



AlLeppo  
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The Battle of Aleppo is an ongoing military confrontation in Aleppo, Syria between the Free Syrian Army and its allies and the Syrian government. The battle began on 19 July 2012 as a part of the Syrian civil war. Clashes escalated in late July in Syria's largest city that holds great strategic and economic importance. The battle's scale and importance led combatants to name it the "mother of all battles"

The uprising began on 15 March 2011, with nationwide demonstrations. The inhabitants of Syria's two largest cities, Damascus and Aleppo, initially remained largely uninvolved. In fact, the two cities experienced rallies in the tens of thousands in support of the Assad government.

As the government launched crackdowns and sieges in restive towns and cities, the protests evolved into an armed rebellion. Opposition forces composed of military defectors and civilian volunteers clashed with security forces across the country.

Fighting in Aleppo governorate began on 10 February. Over the next five months, major clashes left large parts of the rural countryside under rebel control, while the provincial capital, Aleppo city, remained firmly under government control. On 19 July, rebel forces stormed the city and the battle began.

Syria - country in Western Asia, that borders Lebanon and the Mediterranean Sea to the West, Turkey to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south and Israel to the southwest. Civilization in Syria was one of the most ancient on earth. Syria is part of the Fertile Crescent, and from approximately 10,000 BCE it was one of the centers of Neolithic culture where agriculture and cattle breeding appeared for the first time in the world. Over the millennia, Syria has been conquered and settled by many different peoples. A country of fertile plains, high mountains and deserts, it is home to diverse ethnic and religious groups, including Kurds, Armenians, Assyrians, Christians, Druze, Alawite Shias and Arab Sunnis. The latter make up the majority of the population. Since March 2011, Syria has been embroiled in civil war in the wake of uprisings (considered an extension of the Arab Spring, the mass movement of revolutions and protests in the Arab world) against Assad and the neo-Ba'athist government. The opposition Syrian National Coalition selected Ghassan Hitto as prime minister of a rival provisional government on March 19, 2013 after being invited to do so by several foreign governments and the Arab League.

Aleppo is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world; it has been inhabited since perhaps as early as the 6th millennium BC. It is the largest city in Syria, with an official Metro population of 2,181,061 (2013 census).





Nov. 30, 2012 - A young girl shouts freedom slogans during a demonstration after Friday prayers in the Bustan Al-Qasr district of Aleppo. After months of fierce insurgency thousands of residents have returned to the city, they attempt to recover their daily lives while heavy fighting still continues along the frontlines within the city.

May. 03, 2013 - A web of veils protects residents and combatants from sniper fire at the Sheikh Maksoud frontline, a majority-Kurdish neighbourhood of Aleppo that was taken by opposition fighters a few weeks ago and is now being targeted by Syrian forces.



May. 03, 2013 - Kurdish women, female members of the "Popular Protection Units" (YPG), sit inside a house in the majority-Kurdish Sheikh Maksoud district that they patrol and protect as clashes continue after Syrian opposition fighters entered the Kurdish area forcing thousands of civilians to flee to safer areas outside the city of Aleppo. Since then, the neighbourhood has been bombed and shelled by Syrian forces in an attempt to sweep the opposition fighters out of the area.





Nov. 30, 2012 - Syrian residents shout freedom slogans as they wave flags of the opposition to the Syrian government during a demonstration after Friday prayers in the Bustan Al-Qasr district. After months of fierce insurgency thousands of residents have returned to the city and attempt to recover their daily lives, though while heavy fighting continues along the frontlines dividing the city, in other areas public demonstrators have come out in the streets as residents claim an end to the violence in Aleppo, Syria's largest city.





Oct. 28, 2012 - A rebel fighter laden with weapons poses for photo at the Bustan Al-Pasha front line after a fighter jet strikes rebel positions in a north-eastern neighbourhood in Aleppo city.

