

منظمة العدالة من أجل الحياة
Justice For Life Organization



**The Western Countryside in the North of
North of Euphrates River School are
in need for support and hospitals that do
not meet the needs of civilians**



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The Western Countryside in the North of Euphrates River

**School are in need for support and hospitals
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**This paper covers some of the service and security aspects in
the Syria Democratic Forces held areas in the western
countryside of Deir Ezzor**

Justice for Life Organization

January 2019

First: The Current Situation in North of the River:

By the end of 2017, SDF with support of US-led coalition could control most of ISIS held areas in the north of Euphrates River in Deir Ezzor province. The military actions continue to control the rest of the ISIS location as the latter still defend its last stronghold. The military actions resulted in the displacement of thousands of civilians as the majority headed towards SDF held areas. Abu Khashab camp is receiving 10-20 IDP on daily basis.

SDF held areas have only [one camp](#) that is supervised by the civil council along with humanitarian organization. As for the rest of camps, they are [random](#) ones where hundreds of families are residing.

[SDF confiscated](#) number of houses for the families who returned following their control on the areas of north of the river. The majority of the confiscated houses were returned to their owners following frequent demands of the populations.

Second: Security Situation:

SDF established military and security centers in the province of Deir Ezzor. The headquarters were based in Al Kasra sub-district in the western countryside as follows; The Internal Security, Traffic, Public Security, and Military Police.

The North of the river areas witnessed cases of armed robbery, [prevalence of drugs](#), indiscriminate arrests by SDF by the charge of searching for ISIS members. The paradox is that SDF released some ISIS members who were jailed.

The level of arrests increased in these areas especially following the US resolution to withdraw its troops as the arrests targeted people who were promoting the idea of tolerance with the Syrian authorities.

SDF affiliated security members are vetting people who recently leave ISIS held areas. Then, SDF enters those people to IDPs cluster point prior to moving them to the sole camp in the area.

Third: Landmines:

[ISIS used mines](#) in its clashes against SDF [as hundreds of civilians were injured](#).

Following more than a year and after the end of those clashes, demining actions took place from the most populated areas. Yet, some locations are still mined in the close desert such as Al Kubar desert areas.



Mine field nearby the water pumping station in Al Kubar village, Al Kasra sub-district. Photo Date: January 9th 2019.

International organizations are conducting awareness raising campaigns. During the past six months, JFL documented the death of one SDF member in the western countryside as he was trying to clear a mine in Mhaimeda village.

Fourth: Populations Movement:

In the SDF held areas, there are thousands of people including IDPs and from host communities in the SDF held areas who fled from regular forces and ISIS.

Following the defeat of ISIS in the north of the river areas, hundreds of displaced families returned from north of Syria. Nonetheless, following US resolution to withdraw from Syria, a fever of anticipation prevailed in these areas as there is a fear to have dire situation and another displacement.

Following the US resolution to withdraw from Syria, the SDF held areas witnessed campaigns by persons who are close to the Syrian government that call for reconciliation with the government. This pushed thousands of civilians to head towards the regular forces held areas and making reconciliation fearing from sudden control in case of withdrawal.

Fifth: Power and Water:

Civilians are still depending on the paid generators at the price of 2000 SYP for one ampere on monthly basis within seven hours as no power available in the public network is supplying the houses, but only to the SDF headquarters and service institutions.



Water Pumping Station in Jazrat Al Milaj Village, Al Kasr sub-district

Photo Date: January 7th 2019

Civil organizations repaired most of water pumping stations in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor. Yet, the problem still exists as there is no sterilization materials, besides the damage in some water pipes as the civil councils do not provide these materials and depend completely on what the CSOs and NGOs provide.



**Tower Tank that was destroyed by ISIS before withdrawal from Al Kubar village,
Al Kasra sub-district**

Photo Date: January 2019

Sixth: Telecommunications:

The landlines are not working in most of the western countryside areas due to the damage of telecommunications centers along with the missing equipment and instrument. The cell-communications do not work due to unavailability of communications towers in the western countryside. The civilians depend on the coverage coming from the Syrian government held areas in the counter side of the river.

Internet communications depend on METRO networks that are limited to SDF. It provides internet network throughout routers to houses and cyber cafes. In case for cyber café license, it should be issued by the SDF intelligence service.

Seventh: Services:

A number of service institutions were established in Al Kasra sub-district as follows;

- Court, Social Justice House, was established in Al Kasra town on January 6th 2019.

- Education Committee: that supervises the schools, and based in Al Kasra.
- Services Directorate: based in Al Kasra, and supervises different aspects of services in SDF held areas.

Water directorate is affiliated to the service directorate, based in Jazrat Al Milaj.

Services Directorate also oversees the municipalities that were established in Al Jazra village, Al Kubar village, Al Sawa village, Al Hawaej village, and Mhaimeeda village as these municipalities oversee the stores and shops and their commitment to the goods prices and validation dates.

These municipalities were provided with tractors, equipment, and staff to work in waste management and disposal.

Eighth: Hospitals:

There is only one public hospital in SDF held areas, which is Al Kasra one. It provides ambulance services along with some surgical operations, X-ray, and medical consultations. An international organization currently is providing financial support to this hospital.



Al Kasra Hospital

Photo Date: January 7th 2019

There are three private hospitals in the western countryside; two are based in Jazrat Al Bouhameed, and one in Al Mouhaimeda for some surgical operations and deliveries.

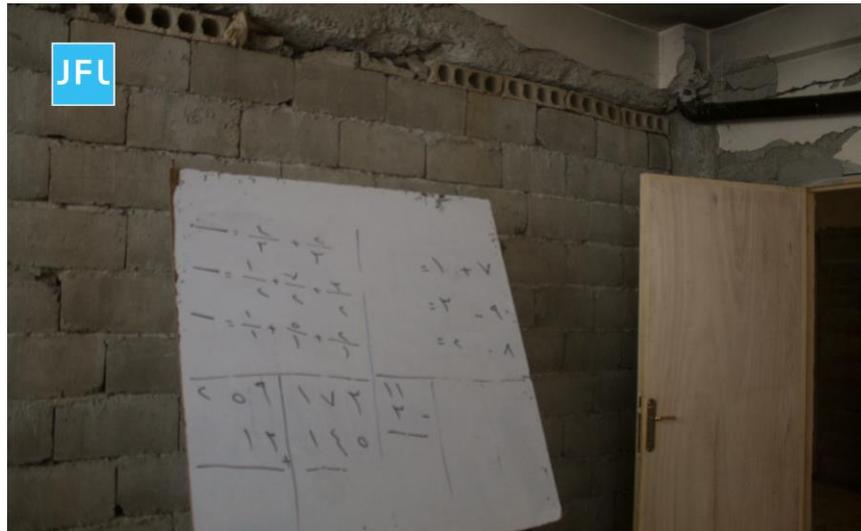
Ninth: Schools:

There are about 70 schools in the western countryside of Deir Ezzor. Most of the primary schools student joined the schools along with half of the elementary school students. There are no education staff for the high schools. Students are obliged to go to the Syrian government schools.



One of the schools that were destroyed by ISIS in Al Kubar village, Al Kasra sub-district.

Photo Date: January 2019



One of the schools in Al Kasra sub-district

Photo Date: January 7th 2019



A school in Al Harmooshia, Al Kasra sub-district

Photo Date: January 7th 2019

Acting organizations provided some schools with doors, windows, and heaters. Also, they provided copies of the Syrian curriculum. Yet, the schools are still in need for more support as there are no sanitary facilities, and the buildings need renovation.



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