



1.1.3. Developments in the relationship between the transitional government and SDF

Despite a March 2025 agreement to complete the integration of Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Democratic Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (DAANES) into government institutions by year's end, clashes persisted throughout 2025 between former Syrian National Army (SNA) factions and the SDF in the northeast. After the deadline expired, a government military operation targeted Kurdish-controlled areas of Aleppo, followed by the takeover by the government of large swathes of SDF territory in northeast Syria. Subsequent ceasefire agreements between the two sides in late January 2026 largely brought the fighting to a halt.^{[36](#)} The integration of the SDF and DAANES into state institutions is ongoing. Developments include the appointment of an SDF-nominated Assistant Minister of Defense, the start of returns to areas affected by the conflict, and an exchange of around 600 detainees between the two sides.^{[37](#)} The transitional government has assumed control of civil administration in formerly SDF controlled areas^{[38](#)} and in early May, four SDF brigades had officially been incorporated into the Ministry of Defence (MoD).^{[39](#)} However, significant unresolved issues remain. Disputes over military integration,^{[40](#)} administrative appointments, recognition of DAANES-issued education certificates, and lack of women representation in appointed positions have been highlighted by the DAANES representatives. Additional points under negotiation include the status of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ), control of border crossings, Kurdish representation in the Parliament, and participation in future constitutional drafting.^{[41](#)}

- [36](#)

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