Prominent Southern Rebel Factions Claim Opposition to JN: The statements released by six Western-backed rebel groups from the FSA-affiliated Southern Front in Dera’a during April 13 indicate a potential shift in the dynamics of the conflict. These groups, including the Jaysh al-Fatah Operations Room, released statements rejecting any coordination with JN and calling for a withdrawal from the Nassib border crossing. This move suggests a growing divergence in the approach to the conflict, particularly in Southern Syria.

**Background Kinetic Activity**

- **Anti-ISIS Coalition Airstrikes**
- **SVIED**
- **Major Regime Airstrikes**
- **Declared Offensive**
- **New Operations Room**
- **Alleged CW Attack**
- **Low-level clashes**
- **VBIED**
- **Major Clash**

ISIS Expansion into Southwestern Syria Threatens Previously-Stable Zones of Regime Control: ISIS’s claim of responsibility for an SVIED that detonated in an Awami-majority neighborhood in Homs City indicates ISIS ability to penetrate regime defenses and may signify the start of an ISIS campaign to disrupt security along the Mediterranean highway in Syria’s central corridor. While ISIS has previously targeted regime forces, the claim in Homs City indicates a new level of aggression. ISIS’s actions may be aimed at weakening the regime’s ability to control and defend its territory, potentially opening up new avenues for expansion into previously-stable zones.

**April 9-10:** An alleged SVIED detonated in the majority-Awami neighborhood of Homs City, killing at least one civilian and wounding dozens of others. ISIS’s claim suggests a growing trend of targeting civilians and infrastructure, potentially escalating the conflict and increasing civilian casualties.

**April 10-12:** ISIS militants temporarily seized a hill near the Khalkhalah Airbase in northern Hama Province, following an initial regime advance. The increased military pressure on Suwayda comes amidst the local Druze population against expanded regime conscription efforts.

**April 13-14:** JN and other Islamist groups participating in the Jaysh al-Fatah Operations Room repelled at least two regime attempts to advance from the Brick Factory checkpoint and seize the village of Qamenas overlooking rebel positions surrounding the Mastoumah Camp south of Idlib City. In response, Jaysh al-Fatah forces launched an attack targeting the Brick Factory checkpoint.

Prominent Southern Rebel Factions reject Coordination with JN: The statements released by six Western-backed rebel groups from the FSA-affiliated Southern Front in Dera’a on April 13 indicate a growing divergence in the approach to the conflict, particularly in Southern Syria. These groups, including the Jaysh al-Fatah Operations Room, released statements rejecting any coordination with JN and calling for a withdrawal from the Nassib border crossing. This move suggests a potential shift in the allegiances and strategies of rebel factions in the region.

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