

# Syria: Israeli Airstrikes in Support of al Qaeda

Syrian Army Turns the Tables on Al-Qaeda Rebels Despite Israeli Airstrikes

By [Chris Tomson](#)

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[Al Masdar News](#)

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#), [Terrorism](#)

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*DAMASCUS, SYRIA (2:00 A.M.) – Israel is likely in direct military talks with jihadist commanders in Quneitra province whom have now established a joint operations room for the ongoing border offensive against the Syrian Arab Army (SAA).*

Preempted by [supportive Israeli airstrikes](#) earlier in the day, Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) and Free Syrian Army (FSA) factions attacked SAA positions around Baath city and overran multiple points, leading to the capture of the Mashtal Al-Zohor area on Saturday afternoon.

In the evening however, the SAA regrouped in Baath city and mobilized all its military capabilities for a swift counter-offensive which saw government troops retake all lost points within a couple hours, thus driving the jihadist militants back to their initial positions.

Amid the skirmishes, at least 20 jihadist militants were left dead on the battlefield while 1 tank and 1 technical were destroyed, a military source told Al-Masdar News.

Throughout the waves of insurgent attacks and following SAA counter-offensive, rearguard Syrian artillery units pounded the hostile jihadist belligerents.

<https://cdn.almasdarnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/SAA-shelling-rebel-militants-in-Quneitra.mp4>

With the tables suddenly turned in favor of the Syrian Government, the SAA is currently encroaching upon long-standing rebel heartland on the border with Israel. In turn, this could prompt Tel Aviv to launch fresh airstrikes against the SAA.

On Saturday afternoon, the [Israeli Air Force destroyed two SAA tanks](#) at the Municipal building area on the outskirts of Baath city, rendering it an easy target for rebel forces whom seemed well-prepared for offensive operations ahead of the Israeli sorties, suggesting at least tacit cooperation between the two parties in the face of a common foe.

Statement regarding the newly established Quneitra operations room dubbed 'Army of (Prophet) **Muhammad**', led by HTS commanders that maintain close ties to Al-Qaeda:



*All images in this article are from the author.*

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