

Answer to Question

Events in Syria and the Fall of the Assad Regime

(Translated)

Question:

Asharq Al-Awsat published on 8 December 2024: **(The Assad regime fell: The Syrian opposition announced today, Sunday, that it had liberated Damascus and overthrew the 24-year rule of President Bashar al-Assad. The opposition statement on state television read: "Praise be to Allah, the city of Damascus has been liberated and the tyrant Bashar al-Assad has been overthrown." The opposition added that all detainees have been released.)**

Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) had launched the attack in northern Syria under the title "Deterrence of Aggression" on 27/11/2024, this was followed by an attack by the Syrian National Army under the title "Dawn of Freedom" on 30/11/2024. Aleppo was taken over, in addition to complete control over all areas of Idlib, then Hama, Homs... and today Damascus... and all of this is in about ten days. Thus what is behind what is happening in Syria? Thank you.

Answer:

To clarify matters, the following facts must be considered:

First: The factions that launched the attack: According to the BBC, 28/11/2024, the factions participating in the attack are the "Al-Fath Al-Mubin Operations Room," which is led by Hay'at Tahrir Al-Sham (HTS) and includes the National Liberation Front supported by Turkey, and the Jaysh Al-Izza group... as well as the Syrian National Army, which represents an alliance of opposition factions supported by Turkey and is not involved in the Al-Fath Al-Mubin Operations Room. Therefore, most of the factions participating in the attack are factions affiliated with Turkey and loyal to it, as the National Army is its creation, and HTS is under Turkey's sight and hearing; the rapprochement between the organization and Turkey is striking to anyone with sight.

Second: These moves, which were initially more like a disciplinary message to Bashar because he did not respond to Erdogan's requests, as he asked Russian President Putin: [to work on advancing normalization talks between Ankara and Damascus and for Bashar to accept the invitation he extended to him to meet him... (Reuters, 25/10/2024)], but Bashar did not respond, but rather asked for the withdrawal of Turkish forces and had set conditions and procrastinated. Lavrov, the Russian mediator, confirmed this and told the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet on 1/11/2024 that Bashar is requesting the withdrawal of Turkish forces "...that the main obstacle to this is the presence of Turkish forces in northern Syria." Erdogan became angry and gave the green light to the organization and the National Army to move: "Opposition sources in touch with Turkish intelligence said Turkey had given a green light to the offensive." (AFP; Deutsche Welle, 30/11/2024).

Third: Although this movement was initially to liberate the de-escalation zones around Idlib, driven by Bashar's failure to respond to Turkiye's offers to negotiate a political solution between him and the opposition, large sectors of the people who are suffering from Bashar's injustice took advantage of that and set out on all fronts. They did not stop at what was

originally planned in the de-escalation zones around Idlib, but rather went beyond that in various regions of Syria. Because the Syrian army was also suffering from Bashar's injustice and had no conviction in defending him, hence, its withdrawals continued. Then, the mobile sectors of the people entered Aleppo, Hama, then Homs, and finally the movements of the Syrian people reached Damascus. All of this happened rapidly in ten days since the movements began on 27/11/2024.

Fourth: The positions of regional and international parties:

1- **As for Iran and Russia:** They were shocked by what was happening. So, Russia strengthened security at the Hmeimim Air Base and the Tartus Naval Base, and the two countries contacted each other, "Iranian Foreign Minister Araghchi discussed developments in Syria with his Russian counterpart Lavrov," (Anadolu Agency, 30/11/2024).

Following this attack, Iran moved diplomatically to stop it and resolve the problems with Turkiye, so its Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Ankara on 2/12/2024, and met with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan; who spoke with his American counterpart Blinken and said: ["The political process between the regime and the opposition must lead to positive results for the sake of peace and calm in Syria" (Anadolu Agency, 1/12/2024)].

2- **As for Turkiye:** It wanted a political solution with Bashar through peaceful negotiations, as did America, but Bashar thought that he could gain advantages by not responding quickly, so his answers to Erdogan's offers were delayed, thinking that this would not anger America. It seems that Erdogan was annoyed by this, so he took America's approval to teach Bashar a lesson, so the negotiated solution would be in a combat atmosphere that appeared to be a victory for Erdogan over Bashar. Accordingly, he pushed the opposition factions to attack, supporting them with the necessary weapons and intelligence information:

a- On 25/10/2024, Erdogan told reporters after meeting Putin on the sidelines of the BRICS Conference in Kazan that he ["asked Russian President Putin to work on advancing normalization talks between Ankara and Damascus and for Bashar to accept the invitation he extended to him to meet." (Reuters 25/10/2024)].

b- The Russian mediators responded to Erdogan more than once that there are conditions for Bashar al-Assad to meet with him and normalize relations with him, including withdrawing Turkish forces from Syria. Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister, confirmed to the Turkish newspaper, Hurriyet on 1/11/2024 that "both Turkey and Syria are showing serious interest in resuming dialogue in order to normalize relations, and that the main obstacle to this is the presence of Turkish forces in northern Syria." This indicates Bashar's obstinateness who exploited Erdogan's deteriorating position on normalization, and also exploited the support of the Arab countries for him, so he saw that America still wanted him because it did not find an alternative to him!

c- When the Turkish regime despaired of a negotiated solution with Bashar under these circumstances, it obtained America's approval for the negotiated solution to be carried out with a military prelude to pressure Bashar. Therefore, Erdogan mobilized the armed factions since 27/11/2024. This is evidenced by the fact that the Turkish regime is the one that allowed them to start pressuring Bashar's regime, i.e. with a green light from Turkey ["opposition sources in contact with Turkish intelligence say that Ankara gave the green light for the attack." (Deutsche Welle, 30/11/2024)]; this was so that Bashar would accept sitting with Erdogan, normalizing relations with Turkey, and reconciling with the opposition... then reaching the political solution according to American specifications! That is, a "new phase" for Syria, as Erdogan said during a phone call with UN Secretary-General Guterres, "Turkish President

Tayyip Erdogan stressed on Thursday that Syria is entering a new phase that is being managed calmly.” (Arabi21, 5/12/2024).

3- As for America: It was not surprised by the Syrian opposition attack. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said: “It was no surprise that armed opposition fighters would try to take advantage of the situation...” (English Al-Arabiya; Al Jazeera Net, 1/12/2024), and it did not show any concern, as Al Jazeera Net reported on 1/12/2024 from the White House saying: “We are closely monitoring the situation in Syria and have been in contact over the last 48 hours with regional capitals.” US National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said (The United States, together with its partners and allies, urge de-escalation, protection of civilians and minority groups, and a serious and credible political process that can end this civil war once and for all with a political settlement consistent with UNSCR 2254.” (White House, 30/11/2024; RT, 1/12/2024).

Al Jazeera reported on its website on 2/12/2024:

(The US State Department issued a statement saying, “The current escalation only underscores the urgent need for a Syrian-led political solution to the conflict, in line with UNSCR 2254.” referring to the 2015 UN resolution that approved the peace process in Syria and has not been implemented to date. It stipulates that peace talks in Syria should begin in January 2016. While it stressed that the Syrian people are the ones who decide the future of the country, it called for the formation of a transitional government and holding elections under UN supervision, demanding an immediate cessation of any attacks against civilians. Al-Hurra published on its website on 4/12/2024: (Blinken considered that the most important thing at the present time is to push forward a political process based on the UN Security Council resolution, in an attempt to resolve and end the civil war in Syria). The Khabar News Agency published on its website on 7/12/2024: (The Turkish Foreign Ministry said: We informed Blinken of the need for the Syrian government to hold a dialogue with the opposition).

4- As for the Jewish entity: Euro News Arabia reported on 30/11/2024 the following: (The ‘Israeli’ Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, came out last Tuesday evening to announce to the ‘Israelis’ his acceptance of a ceasefire with Hezbollah. In his speech, Netanyahu did not forget to refer to the Syrian President, Bashar al-Assad, and said in his speech, “Assad is playing with fire.” Hours after that speech, the Syrian factions launched a coordinated attack against Assad's forces in northern Syria, which raised many questions. Netanyahu held a special security meeting on the developments in northern Syria, which is unusual for such a matter, according to ‘Israeli’ media). Then Al Jazeera Net reported on 1/12/2024 that the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper said: (The ‘Israeli’ army prevented an Iranian plane from landing in Syria on suspicion that it was carrying weapons for the Lebanese Hezbollah), as if the Jewish entity wants to prevent Iran from returning in force to the Syrian arena under the pretext of carrying weapons for the party in Lebanon, and therefore does not want a military focus for Iran or Iran's party in Syria and in Lebanon.

Fifth: In conclusion, in light of what we have explained above, is as follows:

1- The party that controlled the start of the attacks towards the de-escalation zones in Syria is Turkey and America is behind it.

2- They want from this “to start a credible political process” ... “a new phase” ... to arrange the new regime in Syria, and I repeat some statements by American and Turkish officials in this regard:

The spokesman for the US National Security Council, Sean Savett, said: [“The United States, together with its partners and allies, urge de-escalation, protection of civilians and minority

groups, and a serious and credible political process that can end this civil war once and for all with a political settlement consistent with UNSCR 2254". (White House, 30/11/2024; RT,1/12/2024)]. Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan stressed, on Thursday, that Syria is entering 'a new phase' that is being managed calmly. (Arabi21, 5/12/2024).

3- Although they did not clarify what they meant by the political solution that these attacks would lead to, the reality of the multiplicity of forces now fighting on the fronts could suggest that what America and its followers are arranging is a Syrian coalition regime between these forces that would succeed the regime of the tyrant that has been removed, and in which there would be regions with self-governance similar to the self-governance of the Kurdish region in Iraq.

4- America, which controls the solution, will allow the interests of the Jews to be achieved, as America guaranteed it for them in the ceasefire agreement between the Jews and Lebanon at dawn on 27/11/2024, which is on the same day the military confrontation began in Syria. And to prevent Iran from returning with military momentum to the Syrian arena in support of its party in Lebanon, i.e. cutting off the ground military connection between Iran and its party in Lebanon.

These are the matters that the statements of American and Turkish officials above indicate for the launch of the attacks in Syria.

Sixth: Finally, what happened and is happening in Syria today, from bloodshed, homes destroyed, and families displaced, is a painful matter, especially since it is to find a political solution and a new phase that is not far from the secular civil systems existing in Muslim countries after the Kafir (disbelieving) colonizers and their agents were able to eliminate the ruling system in Islam (the Khilafah (Caliphate) a hundred years ago... and then, the nations gathered upon us like predators upon their prey. Despite this, the Ummah will return, honorable and noble as it was, and the Khilafah Rashidah (Rightly-Guided Caliphate) will be restored again, Allah willing. But Allah's law requires that the angels do not descend upon us from the heavens to establish the Khilafah for us while we are sitting, instead it should be established at the hands of men who believe in their Lord, whom He (swt) increase them in guidance. We do not lack such people whether they are in the army or in the opposition, even if they are few, especially since the follower of the events, which have started ten days ago, sees that the resisters of the regime are not the only ones who started this confrontation with the regime, like the followers of Turkey and behind it America, to achieve secular change by moving it from shoulder to shoulder... but others joined in the confrontations, they were burned by the injustice of the regime and want to change it to fulfill the desires of the Muslim Syrian people.

To them we address the call: to do their utmost to thwart the corrupt secular political solutions that the kafir colonizers and their agents want. And not to let their sacrifices in these events be wasted and become a forgotten trace! And to support those working to establish the rule of Islam, the Khilafah Rashidah (Rightly-Guided Caliphate), so that they will have a great reward and a great victory. And then they will be among those who deserve the glad-tiding: ﴿نُصْرٌ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَفَتْحٌ قَرِيبٌ وَبَشِّرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ﴾ "...help from Allah and an imminent victory. 'So` give good news" [As-Saf: 13].

6 Jumada Al-Akhar 1446 AH

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