

Death in Aleppo

13 December, 2016

Aleppo is the second most significant city in Syria after Damascus. Up to the start of the civil uprising, Aleppo was as well the leading industrial city in Syria. In July 2012, Aleppo was lost to GoS control which formed a major turning point in the history of the Syrian civil uprising. The GoS immediately tried to regain control of the city. After a few days, having failed to retake the city, the city was repeatedly subjected to aerial bombardments.

Barrels Bombs Were Used for the First Time to Bomb Aleppo City. During the civil uprising, the GoS has applied a strategy to besiege all areas out of its control, where infrastructure, medical and health facilities are systematically destroyed, aiming to displace the civilians in the besieged areas. This strategy was implemented in Rural Damascus where the GoS deliberately displaced the civilians from several areas after besieging it for several years. Until very recently, areas in Aleppo City that were out of GoS control were connected to Bab Al Salam border crossing point with Turkey, in Aleppo's Azaz Sub-district. All humanitarian organizations deliver assistance to the besieged areas through this border crossing point. As well, the seriously injured are transported to Turkey to receive treatment through this route.

On 4 February 2016

Mayer and Maarset Al Khan were declared as GoS territories, and the road to Nubul Sub-district in Aleppo Countryside became open. However, the road from Aleppo City and Southern Countryside towards the Northern Countryside was cut-off. Therefore, the only open road was between Aleppo City and Southern countryside.

On 6 July 2016

the Aleppo City neighborhoods of Bani Zaid, Al Ashrafiyeh and several parts of Al Mallah were taken by GoS forces, supported by RuAF. This resulted in the blockading of the Castello road and a complete blockade of the Eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo City.

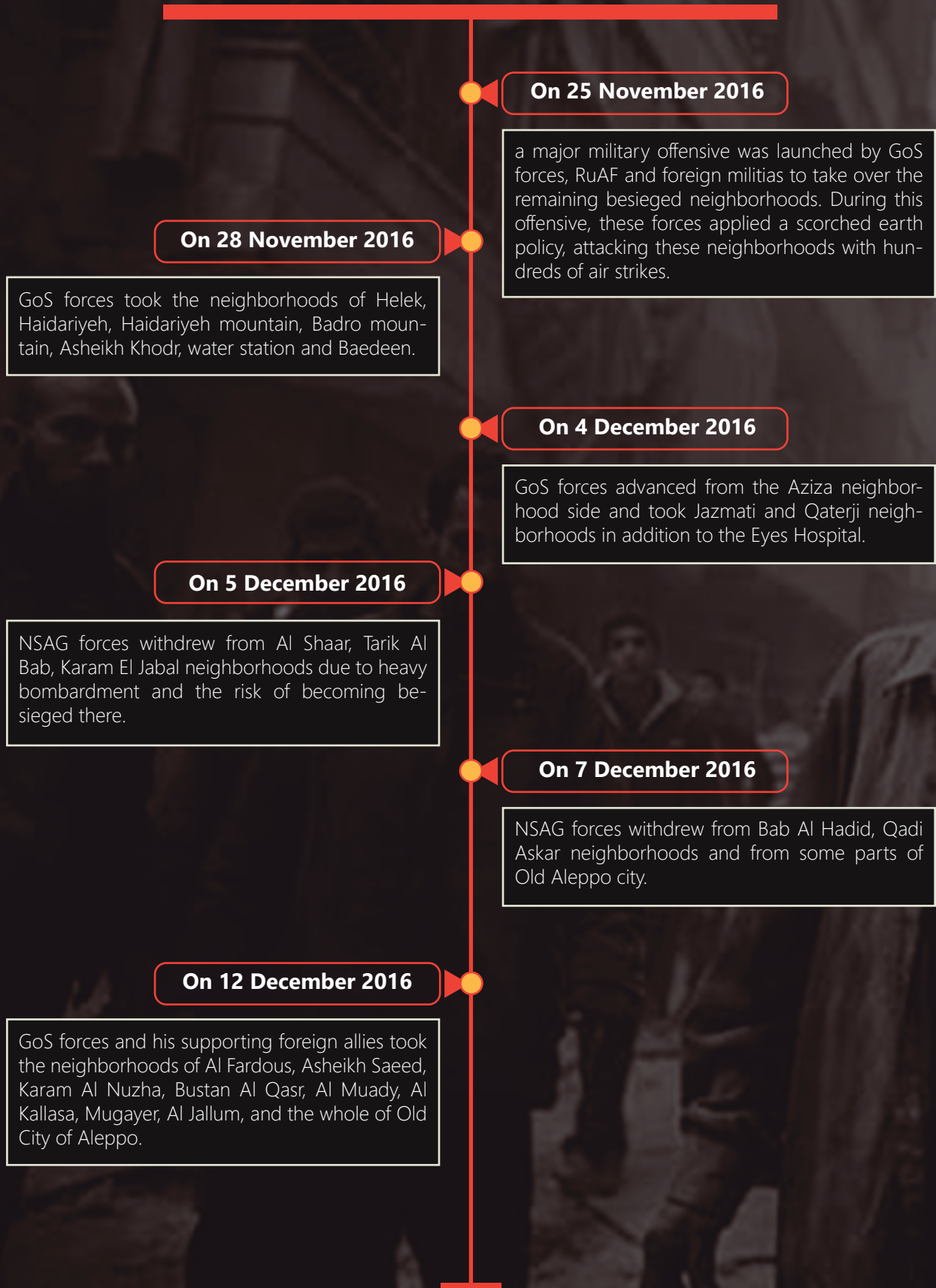
On 31 July 2016

the NSAG launched a major offensive in the south-west of the city, regaining control of a large area, including the Artillery Faculty, the College of armament, technical aerial school, and parts of Ramusa neighborhood. This offensive resulted in the breaking the siege of the Eastern neighborhoods of the city on 9 August 2016.

On 5 September 2016

GoS forces along with the support of RuAF and foreign militias regained control of the Ramusa neighborhood and the military faculties, reestablishing a full blockade on the Eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo City.

These Eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo City, after more than 4 years of deprivation, continued to be attacked by GOS forces through aerial bombardment, artillery and rockets. Massive destruction was caused to civilian residences and all medical and service facilities. Within the 7 besieged neighborhoods, 49,304 households (306,506 individuals) suffered four successive months of siege



On 13 December 2016, about **70,000 civilians** remained trapped within an area no more than 2 km² within Al Zibdiyeh, Al Sukkary, Al Mashhad, Al Ansary, Salah El Deen, Al Ameriah, and Tal Al Zarzeer neighborhoods. Around **30,000 civilians** were displaced from areas recently taken by GoS forces towards these neighborhoods. The trapped civilians continue to suffer from extremely bad humanitarian conditions. They as well remain afraid to turn themselves in to GoS forces, not least that the whereabouts of around **200,000 civilians** who were in neighborhoods recently taken by GoS forces is still unknown to them. It is understood that GoS forces put a large number of civilians from these recently taken neighborhoods in mandatory collective centers within large buildings and warehouses in Jabrin and Nakkarin neighborhoods. It is understood that GOS forces are executing civilians in these collective centers and elsewhere in Aleppo City. All of this is taking place in the full knowledge of the international community, who are yet to do anything to alleviate the suffering of these besieged civilians. The silence of the international community and their inability to help these people is deeply concerning.

It is understood that GoS forces have murdered a number of men, taken from the Al Hayat medical center, in the Al Kallasa neighborhood, claiming that were involved in fighting the GOS forces. Civilians have taken refuge in that medical centre, located in the basement of a building, when GoS forces took control of Al Kallasa. A large number of corpses remain on the streets of the city and under the rubble areas recently taken by GOS forces.

The besieged neighborhoods lack the minimum living requirements. There is no longer any electricity supply and very limited fuel. Food is very limited as food and flour warehouses are now within GoS areas.

GoS Controlled Hospitals



Under International Silence and the inability to stop the violence the systematic destruction and deliberate displacement of the civilians within the Eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo City has continued for over four years. Russia has used its Veto 5 times at the Security Council, most recently to prevent the delivery of any humanitarian relief to the besieged neighborhoods of Aleppo City and to prevent stop the onslaught of the GoS forces. The lack of action by the international community, including the United Nations, to prevent the atrocities in Aleppo City in particular and in Syria more widely is deeply concerning.

The International Community, including the United Nations, are requested to urgently seek the cessation of all military actions in Aleppo City and allow the entry of humanitarian relief for the besieged communities. A full investigation into the recent massacres in Aleppo by GoS forces requires immediate action.

Map: Neighborhoods Besieged by GoS Forces since 25 November 2016 till 13 December 2016

