

# Syria - US Moves To Protect Al-Qaeda And ISIS in Daraa

By Moon of Alabama

**Source:** [The Ron Paul Institute](#)

The Syrian government and its Russian ally plan to clean up the southwest region of Syria around the city of Daraa. The move should open the M5 highway, Syria's lifeline, between Damascus and Jordan and secure the border with Jordan as well as the demarcation line with the Israel occupied Golan Heights.

The operation was supposed to start in a day or two, but the US has now threatened to intervene. As the southwest Daraa governorate is infested with a large Islamic State (ISIS) group as well as al-Qaeda and associated groups the US move must be interpreted as protection for these terrorists.

On July 7 2017 The US, Russia and Jordan agreed to set up a de-escalation zone in southwest Syria. The parameters were not publicized and the implementation lagged. Russia had offered to let its military police supervise the zone but the US rejected that. The opening of the important M5 highway to Jordan which was originally part of the plan did likewise not happen. The ceasefire in the region was broken several times. There was also infighting between ISIS and al-Qaeda.

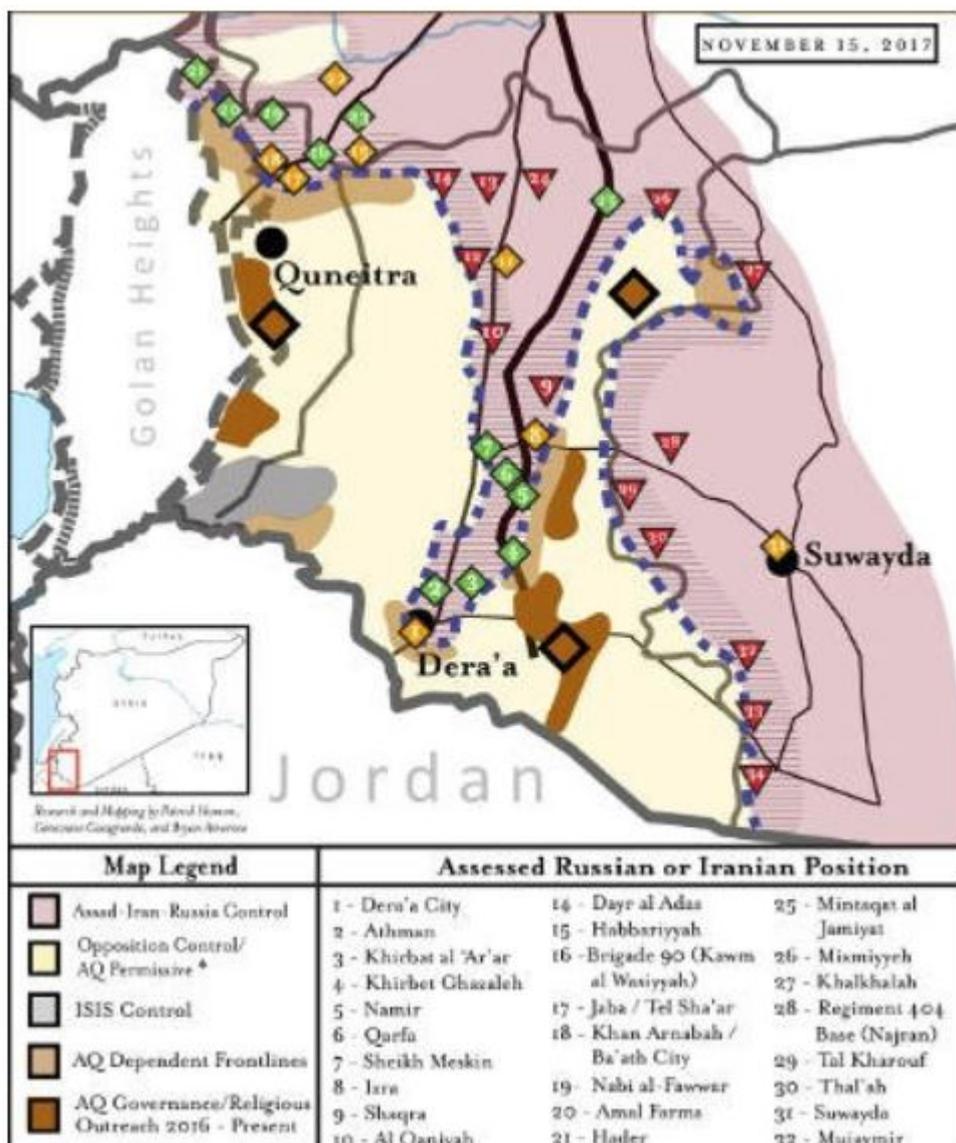
In November 2017 the presidents of the United States and Russia met and agreed to a Memorandum of Principals which covered southwest Syria. The memorandum was not published.

The neo-conservatives at the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) disliked the agreement. It headlined Southern Syria Deal Fails to Constrain Iran, al Qaeda. Israel had demanded that no groups associated with Iran should come near the zone, but no such rule was agreed upon. ISW also noted:

Al Qaeda has exploited the 'de-escalation zone' to develop a new durable safe haven along the Syrian-Jordanian border.

Neither al-Qaeda nor the Islamic State are covered by the de-escalation and ceasefire agreement. UN Security Council resolutions 2249 and 2254 demand that all UN members fight Al Qaeda, ISIS, and individuals and groups associate with them. It calls upon UN member states "to eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Syria".

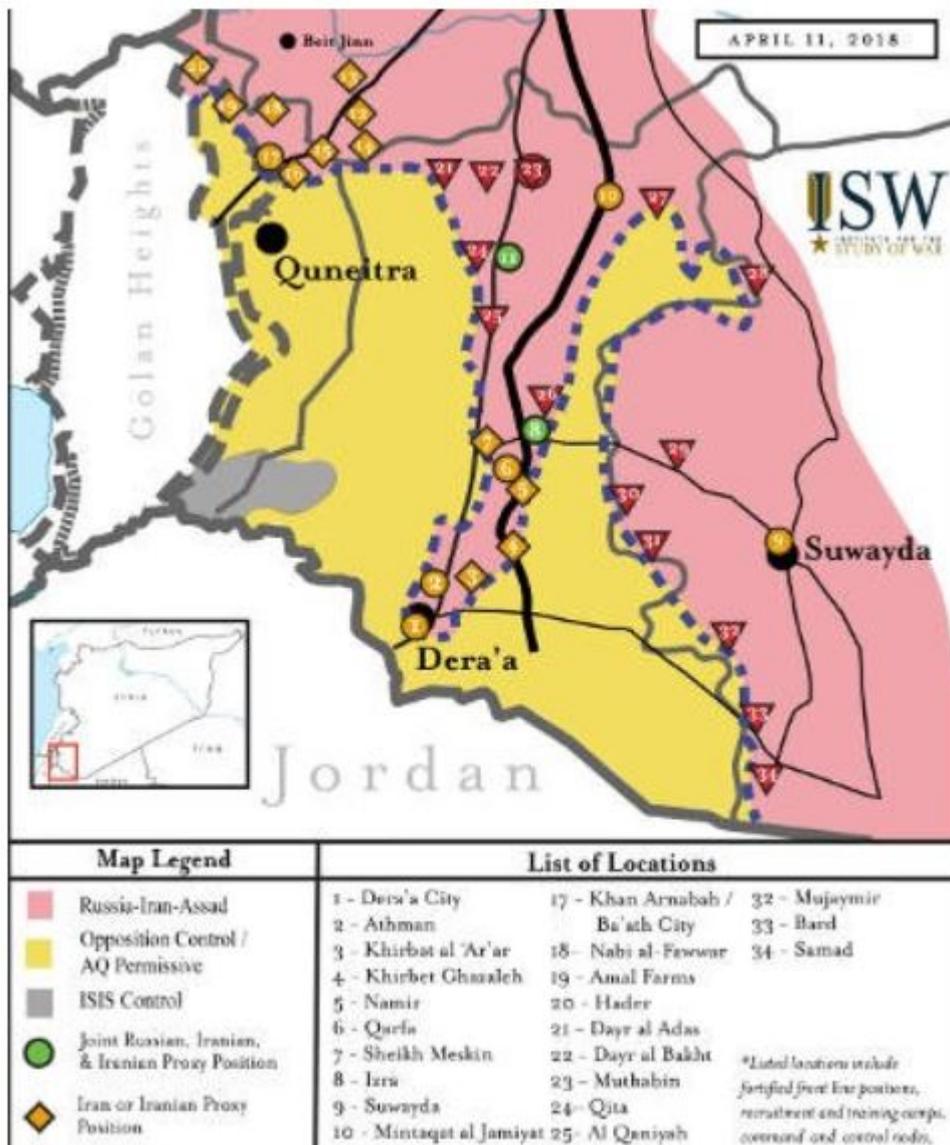
At that time ISW published a map of southwest Syria which shows the strategic positions taken by ISIS (grey), al-Qaeda (brown) and aligned groups (light brown):



In December 2017 the US [stopped payments](#) to "rebels" in the south west. Some of the groups, [including al-Qaeda](#), [receive](#)

[money, weapons and fire support](#) from Israel.

In April 2018 ISW published [a new version](#) of its map of the area. Amusingly al-Qaeda had vanished from it:



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Over the last days Syrian helicopters have [dropped leaflets](#) over “rebel” held towns in the western part of the rebel held areas. They demand that the rebels give up fighting and reconcile with the Syrian government.

The Iranian ambassador to Jordan Mojtaba Ferdowsi-pour publicly declared that [Iran has no role in any military operation in south of Syria](#). He added:

*After ending its mission in Syria, Iran will not remain in*

*Syria and whenever Syrian government ask us, Iran will leave the country.*

It is obvious that the Syrian government and its Russian allies have all rights to fight ISIS and al-Qaeda independent of any de-escalation agreement. The UNSC resolutions even demand that. But the US thinks different.

Last night the US State Department published [this threat](#):

*The United States is concerned by reports of an impending Assad regime operation in southwest Syria within the boundaries of the de-escalation zone negotiated between the United States, Jordan, and the Russian Federation last year and reaffirmed between Presidents Trump and Putin in Da Nang, Vietnam in November. The United States remains committed to maintaining the stability of the southwest de-escalation zone and to the ceasefire underpinning it. **We also caution the Syrian regime against any actions that risk broadening the conflict or jeopardize the ceasefire. As a guarantor of this de-escalation area with Russia and Jordan, the United States will take firm and appropriate measures in response to Assad regime violations.***

""

One wonders what "firm and appropriate measures" the US has planned for. Strong words? Cruise missile attacks? Nukes?

I have not seen any reaction yet from the Syrian or Russian side.

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# Syrian Law Journal Slams Media Coverage of New Property Law as 'Dishonest'

By Suliman Mulhem

Source: [Sputnik](#)

A property law passed on April 2 by the Syrian government made headlines in the mainstream media, with a number of outlets peddling the piece of legislation as an attempt by Damascus to prevent millions of Syrian refugees and apparent political opponents from returning home, by seizing their properties.

The law, which was ratified by President Bashar al-Assad last month after the Ministry of Local Administration and Environment submitted a draft version of the bill to Syria's People's Assembly, requires Syrians to prove their ownership of properties and land in specified war-torn areas of the country, primarily in parts of Damascus governorate, within 30 days, or face forfeiture.

Sweeping territorial gains by the Syrian Army and the wider coalition of government forces gave rise to the need for such a law, as many of these recently liberated areas had been under the control of a coalition of hardline Islamist militant groups for around six years.

Both Al Jazeera and the Guardian insist that the Article 10 law is politically motivated, with the Syrian government allegedly aiming to solidify the demographic changes the multi-year war has brought about to give President Assad a more favorable hand.

However, this argument fails to take into account the secularity of the Syrian government, and the presence of Sunni Muslims in not only Syria's parliament and President Assad's

cabinet, but even in senior positions of the intelligence apparatus, with Ali Mamlouk – a Sunni Muslim, of course – heading the National Security Bureau.

Additionally, the claims by the aforementioned media outlets fail to consider the incontrovertible need for such a law, as the Syrian government sets about the mammoth task of post-war nationwide reconstruction.

Before such projects can begin, authorities need to verify the ownership of properties in the areas which are set to undergo investment and reconstruction, to enable them to allocate properties upon the completion of such projects or offer compensation instead.

The Article 10 law is unequivocally needed to encourage private investors and enterprises to engage in public-private partnerships (PPP), as they'll be reluctant to collaborate on such projects without an understanding of the ownership structure of areas they're investing in.

The privately owned Syrian Law Journal (SLJ) criticized some western journalists and media outlets for misrepresenting the bill, via a journal entry on May 14, which also thoroughly explains this specific piece of legislation in the wider context of other supporting laws related to reconstruction, real estate development and zoning

“The narrative in western circles has been to frame this piece of legislation as an attempt by the Syrian government to muscle vulnerable communities opposed to it out of their rightful properties. The pick-and-choose approach that a number of journalists and observers have adopted when considering the provisions of the Urban Renewal Law in their articles or posts is quite conspicuous,” the entry reads.

The SLJ proceeded to insist that many media outlets “either mistakenly or dishonestly” attempted to portray the law as a politically motivated ploy by Damascus.

“They have failed to present a full comprehensive overview of the law and mention the safeguards it contains. Rather, these writers have either mistakenly or dishonestly opted to portray the rationale behind the law as a means to steal land belonging to opposition sympathizers and refugees who emigrated overseas while attempting to redraw demographic boundaries throughout Syria’s cities.”

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## Syria: Government Forces Repel Terrorists in Northeastern Syria

**Source:** [Fars News](#)

Syria’s Nation Defense Forces (NDF), deployed the towns of Fua’a and Kafraya, North-East of Idlib province, fended off a heavy offensive by the terrorists on Monday, inflicting major losses on the militants.

The NDF in Fua’a and Kafraya, North-East of Idlib city, that are under the terrorist groups’ siege exchanged heavy fire with a group of terrorists that tried to break through the government forces’ positions in Brouma Farms West of Kafraya and repelled their attack, inflicting major casualties on the terrorists.

The Monday attack was the fourth offensive of the terrorist groups in the last 30 days to capture Fua’a and Kafraya.

In a similar development on Saturday, the NDF, backed up by the country’s Air Force, warded off a heavy offensive by the Al-Nusra front (also known as Fatah al-Sham Front or the

Levant Liberation Board) in the besieged towns of Fua'a and Kafraya.

The NDF in Fua'a and Kafraya exchanged heavy fire with the Al-Nusra in al-Sawaqiyeh farms, and managed to fend off the Al-Nusra offensive after killing or wounding a number of militants.

Also, the army aircraft pounded the strongholds and movements of the Al-Nusra in al-Sawaqiyeh farms and other areas near the town of Taftnaz in Northeastern Idlib and in Ram Hamdan settlement North of Hamdan region.

In the meantime, other air force warplanes launched a heavy bombing on terrorists' positions in the village of al-Arba'een in Northern Hama and in Tal (hill) al-Waset in Northwestern Hama, inflicting major casualties on the militants.

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## [‘Terrible massacre’: Israel kills 58, injures 2,771 Gaza protesters as US embassy opens in Jerusalem](#)

**Source:** [RT](#)

Fifty-five Palestinian protesters, including six children under 18, have been killed by Israeli fire during demonstrations on the day of the US embassy's inauguration in Jerusalem, the Palestinian health ministry said Monday.

More than 2,700 protesters have been injured in Gaza on what

has been the most violent day of the six week long Great March of Return. Those wounded on Monday include 203 children and 78 women, according to the ministry.

The Palestinian government denounced Monday's violence as a "terrible massacre" perpetrated "by the forces of the Israeli occupation", and called for an immediate international intervention to prevent further deaths. A day of national mourning has been declared by the government in Ramallah, to be held Tuesday.

Around 35,000 protesters gathered at the border fence and thousands more within half a mile of the vicinity, according to Israeli Defence Forces.

Clashes have also reportedly broken out between protesters and the Israeli Defense Forces in Bethlehem.

The first of Monday's deaths was 21-year-old Anas Hamdan Qudeih, killed east of Khan Yunis, a spokesperson for the ministry said. A 29-year-old man, Mosaab Yousef Ibrahim Abu Laila, was later killed east of Jabalya. Some of the dead have yet to be identified. Six children under the age of 18, including one girl, are among the fatalities.

Amnesty International has called the Israeli violence in Gaza "an abhorrent violation of international law & human rights."

Around half of all injuries were caused by live bullets while hundreds more were targeted with teargas, according to the ministry. The Palestinian Health Ministry claims that Israeli forces are directly targeting emergency services and journalists and are calling on citizens to urgently donate blood to help save the lives of those wounded.

Six journalists have reportedly been injured while covering Monday's demonstrations, according to the Journalist Support Committee.

Meanwhile, the IDF said Israeli Air Force planes targeted Hamas posts near Jabalya after its soldiers came under fire in the area.

The latest deaths bring the number killed since the Great March of Return protests began six weeks ago to 103.

Dr. Mkhaimer Abuseda, professor of political sciences at Alazhar University in Gaza, told RT that the relocation of the US embassy from Tel-Aviv to Jerusalem is “a very sad day for the Palestinians, reminding them of their first Nakba some 70 years ago.”

“It seems to me that the Palestinians have decided that the US is no longer an honest broker in the MidEast peace process between the Palestinians and Israelis,” he said, adding that it will likely lead to further Palestinian rage and resistance.

Scuffles have reportedly broken out outside the new US embassy in Jerusalem as the inauguration ceremony took place inside.

Turkey’s Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdogan has condemned Monday’s violence, claiming the US, as well as Israel, is responsible for the “massacre” because of their “unjust decision” to move the embassy.

Tuesday marks the commemoration of Nakba Day, a term which Palestinians use to describe their forced mass exodus from their homes during the establishment of the State of Israel. It is celebrated among Israelis as Independence Day. Thousands of people have gathered near the border to take part in Monday’s protests.

Huge demonstrations are expected to mark the May 15 event, which brings to a close the six-week Great March of Return demonstrations.

The IDF dropped leaflets warning people in Gaza to stay away

from the security fence ahead of Monday's protests. Demonstrators in North Gaza brought down an IDF drone that was allegedly dropping fire bombs on tents, according to the Great Return March movement.

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## Takfiri militants hand over Israeli-made munitions to Syrian troops

**Source:** [Press TV](#)

Foreign-sponsored Takfiri militants have handed over large quantities of munitions and explosive devices, some of them Israeli-made, before their evacuation from towns south of the Syrian capital Damascus to the country's north.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported on Saturday that the extremists gave away their weapons as they left Yelda, Babila and Beit Sahem towns for northern Syria as part of a process to declare southern Damascus free from terrorism.

There were 60mm, 80mm and 120mm mortar shells, 14.5mm and 23mm PK machine guns, sniper rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, improvised explosive devices and Israeli-made landmines among the weapons.

This comes as Syrian government forces have on numerous occasions found considerable amounts of foreign-made munitions, including Israeli-made ones, from terrorists' hideouts across the war-ravaged Arab country.

The Arabic service of Russia's Sputnik news agency reported on

May 4 that Syrian army troopers had launched a clean-up operation in the southern part of Homs, located 162 kilometers north of the capital Damascus, and uncovered a huge cache of Israeli-made munitions, including chemical warfare and digital equipment, meant to be distributed among anti-government extremist groups.

On April 3, Syrian troops carried out operations in the villages of al-Salihyah, al-Dweir, al-Kishma and Sabikhan in the country's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr near the border with Iraq, and discovered Israeli-built chemical substances, explosive materials and weapons there.

Syrian soldiers also uncovered several artillery shells produced by some members of NATO.

An unnamed Syrian military source said many rocket-propelled grenades were found inside the Daesh arms cache in Salihyah, while the depot in Dweir contained rocket launchers as well as mortar shells of different kinds.

In September 2016, Israeli legislator Akram Hasoon accused the Tel Aviv regime of directly providing military assistance to members of the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham Takfiri terrorist group, formerly known as al-Nusra Front, in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Hasoon, in a post published on his Facebook page, said the extremists were shelling the Druze village of Khadr under the generous support and protection of Israel's minister of military affairs Avigdor Lieberman.

He wrote that Israel had offered advanced technological equipment to Jabhat Fateh al-Sham militants in order to give them the upper hand in clashes with Syrian government forces.

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# Syria: Israel Attacks & SAA Retaliates

Source: [Syria News](#)

No longer the Syrian Arab Army will maintain constraint even if pressured by Russia, starting 10 pm Damascus local time the Israeli forces attacked the Syrian capital with 9 missiles which were intercepted by the SAA air defense.

The SAA retaliated in a forceful way and targeted 9 Israeli armed posts inside the Golan Heights under the Israeli occupation.

The following thread is from our Twitter account through the night:

Breaking: After a series of Israel (NATO + Gulfies) aggressions in the past few months against a number of #SAA positions in Syria, Syrian Arab Army retaliates with dozens of missiles against IDF posts in occupied Golan Heights despite pressure from Russia not to retaliate.

Israel sources falsely claim the retaliation is by Iran forces in Syria not by the SAA; lying is a basic feature of the Zionist regime.

Israel fighter jets targeted Damascus with 9 missiles about 2 hours ago and SAA Air Defense Forces responded to the missiles.

It's the second attack with 48 hours against Syria coordinated with ISIS missiles earlier today from their last posts south of the capital.

The SAA retaliation targeted 9 IDF posts INSIDE Syrian Golan Heights occupied by Israel.

Israeli fighter jets were using US coded fighter jets & routes to attack Syrian military posts previously.

Foreign imported settlers in occupied Golan Heights rushed to the underground shelters but many had to leave them as it's not prepared, high corruption in the ranks of Zionist officials deprived safety for their people.

SAA, Hezbollah and allied forces prepared to storm northern occupied Palestine as the way rolls on.

SAA continues to respond to incoming missiles from Israel now.

Netanyahu in Russia to take approval to attack Syria and ask Putin to remove Russian embedded troops with Syrian forces, waiting for confirmation from Moscow about their meetings.

Israel pushes its reserves in ISIS & Nusra Front to assist by launching attacks against SAA positions south of Syria.

Syrian Armed Forces retaliating with more force.

Residents in Damascus hearing series of loud explosions in the city's skies watching SAA shooting down incoming missiles.

Residents in northern occupied Palestine hearing similar explosions in the skies.

Israel top officials in a state of shock from SAA's large retaliation, most of them are in hiding.

Israel IDF only carries attacks against Syria from Lebanon and occupied Palestine and Golan Heights and only at night fearing to enter Syrian skies after #SAA shot down of the F16 a couple of months ago.

Zionist settlers, their IDF commanders, and political leaders rush to underground shelters while residents of Damascus & commanders of SAA are on buildings rooftops following the news.

Difference between the cowards and the brave.

US Taxpayers must immediately start funding their accounts to replenish Israel missiles, the Zionists are emptying their stockpiles at a fast pace in their dozens each time.

Just Now (04:40 Damascus local time): SAA air defense destroyed 2 more incoming missiles in mid-air over Damascus.

SAA until now is retaliating to Israel aggression in quality and quantity to push away the wider regional war, unless needed.

Israel has created a lot of enemies and attacked many targets inside Syria and only got Trump and Saudi Clown Prince as allies. Foreign imported settlers in Palestine & Golan Heights better book their tickets back to Europe at their earliest.

(04:58 Damascus local time): Israel has widened its already 5 hours aggression against SAA posts to reach #Homs countryside central Syria from within Lebanon.

The IDF wants to be the last who attacked and at least score something to talk about it, #Syria Armed Forces not giving such chance.

Whoever took the decision to attack the SAA while the Syrian Armed Forces are continuously fighting ISIS and Nusra Front all over the country will get his fingers burned, big time.

Large sounds of explosions in Kiswa area south of Damascus due to SAA shooting down Israel incoming missiles.

The Israel attack on #Homs Countryside was with more than 20 missiles.

Syria has been in constant war for over 7 years with the world's strongest Armies of Anti-Islamic Wahhabi Suicide terrorists and the Syrians are accustomed to war, are the foreign imported settlers ready to a full war? Go back home to

Europe.

Link to the above thread: [Twitter Update](#)

We will continue to update the post as the aggression is still ongoing until the moments writing this post.

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