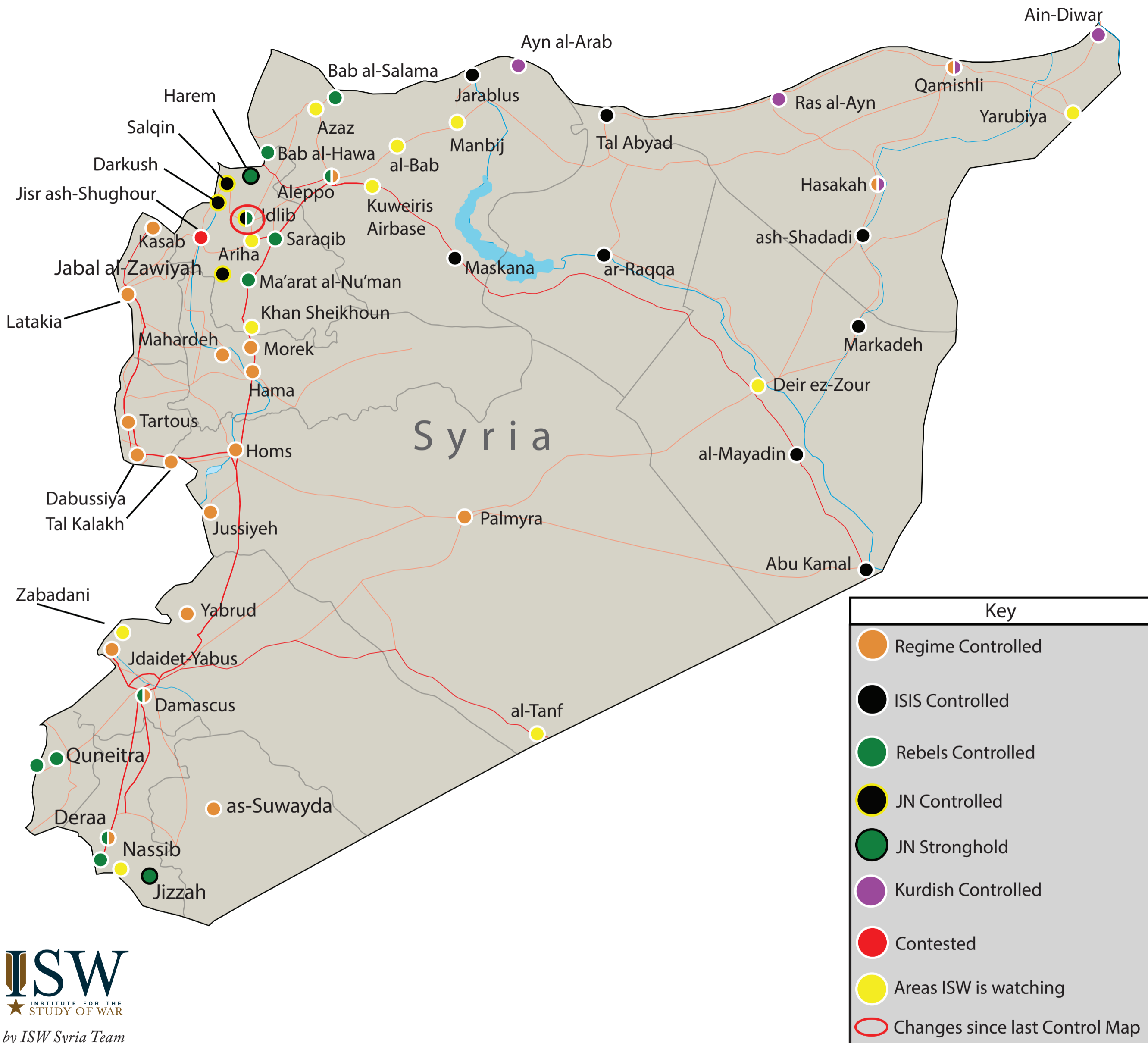


# Control of Terrain in Syria: March 31, 2015



Rebel forces participating in the “Jaysh al-Fatah Operations Room” led by al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra (JN) seized the city of Idlib on March 28, 2015, following a four day offensive. The fall of a second Syrian provincial capital to the Islamist opposition directly challenges the staying power of the Assad regime in northern Syria and underscores JN consolidation of power over Idlib Province, a former bastion of the moderate Free Syrian Army. Following the fall of Idlib city, the “Jaysh al-Fatah Operations Room” indicated that it will continue directing operations in Idlib Province. Meanwhile, other opposition groups claimed to form a new operations room targeting Jisr ash-Shughour. ISW is maintaining the watch on Ariha and placing a watch on Jisr ash-Shughour as JN and other rebel factions prepare to conduct additional offensives against remaining regime positions in Idlib Province.