

# The displacement agreement from Aleppo

How it happened? And how it has been done?



Information  
Report





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## Introduction

Thursday evening, 22.12.2016 the last convoy of besieged in eastern Aleppo left neighborhoods which were emptied. Aleppo returned to be under control of Syrian regime after 4 years of armed opposition control.

Exit of Aleppo inhabitants from eastern neighborhoods due to the agreement with Russians and Iranians was the largest organized forced deportation in Syria since 2011.

It also was a defeat for the armed opposition factions in Aleppo , and in North generally , they failed to break the siege of neighborhoods and launchings any counter attacks anywhere in recent weeks with the acceleration of events in Aleppo.

## Data of displacement agreement:

After a truce for 28 days in Aleppo, the Russian forces announced the resumption of air strikes on Aleppo 23.10.2016, and the after failure of Staffan De Mistura, the un envoy to find a settlement between the Syrian regime and opposition in Aleppo which was exit of dozens from Fateh Al-Sham front out of Aleppo.

on November 15 ,2016, the ground offensive launched on the eastern neighborhoods.

The attack was launched by Iranian backed militias, mainly Iraqi Noujabaa movement militia, the Lebanese militia (Hezbollah), Palestinian Al-Quds brigade militia under the leadership of Al-Quds corps that follow the Iranian revolutionary guard, with limited participation of Syrian regime forces.

Regime forces controlled Hanano neighborhood on November 27,2016, then neighborhoods of Haydaryah ,Enzharat , Sakhour on November 28,2016 while the Kurdish militias controlled neighborhoods of Baaden , Bustan Al-Basha , Ain Al-Tal , Al-Houllak and it was the largest loss for armed opposition in Aleppo since the control of eastern Aleppo in the second half of 2012.

Regime forces controlled neighborhoods of Al-Shaar , Al-Marjah and sheik Lutfi in eastern Aleppo on December 6.2016, and controlled Bab Al-Nayrab , Bab Al-Hadeed and most of eastern Aleppo on December 7,2016,

then controlled neighborhoods of Skeikh Saeed , Al-Shalheen , Al-Fardous, Al-Jaloum and Al-Maadi .

This data obliged the armed opposition which were out of the city to accept the agreement of displacement, which was not never an option before November 27,2016, after the rejection of the largest faction several fighters to exit with international guarantees to keep the eastern neighborhoods under controlling of opposition, under the pretext of alternative military options which do not require renunciation.

## **Displacement agreement:**

The agreement of displacement from eastern Aleppo can be divided into several phases as following:

### **The first phase**

After the regime forces progress to Aleppo and controlling Extensive areas on December 12, 2016 , an agreement was drafted between Turkey and Russia about cease-fire and take out all who stayed in besieged eastern Aleppo.

According to the initiative, a representative of opposition will negotiate the Syrian regime and Russians through an intermediary to be chosen by these parties, and already the opposition in Aleppo accepted this agreement on December 14,2016.<sup>1</sup>

Revolutionary commissions and opposition factions out of the besieged neighborhoods Commissioned the military commander of Ahrar Al-Sham movement in Aleppo (Al-Farouk Ahrar) and a person called (Faraj Shaheed) to communicate and negotiate the Syrian regime and Russia to stop shelling and military operations.

The Commissioners communicated with an intermediary called (sheikh Omar Rahmoun) who was a commander of armed opposition in Aleppo but he defected from the opposition recently and returned to the Syrian regime.

Through the intermediary, the negotiation started with head of the security commission of regime, the

Major General "Zaid Saleh" the representative of Syrian regime, and General (Vladimir Savchenko) the representative of Russia.



After negotiation between parties, they agreed on December 13,2016 to exit armed opposition out of Aleppo with their personal weapons, exit civilians and armed opposition who want to leave Aleppo to the west of Aleppo, and the Syrian and Russian forces will be responsible for their safety until they reach Raqqa, where the armed persons and their families will leave buses.

Commitment to cease-fire from both parties during exit of armed persons, guaranteed by the negotiation team and the intermediary (Sheikh Omar Rahmoun).

The agreement was signed by all negotiators<sup>2</sup>, and the red cross and red crescent ensured the evacuation as a neutral party<sup>3</sup>.

The evacuation was scheduled to start from Al-Amerya - Ramousah on december14,2016.

According to the declared agreement, a number of civilians and wounded were prepared to move to Al-Rashdeen that controlled by opposition starting from Ameryah to Ramousah then to Raqqa knots of road that controlled by regime, then to Al-Rashdeen , the gate to western countryside of Aleppo then to Idleb.

The convoy had 150 people including 70 wounded.

When the convoy left towards Ramousah bridge, the regime forces and foreign militias opened fire on the convoy which led to death of one and four injured from the convoy, in a clear violation of the agreement, and led to Obstruction of the agreement and cease fire<sup>4</sup>.

By Turkish mediated, the parties applied the agreement again<sup>5</sup>, the first convoy that included civilians and wounded reached Al-Rashdeen in the western countryside in early morning December 15,2016, followed by two convoys arrived to west of Aleppo, their number was about 6000 people<sup>6</sup>.

### **The second phase**

During The fourth convoy exit on 16th of December, members from Hezbollah and Iranian militias stopped the buses of evacuation and obstructed and detained them for 30 hours in order to put Kafrya and Fouaa in Idleb countryside as a part of the agreement of Aleppo.

in that time, the convoy included 800 people, most of them are children and women.

Also, Hezbollah members prevented red crescent and red cross to take the convoy back to the opposition areas, and they sent down most of men from the buses and detained two and killed 4.

According to the witnesses who were in the convoy, the members of Hezbollah insulted them, knocked them down, took their money and phones and obliged them to put off their clothes, without food or water for long time<sup>7</sup>.

The demand of Hezbollah and Iranian militias by this obstruction was taking civilians and wounded out of Fouaa and Kafrya to stop obstruction the agreement, and the parties actually starting new negotiation with participation of Iran, so the Army of Fateh agreed to exit number of people from Kafrya and Fouaa out of the cities early morning of 18th December.

According to the reports, the number of people is about 4000, in return for moving people out of Aleppo, in addition to exit of undefined number of Madaya and zabadani in Damascus countryside which are besieged by Hezbollah Lebanese militias<sup>8</sup>.

The mechanism of exit was to take half of besieged Aleppo's people out of it in return for exit of the half-agreed number from Kafrya and Fouaa, then the other half will evacuate in return for the rest half in two towns<sup>9</sup>.

After this agreement, the detained convoy came back to the opposition areas.

### **The third phase**

Based on the above, the same day morning about 70 buses entered the areas of opposition and took about 1000 people.

When the convoy reached Ramousah which controlled by Syrian regime , the convoy was stopped due to the obstruction of buses in the way to Kafrya and Fouaa<sup>10</sup>.

The buses were attacked on the way to Kafrya and Fouaa by a group called Saraya Al-Tawhed led by Abu al-Jarrah Al-Yamani which led to burn 5 buses and prevent about 40 buses to enter the besieged towns northern of Idleb, and just 5 buses entered them<sup>11</sup>.

The Video of burning on the road of towns showed someone called (Abdul Rauof Rahma), who is maybe a religion man in Fateh Al-Sham front which incited to prevent the agreed numbers of people to exit from Kafrya and Fouaa<sup>12</sup>.

The buses that left opposition areas to the west of Aleppo were detained in Ramousa brigade for four hours then the on December 12,2016 , the departure of besieged city has completed , and the entire Aleppo become

under control of regime , and a statement for general command of armed forces and army announced that (the return of security and safety to the city of Aleppo after liberation it from terrorism and terrorists " .

## Demographic outputs of attacking Aleppo's neighborhoods

The outputs can be summarized as following:

- About 25 thousand of people depart besieged Aleppo to the western countryside of Aleppo, within the largest organized displacement operation in the modern history.
- Moving of 190 thousand of people from the besieged neighborhoods to the areas of regime or staying in their homes after controlling of regime on these areas between 27.11 to 15.12 .2016.
- Moving about 10 thousand people from besieged neighborhoods to the areas controlled by Kurdish militias, or staying in their homes after controlling of these militias on these areas between 27.11 to 15.12 .2016.

About 500 people stayed in the last four neighborhoods who did not want to displace.

## What will be after Aleppo?

A triple meeting (Turkish - Russian - Iranian) was held in the Russian capital, and announced a document for political solution according to the vision of the three parties.

The document considered what happened in Aleppo as Displacement with approval.

It is believed that this document will not be without the achievements of Iranian and Russian forces in Aleppo, which make the supporting parties for regime feel comfortable on the other hand, and the ability to pass a military solution on the other hand, especially before the starting of a new American administration on January 20 ,2017.

The opposition factions in the north reject to consider the agreement of Aleppo as the end of the war even they admitted that this was a hard end for an important battle.

They emphasized that they are still fighting the regime, and they are preparing for alternative military options with supporting from some international and regional countries.

But, it is certain that what happened in Aleppo was a turning point on the ground and maybe will have its impact on the future political solutions in Syria.

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(1) video entitled " meeting of the general coordinator of negotiation on behalf of the rebels in Aleppo" orient news channel on YouTube, 14.12.2016 <https://goo.gl/av5SUJ>

(2) See copy of the agreement in the previous reference.

(3) red cross: we are ready to assist in the evacuation in east of Aleppo " the seventh day, 13.12.2016 <https://goo.gl/ExhdsB>

(4) "tension and victims on shooting at the convoy of Aleppo's wounded " Aljazeera Net, 15.12.2016 , <https://goo.gl/KFlbjq>

(5) Waiting for the first group of wounded from Aleppo. "Al Jazeera Net, 15-12-2016. <https://goo.gl/3qZmzX>

(6) Exit a group of wounded from Aleppo and resumption the evacuation. "Al Jazeera Net, 15-12-2016. <https://goo.gl/39IByD>

(7) Suspension the evacuation of Aleppo. and a dispute over the transfer of the wounded from two villages. "Al-Arabiya net, 16-12-2016. <https://goo.gl/GPWvb5>

(8) terrorist's groups loyal to Assad detained 800 people from eastern of Aleppo " Anadoul agency, 16.10.2016 <https://goo.gl/F377tS>

(9) video entitled " civilians testimonies about Iranian militias attack the displaced convoy from besieged Aleppo " channel of Aleppo media center on YouTube, 16.12.2016 <https://goo.gl/epzSSF>

(10) Syrian opposition: a new agreement to evacuate besieged of Aleppo" Aljazeera Net . 18.12.2016 <https://goo.gl/mb1pHT>

(11) Unknown people blocking the exit of civilians from Aleppo and thousands crowded near Ramousah crossing " Aleppo media center. 18.12.2016 <https://goo.gl/rzv1MV>.

(12) jihadists of Saraya Al-Tawhed adopts burning of evacuation buses from Kafriya and Fouaa " Ara news, 18.12.2016 <https://goo.gl/VNF4Zz>





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