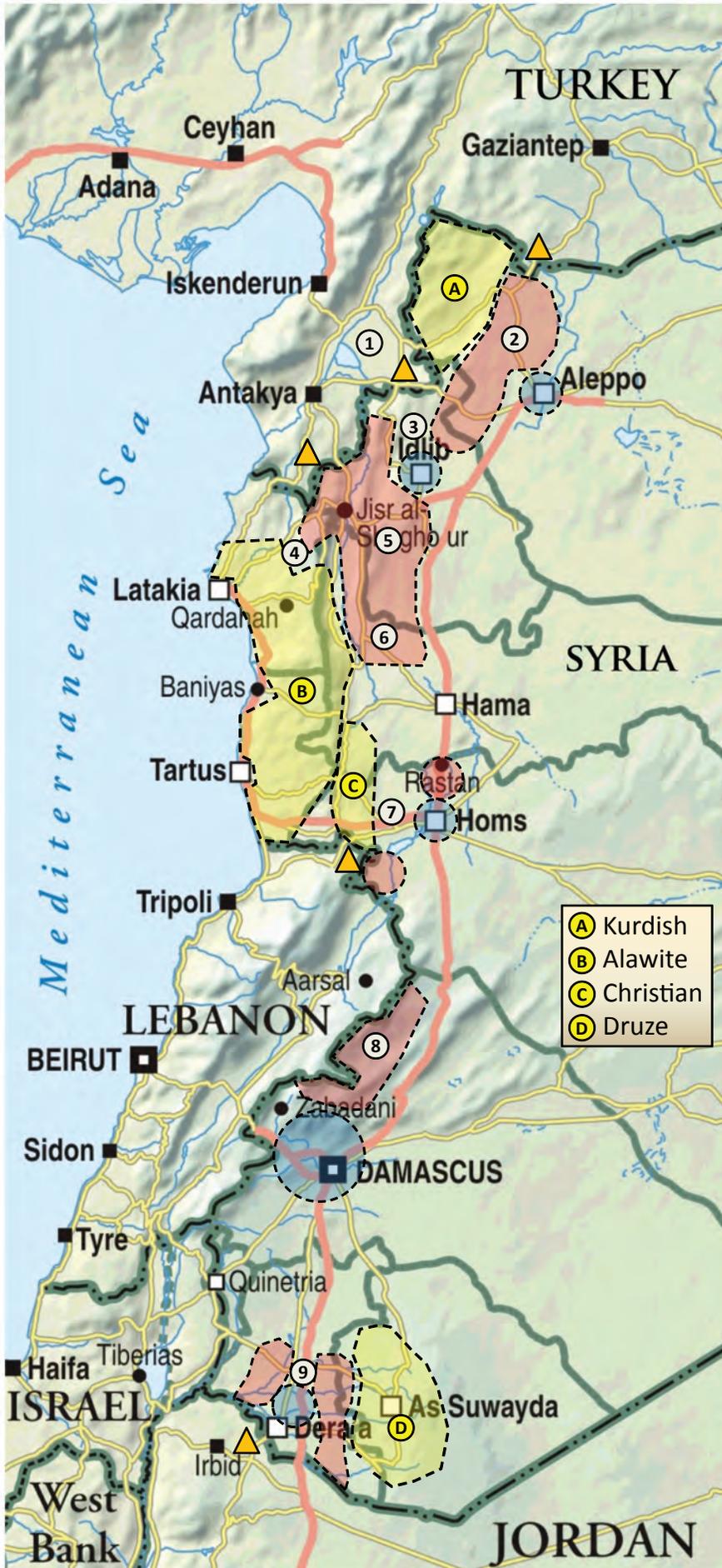


Syria's Maturing Insurgency

as of July 1st, 2012



- 1 Refugee camps in Turkey's southern Antakya and Gaziantep provinces house tens of thousands of refugees and serve as headquarters for the umbrella rebel organization known as the Free Syrian Army.
- 2 In March 2012, fighting erupted for the first time in northern Aleppo province. Fighting even spilled over the border into Turkey in May, and by the end of that month, the rebels could report effective control over most of the northern Aleppo countryside.
- 3 After the regime seized Idlib city in mid-March 2012, rebels fled north, where they opened new fronts against the regime along the Turkish border and west of Aleppo city.
- 4 Fighting spread to Latakia's mountainous Haffeh district, where rebels battled security forces throughout June. The insurgency's proximity to the coastal Alawite stronghold, threatens the regime close to home.
- 5 Idlib province's mountainous Jebal al-Zawiya region has been a center of rebel activity since the Fall of 2011. Rebels here overran a regime outpost in early June, and resisted regime incursions throughout April and May.
- 6 Rebels operating in the southern Hama countryside form the southern front of Syria's largest de facto safe zone. The insurgents here begun to transition away from hit-and-run attacks, mounting large scale offensives against regime outposts.
- 7 The Assad regime has maintained control of Homs city since it seized the city in May 2012, but rebel strongholds remain to the city's north (Rastan) and southwest (al-Qusayr). Rebels in these towns have successfully defended against regime incursions, and suffer frequent artillery bombardment.
- 8 Despite increasingly frequent and effective rebel attacks, the regime security forces have maintained control of Damascus and its environs. However, in the remote valleys of the Qalamoun area that separates Damascus from Lebanon, the rebels have been able to operate with impunity.
- 9 In southern Deraa province, the rebels have not attempted to hold zones of influence, focusing instead on guerrilla raids and ambushes. Nevertheless, the rebels have maintained freedom of mobility among the rural towns and villages scattered across this agricultural plateau.