



ISIS has also advanced significantly in their siege of government-held Deir Ez-Zor, cutting the territory held by the government into two. Hezbollah and government forces have been redeployed to the countryside in an attempt to push ISIS forces from the territory they recently secured, though success has been minimal. ISIS forces appear poised to advance on the Deir Ez-Zor Military Airport, which, if successful, would deal a major blow to government forces in the area.

Figure 1 - Frontlines in Deir Ezzor city and its immediate countryside by 26 January 2016

ISIS has also conducted an offensive on Khanaser, the choke-point linking government positions in Aleppo to its stronghold in central and western Syria. The offensive has been intense, resulting in ISIS cutting the government's resupply route to and from A