

## Hundreds of Saudi Soldiers and Artillery Commander Join Yemeni Popular Forces

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*300 Saudi soldiers and an artillery commander have joined the Yemeni forces, a senior Yemeni politician announced on Friday.*

"The latest blow at the Al Saud came as Hashem al-Ahmar, artillery commander of the Saudi army in al-Wadia border crossing and 300 soldiers joined the Yemeni army and the revolutionary forces," the Middle East Panorama website quoted Head of Yemen's Free Army Nasser bin Yahya al-Orujli as saying on Friday.

He noted that the Saudi regime is still in a difficult situation and the Saudi officials know it quite well.

Last Wednesday, tribal forces and activists in Saudi Arabia's Najran region formed a military and political opposition movement to the Saudi regime, called "Ahrar al-Najran" after the region declared earlier this month that it has separated from Saudi Arabia and joined Yemen in the war on Riyadh.

Activist and movement member, Abu Bakr Abi Ahmad al-Salami, told FNA that "all tribes of the region are members of the Ahrar al-Najran Movement".

He said the youths and political activists in Najran have demanded the "Yemeni popular forces and revolutionary committees, brothers, and the neighboring lands to provide military training for the younger generation of this region".

Al-Salami underlined the movement tough stance against the al-Saud regime, saying, "Saudi Arabia wrongfully imagines that it is the only defender of Islam, but they should know that we are the defenders of Islam and the two holy mosques, and we will rush to defend the two mosques (in Mecca and Medina) if necessary."

Al-Salami said the movement is worried about developments in Yemen, and declared that "the movement's first battle will take place in those areas controlled by the Saudi occupation army in Southern Najran soon".

Saudi Arabia has been striking Yemen for 93 days now to restore power to fugitive president Mansour Hadi, a close ally of Riyadh.

Hadi stepped down in January and refused to reconsider the decision despite calls by Ansarullah revolutionaries of the Houthi movement.

Despite Riyadh's claims that it is bombing the positions of the Ansarullah fighters, Saudi

warplanes are flattening residential areas and civilian infrastructures.

The Monarchy's attacks have so far claimed the lives of at least 4,727 civilians, mostly women and children.

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