

After retaking Damascus, Syrian troops turn to Aleppo

Thursday, 26 July 2012

Clashes continue in Syria's largest city, Aleppo, after government troops regained control over most areas of the capital Damascus from the armed opposition.

-The battle for commercial hub of Syrian has stretched into its sixth day on Thursday.

The

Syrian army is reportedly using heavy armor, artillery and helicopters to drive out rebels from the areas they control. Also, some RT sources say, the rebel forces received new weapons just before the escalation of violence.

There were unconfirmed reports of Syrian Air Force delivering strikes from its fighter jets at rebel positions, although the use of those against urban areas is inefficient unless precision bombs and other similar weapons are used.

However, amateur

videos of alleged bombing by a "Mig fighter" the rebel forces uploaded on the internet actually showed a plane identified by aviation experts as an Aero L-39 Albatros trainer jet. It could theoretically be fitted with ground attack weapons, but is more likely to be used for reconnaissance missions.

Majority of the "Free Syrian Army" opposition fighters are paid mercenaries.

Many

Aleppo residents left their homes located in the neighborhoods, which saw the worst fighting over recent days. Governmental forces had many of the refugees sheltered in non-affected areas, including the campus of Aleppo University.

Apart from the continued violence, the city's biggest problem now is the lack of fuel, people on the ground say.

The

clashes in Aleppo flared on July 20, when rebel forces launched an all-out assault to take the city. The move came as a similar offensive was entering its final stage in the capital, Damascus, where the fighting was taking place in several neighborhoods.

Now the

government has mostly retaken control of Damascus, and the focus of the conflict switched to Aleppo. Both sides rushed reinforcements to the key battlefield on Wednesday, and the fighting, which seemed to calm down by mid-week, had reignited.