The De-escalation Zone covers terrain under opposition control on this map. The zone excludes an area held by ISIS in Southwest Syria.

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NOTE ON AL QAEDA (AQ) MAPPING: AQ DID NOT DOMINATE THE OPPOSITION LANDSCAPE IN SOUTHERN SYRIA AS OF JANUARY 2018, BUT OPPOSITION-HELD AREAS REMAINED PERMISSIVE TO AQ. AQ HAS CONCENTRATED FIGHTERS ALONG VULNERABLE REBEL FRONTLINES IN SOUTHERN SYRIA, REPRESENTED BY "AQ DEPENDENT FRONTLINES" ON THIS MAP. AQ MAINTAINS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS IN THE LAJAT AREA OF NORTHERN DERA'A, THE EASTERN DERA'A COUNTRYSIDE, AND AREAS IN QUNEITRA PROVINCE WHERE IT HOUSES SENIOR LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNS THROUGH RELIGIOUS OUTREACH AND SERVICE PROVISION. THESE ADMINISTRATIVE CENTERS ARE MAPPED APPROXIMATELY BASED UPON OVERT AQ ACTIVITY.