

# Rebels fighting against al-Assad rule fragmented, disorganized in Syria



FSA fighters drive in Aleppo after missiles are fired from a fighter jet on Aug 26. SNC officials say there are between 70,000-100,000 rebels fighting against the al-Assad regime.

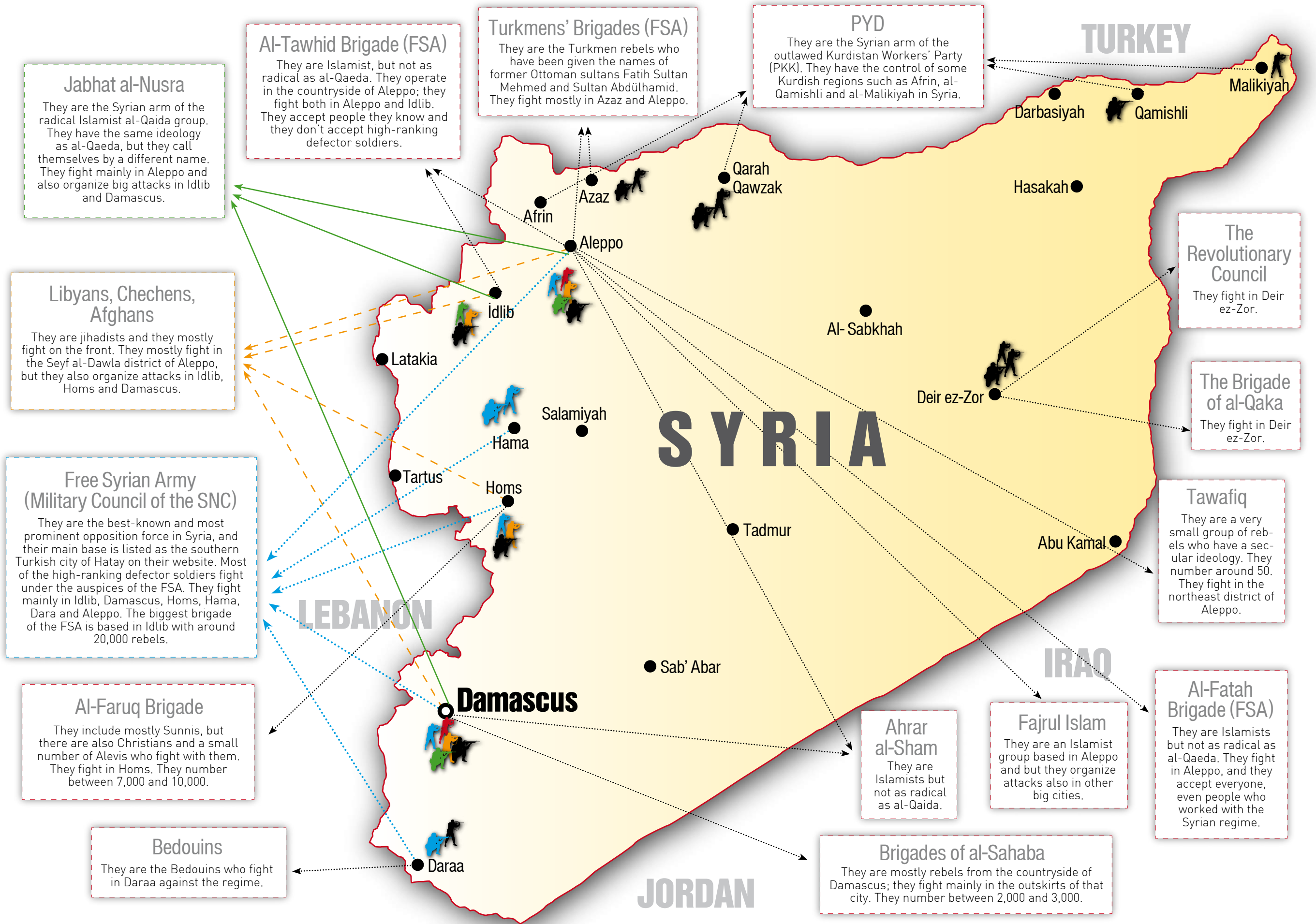
Rebels fighting against the al-Assad regime are fragmented between jihadists, pro-al-Qaeda and secular groups that are not always under the control of leading FSA

**ISTANBUL**  
**IPEK YEZDANI**  
There are more than 30 different rebel groups, including the most prominent rebel group, the "Free Syrian Army" (FSA), fighting in Syria, according to officials from the most prominent Syrian opposition group, the Syrian National Council (SNC). The Jihadists, Islamists, pro-al-Qaeda and secular groups that are not under the control of the FSA and which are fighting in different areas of Syria against the

Syrian regime forces prove how fragmented and disorganized the Syrian rebel groups were in Syria. According to the SNC media officer, Ahmad al-Halabi, there are more than 30 opposition groups fighting in Syria - of whom only 15 could be identified by Hürriyet Daily News research. "Fifty armed men come together and they form a rebel group. They generally give their groups names from the Quran or the names of the towns and areas they are coming from," Ahmad al-Halabi told the Daily News.

According to SNC officials, there were between 70,000 and 100,000 rebels fighting against the Syrian regime in Syria. The most prominent rebel group, the "Free Syrian Army" (FSA) is the best connected with the SNC. "Some groups such as the al-Tawhid and al-Fatah brigades consider themselves part of the FSA, however mostly they don't listen to the orders of the regional leaders of the FSA," he added. The Turkey representative of the SNC, Khaled Khoja, also said the rebel groups aside from the FSA in Aleppo generally don't lis-

ten to the orders of the regional FSA leader, Abduljabbar Agadi. "We cannot talk about a chain of command amongst these groups," he added. SNC Executive Committee member Semir Nashar has just met three different leaders from three different rebel groups fighting in Aleppo where heavy clashes have been going on between the rebels and regime forces for one month. "Nashar has met one rebel from Jabhat al-Nusra which is al-Qaeda in Syria, another one from the al-Fatah Brigade and another one from the al-Tawhid Brigade in an effort to unite them," another member of the SNC, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the Daily News. ● HDN



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Minister Erolu disputes with a Russian Ambassador over Syria's future. AA photo

## Turkish, Russian officials quarrel over Syria's future

**ROLE, continued from page 1**  
Ivanovsky said every country's priority was to solve the Syrian crisis and end bloodshed in the country. "Russia's position is the laying down of arms for sure and forming temporary committees to negotiate," the Russian diplomat said. His words were cut short by Erolu who stated that al-Assad should not be involved in such committees. Ivanovsky continued after Erolu's objection, outlining his support for the current Syrian leader's participation in a future government. "He may join, too. He may run in the election, too. Why should he not? If you start the process from the bottom line, then everyone must be eligible to participate [in this process]," Ivanovsky said. The al-Assad regime represents the Baath Party and the Baath Party has some supporters, Ivanovsky said. "You have to recognize their voting right, too," the ambassador said and described Russia's approach to the crisis as "wanting real democracy." Erolu again jumped into the conversation, saying, "Turkey wants real democracy, too." Ivanovsky then reiterated his remarks on democracy, while suggesting his words were being distorted. ● HDN



Nine people are arrested on claims of helping Iranian spies in Igdir. AA photo

## 9 detained in SE Turkey on suspicion of spying for Iran

**ERZURUM - Dogan News Agency**  
Nine people, arrested on claims of aiding Iranian spies in the eastern province of Igdir, have been taken to the neighboring province of Erzurum and sent to the city's courthouse. A group who took the photos of places such as the Governor's Office, the National Intelligence Agency (MIT), and the Police Office in Igdir, were arrested last year. Now, a group of nine others have been detained on claims of aiding and abetting them. It is claimed that they formed an organization in order to obtain information about the state's security and spied for Iran. Following searches conducted in the houses and workplaces of the suspects, a number of documents, visual records of the security units on the border, an automatic Kalashnikov rifle, and shotguns were found. The nine detained suspects were sent to Erzurum Courthouse after being questioned in Igdir. "After being appointed to Igdir, we saw that circumstances had matured, so we started an operation," Igdir Governor Ahmet Pek said about the incident.