

Aleppo's Timeline

2012:

- Rebels took control of most of eastern and south-western Aleppo in an offensive that commenced in July 2012.
- Seizing a strategic checkpoint in Anadan gave them access to a key supply route from Turkey.

2013:

- Aleppo airport saw multiple attacks resulting in all flights being suspended in January 2013.
- The rebels captured the Umayyad mosque.
- In June 2013 the Syrian army launched Operation Northern Storm to recapture territory, assisted by pro-government militia and Hezbollah. They made considerable advances. In tandem rebel forces also made takeovers north-west of the city.
- In November the Syrian army launched an offensive and captured a highly strategic rebel base called Base 80.
- Between October and November 2013, the city was besieged by the Government and was bombed by air.

2014:

- Government forces captured the Sheik Najjar industrial district north of Aleppo.
- A ceasefire was proposed in November 2014 but was rejected by the Free Syrian Army, part of the opposition before Assad accepted or rejected it.

2015:

- The rebels captured Majbal and al-Brej, which forced the Syrian army to retreat to the north and they attempted to seize a key military supply road.
- The Syrian army launched an offensive in the north of Aleppo governorate in the countryside, which cut off the last supply routes into the city but this was countered by an opposition offensive and they retook two positions previously lost.
- A March assault saw the opposition take on the army for Handarat another northern Aleppo town but lost.
- In June the opposition commenced shelling of government controlled Aleppo.
- July 2015 saw another offensive launched against government held territories in the west and the rebels took control

of the Scientific Research Centre, which was being used as military barracks by the regime.

- In October 2015 Daesh (ISIS/ISIL) captured rebel held villages in north-east Aleppo.
- Between October and December 2015, the Syrian army and Hezbollah launched an offensive and captured $\frac{3}{4}$ of the southern Aleppo countryside.

2016:

- February 2016 saw a number of capturing and recapturing of strategic points that have cut off main roads and highways for the Syrian Army, the rebels and ISIL, who also managed to take over some key points.
- March 2016 battles between ISIL and the Syrian Army, ensued and the Army struggled to keep control of two of their villages.
- In June 2016, a key north-west offensive was launched by the Syrian Army – the Castello Operation – to cut off the Castello highway, which amounts to the last supply route for rebels in the city of Aleppo, which meant that they were encircled and besieged.