

# Menbij City Under Siege

Aleppo  
21 July 2016

Menbij Sub-district is located in the Eastern countryside of Aleppo Governorate, and it is densely populated as it is one of the biggest sub-districts in Aleppo. In the month of August 2012, Menbij Sub-district went out of the Syrian regime control, and afterwards it had received a big number of internally displaced people (IDPs). This sub-district was highly organized by the acting civil associations that were managing it, as well as many humanitarian organizations were active in Menbij City.

During the month of January 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) had controlled Menbij Sub-district, leading to complete halt of the humanitarian organizations' activities and the work of the civil associations of the Syrian opposition.

On 30 May 2016, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had announced the launch of a massive military offensive to control the city of Menbij. SDF forces were supported with the international coalition warplanes that started targeting specific locations of the city with airstrikes. The coordinates of the targets were sent by SDF.

On 31 May 2016, the coalition airstrikes had targeted many sites. The central market (souq) on the main road of Jarablus was also targeted with an air raid resulting in **killing seven civilians and a big number of injured**. Many residents are subjected to danger and are being killed due to the continuous bombing of city's besieged neighborhoods on a daily basis.

On 19 July 2016, a massacre had happened in Al-Tukhar village after being targeted with air raids by the international coalition, this massacre is considered the biggest one after the start of the military campaign in the city. Almost all houses in the village were damaged out of bombing, and the **number of casualties had exceeded 100**. Additionally, several ISIL soldiers were killed during those air raids. As a result of severe conditions experienced by city citizens the dead bodies were buried in mass graves and no documentation was conducted and the residents could not make a distinction between the dead.

Al-Hizwaneh neighborhood located south Menbij City is witnessing on-going clashes, as SDF forces could not control this neighborhood till the moment of writing this report. It should be noted that this neighborhood is destroyed due to military actions and coalition air raids, and it is considered a cross line between the adversaries.

SDF forces reached Tariq Halep neighborhood located west the city of Menbij after taking control of the judiciary school there. As well as, the western neighborhoods were under intensified air raids by coalition warplanes. A whole family was killed in Al-Rabita street after being targeted with an air raid by international coalition.

Considering the eastern neighborhoods of Menbij City, the situation there is relatively stable comparing with the other city fronts. No clashes are taking place there, and SDF forces did not move forward those areas.

## Humanitarian Situation

Around 230,000 civilians are living in Menbij City according to statistics that ACU had received from there. This high density of population is located in a small area which is subjected to bombing on a daily basis. Menbij Sub-district did not receive any humanitarian assistance during the past years because of ISIL control of the city, so no medical or food reservoir exists there.

Three months have passed since Menbij City was besieged without the existence of minimum living requirements. Whereas no food or non-food items were entered to the city markets during those three months of blockade, so all items were missed from stores and shops. Additionally, there is no medicine or medical requirements in city hospitals.

It should be noted that the electricity network is fully out of service, and only small amounts of fuel are available in the city. This resulted in the inability of getting water, so the residents are forced to extract water manually from wells and transport it to their homes without testing its validity for drinking.

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