



Weekly Conflict Summary

April 28-May 4, 2016

Conflict during the past week continues to be concentrated in Aleppo, with events in the governorate accounting for approximately half of all documented conflict events in the country. The frequency of conflict events reported matches (or even surpasses) pre-cessation levels of violence in the city.

The following two maps show the distribution of recorded conflict events, color-coded according to which party initiated the attack. The second map shows the frequency of events reported per area. Events remain largely focused on front lines towards the center of the city, and in the northwestern district of al-Zahraa, where pro-government forces have made a westward push to re-capture a military outpost and small housing complex held by opposition forces.

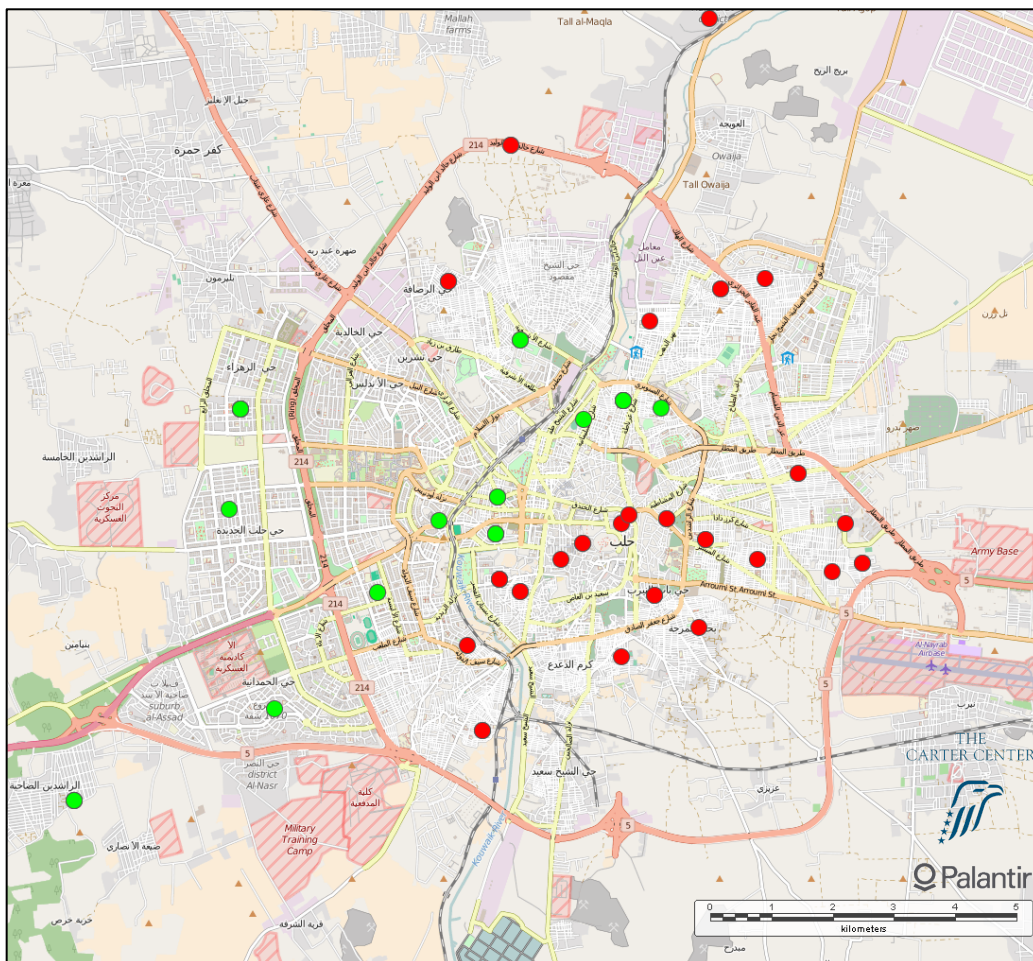


Figure 1: Distribution of recorded conflict events in Aleppo city during the week of April 28 through May 4. Red dots indicate areas targeted by pro-government forces, green dots indicate areas targeted by opposition forces.

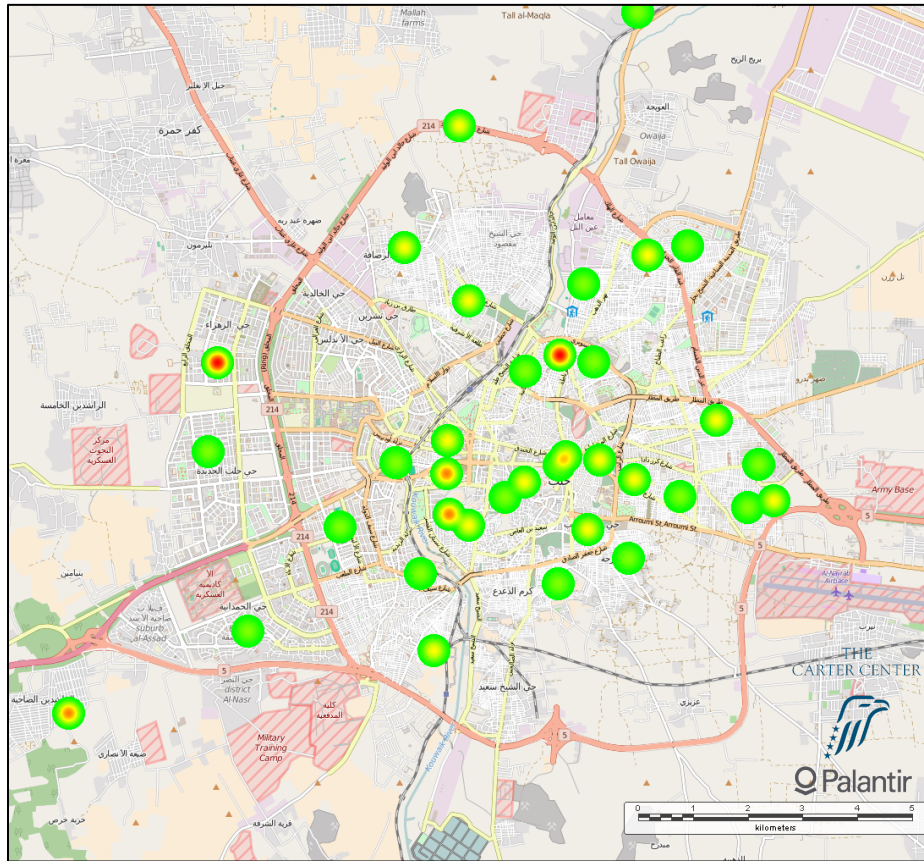


Figure 2: Heat map of documented conflict events in Aleppo city during the week of April 28 through May 4. The intensity of red in each circle corresponds with the relative number of conflict events recorded in each area.

Fighting in the eastern suburbs of Damascus has also continued – largely concentrated in the town of Bala, where government forces are close to cutting off an opposition enclave to the south. Additionally, opposition infighting has continued between Faylaq al-Rahman and Jaysh al-Islam.

In addition to continued fighting in Damascus and Aleppo, there has been renewed fighting in Daraa city. This fighting has been largely concentrated in the southwestern district neighborhood of Manshiya.

Conclusion

The international community’s recent reiteration of its support for the ongoing cessation of hostilities is a positive development, but it remains to be seen whether this will quell the rising violence in Aleppo. Despite the rising violence, there have been relatively few changes in areas of control, which should offer hope for the prospects of preventing a return to full-scale conflict.