

Radical Factions and ISIS members
participating in Afrin invasion



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Introduction:

Under the circumstances experienced by Syria during the past seven years, many formations and pseudonyms have appeared which were associated with the Syrian revolution. Some of the factions that have been submitted to an authority to be under control, will in no way be able to build a new system or create a new life in the face of oppression they suffered by those who imposed their control over them.

At a time when Syria was under a fierce attack by dozens of countries, parties and poles, which were taking into account their interests, strategies, and the mechanism of their plans in the region, these countries supported and financed radical Islamist factions. These factions were not as the way their media promoted, that they came to support the Muslims, the oppressed people, and overthrow the Assad regime. Rather they came to create a rift in the Syrian society and displace the minorities and exclude the marginalized just as the Syrian regime's policy when it was at the height of its power.

The factions have, recently and specifically during the past two years, targeted the Kurdish people in particular and the components of Northern Syria in general in an attempt to hide the reality of these peoples and their struggle in the face of the Syrian regime. At a time when these factions were in compliance with the Syrian regime, the peoples of the region, led by the Kurdish people, were fighting at all levels to restore what the Syrian regime had stripped of them for decades.

After these military factions were formed and raised their voices in the face of injustice and tyranny, the Kurdish people, who live in Syria, thought that all of them, as Syrians, would stand together against the tyranny they suffered for decades to build a free democratic system that guarantees the rights of all components. However, these factions left the Syrian regime patronage and entered into the Turkish State's, which considers the Kurdish people the greatest enemies. The Turkish State turned the compass of these factions from fighting and displacing the Syrian people into killing the Kurdish people. In addition, it has provided

them with all forms of support in order to reach its goal. Those armed factions are not far (in their radical ideologies) from ISIS, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Jabhat Al-Nusra), which do not accept other opinions, but the authority of an enemy State to destroy their own country, land, and kill their own people.

The names and banners differ, but the goal is one, which is preventing peace and stability in Syria. They see that Syria must be a field to settle international accounts and make conspiracies, not for ending the terrorism to which it is exposed.

These names have been brightened since the beginning of the Syrian crisis. These factions, some of which were formed with the direct support of the Turkish State while others were supported and financed by foreign countries. Indeed, these factions are fighting Afrin, which was one of the most peaceful area that stood against terrorist ISIS, and was home to tens of thousands of displaced people from various areas of Syria, and now it is being bombed by the Turkish airstrikes and artillery.

Armed groups involved in the “Operation Olive Branch”:

1. Sultan Murad Brigade:

It is a group formed by Turkey, which provides it by all kinds of financial, military, logistical funding, and trains its elements. This group was formed as a result of the integration between "Sultan Mohammed Al-Fateh Brigade" groups in Aleppo countryside and the "Martyr Zaki Turkmani brigade", and "Cubs of Faith Brigade" with the forces of "Sultan Murad".

This faction represents the majority of the Turkoman Armed factions in the northern countryside of Aleppo and the city of Aleppo. The mercenaries of Sultan Murad faction on January 10th 2018, tortured the young Mohammed Mustafa Hamada from Tat Homs village in Al-Ra'i town, occupied by the Turkish Army, to death. They also kidnapped four citizens from al-Ra'i town and demanded a huge ransom in exchange for their release. They attacked, in participating with other groups of mercenaries backed by Turkey, the civilians in areas of Shahba countryside. This faction, which receives direct support from the Turkish State and use the Turkoman component as a pretext to establish an Ottoman Emirate for them on Syrian territory. Moreover, to achieve its

goal of cutting off another part of Syrian territory, this faction is fighting alongside the Turkish occupation forces by attacking the city of Afrin, killing, and displacing its people.



2. Hamza Division:

It is a faction trained by Turkey. It announced its establishment in April 2016. A Turkoman group called "Samarkand Brigade", in attribution to the city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan, Zulfaqar Brigade, Northern Thunder Brigade, the Mari Resistance Brigade, and the Special Task Brigade joined together to form the Hamza Division. This faction was one of the first Turkish factions that entered the Syrian city of Jarablus in 2017 from the gate of Qarqamish accompanied by the Turkish Army and took control of the city in cooperation with the Turkish Army. This faction with direct instructions from the Turkish Intelligence Agency attacks the city of Afrin.



3. Faylaq Alsham (Sham Legion):

It is also known as the Homs Legion. This faction announced its formation in March 2014. It consists of uniting 19 Islamic factions close to the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood (SMB) in Aleppo, Idlib, Homs and Hama. The "Sham Legion" joined a group of factions on 26 April 2015 and established the Fatah-Aleppo Operations Room led by Yasser Abdul Rahim. Two mercenaries from the Sham Legion tortured a child and an elderly man and published a video showing this on the websites. The Sham Legion mercenaries broke the truce that was agreed upon by the disputed parties in Syria. This faction is considered the body of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria and represents the radical ideology that has been brought from the Sunni gatherings in Aleppo, Homs, and other cities, where the Sunnis constitute the vast majority.



4. Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement:

One of the most important factions backed by Turkey in the countryside of Aleppo. It was formed in late 2011 by Sheikh Tawfiq Shahabaddin in the Sheikh Salman village north-west of Aleppo. In July 2016 a video

appeared on the Internet for members of this faction slaughtering a child at the age of 15. This movement is known for its brutality and is following the methods used by ISIS. Moreover, it allied with the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Nusra Front), which is classified internationally on the terrorism list.



5. Ahrar al-Sham Movement:

It is one of the Salafist factions that emerged in the early years of the Syrian crisis by the unification of four jihadist factions, namely the "Ahrar al-Sham Brigades, the Islamic Dawn (Fajir) Movement, the Islamic Taliyah Group and the Iman Brigades". The faction depends in funding on Turkey, Gulf States, and Arabic "jihadist" networks. This faction is also one of the closest factions to the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, where the responsible for the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (Nusra Front) is one of this faction's members. Indeed, many members joined the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. This faction, which have the same mentality of (Nusra Front), is one of the participants in Afrin invasion.



6. Al- Shamiya Front:

It is an alliance of Islamic and Salafist factions from the city of Aleppo, namely the Nour al-Din al-Zanki Brigades, the remnants of the Tawhid Brigade, the Army of Mujahideen, the Islamic Front, Fastaqim Union, Authenticity and Development Front, the remnants of Hazzm Movement, and hundreds of other Armed factions. It participated in the attacks on Sheikh Maqsoud with heavy weapons and homemade shells. This attack resulted in the loss of dozens of civilians for their lives and serious damage to civilian property.

Amnesty International said in a report on 5 July 2016 that Armed factions active in Aleppo, Idlib, and their environs in northern Syria carried out horrific acts of kidnapping, torture and killing.

"The report reveals the frustrating reality of civilians living in areas under the control of some Armed factions in Aleppo, Idlib and surrounding areas," said Philip Luther, Director at Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Program. Many civilians live in constant fear of being abducted if they dare to criticize the conduct of Armed factions in power or if they do not comply with the strict rules imposed by some of these factions in their areas".

"Armed factions in Aleppo and Idlib today are free to commit war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law with impunity, Luther added. In a shocking development, we have been able to document the use of some of these Armed factions the same methods of torture that the Syrian government has consistently used".

The report highlights the violations committed by five Armed factions that have taken control of areas of the governorates of Aleppo and Idlib since 2012. The list of these factions includes the movement of Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement, al-Shamiya Front, and the 16th Division, which joined the coalition (Battle) of Aleppo in 2015. It also includes the Nusra Front, the Islamic Ahrar al-Sham movement in Idlib, which announced their joining to the coalition of Army of Conquest in 2015 as well.

Media activists in Aleppo said they had received verbal and written threats from al-Shamiya Front, and Nour al-Din al-Zenki Movement, simply because of criticizing the two factions or accusing them of corruption via Facebook.

Moreover, lawyers, political activists and others were attacked by al-Shamiya Front, the Nusra Front, and the Ahrar al-Sham Movement for their activities, religious beliefs and assumed political views.



Information about ISIS's terrorist members who joined the ranks of the mercenaries of the Euphrates Shield and fighting in the " Operation Olive Branch"

1. Anwar Ibrahim al-Jabbu was born in 1976 from the village of al-Beshiriya which affiliated to Tirbespiye town. He joined ISIS and he worked as a water tanker driver. In late 2015 he went to Turkey. He is now a member of mercenaries groups which is fighting in Afrin city.

2. Isma'il Firas al-'Abbar, a resident of the village of Sabikhan which affiliated to Deir ez-Zor city. He is 35 years old, was a military leader of ISIS organization for two year in Subikhan village. He was arrested for 10 days by ISIS. He escaped from prison then went to Turkey and stayed there for a year. He is currently a brigade leader of the Euphrates Shield mercenaries involved in the " Operation Olive Branch ".

3. Basil Nayef al-Shehab, nicknamed Abu Zeid al-Tai. He is originally from Qortoba village in Tell-Hamis town. At the beginning he was with Al-Nusra Front and after the arrival of ISIS he joined them . He was fighting the " People Protection Units YPG" in Kobani and also participated in the battles of Manbij city. He was injured there and taken to a hospital in Mosul city. A month later, he went to the northern

countryside of Aleppo and settled in Al- Bab. Basil is currently a faction leader in the Sultan Murad Division in al-Bab city and a participant in the " Operation Olive Branch ".



4. Abdul Qader al-Saweij, from the town of “Saba’a Arbayin” which affiliated to Shaddadi city. He is from the “ Bu Rahmat Bakara tribe”. He was a member of "ISIS", but now he is currently the assistant leader of Al-Hasakah Shield Brigade which is linked to the Turkish Euphrates Shield in Northern Syria.

5. Ammar Abdul Aziz Al-Abbas from the village of Hermoushiya which affiliated to Alkesra in Deir al-Zour city . He is from Obeidat Bakara tribe. He was a fighter in ISIS and was nicknamed Abu Hamza. He is currently a fighter in a faction of Gathering of Ahrar Al-Sharqiya factions which affiliated to Turkey in Idlib and now is nicknamed" Battar – means sword".

6. Ammar Musa al-Hammadi from Kayrawan village which affiliated to Dirbasiyah city. This person was in the ranks of ISIS organization in Raqqa, but a while ago he went to Jarablus and he is currently a member of the Euphrates Shield in Jarablus city.

7. Khalil Ahmed Nuri, from Arishah in Al Shaddadi. He was with the Syrian Free Army in Arishah village, then joined Al-Nusra Front and when ISIS entered to the region ,he joined them. After the campaign he went to Al Mayadeen .He participated in the attack on Abu Khashab town. After the campaign began, he went to the northern countryside of Aleppo. He is currently joining the Euphrates Shield.

8. Mahran Khalaf al-Sufi: He worked in all the Armed factions. Before the events, he had a group of Tunisian and Algerian terrorists ,who wanted to cross them to Iraq. He joined ISIS as the security and then

escaped to the Euphrates Shield territories. He is currently working with them as a security member.

9. Hamad Abdullah. He is from Samihan village in Tel Barak town. He was born in 1995. He was with Al-Nusra Front and participated in the battle of fog against the "People Protection Units YPG". After liberating Tel Barak, he escaped to Hol town and joined ISIS then left al-Shaddadi and from there went to Turkey and joined the Al Euphrates Shield.

10. Saleh Shehadeh. his father's name is : Muhammad al-Ahmad, his mother's name is : Amina. He was born in 1986, and his origin from the Western Kubani – Qanaya village. He joined ISIS at the beginning of the battle of Kobani. After the liberation of the western countryside from ISIS , he escaped to Jarablus and stayed with ISIS. During the controlling of the Euphrates Shield on Jarablus, he joined them and he is now in Al-Euphrates Shield in Jarablus.

11. Thamer Nawaf al-Khalloufi, from Umm Kheifa village in Tell Hamis ,nicknamed Abu Abbas. In the first events Thamer was a member in the Free Army in Tell Hamis which led by Abu Hammam. After ISIS controlled Tel Hamis, he swore allegiance to the Islamic State and participated in the fronts, such as Tel Maroof ,Jazaa and Alrihya battles .After the liberation of Tell Hamis he escaped with ISIS to al-Shaddadi ,then escaped to Turkey. He joined the Ajnad Al-Hasaka brigade in Turkey. He became an official and started recruiting young people from the region to join them within the Euphrates Shield.



12. Mohammed Mahmoud al-Jassem, his mother; Warda, was born in Dekan village in Sarin in 1986. At the beginning he joined ISIS and stayed in Sarin. When Sarin was liberated he escaped to Jarablus. His task was as a security member of the Euphrates Shield. He also conscripts young people for the Euphrates Shield in Sreen and Dikan villages .they communicate with each other and encourage them to join the Euphrates

Shield. His brother Ahmed was a member in ISIS who had recently escaped to Jarablus.



13. Hamad al-Salama from Al-Shiyokh Al-Tahtani. He participated the fighting with ISIS, then joined the Euphrates Shield, and now he is a command of the security in Jarablus and deals with Turkish Intelligence Agency.

14. Ahmad Ayoub Al-Hissu, from Rehiya village. He was with the Syrian Free Army and now joined ISIS. He is an official in the Euphrates Shield in Turkey.

15. Shawkat Khawaja Samawi is an Arab component from Shiyokh town. He is 50 years old. He is currently living with his family in Jarablus city. He is married to a Kurdish woman from Majar tribe in Kubani city. This person was previously a security leader in ISIS and also participated in the battles that took place in Kubani. He is now a leader of a group within the mercenaries of the Euphrates Shield.



16. Bassil Hamoud Al-Yassin Al-Shaykhan. He is from Al-Jalaa Farm, which is 10 km away from Raqqa. He was working with ISIS. His brothers Yassin Hamoud al-Yassin and Bashar Hamoud al-Yassin were also working with ISIS organization. They are now in Jarablus and have joined the Euphrates Shield.

17. Mustafa Mohammed Qaddour and Salman Muhammad Qaddour from the Jayis tribe. At the beginning of the revolution, they joined the Syrian Free Army in the Guyiran neighborhood in Hasaka, where they were standing at a checkpoint in the 60th Street in the Guyiran neighborhood. Then they joined Al-Nusra Front in Hasaka. After the Regime entered to Guyiran neighborhood they escaped to Al-Shaddadi and joined the ranks of the Euphrates Shield which affiliated to the Syrian Free Army.

18. Shaddad Abboud al-Aqla. His nickname is Abu Yarub, from Al-Bakaa tribe. He is 32 years old. His mother's name is Sarah Abdul Aziz. she is from Al-Ali tribe. At the beginning of the revolution, Shaddad was one of the most prominent activists in the Guyiran neighborhood, and participated in the battles of the Seri Kaniye. He has two brothers (Abu Assad and Abu Majid) who were killed in the battles of Seri Kaniyh. Shaddad returned to Guyrain neighborhood after the agreement that took place between the Regime and the Free Syrian Army at that time, then he went to Al-Myadeen town and joined ISIS. After that he escaped from ISIS. He went to Jarablus and joined the Euphrates Shield.



19. Hussain Ahmed Dakhmli Abu Jareih from Qabasin town. He was working with the ISIS during their controlling of the region. He is currently affiliated to the Euphrates Shield.



20. Mohammed Yassin Zair is from Baza'a region in Al- Bab area. Three years ago, he lived in the western Salhabiya village. He has a son called Shadi, a military police officer in the Euphrates Shield. He is the coordinator and official of the relations between the Turkish Intelligence Agency and the Euphrates Shield. He is now a participant in the attack on Afrin. Muhammad has two brothers in ISIS. They are Ward and Fahd. Fahd is the leader of Ashbal Al-Khilafah. He almost communicates daily with his brothers in ISIS in Garanij and his son in the Euphrates Shield.

The names of a number of people who initially joined ISIS during its presence in Tell Hamis and after liberation joined the ranks of the mercenaries of the Euphrates Shield:

1-Mohammed Amin Asyoud, his mother is Naima. He was born in Bilqis Sagira in 1975.

2-Ahmed Amin Asyoud. His mother is Naima. He was born Balqis Sagira in 1983.

3-Amer Sulaiman Al-Abdullah. He was born in 1981. His origin from Hanwa Kabira village affiliated to Tell Hamis.

4-Adnan Sulaiman al-Salem. His mother is Fawzah. He was born in 1983. his origin from Hanwha Kabira village which affiliated to Tell Hamis

5-Ismail Saleh Al-Faihan. He was born in 1985. His origin from Hanwa Kabira village which affiliated to Tell Hamis.

6-Thamer Nawaf al-Dahas. His mother is Mahya. He was born in 1987 in Umm Keif village which affiliated to Tell Hamis.

7-Nawaf Khalaf al-Dahas, his mother is Shiha, was born in 1959, from Umm Keif village which affiliated to Tell Hamis.

8-Mejhem Nawaf al-Dahas, his mother is Mehaya. He was born in Umm Keif in 1983.

9- Milhem Nawaf al-Dahas, his mother is Mehaya. He was born in Umm Keif 1985.

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