



In Aleppo, the government offensive on opposition-held East Aleppo continues, and even appears to have intensified over the past week, despite the Russian-announced 8-hour unilateral ceasefire for humanitarian aid delivery. This ceasefire was ultimately extended to 11 hours during which they encouraged civilians to evacuate. The opposition has continued to shell government-held areas of west Aleppo, often targeting civilian areas.

Front lines in Hama were relatively quiet this week as many opposition forces are only now returning to front lines after weeks of infighting. Government forces conducted multiple airstrikes on opposition positions near front lines throughout the week.

Pro-government forces enjoyed continued success in Damascus and its countryside as more opposition-held towns surrendered this week. On October 13, fighters and their families were evacuated from al-Hama and Qudsiya to the north of the city. On October 19, some 3,000 people were evacuated from M'adamiyet al-Sham. Buses from all three cities headed to Idleb, after the surrender and transfer of arms.



Figure 2 - Map of the current situation in Damascus and its countryside by 19 October, 2016

Last week's opposition offensive in Lattakia has been halted, though retaliatory air strikes continued through this week. On October 18, warplanes and helicopters bombed areas of Kabani in Jabal al-Akrad, reportedly employing barrel bombs in some of the attacks.

In eastern Homs governorate, pro-government forces mounted an offensive against ISIS, pushing back front lines nearly every day for the past week.

