Regime Continues to Pursue a "Unified Syria": The Assad regime’s war effort continues to pursue a "unified Syria." The regime’s intervention to negotiate a resolution of the escalating conflict between the YPG and local NDF forces indicates regime commitment to maintaining its isolated outposts in Eastern Syria. Preservation of these outposts is utilized by the Assad regime to lay credence to the claim that the Syrian government can and will regain control of the entirety of the country. This position was echoed in the January 26–29 Moscow Talks between the regime and the regime-tolerated opposition, during which regime representatives called for the maintenance of Syrian “unity and sovereignty” in the face of “foreign interference” and “terrorism.”