

# Syria Update: November 10 - 18, 2014

**1** November 10: Unknown gunmen reportedly assassinated a commander of Fursan al-Haq, a group that appears to receive assistance from U.S. coalition partners, in the countryside of Idlib Province.

**2** November 12-18: YPG forces supported by Iraqi Peshmerga seized terrain from ISIS in the southeast sector of Ayn al-Arab/Kobane, seizing control of the strategic Mishtenur Hill southeast of the town and severing an ISIS supply line. Kurdish officials claim that ISIS now controls less than 20% of Ayn al-Arab.

**3** November 13: U.S. warplanes launched an airstrike west of Aleppo that targeted al-Qaeda operatives affiliated with the "Khorasan Group" and JN.

**4** November 14-18: FSA and Islamic Front (IF) affiliated rebel groups announced two named offensives southwest of Damascus city targeting regime-held towns and checkpoints on roads leading to the Western Ghouta suburb of Damascus from Quneitra and Dera'a Provinces. JN and rebel forces reportedly captured at least one regime checkpoint.

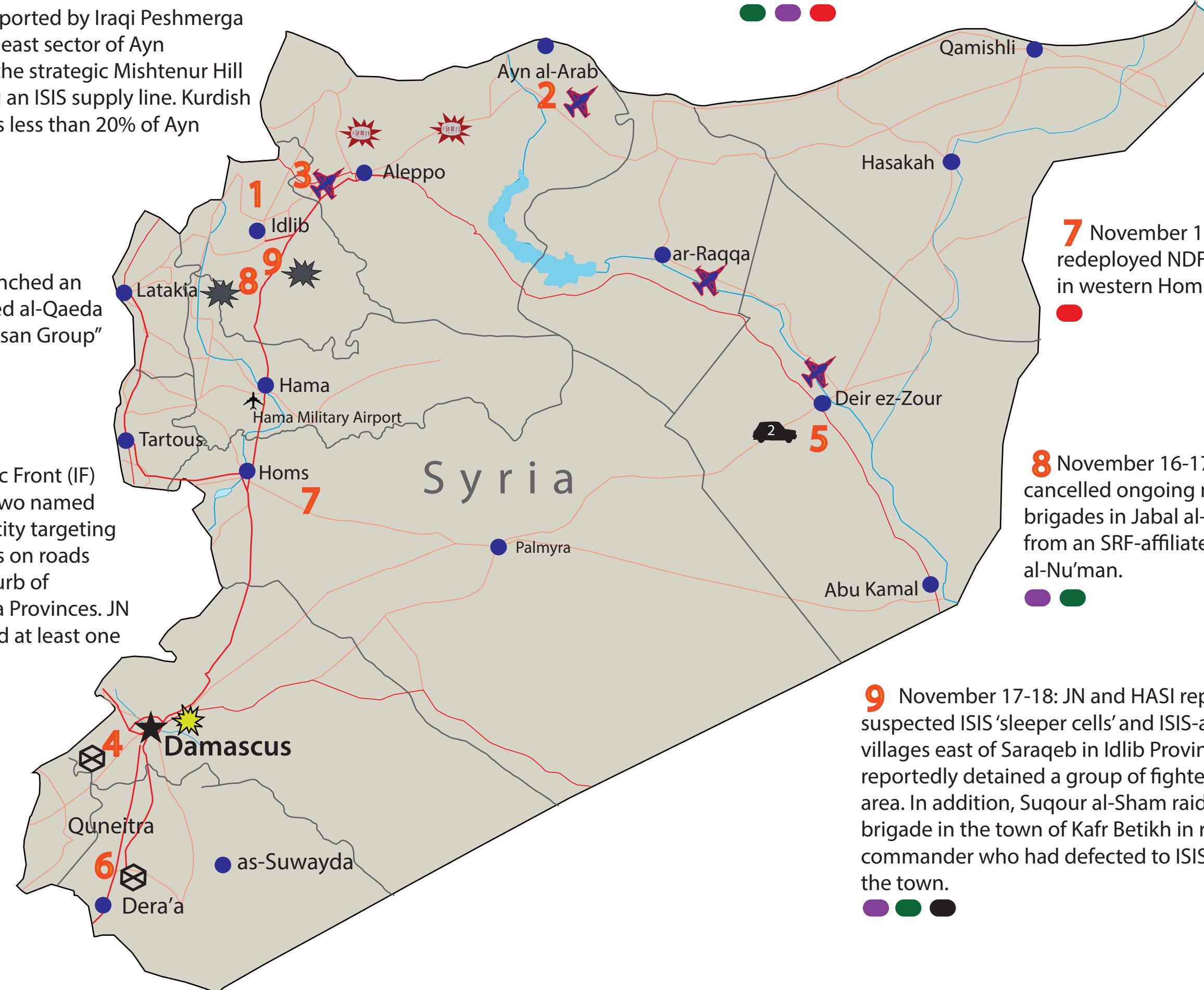
**5** November 15: ISIS detonated two SVBIEDs against regime positions on Saker Island, eastern Deir ez-Zour city, amidst ongoing clashes between ISIS and the regime.

**6** November 14-18: Jabhat al-Nusra (JN), Free Syrian Army (FSA), and Islamic Front (IF) affiliated rebel groups announced three named offensives near Sheikh Miskin in Dera'a Province in an attempt to sever the regime supply line to Dera'a City. JN and rebel forces reportedly captured several regime military installations north of the town, placing the regime Brigade 82 military base under siege.

**7** November 15: The regime reportedly redeployed NDF from three pro-regime villages in western Homs Province to eastern Homs.

**8** November 16-17: JN and Jund al-Aqsa cancelled ongoing mediation with SRF-affiliated brigades in Jabal al-Zawiya and arrested fighters from an SRF-affiliated brigade near Ma'arat al-Nu'man.

**9** November 17-18: JN and HASI reportedly arrested members of suspected ISIS 'sleeper cells' and ISIS-affiliated rebel groups in four villages east of Saraqeb in Idlib Province. ISIS members also reportedly detained a group of fighters allied with JN in the same area. In addition, Suqour al-Sham raided the headquarters of a local brigade in the town of Kafr Betikh in response to reports that a local commander who had defected to ISIS weeks ago had returned to the town.



- Opposition Forces
- Pro-Regime Forces
- ISIS
- U.S.-Led Coalition
- YPG
- Iraqi Peshmerga
- Jabhat al-Nusra (JN)

- SVBIED
- Declared Offensive
- Raid

## Background Kinetic Activity

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
|  | Coalition Airstrikes             |
|  | Alleged Chlorine Gas Attack      |
|  | High Casualty Barrel Bomb Attack |



by Jennifer Cafarella and Christopher Kozak

**Regime Setbacks in Southern Syria:** JN and the FSA-affiliated Southern Front continue to make significant gains in Dera'a Province, seizing several military installations north of Sheikh Miskin and threatening to sever the regime supply line to Dera'a city. In addition, two recently announced offensives appear to be shaping operations for a future attempt to directly connect rebel control zones in Dera'a and Quneitra Provinces to the Damascus countryside. Their outcome will be an early indicator of the regime's ability to defend crucial terrain near the capital amidst signs of declining manpower and morale.

**Jabhat al-Nusra Continues Idlib Consolidation:** JN and allied groups in the Jabal al-Zawiya region of southern Idlib Province abandoned attempts at mediation with local FSA-affiliated groups and appear to be continuing their consolidation of direct control.

**Shifts in ISIS Disposition in Northern Syria:** The JN arrests of suspected ISIS sympathizers in northern Idlib Province indicates that recent rumors of a formal JN-ISIS truce in Northern Syria propagated by Syrian opposition officials were premature, although negotiations may be ongoing. In addition, significant advances made by the YPG against ISIS in Ayn al-Arab/Kobane may indicate an ebbing of ISIS manpower due to combat losses or redeployment towards other fronts.