



Weekly Conflict Summary

July 14-20, 2016

Opposition-controlled areas in eastern Aleppo city have been effectively under government siege for two weeks, and pro-government forces have now strengthened their positions on a critical route into and out of the city. On the morning of July 17, pro-government forces were able to advance and capture areas on Kastillo road itself, putting a stop to any remaining movement of families and goods into or out of opposition-controlled neighborhoods of east Aleppo.

Pro-government forces failed in an attempt to take Handarat village northeast of Aleppo, while a few anti-government offensives for Mallah farms and Kastillo Road have also been unsuccessful.

In eastern Aleppo governorate the governorate the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have continued to make steady process into Menbij city, capturing more territory in the west and southwest of the city over the period of July 14 - 20, including the Menbij National Hospital west of the city center. This building had previously been used as an ISIS HQ.

Coalition airstrikes led to the death of dozens of civilians in Tukhar, north of Menbij. The strike hit a school housing internally displaced persons (IDPs) in an ISIS-controlled area. The attack appears to have incurred the highest level of civilian casualties at the hands of international coalition warplanes and prompted part of the Syrian opposition to ask the anti-ISIS coalition to halt strikes. Reported death tolls varying from 56 to 160 people killed. Demonstrators in A'zaz condemned the coalition airstrikes and called for a humanitarian corridor for IDPs fleeing the conflict around Menbij.

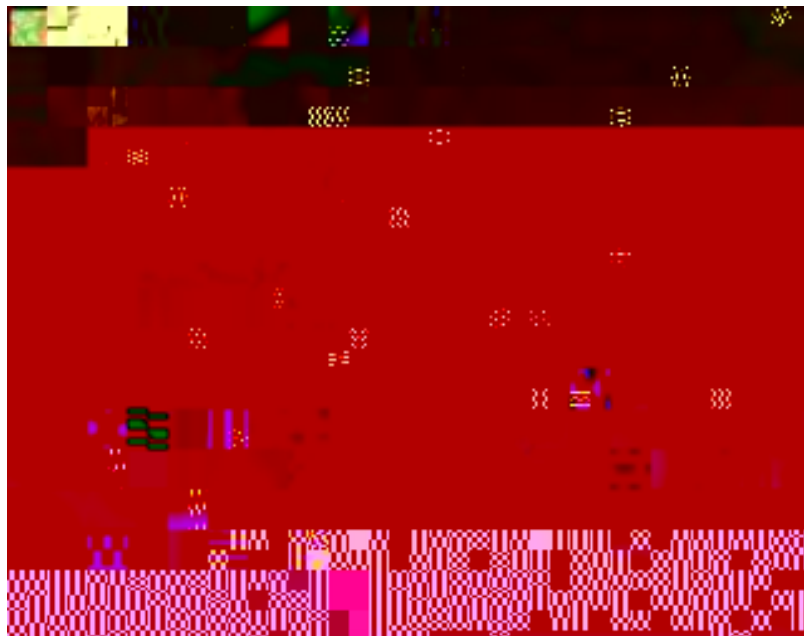


Figure 1: Areas of control in Northern Aleppo governorate.

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