

JIHADIST GROUPS ON THE TURKISH - SYRIAN FRONT

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Abstract: *The instability in Syria that started in 2011 when the anti-regime uprisings turned into a civil war has initially spread into the region, and then has become a global problem due to the Salafist militant extremists. The terrorist organization known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria declared a global jihad and urged "true" Muslims all over the world for an exodus towards the newly founded Islamic state. Turkey, as a neighbour to the conflict zone, has been facing an increasing risk and threats to its security at many levels. The reason for the risk is essentially caused not only by the geographical proximity to the conflict zone but also by its border neighbours, which include such non-state actors as DAESH, the Kurdish Democratic. Turkey is preparing to launch the main effort of its Operation Olive Branch assault against the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) in the Afrin area in northern Syria. Turkish forces and Turkish-backed Syrian opposition groups have set military conditions for a Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) ground operation in the coming days. In this paper we will present the Jihadist groups that act for Turkey's interests as well as for Syria's interests. Knowing these groups will help us understand that terrorism is financed from the outside to create destabilization of the area.*

Keywords: *Jihadist; Turkey; Syria; "Olive-Branch"; Kurdish*

1. INTRODUCTION

Over the last seven years, 2011-2018, the conflict in Syria has seen changes at all levels, including the name and loyalty of the Syrian opposition armies. Some have retained their name and infrastructure, while others have repeatedly changed their name and loyalty. Currently, only a few small groups in northern Syria are called the "Free Army" after the United States and the Gulf countries have stopped providing them with money and weapons. It is noteworthy in this respect that military groups such as Al-Nosra, Ahrar Al-Sham and other small active groups fighting under the Liberian Army's flag in control and leadership to play the role very well and receive in return the necessary weapons be antitank missiles etc. After the cessation of external support for these groups in northern Syria, Turkey remains the only source of financial and military support, while the Kurdish ambition of Syria is Turkey's top priority if it is not the only item on the agenda. Despite the announcement by the Syrian Interim Government in Turkey to establish what he called the "Syrian National Army" by the end of last year, however, the factions recruited by Turkey to fight with her in Operation Olive Branch, which intends to invade the Afrin area, fought their names and not under the "Syrian National Army" flag, despite the

support of the interim government and the Syrian opposition to this process. Said Yasser Abdel Rahim, one of the leaders of the military factions that entered the battle of Afrin, said that 25,000 Syrian fighters were involved in the operation with the Turkish army, but this figure is questionable. Many of this military group fought each other in the context of the struggle for financial and commercial resources, the last battles between the Al-Shamie Front, Jabhat Al-Shamie and Sultan Murad brigade, Liwa Sultan Murad from the Bab Al-salamah border crossing in Turkey, near Izaz. So I will present jihadist groups who fought alongside the Turkish army on the front of the Afrin influencing otherwise the state of the conflict between Turkey and Kurds will lead to the fact that these groups had both a common strategy and common objectives. Before I start mentioning the warring parties in the town of Afrin, it is necessary to mention some of the fighting parties in the Syrian city of Aleppo. Here is what is called the battle of Aleppo, the butcher of Greater Aleppo. It was one of the most violent battles because it brought together all parties with the sole aim of liberating and defending the historic city of Aleppo and confronting the army of Bashar al-Assad, which is composed of religious Shia Islam such as Hezbollah and others, in addition to the Russian air strikes. The Butcher of Greater Aleppo: This is the

armed factions that participated in the decisive battle, this war has lasted for six months in 2016: Ajudat AL-Sham, Levant Front, Jabhat Al-Shamia', Turkistan Islamic Party In Syria, 13th Division (Syrian Free Army), Northern Division (Syrian Free Army), Central Division (Syrian Free Army), Ansar Al-Din Front, Front Of The Levant, Jabhat Fatah Al- Sham', Jaysh Al- Islam, Jaysh Al- Tahrir (Syrian Free Army), Jaysh Al- Sunna, Army Of Mujahideen, Jaysh Al-Nasar (Syrian Free Army), Haraakat Ahrar Al- Sham, Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki Movement, Fastaqim Union, Sultan Murad Division, (Syrian Free Army) Legion, Al-Safwa Brigades, Kataeb Thuwar Al- Sham (Syrian Free Army), Liwa Al -Haqq, Mountain Hawks Brigade (Syrian Free Army)

2. GROUPS AND FRACTIONS OF THE ISLAMIST INVOLVED IN THE INVASION OF AFRIN

2.1 Movement Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki. It is one of the most important groups supported by Turkey in rural Aleppo, formed at the end of 2011 by sheikh Tawfiq Shihab al-Din in the village of Sheikh Suleiman, northwest Aleppo, and in July 2016 an online video clip of a group of members of this Movement and sacrificed a child 15-year-old. The movement was allied with the Sham Liberation Organization before the outbreak of military conflicts between them and ended with their separation. Named after Noureddine Al-Zenji, Atabek,, of Aleppo, Prince of Damascus and Aleppo in the twelfth century. The largest gathering of fighters in the city of Aleppo are in its northwestern suburbs. Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki participated in the first battles that began in the Battle of Aleppo in July 2012 and took control of Salah al-Din district, although he soon withdrew to its heart in the countryside. Who is Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki? It is known as a Sunni Islamic rebel movement that participates in the Syrian civil war. Between 2014 and 2015, they began as part of the Syrian Revolutionary Command Council and always fired the BGM-71 TOW, known as anti-tank missiles. In 2014, it was reported to be one of the most influential factions in Aleppo. On February 18, 2018, Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki's movement merged with Ahrar Al-Sham to form a single front, the liberation of Syria. This group also has gone through many affiliations since its establishment. Was initially a branch of the Fajr movement, then went to join the Tawheed Brigades during the attack on Aleppo, before the withdrawal and allied with the Saudi-backed

originality and development front. In January 2014, Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki was one of the founding factions of the Jamaat-ul- Mujahideen, an anti-Daesh organization. In May 2014, it withdrew from the coalition and later received increased financial support from Saudi Arabia, which was reluctant to support the Mujahideen Army because of its ties to the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood. In December 2014, Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki joined the Mashreq Front, a broad coalition of Islamist insurgent groups operating in Aleppo. On May 6, 2015, she joined 13 other groups of Aleppo in the Aleppo Joint Operations Room. On October 6, 2015, the positions of Nour Al-Din al-Zenki's movement in the city of Aleppo were attacked by the Al-Nasra Front of al-Qaeda. On 19 October 2015, the SLA military commander was reportedly killed in fighting with government forces near Aleppo. on November 2015, Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki's movement has absorbed several Turkoman groups supported by Turkey. On 11 November, a number of 35 Turkish fighters in the group split into the Nasra Front and, on 15 November, one of its commanders was replaced by a Turkmen commander. During the Vienna peace talks in November 2015 for Syria, Jordan was commissioned to draft the list of terrorist groups; it was reported that group Nour Al-Din had been placed on the list. On January 28, 2016, the movement of Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki withdrew from its positions in Aleppo, which was captured by the Nasra Front. In the same month, the group's headquarters included banners from prominent Salafist jihadist quotations and figures, including Abdullah Azzam. On September 24, 2016, Zenki joined the army Al Fatah. On 15 October 2016, four "battalions" of the Mashreq Front (also former members of the Tawhid Brigade) left and joined the group. In October 2016, a group of fighters from the Mashreq Front who were former members of the Tawhid Brigades left the Mashreq Front and joined the Nour al-Din al-Zenki movement. On November 02.2016, during the attack on Aleppo, Fastakim fighters captured a military commander of the Zenki movement. In response, the Zenki fighters attacked the headquarters of the Fastakim Union in the Salah al-Din area and Ansari area in Aleppo. At least one rebel was killed and more than 25 wounded on both sides in the raid. The next day, the Mashreq Front and the Abu Amara Brigades began patrolling the streets to arrest any rebels taking part in the clashes. At least 18 rebels were killed in the internal fighting. Eventually, the Zenki movement and Abu Amara brigades took over all the

positions of the Fastakim Union in eastern Aleppo. Scores of rebels surrendered from the last group and were captured or some of them joined Ahrar al-Sham or were abandoned. On November 15, 2016, the Syrian Free Brigade and the Shahba Brigade declared that they had pledged allegiance and joined Nour al-Din Al-Zenki's movement. Also during November, the Northern Army joined. In December, the Aleppo branch of the Siyof al-Sham Brigade joined the group, while its branch in Azaz joined the Mashreq front. On January 27, 2017 the Northern Army left Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki's movement and joined the Mashreq Front. The next day, the group's Idlib branch joined the Liberation of Sham, while its northern branch split into the Levant. The branch then formed the Revolutionary Cavalry Brigade at the end of February. It later became involved in fighting against other TFS factions in northern Aleppo. For more information, the Free Syrian Army is supported by Turkey. Internal disputes between armed forces factions On July 20, 2017, the movement of Nour al-Din Al-Zenki led by Sheikh Tawfiq Shihabuddin announced its withdrawal from the Liberation of Sham in the midst of a large-scale conflict between HTS and Ahrar Al-Sham and became an independent group. In November 2017, violent clashes erupted between the movement of Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki and the Liberation of the Sham in the north of Idlib and western Aleppo, especially in the region between Atma and Khan Al-Asal.

2.2 AL-Sham Army Legion. It is also known as the Homs Army. The group was formed in March 2014 as a federation of 19 Islamist factions close to the Syrian Muslim brothers in the cities of Alep, Idlib, Homs and Hama. "The AL Sham" joined a group of factions on 2015, and set up the "Open Aleppo" Military Operations headed by Yasser Abdel Rahim. The Sham Legion was formed on 10 March 2014 in Syrian territory. These groups operated between the governorates of Aleppo and Damascus, but were concentrated in the governorates of Idlib, Hama and Homs. The aim of this formation was to "unify" non-Al-Qaeda Islamist insurgents in Syria. After its formation, the group participated in the Battle of Morak and Khan Cheikhon in 2014. On April 26, 2015, along with five other major rebel groups in Aleppo: the Ahrar Cham, the Army of Islam, the Mashreq Front, the Syrian Revolutionary Guards, and the Fajr of the Caliphate Battalion, the Sham Army established the joint Fatah-Aleppo "Open Aleppo" operations. Major Yasser Abdul Rahim, Field

Commander of the Sham Army, was appointed commander of Fatah, a site he maintained until the government forces were fully restored from Aleppo in December 2016. Between 2014 and 2016, Sham Legion was at some point a rebel group supported by the United States and received BGM-71 TOW anti-tank missiles. However, in January 2016, the Northern Brigade was formed as part of the Sham Legion in Aleppo. This group participated in Operation Euphrates Shield, which began in the war of 24 August 2016 in Grappulos with the aim of expelling the Syrian democratic forces and the Islamic state from the northern province of Aleppo. After this campaign, Sham Legion was involved in a conflict between the different factions of the Turkish Free Army TFSA. On May 30, 2017, after increased conflict between the rebels in northern Aleppo, the Syrian Legion expelled the northern battalion from its ranks and rejected its commander Mustafa Rami Al-Kujah. The Sham Legion, together with six other groups of TFSA, formed the Victory Block in June 2017, while the Free North Brigade, which was formerly part of the Unification Brigade, joined the Sham Legion on 16 June 2017.

2.3 Hamzah's Band. It is a group trained by the Turks, and it was announced that it was foundation in April 2016, joining a Turkmen group called "Samarkand Brigade" concerning the city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan. This group was one of the first Turkish groups to enter the Syrian city of Grapples in 2017 from the Qarqamish gate joined the Turkish army and took control of the city. The history of this group dates back to the Syrian Free Army, trained and equipped to fight by the United States and Turkey as part of the Syrian training program to fight the Islamic state in Iraq and Syria, in northwestern Syria. On April 23, 2016, five units of the Free Syrian Army were merged into the town of Mar'i in the northern province of Aleppo, the Hamzah Brigades, the Dhi Qar Brigades, the Raad Al-Shamal Brigades, the FAR Brigades, "And the fight against terrorism "such as the dissenter Syrian from the government. Under the command of Syrian army commander dissident Saif Abu Bakr and the factions receive military support from the international coalition against Daesh. They are also called the descendants of Salah al-Din Al-Ayubi. In June 2016, the Northern Thunder Brigade received BGM-71TOW missiles from the coalition, and a Turkish Turkmen group called Samarkand Brigade, named after the city in Uzbekistan, joined the Hamza section. During the Turkish military intervention in the Syrian civil

war, the Hamzah division was one of the first groups of the Syrian Free Army to enter Jarabulus from Karkamış and took over the city. Saif Abu Bakr was one of those who followed Turkish tanks and troops and entered Grapples in the morning, during the first day of the operation, and arrived in the city center in the afternoon. Later he gave a speech to civilians there. On 18 October 2016, the Northern Thunder Brigade issued a final warning to the, People's Protection, and Revolutionary Army units,, warning them to leave Tel Rifaat within 48 hours after the attack on the city.

2.4 Brigade Sultan Murad, Sultan Murad Division. It is a group formed by the Turkish state, offering all sorts of support from military funding to logistical assistance and even training it. The group was formed as a result of the integration of brigade groups "Sultan Mohammed Al-Fateh" in the rural area of Aleppo, the brigade of the "Martyr Zaki Turkmani" and the brigade of "cubes of faith" with the forces of Sultan Murad. This fraction represents the majority of Turkish-military armed groups in the northern Aleppo region. This doctrine was taken from the roots and previous ideas. So this movement was named after the former Ottoman Sultan Murad II, 1421-1451. The flag was borrowed from Sultan Salah Murad, who symbolizes the martyrs to express his political commitment to Islam, while the red color symbolizes Turkish nationalism. Among the leaders of this group is the so-called Ahmed Osman, Fahim Issa and Ali Seih Saleh, it is Among the Syrian rebel groups and participation in the Turkish military intervention in Syria, this division receives the largest support from the Turkish armed forces. It has at least 8 tankers and FNSS ACV-15 armored vehicles that were used during this military operation. This group also has bombers and grenades Milkor MGL. Heavy weapons are composed of armed technical vehicles with heavy machine guns and autocannons. The BGM-71 anti-tank missiles have also been manufactured in the United States.

3. LIST OVERVIEW ISLAMIC GROUPS WORKING FOR SYRIA AND TURKEY

1. Martyrs of Islam Brigade 'Liwa Shuhada Al-Islam, Active for operate military in 2012 until now, it was led by Saeed Enker, known Abou Jamal.
2. Yarmouk Army 'Liwa Shuhada Al-Yarmouk, Was founded in 2012 until present, was led by Muhammad Al-Baridi.

3. Lions of Sunnah Division, Forqat Usoud Al-Sunnah was formed in August 2014 until now, leader General commander: Tlass Al-Salama, know Abu Faisal.
4. The 18th March Division 'Forqat 18 Azar' operate military 11 April 2013 to present, the leader Col. Mohammed Khaled Al - Duhni.
5. 13th Division 'Forqat 13' Active June 2013 to the present, leader Lt. Col. Ahmad Al-Saud
6. 101st Division Infantry 'Forqat 101 Moushat, call 21st Combined Force, Free Army, June 2013 by Col. Hassan Hamada.
7. Northern Division, Firqat Al-Shamalia' was formed on 25 February 2012 by leader Lt. Col. Mohammed Khaled Fares Al- Bayoush.
8. Mountain Hawks Brigade, Liwa Suqour Al-Jabal' September 2012 to the present by leader Capt. Hassan Haj Ali.
9. Army of Victory, Jaysh Al-Nasr' Founded in August 2015 to the present formed by leader Major Muhammad Mansour.
10. 1st Coastal Division, Brigade of the Chargers' Active 2014 until now, formed by Muhammad Haj Ali.
11. 2nd Coastal Division, known on the Turukman mountain, Active from 2015 until now, formed by Riad Qura Bajaq, has been killed in clashes with the Syrian army in Latakia province.
12. Army of Glory, Jaysh Al-Izza 'formed 2013 until present by Maj. Jamil Al-Saleh
13. Central Division, Al-Forqat Al-Wosta' Septembre 2015 until present, now the leader Capt. Mamoun Sweid from Septembre 2017.
14. Army of Liberation, Jaysh Al-Tahrir' 24 February 2016 until present formed by Mohammed Al-Ghabi.
15. Sultan Murad Brigade, Liwa Sultan Murad' 23 March 2013 until present the leader is Col. Ahmed Osman.
16. 16th Division Infantry, Liwa16 Moushat' now is the 23rd Division Active 19 September 2013 until present formed by Colonel Hassan Rajoub.
17. Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki Movement, Harakat Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki, formed 2011 until present the leader is Sheikh Tawfiq Shahabuddin.
18. Mujahideen Army/Army of Holy Warriors, Jaysh Al-Mujahideen, 2 January 2014, the leader Lt. Col. Muhammad Abdel Qader Bakr.
19. Revolutionaries of al-Sham Brigades, Kataeb Thuwar Al-Sham'03 May 2015 tell present, the leader now is Colonel Naji Moustafa.

20. Fastaqem Union, Fastaqem Kama Umirta' December 2012 till now, the leader is Mustafa Berro know Sakkar Abu Kutaiba.
21. Islamic Safwa Brigades, Kataeb Safwah Al-Islamiyah' 2015 to present, Martyr Abdul Rahman Mansour
22. The Sham Legion, Faylaq Al-Sham' 10 March 2014 to present, leader, Col. Mohammad Bakkar
23. 1st Regiment, Al-Fauj Al-Awwal' 05 mars 2015, it was formed by Hassem Kenjo
24. Northern Thunder Brigade, Liwa Rad Al-Shamal' Hamza Division 2013- 2017-present, leader Abdullah Halawa.
25. Ahmed Al-Abdo Martyrs' Force, Quwwat Al-Shaheed Ahmad Al-Abdo' August 2013 until now, leader is Colonel Bakur Al-Salim.
26. 2nd Infantry Division, Forqat Al-Thani' 21st Combined Force, June 2013 to present leader is Lt. Col Dayoub.
27. 1st Brigade, Liwa Al-Awal' Free Syrian Army-29 July 2011 to present leader imam Mohamed Al jawad.
28. Al-Rahman Legion, Faylaq Al-Rahman' November 2013 to present, was formed by Capt. Abdul Nasr Shamir.
29. Southern Tawhid Brigade, Liwa Tawhid Al-Junoub' 18 July 2012 formed by Abdul Qader Saleh.
30. Division Al -Hamza, Forqat Al-Hamza' formed 23 April 2016 to present by Seif Abu Bakar.
31. 1st Artillery Regiment, Al-Fauj Al-Awwal' 5 mars 2015 by Col. Saber Safar.
32. Syria Revolutionaries Front, Southern Sector, Jabhat Thuwar Souriya' December 2013 by Jamal Maarouf.
33. The First Corps, Faylaq Al-Awal' Formed in August, 2014, by General Leader: Ziyad Al Hariri
34. Salah al-Din Division,, Forqat Salah Al-Din,, Active 2015-July, formed by Mahmoud Khallo knows Abu Hamza.
35. Omari Brigades, Alwiyat Al-Omari' 2014, by Capt. Al Qatahneh.
36. Unity Battalions of Horan Brigade, Liwa Tawhid Kataeb Horan' April 2013 Muhammad al-Turkmani.
37. Youth of Sunnah Force, Quwaa Shabab Al-Sunnah' 2014, Capt. Ziad Abbas.
38. Moataz Billah Brigade, Liwa Moataz Billah' formed 2014, Col. Khalid Nabulsi.
39. Sword of Al-Sham Brigades, Alwiyat Saif Al-Sham' 2012. By Abou Salah Al-Shami.
40. Dawn of Islam Division, Forqat Fajr Al-Islam' February 2013, Lt. Col. Mohammed Hassan Salama.
41. Emigrants and Supporters Brigade, Liwa Muhajireen Wal Ansar' 2012 formed by Captain Iyad Qaddour and Captain Khalid Fathallah.
42. Military Council in Quneitra and the Golan- 2014 by Abdul-Ilah Al-Bashir
43. Division of Decisiveness, Forqat Al-Hasim' 19 April 2016 by Col. Qassem Al-Hariri.
44. Partisans of Islam Front, Jabhat Ansar Al-Islam' 2014 until present by Abu Muhammad Al-Jolani.
45. Al-Furqan Brigades, Alwiyat Al-Furqan' 2014 to present by Muhammad Majid Al-Khatib.

4. CONCLUSIONS & ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Erdogan was successful with the entry of his military army into the city of Afrin would not have been so easy without the help of the parties involved in the Syrian war, such as the Free Army and other Islamic groups. This is the greatest piece of proof that these Islamist groups, called armed groups, or terrorist groups are against the regime of Bashar AL Assad. The rebels have only worked for their own interests without any principle, yet this time it has been Turkey's interest in these groups that succeeded. Example the external support In May 2014, Zenki received increased financial support from Saudi Arabia after he withdrew from the Mujahideen Army. The group also received financial assistance from the United States in a program run by the CIA to support rebel groups approved by the United States, reportedly through the MOC. However, by October 2015, the group claimed that it was no longer provided by MOC - "because of regular reports of violations." On May 9, 2016, a plan was proposed by the United States, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar to make Nour Al-Din Al-Zenki's movement a "northern army" to bring more than 3,000 fighters into the process. ,, Behind the Sudden Death of a \$1 Billion Secret C.I.A. War in Syria, in august 02 .2017, by The New York Times paper, The next stage will be the transfer of fighters from Idlib to northern Aleppo through the Bab Al-Hawa border crossing and the Azzaz border crossing. This is said to have started on May 13. However, the plan was delayed because of doubts by US officials about the capabilities of Syrian rebel forces recruited by Turkey to fight with its army, opposition to the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and the rift between Turkey and Russia. It was only repaired in

early August 2016. The Turkish army, with the help of the Syrian free army, took control of Afrin Al-Shaikh Hadid Center in the West. This announcement was later published on Facebook on March 4, 2018 by Turkish President Erdogan.

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