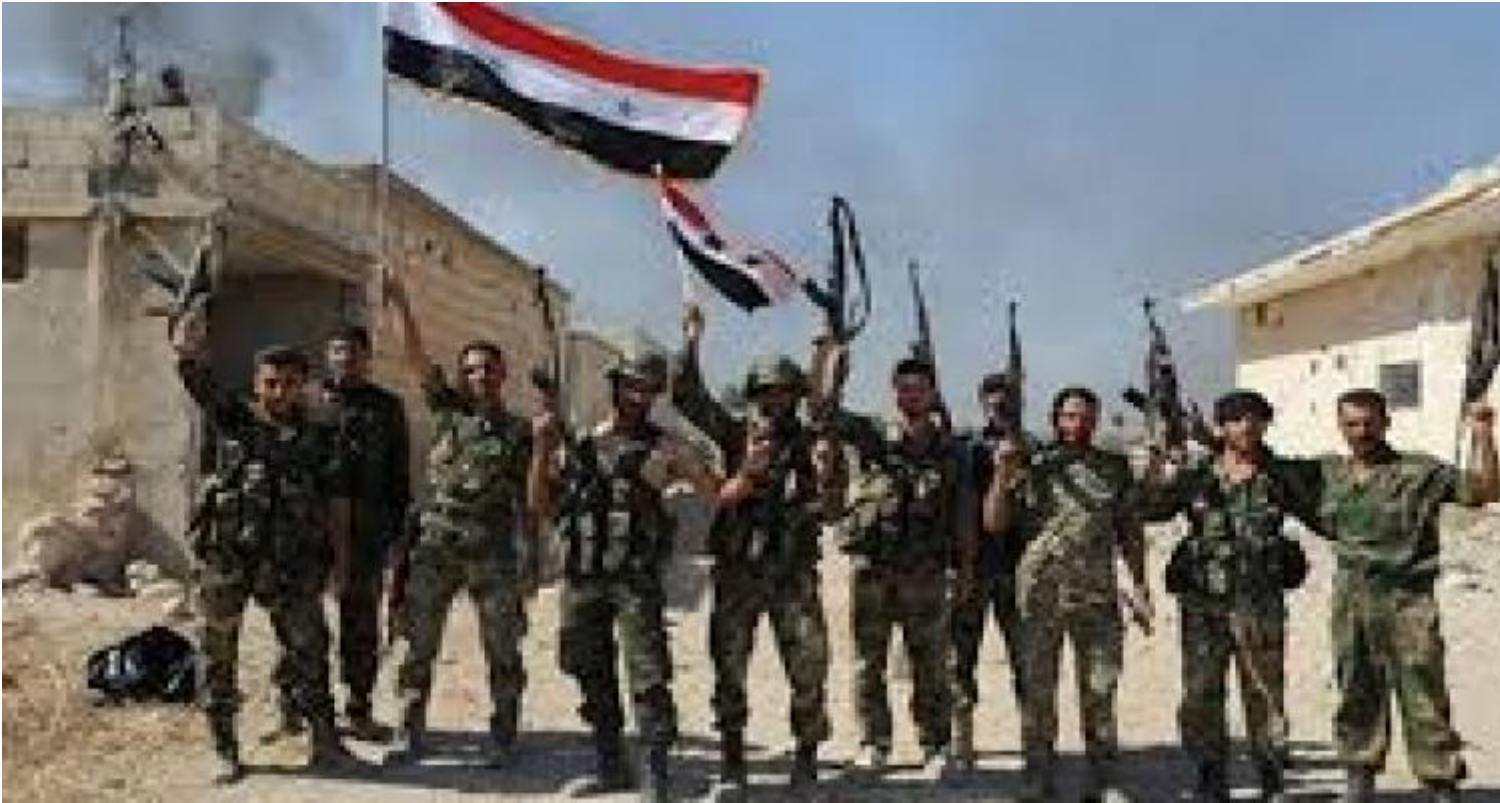


Syria Expects to Free Aleppo in Short, Tough Battle



Damascus, February 11 (RHC)-- The Syrian government says its forces will soon take full control of the militant-held areas of Aleppo, but predicted a tough battle for the largest city in the Arab country. The Syrian army and its allies, backed by Russian warplanes, have recently made major advances against Takfiri militants north of Aleppo.

A Syrian government spokesman declined to predict how long the campaign for Aleppo would last, adding that the terrorists were well-financed and armed, naming groups that have received U.S.-made TOW anti-armour missiles.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has warned that the humanitarian situation is rapidly deteriorating in Aleppo, adding that the surge in fighting has displaced about 50,000 people.

The Syrian army has launched major ground offensives against Takfiri militants in the province of Latakia near the Turkish border as well as in Dara'a province bordering Jordan since September 30. The areas have been used by terrorists as major supply routes into Syria.



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