



2.1.3. Security trends

The main security trend in Aleppo governorate during the reference period was the rollback of remaining SDF-held positions and the expansion of transitional-government authority^{[463](#)} in Aleppo City^{[464](#)} and in the SDF-held belt east of Aleppo toward Deir Hafer and Maskana.^{[465](#)} Clashes resumed near Tishreen Dam and in Aleppo City in October 2025,^{[466](#)} before escalating sharply in early January 2026.^{[467](#)} By 10 January 2026, government forces had taken full control of Aleppo City following fighting in the predominantly Kurdish neighbourhoods of Sheikh Maqṣoud and Ashrafieh.^{[468](#)} During the January battles, allegations of abuses by both parties were reported,^{[469](#)} including attacks on civilians, sniper fire,^{[470](#)} degrading treatment, arbitrary deprivation of liberty,^{[471](#)} desecration of bodies, the use of unguided munitions in civilian areas, and extrajudicial executions.^{[472](#)} After 10 January, hostilities decreased markedly, although sporadic drone attacks in Aleppo and its surroundings reportedly continued.^{[473](#)}

In Manbij district, the main shift concerned its eastern part, around the towns of Deir Hafer and Maskana.^{[474](#)} Al Jazeera reported that the government opened evacuation corridors to allow civilians to leave the Deir Hafer and Maskana area before the offensive.^{[475](#)} As part of efforts to take control of Ain al-Arab, the city and its surrounding countryside came under prolonged siege or encirclement and experienced severe humanitarian pressure.^{[476](#)}

Compared to the period straight after the fall of Bashar al-Assad, the configuration of actors has changed: while late 2024 and early 2025 had been marked by heavy fighting between Türkiye/SNA and the SDF, particularly around Tishreen Dam,^{[477](#)} including documented civilian casualties,^{[478](#)} the reference period was characterised primarily by confrontations involving government forces and the SDF.^{[479](#)} Incidents involving unidentified armed actors continued to be reported in the governorate,^{[480](#)} targeting both civilians^{[481](#)} and members of the new security apparatus.^{[482](#)} ISIL attacks were likewise reported against security personnel.^{[483](#)}

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