Weekly Conflict Summary September 7-13, 2017

reporting week, though it seems pro-government forces now maintain at least a tenuous grasp over the city.

Developments in the South

There have been multiple conflicting reports regarding the current state of affairs in the southeastern "al-Tanf pocket" of opposition control, near the intersection of the Iraqi, Jordanian, and Syrian borders. Some reports have suggested that opposition groups in the area were in the process of withdrawing to the border crossing, but clashes and even airstrikes were reported on September 9 and 10. The two main opposition groups in the area, Jaysh Osoud al-Sharqiya and Quwat al-Shaheed Ahmad al-Abdo, facilitated the evacuation of nearly all residents of the Hadalat IDP camp, and resettled them in the Rukban camp (on the Jordanian border) as clashes were growing too close for the displaced to safely remain in the former camp.

On a related note, the Maghaweir al-Thawra forces that relocated from this southern pocket to SDF-held Shaddadi last month have refused to fight alongside the SDF, and therefore will not take part in the ongoing advance on Deir Ezzor.

In Daraa governorate, rumors

renewed pro-government offensive is expected as soon as a new wave of reinforcements arrive near Jobar this week. All attempts at de-

Reconciliation Deals

The Russian Center for National Reconciliation at Hmeimem Military Airbase claimed it had reached an agreement with opposition groups in the Rastan pocket (north of Homs) to open the Hama-Rastan road. They claimed to deliver aid via the road, though the point of delivery appears to be near a pro-government checkpoint almost 10km north of the opposition-held pocket. Opposition sources in Rastan deny the opening of the road and have released contrary photographic evidence. A member of the opposition's Negotiations Commission attributed the primary reason for failed negotiations to the government's refusal to release prisoners from Homs, an ongoing point of contention in area negotiations.

Figure 4 - Situation around Rastan and Oqeirbat by September 14

Pro-government negotiators have asked for three concessions in return for any prisoner release: 1) that fighters from Rastan enter "reconciliation" proceedings with the government; 2) that these fighters join ranks with the Syrian Arab Army to fight I-0.2 (rm)87' ao Ha 0.2 (di'y) 0.2 (a Tf [(t) 0.2 () T8