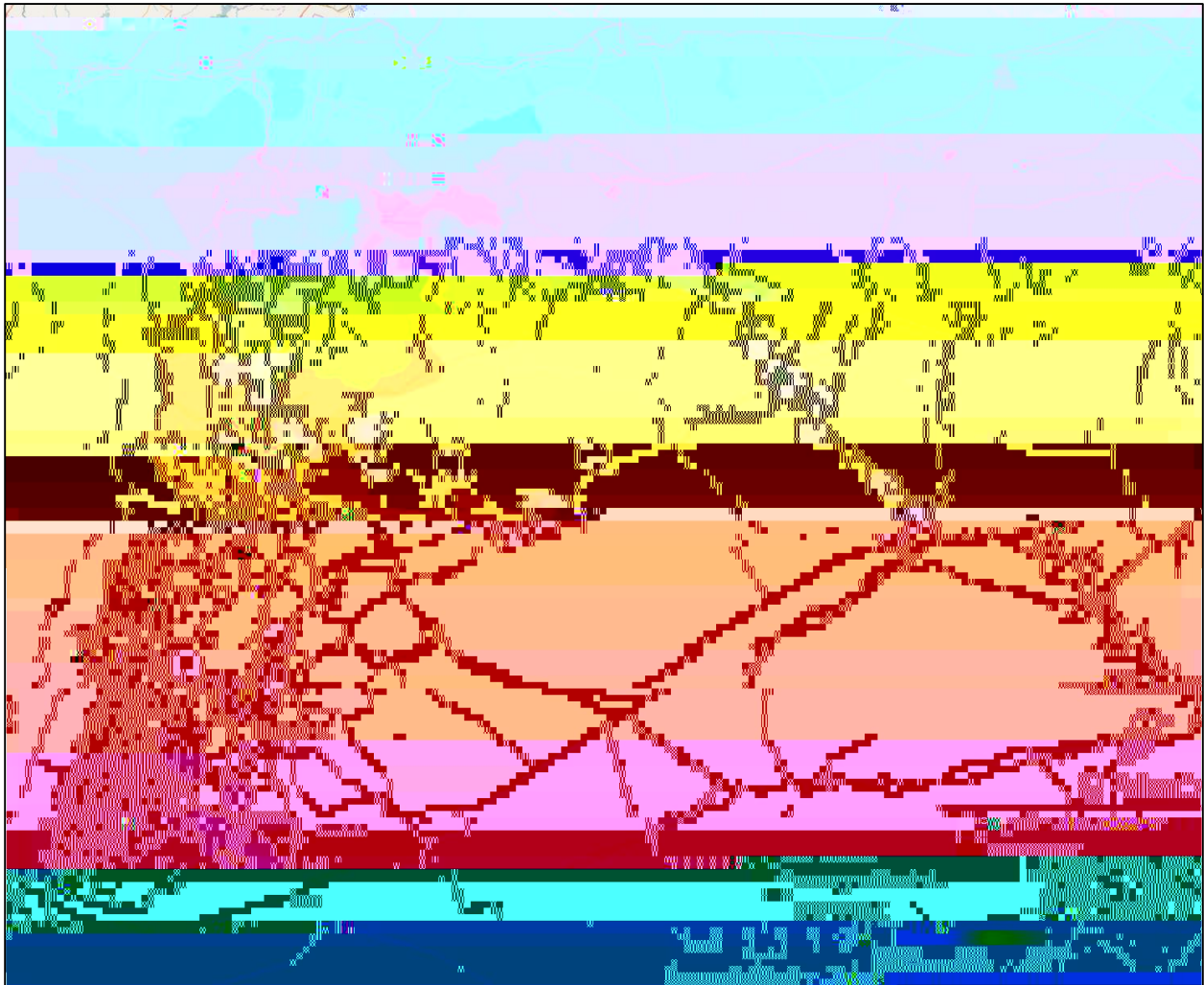


THE
CARTER CENTER



Weekly Conflict Summary
March 9-15, 2017

This reporting period saw consistently high levels of violence throughout Syria. Conflict in the Eastern Ghouta region outside Damascus remained particularly high, especially in Qaboun, where pro-government forces are attempting to advance. Pro-government forces destroyed several opposition tunnels at the start of the week as they work to consolidate control over gains made in the previous reporting period.



On March 10, a Shi'a pilgrimage site in the Old City of Damascus was struck by large blasts, killing many worshippers. On the same day, two suicide bombings hit areas of the Kafr Sousa district of Damascus, killing primarily soldiers. The Kafr Sousa bombings were claimed by Haiy'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). On March 11, the US declared HTS a terrorist organization (like

Conclusions:

This reporting week marks the 6th anniversary since the start of the Syrian conflict. High-casualty terrorist bomb attacks hit the Syrian capital, killing many civilians, while Syrian and Russian airstrikes continued to target opposition-held areas. ISIS continued to lose territory on several fronts while the situation around Al-Bab and Menbij remains tense with multiple forces converging in these areas.