

GoS captured the remaining parts of the M5 highway under HTS/opposition group control, as well as the western outskirts of Aleppo city this week. GoS troops breached frontlines at Maraat al Nassan, before turning northwards, parallel with the M5 highway, and taking areas around Um Saghira and Kafr Nihal.² At the end of the reporting period, GoS/HTS frontlines were some 9km west from Aleppo City. For a summary of the above advances see Figure 2.

Despite the loss of territory, HTS and other opposition group continued to resist GoS activity (Figure 3). They also shot down three GoS helicopters using MANPAD

¹ Figure 1 denotes dominant actors' control and influence. Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah maintain military presence in Syrian government-controlled territory. Non-state organized armed groups (NSOAG), including the Kurdish dominated SDF and a variety of other groups operate in areas not under Syrian Government control. The US continues to have a presence in the SDF-controlled east of country. The area around the convergence of the Syrian, Iraqi and Jordanian borders is a 55km radius zone established by the US that also includes a number of aligned local armed groups. Data collected is by the publicly available project ACLED.

² ACLED data recorded that GoS captured 36 locations; Aleppo Police School, Al Amin Association, Al Rashdeen, Ajil, Awejal, Atareb, Al Klariyah, Al Shamiko, Al Madaen, Arada, Arnaz, Barqum, Electricity Asso

Division Army Base near Kisweh. There have been regular Israeli airstrikes against military locations around Damascus in the previous two years (Figure 4).

Artillery and small arms fire exchanges between Turkish-backed groups and Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)/GoS forces in the northeast increased again this week. ACLED recorded 26 events,⁶ compared to 20 and 16 events the previous two weeks. Turkish forces also shelled Dardara, Um Kayf, Sharbin, Tawila, Um Khair, Tal Tawil, Abu Rasin,

