



A unique insight into the leadership of the Free Syrian Army:

**Exclusive interview: FREE SYRIAN ARMY COMMANDER
Abdulkhalek Hayani**

Division 16 - Badr Martyrs' Brigade (Liwar Shouhada Badr)

Position & brigade: I am the leader of Badr Martyrs' Brigade (*Liwar Shouhada Badr*) which belongs to the 16th Division. There are more than 1600 soldiers in my brigade who are armed with light and medium weapons, and with locally-made cannons

When and why did you join the FSA? I joined the Free Syrian Army in 5th July 2011, when the Syrian regime's corruption and injustice exceeded all limits. I was particularly affected by the Banyas massacre, the sieging and bombardment of Homs, and shelling civilians with chemical weapons in Damascus countryside (Eastern Ghouta).

What operations have you been involved in, what was the result? I participated to many liberation battles; such as the liberation of Bayanon checkpoint, Indan checkpoint, the detachment in Indan, Izaz, Dahrat Abdrabboh, Shababi Housing, Bani Zaid, Al Ashrafyah. My latest and most important battle was stopping the regime's troops in Sifat, Bashkui and Al Mfalah. I participated in the campaign against ISIS in Northern Syria.

How do you plan your battles and organise your forces to produce results on the battlefield? I don't hesitate to coordinate with all the Revolutionary factions in the Free Syrian Army, and I prefer teamwork in planning for battles. I coordinate with the civilian councils to provide facilities that civilians may need in every possible field.

What weapons do your forces need to produce better results on the battlefield? My brigade needs anti-tank and anti-aircraft weapons to achieve better military results.

What is your belief about a unified command for revolutionary forces? I support the idea of the united leadership of all the Free Syrian Army groups; our unity has the power to expel terrorist organizations.

What is your opinion on the coalition's strikes against ISIS? I think that the strikes haven't stopped the regime's daily massacres, and that the regime's strategic locations should be struck, because ISIS is a product of the regime. The regime's sea and air supply lines should be cut off.

What do you think the future holds for the Revolution and for the Free Syrian Army? I believe that the incorporation of the revolutionary force with parts of the regime, in the future, depends on the expulsion of the Lebanese Hezbollah, the Iranian Revolution Guardians, and all the terrorist gangs that are involved with the regime, in killing our people and occupying the land. It depends also on changing the regimes' symbols that killed the innocents, and displaced more than ten million people. I believe that the future will be prosperous for the Revolution, provided that the revolutionary forces on the ground and the political opposition work together, support the revolutionary forces wherever they are, and fight corrupt people and bring them to justice. I dream of a united Syria where people live as one family, no matter what their race and religions are, and where peace, safety and democratic participation prevail.