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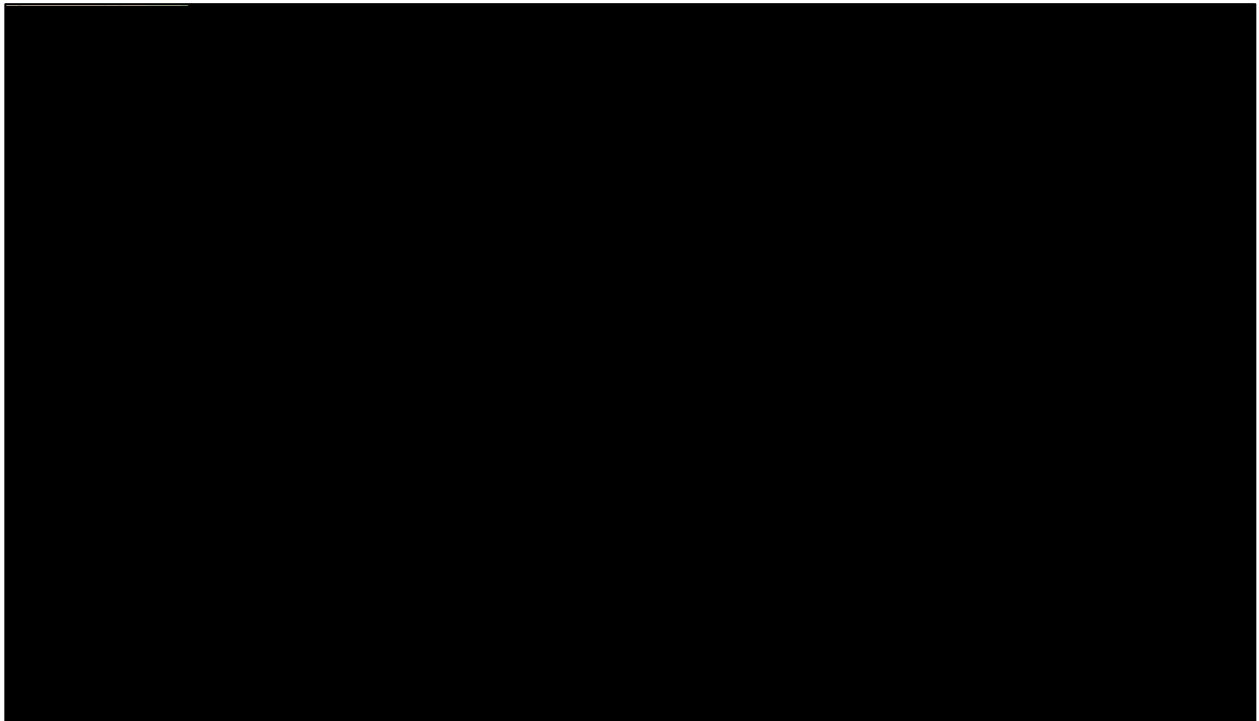
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THE

October 27-November 2, 2016

On October 28, the opposition launched another large-scale offensive to break the government siege of East Aleppo. Opposition forces attacked the western axis between al-Zahraa in the north and the 1070 Apartments in the south. The offensive, announced as the “Mother of all Battles” by opposition media, began with an overwhelming wave of grad missile strikes and vehicle-borne suicide bombings on West Aleppo. At least 14 suicide attacks were reported to have targeted government forces by November 2. The offensive saw some initial gains, including the full capture of Dahiyet al-Asad, advances in the 1070 Apartments south of Ramousa Road, and a minor portion of the Project 3000 Apartments in al-Hamadaniya. Opposition forces also took control of a small portion of al-Zahraa district to the north, though the advance has been very slow.

Heavy rains starting around October 31 caused a pause in advances and a halt to airstrikes on frontlines. This weather continued for a couple of days before minor opposition gains on November 2. During this lapse in activity, Fastaqem Union and Nur al-din al-Zenki fighters in East Aleppo began to fight against each other, marking yet another instance of intra-opposition fighting on key frontlines.



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On October 30 and 31, it was reported that chlorine bombs were dropped by government aircraft on western frontlines in Aleppo. The second barrel was accidentally dropped on friendly targets in al-Rashidein.

On October 27, pro-government forces made major advances into Souran, Hama. Over the 48 hours that followed, soldiers secured the rest of the city and expelled opposition forces from their positions.

Throughout the week, a large pro-government air campaign on the western Aleppo countryside continued. Areas around Orem al