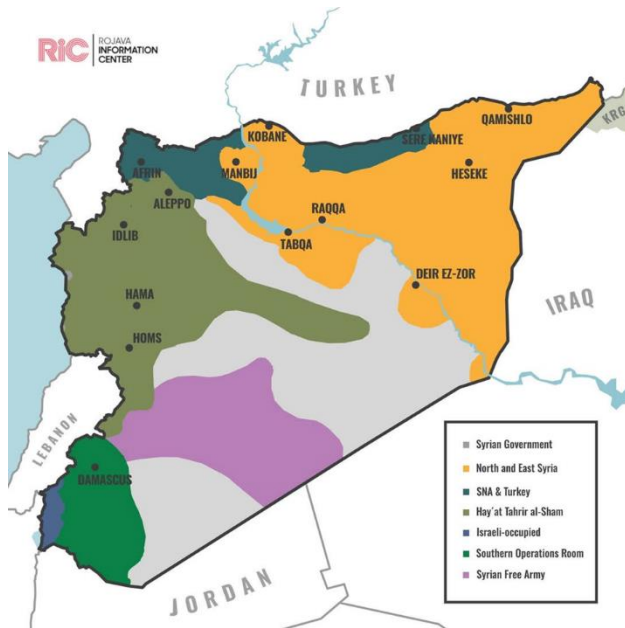


**URGENT FLASH UPDATE SYRIA – Manbij – the risk of the return of ISIS is real. 10 December; written by Johannes de Jong, director Sallux.**

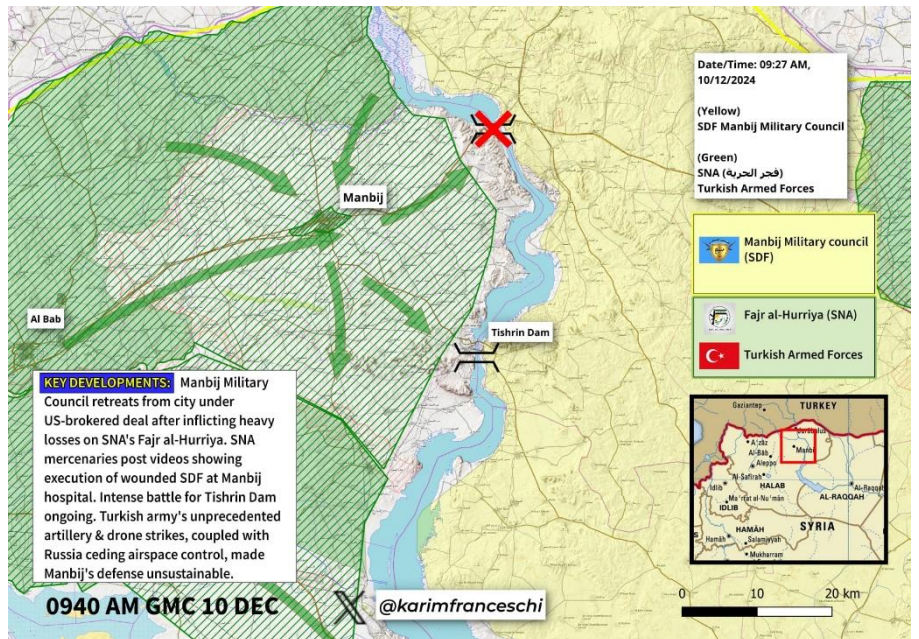
Map Syria 7 December:



Since a few days the Turkish directed 'Syrian National Army' attacks against Manbij (Syrian Democratic Forces) started and escalated. The Turkish airforce is supporting the SNA.

Today that resulted in this situation:

NB: that this is a 'US brokered deal' is unconfirmed by my sources in the SDF and is a speculation based on Saudi media.



The following has been broadcasted by Turkish TV. They broadcasted these images of SNA fighters near/in Manbij:



As you can see these are fighters with ISIS patches. This fits in previous reports of ISIS fighters joining SNA.

NB in Turkey there is no independent media and the Turkish state propaganda demands that the SDF is described as PKK.

### The likely return of ISIS if Turkey is not stopped:

The western indifference towards what is happening in the Turkish attacks against the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) via jihadists of the Turkish steered Syrian National Army (SNA), will come back to bite us. Without the SDF there will literally be no force in Syria to stop IS. There was and is again evidence of IS being present in the Turkish directed SNA. So they will not stop IS. There is and will be no single unified government in all of Syria as things stand for the time being and maybe foreseeable future. Turkey cannot occupy directly Syria up to the Syrian desert and Deir Ezzor. So without the SDF, Europe will have a problem. Moreover looking away when Turkey is again expelling Kurds and Syriac-Assyrians by hundreds of thousands makes any other human rights stance without credibility. We are talking about approx 2 million Kurds in Syria which is more than the population of some EU Member States. NB the SNA is systematically driving away Kurds since two weeks.