

2024

ISIS revival after Syrian regime collapse

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Consultation and coordination office

MONITORING AND INFORMATION CENTER |

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First: enlightenment about the current situation:

- The activity of the terrorist organization ISIS has revived, taking full advantage of the recent developments on the Syrian scene, and this activity has appeared in north and east of Syria and in the desert west of the Euphrates River, in the area extending from the Iraqi-Syrian border through the Homs and Raqqa deserts reaching the southern countryside of Aleppo.
- On December 10, the Monitoring and Information Center (MIC) recorded the loss of a member of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) as a result of an attack by gunmen likely to be a cell affiliated with the terrorist organization on Sabkha area in the countryside of Raqqa on the west bank of the Euphrates River.
- On December 6, 2024, ISIS cells carried out an attack in the southern countryside of Al-Hasakah, in the area between Markada and Al-Shadadi, targeting an ISF patrol, killing a member of the security forces and wounding two others.
- On December 5, the Internal Security Forces carried out a large-scale security campaign in neighborhoods within the city of Raqqa and its suburbs, as a pre-emptive operation aimed at dismantling cells within the terrorist organization ISIS, which planned to activate their activity and create chaos in the city and its surroundings, and the Internal Security Forces were able to arrest 40 members of the cells, and confiscated individual weapons and machine guns in their possession.
- On the first of December 2024, the MIC recorded the arrest by the Internal Security Forces of an "emir" in the terrorist organization ISIS who was leading active cells in the Al-Ezba area in the eastern

countryside of Deir Ezzor, located near one of the joint bases between the Syrian Democratic Forces and the International Coalition, and who previously participated in planning bombings and terrorist attacks in the town of Al-Azba, and during the raid on his whereabouts, clashes took place due to his initiative to shoot at the security forces that surrounded the place and managed to arrest him.

Second: Vital Centers of ISIS:

- By monitoring and tracking the information, the current situation of Al-Hol camp is not safe, as the camp's civil and security administration is concerned about ISIS carrying out attacks or preparing for a state of chaos inside Al-Hol camp, which houses more than 40,000 displaced Syrians or families of ISIS members and leaders of different nationalities.
- In the section of foreign families "migrants" , "Annex", the residents packed their belongings and bags, while 24 individuals of the "immigrants" section attempted to escape, and the security forces and camp guards managed to thwart the escape attempt and return them to the camp.
- Some of the Syrians who receive support and relief aid threatened the employees of relief organizations by saying: "Today you give us aid as you want, and tomorrow we will take it from you as we want. Some have asked the camp administration to "release their sons detained by the security forces" because they want to return to the areas from which

they originate, and that they cannot return without taking their children with them.

- There is a general confusion among all nationalities, especially Syrians in Al-Hol camp, which has created great fears among non-governmental organizations that have suspended its work inside the camp since Wednesday, December 11th, due to their fears of any attacks that may affect them, or of chaos that may lead to their detention in their offices or in sleeper cells affiliated with the terrorist organization ISIS.
- Recently, activities has been limited to life-saving activities, until the security and humanitarian situation of the camp is clarified.
- The organizations confirmed that some of them were waiting for the arrival of heating supplies and other materials that would provide relief to camp residents, but that with the Turkish-backed National Army taking control of Menbij, they may not be obtained, or they may be delayed due to the change in the route of shipments.
- Organizations need security guarantees to resume their work, in light of the constant and daily threat to the lives of NGO staff and workers.
- Earlier, militants attacked a warehouse of NGOs in the Tabqa countryside, damaging most of the materials inside the warehouse, which was burned.

Third: The current components of ISIS:

- Since the end of its geographical control in Syria in 2019, ISIS has been present in the northern Badia of the city of Sukhna in the Abu Rujmin mountain area with a coordinates of 37SDU6244871750 on an area of about 4000^{km2} within a rugged terrain, which negatively affected the continuation of its danger, and used this area as a center to carry out its movements to and from all Syrian regions, especially to the western banks of the Euphrates River, and move from it across the Euphrates River to the eastern countryside of Deir Ezzor and the regions of North and East of Syria.
- The former Syrian regime army were unable to impose their control over the area, as the difficult terrain prevented the implementation of any ground operation, as well as the benefit of air strikes and ground strikes, which prompted the former Syrian regime and its allies from Russia, Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah to maintain the situation as it is, while ISIS took advantage of this opportunity to carry out more attacks and move freely in the Syrian desert.
- Iranian militiamen transported ISIS operatives to Idlib in exchange for money.
- Given the experience of managing military operations "Jabhat al-Nusra, which is listed on international terrorist lists" by relying on the generation of displaced people who left their areas to Idlib through a deal with the former Syrian regime at the time, ISIS has trained cells and a whole new generation of young people (cubs of the caliphate) and experienced fighters

who infiltrated from different regions of Syria to its last pocket in Syrian territory, as well as organized contacts with all its cells in North and East of Syria.

- ISIS is in contact with the Iraqi mainland, which is a strategic extension with its hometown, its supporters and those who are easy to return to its ranks.

Fifth: Concerns and Measures:

- The Syrian Democratic Forces announced their monitoring of the Syrian situation in general, and the activity of ISIS in particular within the Syrian desert in Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa and Homs, which resumed through a new attack on a position of the former Syrian regime army in an area located in the southeastern desert of the city of Homs and surrounding hills, and the attacks resulted in deaths and injuries and the seizure of weapons, military equipment and ammunition.
- With the movement of the Syrian Democratic Forces with the support and participation of the international coalition to the western banks of the Euphrates River, the smuggling and infiltration operations of terrorist cells of ISIS and militants loyal to the former Syrian regime have ended across the river, but they are open to a greater danger, which is the entire Syrian desert in which ISIS is present.
- There is a high possibility of contacts between leading parties in Al-Nusra, which is listed as a terrorist organisation, and ISIS cells with the aim of providing them with equipment to create chaos and destabilize the northern and eastern Syrian region, as was the case in February 2016 when Khanaser road south of Aleppo was

simultaneously attacked between the armed opposition factions and ISIS with the mediation of Daoud Brigade.

- ISIS could benefit from the Syrian regime's withdrawal areas controlled by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Jabhat al-Nusra) as a backyard for the transfer and transfer of funds and increase its stockpile of ammunition, weapons and military equipment that would threaten the security and stability of the northern and eastern Syrian region.
- Intensive security surveillance in northern and eastern sides of Syria confirmed the existence of worrying moves by ISIS elements organized within sleeper cells and others active in different areas of the region, in an attempt to mix up the cards and provoke chaos within the region.