April 20: JN conducted a double SVBIED attack against a gathering of regime soldiers in the city of Ariha, south of Idlib city, after infiltrating and firing on regime soldiers, allegedly killing 70.

April 15-16: An elite regime unit known as the “Tiger Forces” led by prominent commander Suheil Hassan and supported by Hezbollah fighters seized the towns of Kafri Najid and Nahlaya southwest of Idlib city from JN and other rebel fighters participating in the Jaysh al-Fatah Operations Room. Regime forces have successfully repelled attempts by JN and rebel forces to regain control of the towns.

April 14: Monzer Jamil al-Assad, a cousin of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, was escorted to Damascus from Latakia City by Presidential Palace Special Forces under direct orders from President Assad. According to unconfirmed reports, he was arrested under allegations of conspiring against the regime after communicating with President Assad’s exiled uncle, Rifaat al-Assad, regarding possible solutions to the increasing restiveness of Alawites in coastal Syria.

April 16: JN detained two fighters from the FSA-affiliated Liwa Tawhid al-Janoub in Dera’a Province on charges of pledging allegiance to ISIS, sparking isolated clashes between the two groups. The umbrella group Tahrir az-Zubair al-Jubah, which includes Liwa Tawhid al-Janoub as a member, threatened to fight JN if the group did not release the two detainees and deliver the JN fighters who detained them to the Dar al-Adel courthouse.

April 18: The regime deployed hundreds of reinforcements to the border town of Ras al-Ayn, northwest of Hasaka City, to support YPG forces fighting ISIS in the area. The deployment followed a meeting between the head of the Hasaka Military Security Branch, Brig. Gen. Ali Daib, and YPG representatives to discuss the fight against ISIS in which Dib reportedly promised 700 ground troops, air cover, and weapons and ammunition to the YPG. The deployment also follows meetings between Syrian Minister of National Reconciliation Haider Ali and Russian, Christian, and Sunni leaders in Hasaka province to communicate the regime’s intent to “dispel fears of estrangement” and build “bridges of communication.”

April 17: Chechen jihadist group Jaysh al-Muhajireen wal Ansar staged a demonstration in the town of Huraytan north of Aleppo city, with protesters carrying Jabhat al-Nusra and Jaysh al-Muhajireen wal Ansar flags in addition to banners supporting Jaysh al-Fatah. The protesters called for the establishment of Islamic law.

April 14: The Aleppo-based Jabhat al-Shamiya quietly dissolved as a unified military entity, leaving the constituent groups to operate under their own banners. The groups agreed to maintain cooperation as independent actors.

April 16: Jaysh al-Islam and a local FSA-affiliated brigade launched an operation to clear ISIS from the northwestern countryside of Lattakia, with the aim of targeting the YPG’s绿豆山脉 along the border with Lebanon. Meanwhile, the regime reportedly launched a major air campaign against Jaysh al-Fatah’s military coalition in the neighborhood of Barzeh, killing and wounding several fighters from the group’s operations room.

April 17: The Jabhat al-Shamiya coalition’s dissolution followed a major split from the Jaysh al-Fatah military coalition that seized Idlib City from regime forces on March 28. A Facebook page associated with the campaign indicated on April 21 that a formal statement of participating brigades may be released soon.

April 14-21: Rebel fighters in the Qalamoun region began using the hashtag “Jaysh Fatah al-Qalamoun” in an attempt to generate support for the establishment of a Qalamoun analog to the Jaysh al-Fatah military coalition that seized Idlib City from regime forces on March 28. An Islamic State-affiliated group claimed responsibility for the operation.

April 18-21: Rebel fighters in the Qalamoun region began using the hashtag “Jaysh Fatah al-Qalamoun” in an attempt to generate support for the establishment of a Qalamoun analog to the Jaysh al-Fatah military coalition that seized Idlib City from regime forces on March 28. An Islamic State-affiliated group claimed responsibility for the operation.

April 19: ISIS veiled the villages of al-Axmar and al-Qur in northern Sweida Province following violent clashes with pro-regime forces.

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April 14: The Crime Fears Coup from within Alawite Community; Deploys Reinforcements to Support PKK-linked Syrian Kurds in Hasaka: The arrest of Monzer Jamil al-Assad by the Assad regime after his alleged communication with exiled coup attempt leader Rifaat al-Assad indicates heightened regime concern over the emergence of challenges to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s rule from within the Alawite community. The report that Monzer was in contact with Rifaat al-Assad prior to his arrest may be untrue, but nonetheless it indicates that the regime perceives a threat of increasing disunity within Alawite communities. This trend emerged prominently in late 2014 following a widespread conscription campaign by the regime to replenish its overstretched forces. Meanwhile, the regime’s deployment of reinforcements and promise of air support to assist Syrian Kurdish YPG fighters battling ISIS in Hasaka Province indicates regime intent to deepen its cooperation with Syrian Kurds in northern Syria as an avenue to cement regime influence in the province. The regime reinforcements likely consist of pro-regime militias, which are drawn heavily from Sunni Arab tribes in the province and may serve as an ideal sean between Syrian Kurds and largely Alawite regime fighters.

April 20: regime deployed hundreds of reinforcements to the border town of Rasal-Ayn, northwest of Hasaka City, to support YPG forces fighting ISIS in the area. The deployment followed a meeting between the head of the Hasaka Military Security Branch, Brig. Gen. Ali Daib, and YPG representatives to discuss the fight against ISIS in which Dib reportedly promised 700 ground troops, air cover, and weapons and ammunition to the YPG. The deployment also follows meetings between Syrian Minister of National Reconciliation Haider Ali and Russian, Christian, and Sunni leaders in Hasaka province to communicate the regime’s intent to “dispel fears of estrangement” and build “bridges of communication.”

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