

### Summary

On April 28 and 29, violent clashes erupted between government affiliated groups and Druze fighters in Jaramana, resulting in several casualties. This marks a potential escalation point of sectarian violence. Meanwhile, tensions persist near the Tishrin Dam, where the Syrian Army mobilized more troops and the SDF reportedly raised combat readiness, despite both parties signing a ceasefire in March 2025. These tensions fuel Syria's internal instability but do not threaten the existence of the new Syrian regime.

### Recent events and developments

On the night of April 28 and on April 29, clashes erupted between groups affiliated to the Syrian government and Druze fighters in the Jaramana suburb of Damascus. It resulted in at least 12 casualties. This is the second instance of sectarian violence against the Druze community in a few days, a group of students stormed Homs university dormitories inhabited by Druze students on April 28. On both occasions, security forces have intervened to quell the violence, although it is claimed that delays occurred to facilitate the actions of the perpetrators. Violence is believed to have erupted after a voice record addressing sectarian offences against Prophet Muhammad was released online and was attributed to a military commander of the Druze community. Jaramana's Druze religious leader denied the involvement of any Druze leader and described the attack as unjustified, claiming that innocent civilians were targeted.

On April 28, Syrian Army troops mobilized near the Tishrin Dam, in the Aleppo governorate. The dam is a strategically relevant location that was affected by armed confrontations between the SDF, HTS, and Turkish forces since the fall of the Assad regime. In March 2025, the SDF and the Syrian government agreed to begin the integration of the SDF within the Syrian security forces and the transfer of control of the Tishrin Dam from the SDF to the government forces. Nevertheless, the SDF has reportedly repositioned its troops on the frontline, including to the village of Abu Qalqal, and has given orders to raise combat readiness. Several violations of the ceasefire by Turkish forces and Turkish sponsored militias were reported in the area of the Tishrin Dam, with at least 4 Turkish airstrikes occurring between April 28 and 29 and a member of a Turkish-backed group killed on April 26, during an infiltration attempt beyond Kurdish lines.

### Impact assessment

The sectarian tensions and armed confrontations occur more regularly, indicating that the Syrian security forces are either unable or unwilling to contain these incidents. Since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, the new Syrian government has tried to disband militias and incorporate them inside the state security architecture. The Druze militias have not yet agreed to this integration and the Druze leaders have expressed their intention not to pursue this plan. The growing sectarian violence against the Druze stems from the long-standing ethnic rivalries and is exacerbated by the Syrian government's inability to disband the Druze militias. Meanwhile, Israel has already expressed its intention to defend the Druze population from sectarian violence and, although unlikely, may use this pretext to justify a military intervention beyond the Syrian southern governorates of Quneitra and Daraa. Druze militias will likely continue to oppose the Syrian regime, and an intensification of sectarian violence is expected to take place across the country. In Aleppo governorate, the reported increase of military assets by both Syrian forces and SDF may be connected to the transfer of control of the Tishrin Dam, which was foreseen by the March 2025 agreement. Various leaders among the SDF reportedly distrust Syrian authorities, given their former affiliation with Al Qaeda and the heavy support they receive from Turkey. The situation remains volatile as the March agreement could not solve the main strategic and ideological divergencies between the parties, and the ceasefire violations by Turkish forces could fuel renewed confrontation between the Kurdish militia and the Syrian security forces. The Syrian government faces domestic security threats on different fronts, which do not compromise its stability but pose a great risk for entities operating in Syria.

### Advice from Forth Global

- Maintain a low profile and high situational awareness when moving in Syria.
- Avoid visiting the governorates of Quneitra, Aleppo and Raqqa, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Avoid people gatherings and other potential targets, such as government buildings or police stations.
- Do not travel alone or at night. Always communicate your movements to the rest of your team.
- Monitor the latest developments in your AO, through local partners and non-governmental sources.

#### Customized advice

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