



Weekly Conflict Summary July 21-27, 2016

Government forces, working from both eastern Aleppo and the northern countryside, have consolidated their control over Castello Road, fully besieging opposition areas in eastern Aleppo. While Kurdish forces in the Sheikh Maqsood district of Aleppo also advanced outwards, taking advantage of beleaguered opposition forces by siezing control of the Youth Housing complex near Castello Road.

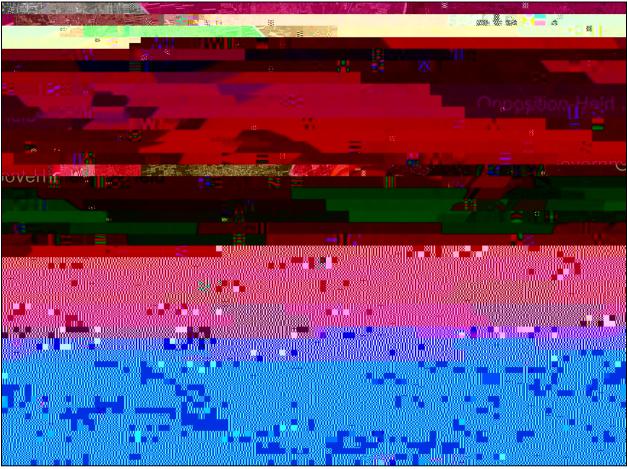


Figure 1: Areas of control in Aleppo city, with recent government advances highlighted in orange.

Due to ongoing airstrikes on opposition-controlled neighborhoods in Aleppo city, five of eight hospitals in these areas are now only able to offer basic medical services, and a blood bank was damaged. The Syrian government has offered civilians safe passage from opposition-held areas of Aleppo, promising temporary housing for IDPs in government-controlled areas. The UN and other actors continue to press for a ceasefire amid expectations that besieged opposition-controlled neighborhoods in Aleppo will run out of food in mid-to-late August.

Elsewhere in Aleppo governorate, local sources reported that Atareb was subjected to a campaign of airstrikes, which were particularly intense between 20-25 July. In addition to killing at least 18 civilians and injuring 35 others, airstrikes on 25 July damaged the Atareb hospital, resulting in the closure of the

In eastern Aleppo governorate, Kurdish news sources reported that the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) issued an ultimatum to ISIS militants in Menbij city on July 21, demanding that they evacuate the city within 48 hours in order to protect civilian lives. ISIS forces have remained, and clashes and airstrikes continue.

A local source has described ongoing scarcity of both bread and fuel in the SDF-controlled areas of Menbij countryside. As of 21 July there were only three bakeries providing bread for the entire SDF-

<u>Conclusion</u>

The situation in Syria looks particularly bleak this week. As supplies run short in Aleppo, t