

Syrian opposition aims to unify ranks

Hundreds of Syrian opposition figures are meeting in the Qatari capital, Doha, in the most concerted effort so far to forge a united front to help end the 19-month conflict that has killed over 36,000 people



SYRIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL (SNC)

Main umbrella group in exile, formed Nov 2011 to guide democratic transition if President Bashar al-Assad ousted. Accused by some of being under Islamist control

*SNC leader **Abdulbaset Sieda** says organization aims to include 20 new groups. Already includes **Damascus Declaration, Muslim Brotherhood, Local Coordination Committees, Syrian Revolution General Commission, and various tribal and independent figures***



NATIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Formed Sep 2011, led by veteran opposition figure **Hussein Abdul Azim**. Consists of left-leaning, Kurdish and independent political groups largely based in Syria

Opposes any military intervention, calls for national dialogue rather than overthrowing Assad government



FREE SYRIAN ARMY (FSA)

Main armed opposition group in Syria, formed Aug 2011 by army defectors and led by former air force colonel **Riyad al-Asaad**. Numbers around 80,000 fighters

FSA working to resolve differences between rival local commanders and create joint command based in Syria



SYRIAN NATIONAL INITIATIVE

Group of influential and respected opposition figures in favour of creating new 50-seat body, with up to 15 seats allocated to Syrian National Council

*Plan proposed by **Riad Seif** – dissident and former member of Syrian parliament suggested by U.S. as head of new government in exile*