

# Syria: ‘Opposition Groups’ Form Coalition Led by Al-Qaeda

By [South Front](#)

Global Research, January 31, 2017

[South Front](#) 30 January 2017

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*ISIS units have been developing an advance on the al-Sin air base in eastern Qalamoun near the city of Dumayr. The terrorist group launched the offensive last night and seized certain Syrian army checkpoints in the area. But the terrorists failed to reach the air base, according to pro-government sources.*

The ISIS advance on the al-Sin air base is a part of its defensive strategy aimed to draw government forces attention from crucial fronts west of Palmyra, south of al-Bab and inside the city of Deir Ezzor, using maneuverable units to deliver attacks on other vulnerable targets controlled by the Syrian military.

In Deir Ezzor, the government-held area is still divided into two separate pockets by ISIS. Army troops repelled the initial ISIS advance and now fight terrorists in order to reverse their gains. The Russian Aerospace Forces deliver between 20 and 30 airstrikes against ISIS targets in the area every day.

West of Palmyra, the army and the National Defense Forces (NDF) continue pressure on ISIS militants near the Tiyas Airbase. Clashes in the area take place every day.

Government forces have entered the village of Hawsh Salihyah in the Eastern Ghouta, aiming to encircle Jaish al-Islam militants in Nasabiyah. Clashes are ongoing.

The Syrian army’s Tiger Forces have liberated al-Brije, Sheikh Dan, Mushayrifa and Tuman in the eastern Aleppo countryside near the ISIS stronghold of al-Bab. Within two weeks, the Tiger Forces and the NDF had liberated over 25 villages in the area. Now, government forces are aiming to take control of Aran and Tadef, targeting ISIS terrorists there with artillery.

Reports appeared that the water from the Ayn al-Fijah spring has started arriving Damascus after the liberation of Wadi Barada. If confirmed, it’s a big victory for the citizens of the Syrian capital.

So-called “opposition groups” have formed two major coalitions in the province of Idlib. Initially, Harakat Nour al-Din al-Zinki, Liwa al-Haq, Jabhat Ansar al-Din, Jaish al-Sunna, Mijahidou Ashidaa, Kataib al-Aqsa, Katibat Qawafel al-Shuhada united under the Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham operation room, led by Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra, the Syrian branch of al-Qaeda). Then, Katibat Osoud al-Rahman, Katibat al-Rashid and the al Sa’ab tribe also joined the coalition and a number of Ahrar al-Sham battalions defected to Hayyat Tahrir al-Sham.

In turn, Tajamu Fastaqim Kama Umirt, Sukour al-Sham, Kataib Thuwar al-Sham, Jaish al-Islam (Idlib branch), Shamia Front, Mujahidi Ibn Taimia, Liwa Miqdad Bin Amro and Jaish al-Mujahidin merged with Ahrar al-Sham.

The creation of two big coalitions shows a separation of Turkish-oriented and Saudi-oriented militant groups in Idlib as result of Damascus-Tehran-Moscow-Ankara negotiations. The problems are that the question still remains how this can be used for successful military operations against terrorists on the ground.

*If you're able, and if you like our content and approach, please support the project. Our work wouldn't be possible without your help: PayPal: [southfront@list.ru](mailto:southfront@list.ru) or via: <http://southfront.org/donate/> or via: <https://www.patreon.com/southfront>*

The original source of this article is [South Front](#)  
Copyright © [South Front](#), [South Front](#), 2017

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [South Front](#)

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)