

## **Weekly Conflict Summary**

August 25-31, 2016

This week in Syria, a large new opposition offensive began in northern rural Hama, showing large initial territorial gains.

Figure 1 - Opposition offensive in northern Hama by August 31

The siege of opposition-controlled Darayya city on the western outskirts of Damascus led to a conditional surrender of the remaining opposition forces inside. On August 23, Shuhada al-Islam, the opposition force in Darayya, agreed to evacuate their remaining 700 soldiers and any civilians who wished to leave. Opposition fighters and their families were to be evacuated to northern Idleb, while other civilians were to arrive in Harjalah in the Kisweh sub-district in Western Ghouta. Some Shuhada al-Islam fighters have since joined Jaysh al-Islam. Around 2,000 people were evacuated. This surrender ended a four-year siege of the city.

Fighters in Ma'damiyeh, which borders Darayya in Rural Damascus, entered similar talks with pro-government forces for their subsequent surrender. Opposition forces in al-Wa'er, Homs, also pursued similar negotiations, though

Civilian kidnappings in Daraa and As-Suweida by pro-government affiliates has led to renewed tension between the Druze community in Tha'leh and Sunni communities in Daraa gov