



Weekly Conflict Summary

October 6-12, 2016

This week marks another week of continued offensives on most fronts in Syria. In the north, Operation Euphrates Shield (OES) saw remarkable success against ISIS. In Aleppo city, the pro-government offensive on besieged East Aleppo experienced slow but significant advances. The opposition offensive for Lattakia launched a new phase of battles for the week of Ashura, but all advances were repelled. In Hama, the Marwan Hadid Offensive has all but stopped its advance on government-held territory due to major in-fighting within the opposition. Lastly, government forces in rural Damascus made significant advances, further shrinking the pocket of opposition control in the Damascus countryside.

The opposition offensive in northern Aleppo supported by Turkish and American elements, Operation Euphrates Shield, saw another week of large gains. In Aleppo, the pro-government offensive on besieged East Aleppo experienced slow but significant advances. The opposition offensive for Lattakia launched a new phase of battles for the week of Ashura, but all advances were repelled. In Hama, the Marwan Hadid Offensive has all but stopped its advance on government-held territory due to major in-fighting within the opposition. Lastly, government forces in rural Damascus made significant advances, further shrinking the pocket of opposition control in the Damascus countryside.

Conclusions:

The positive development of continued gains against ISIS positions in northern Syria were tempered by continued high rates of violence and civilian deaths throughout much of the rest of Syria. Persistent opposition infighting has meant little in the way of opposition advances while pro-government forces enjoyed significant advances, particularly in rural Damascus. Civilian wellbeing, particularly in Aleppo and in Kurdish regions along the Turkish border remains a primary concern.