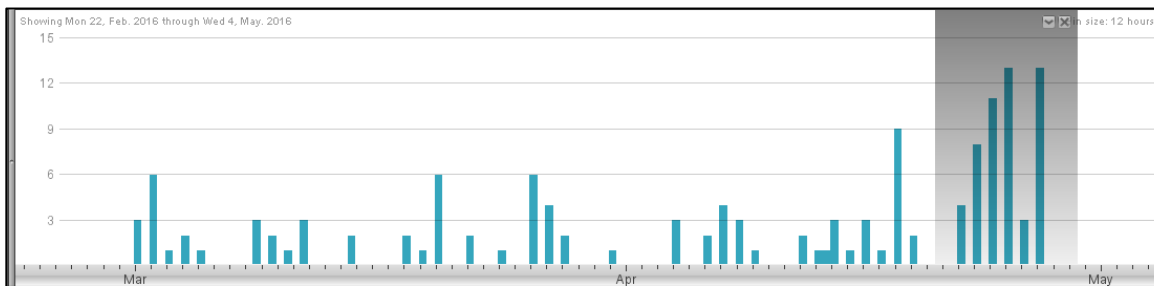




**Weekly Conflict Summary**  
April 20-27, 2016

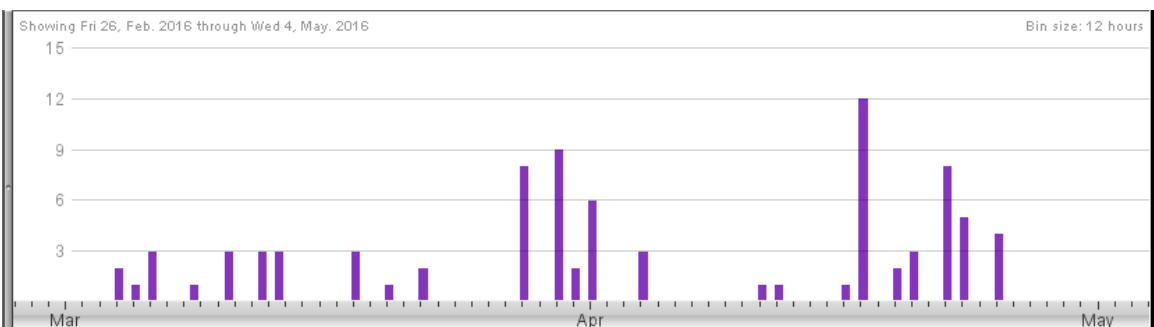
Conflict during the past week remains focused in Aleppo and rural Damascus, with a relative rise in incidents in Hama and Hassakah governorates. In Hassakah, clashes have erupted between pro-government National Defense Forces and Kurdish forces affiliated with the YPG and Asayish security forces in Qamishli city. In northern Hama, and increasing number of air raids have been conducted on opposition-held territory. In Lattakia governorate, aerial bombardments continue on opposition forces along the Lattakia-Idlib border, with repeated clashes reported in the city of Kabani, on the outskirts of the al-Ghab plain.

Aleppo city saw a sharp increase in the number of reported conflict incidents and civilian deaths. The past week has brought levels of violence not seen since the start of the cessation of hostilities (highlighted in chart below).



**Figure 1: Reported conflict incidents in Aleppo city during the cessation of hostilities.**

Rural Damascus also saw a similar rise in reported incidents (see chart below), though not as dramatic as Aleppo, and much of the fighting involved Jabhat al-Nusra. Shelling and sporadic clashes persist between government and opposition forces in the south of the Eastern Ghouta region – particularly in the town of Bala, where Jabhat al-Nusra has played an active role in fighting. Also, the city of Duma has been repeatedly targeted by pro-government artillery and airstrikes.



**Figure 2: Reported incidents in Rural Damascus (Eastern Ghouta area) during the cessation of hostilities.**

The map of Aleppo city below shows how widespread fighting in the city has become. While much of the fighting during the cessation of hostilities has been relegated to the northern district of Sheikh Maqsoud, recent fighting and airstrikes have spread through most districts of the city, and are now most intense in the south-central districts of Bustan al-Qasr and Salah al-Din.

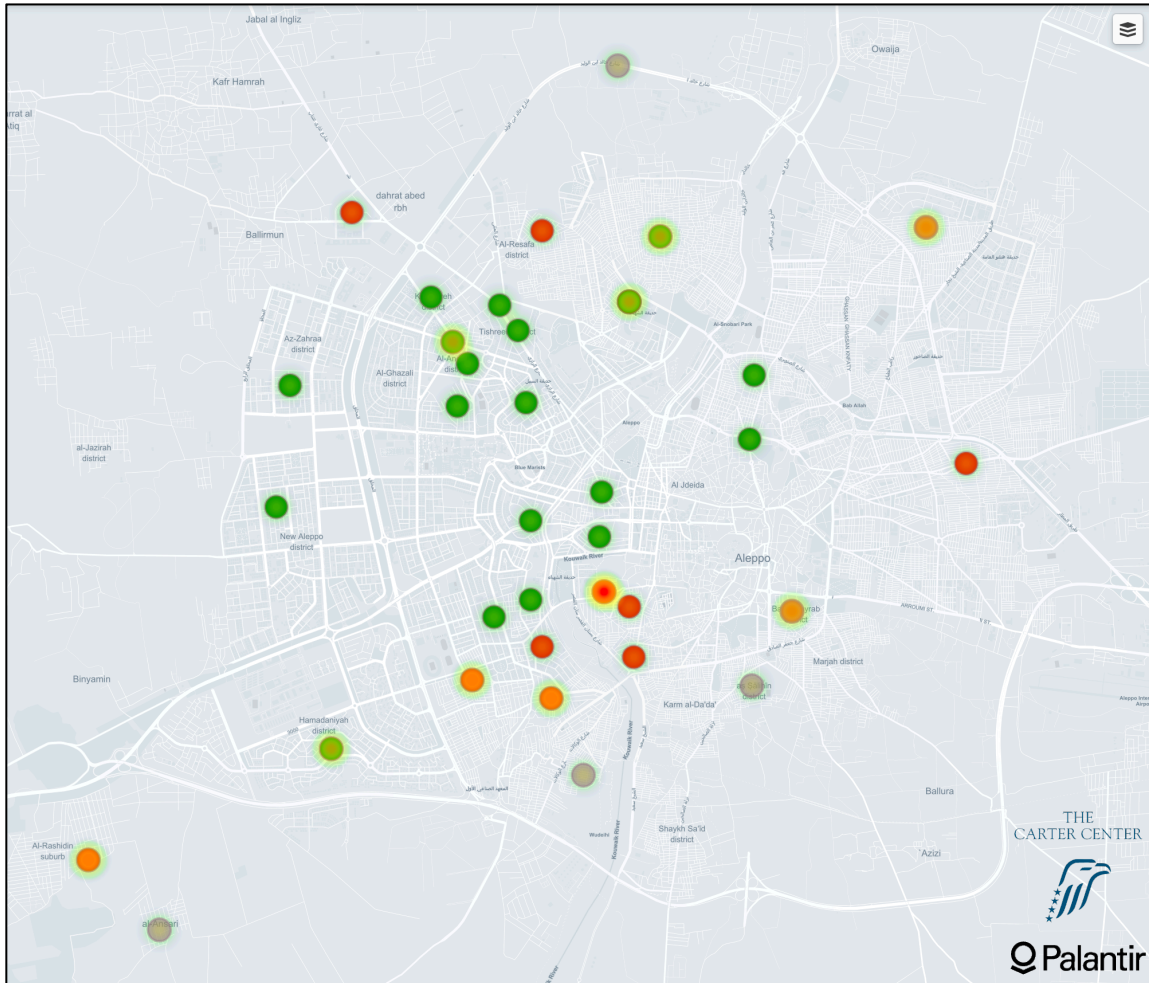


Figure 3: Detail of fighting in Aleppo city from April 20-27, 2016. Each dot represents an area with reported conflict between parties to the cessation of hostilities. Green dots represent opposition-initiated incidents, red and grey dots represent pro-government initiated attacks. The intensity of the color, or shading around each dot represents repeated incidents in the same area.

### Conclusion

The cessation of hostilities has been severely weakened in the past week. Though nationwide conflict has not yet returned to pre-cessation levels of violence, the current status of fighting in Aleppo sets a worrying precedent for the rest of the country.