

Mapping Violent Non-State Actors (VNSAs) in Syria and the Levant

Name	Type	Region(s) ¹	Supported by
Hezbollah	Political party (Lebanon); transnational; state-sponsored militia (Syria and elsewhere)	Transnational; Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq	Iran; Lebanese Hezbollah HQ
Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)	State-sponsored	Iran, Syria	Iran
H̄doywotho d'Sutoro d'Amo – YPG (People's Protection Units) – PYD's militia	Non-state armed group	Turkey, Northern Syria (SDF), Iraq	Kurdish diaspora; Iraqi elements; Turkish PKK; Democratic Federation of Northern Syria
Yekîneyên Parastina Jin – YPJ (Women's Protection Units) – PYD's militia	Non-state armed group	Turkey, Northern Syria (SDF), Iraq	Kurdish diaspora; Iraqi elements; Turkish PKK; Democratic Federation of Northern Syria
Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat – PYD (Democratic Union Party)	Political party	Northern Syria (SDF)	Kurdish diaspora; Kurdish separatists; PKK links
Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê (PKK) – Kurdistan Workers Party	Political party; militant group	Turkey, Syria	Self-funded; PKK HQ; Russia
Jabhat Ansar al-Din	Non-state armed group	Broader Syria	Partially by the Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham; traces of Chechnyan and Saudi support
Al-Barakh; Wilayat al-Sham; branch of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)	Transnational; non-state armed group; unrecognised & illegitimate administrative province	Broader Syria	The Islamic State
Quds Force	State-sponsored (elite units)	Iran, Broader Syria	Iran; IRGC
Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Levantine Liberation Committee); Al-Qaeda in Syria	Non-state armed group; militant organisation	Broader Syria (formerly also in Lebanon)	Al-Qaeda; Ahrar al-Sham; Partially by the Jabhat Ansar al-Din
Muslim Brotherhood in Syria	Transnational; political actor (Syria and elsewhere)	Transnational; Syria, Egypt	Syrian National Council
Free Syrian Army	Collection of non-	Broader Syria	Muslim Brotherhood;

¹ Includes regions only in the Levant, Iran and Egypt. Transnational entities, like the Muslim Brotherhood and Hezbollah are marked as **transnational** in the group *type* and *region* sections.

(FSA)	state armed groups		former Syrian Armed Forces (defectors); Turkey; United Kingdom
Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)	Collection of non-state armed groups	Northern Syria	Democratic Federation of Northern Syria (unrecognised); Syriac Military Council; loosely-defined, including some support from Russia, YPG, YPJ, UAE, Saudi Arabia, UK, USA
Popular Resistance of the Eastern Region/Raqqa	Non-state armed group	Raqqa, Syria	Syrian Government (no formal affiliation)
Syriac Military Council	Non-state collective (Syriac and Kurdish)	Broader Syria	United States; YPG; SDF
Jaysh al-Islam	Non-state armed group	Aleppo, Damascus, Syria	United States (mixed); Saudi Arabia; Turkey
Harakat Ahrar ash-Sham	Non-state armed group	Broader Syria	Saudi Arabia; Turkey
Syrian Liberation Front – Jabhat Tahrir Suriya (JTS)	Non-state armed group	Broader Syria	Syrian Islamic Council; Turkey; FSA
Suqour al-Sham Brigades (Hawks of the Levant Brigades)	Non-state armed group	Idlib, Aleppo, Syria	JTS, Sham Legion
Faylaq al-Sham/Sham Legion	Non-state armed group	Hama, Homs, Latakia	Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Muslim Brotherhood, FSA, elements of Tahrir al-Sham
Jaysh al-Mu'tazz Billah	Non-state armed group	Daraa, Syria	FSA; Jordan (TOW missiles)
Shabiha	Gangs; irregular	Syria	Syrian Government
Mukhabarat	Intelligence Agencies	Syria	Syrian Government
Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party (Hizb al-Ba'ath al-'Arabī al-Ishtirākī)	Political party and movement	Syrian-concentrated	Syrian Government
Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria (TIP)	Non-state armed group	Idlib and Latakia, Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China	Turkish donations; Türkistan İslam Derneği and Doğu Türkistan Bülteni;
Harakat Nour al-Din al-Zenki	Non-state armed group	Afrin, Syria* allegedly defeated by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and expelled to Afrin as of January-February 2019	JTS, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Qatar, United States

Junud al-Mahdi	Non-state armed group	Aleppo, Syria	Iran, IRGC, Syrian Government
Liwa Imam al-Baqir	Non-state armed group	Aleppo, Syria	Iran, IRGC, Syrian Government
Fawj al-Imam al-Hujja	Non-state armed group	Aleppo, Syria	Iran, IRGC, Syrian Government
Liwa al-Imam Zain al-Abidain	Non-state armed group	Aleppo, Syria	Iran, IRGC, Syrian Government
Al-Ghalibun	Non-state armed group	Damascus and Hama, Syria	Iran, Syrian Government
Liwa al-Imam al-Mahdi	Non-state armed group	Damascus and Hama, Syria	Iran, Syrian Government
Quwat al-Ridha	Non-state armed group	Damascus and Hama, Syria	Iran, Syrian Government
Tiger Forces/Quwwat al-Nimr	State-sponsored (Syrian Arab Army elite unit)	Broader Syria	Syrian Government
Regiment Commander Martyr Imad Mugniyah	Non-state armed organisation (elite unit; former Hezbollah fighters)	Broader Syria	Hezbollah, Iran, IRGC, Syrian Government
Free Palestine Movement	Non-state armed group and community organisation	Syria, Lebanon	Hamas, Iran, Syrian Government
Galilee Forces/Quwat al-Jalil	Party/Movement-affiliated armed group	Syria, Lebanon, Gaza Strip	Syrian Government, Movement of the Youth of the Palestinian Return (Harakat Shabab al-Oudat al-Falastinia)
Fatah al-Intifada	Non-state armed group	Damascus, Syria	Syrian Government
Saraya	Party-affiliated armed group	Syria	Palestinian Democratic Party, Syrian Government
Liwa al-Quds/Jerusalem Brigade	Non-state armed group	Aleppo, Aziza village, Sheikh Latfi, Syria	Syrian Government, Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party, Russian Federation, IRGC, Hezbollah
Mavros Krinos/Black Lily	Non-state strasserist Nazi collective	Syria	Greek strasserist neo-Nazis, Syrian Government
Blood & Honour	Non-state neo-Nazi collective	Syria	British and US neo-Nazis, Syrian Government
Dareh al-Watan/Shield of Nation	Non-state armed group	Syria	Druze factions, Syrian Government
Jaysh al-	Non-state armed	Suwayda, Deraa,	Druze factions,

Muwahhideen/Army of Monotheists	group	Damascus, Syria	Hezbollah, Syrian Government
Lebayk ya Salman/For you, o Salman	Non-state armed group	Syria	Druze factions, Iran, Syrian Government
Malhama Tactical	Salafi/Jihadi Private Military Company (PMC)	Broader Syria and Aleppo	HTS, Turkistan Islamic Party, Abu Rofiq's personal PMC project
Academi	US former Blackwatr (PMC)	Broader Idlib, Syria	United States and allies
Wagner Group	Russian PMC; ex-Russian elite units	Aleppo, Syria	Russian Federation
Slavonic Corps	Ex- Russian elite forces, Hong Kong-based PMC (dissolved as of 2015)	SDF Territory, Northern Syria	Syrian Government
Triple Canopy Inc.	US PMC	Broader Syria	US Army Special Forces, Constellis Group; Former Blackwater