

Syria's key rebel groups



Supreme Military Command

Moderate group set up in Dec 2012 as successor to failed **Free Syrian Army**. Backed by West and Gulf Arab states but weakened by formation of **Islamic Front**

Led by defector general **Salim Idris**, but has limited control on ground

Syrian Revolutionaries Front

Alliance of largely non-ideological units formed in Dec 2013.

Backbone is **Syrian Martyrs Brigade** – once powerful group in Idlib province led by **Jamal Maarouf**

Believed to receive funding from Saudi Arabia. Helped launch growing campaign against ISIS hardliners

Fighters: **Over 7,000**

Mujahideen Army

Alliance of eight moderate Islamist groups set up in early Jan 2014 to challenge ISIS

Believed to have been formed by Gulf Arab backers

Fighters: **Around 5,000**

Islamic Front

Syria's largest rebel alliance, comprising six major Islamist groups, set up in Nov 2013

Welcomes foreign fighters, suggesting it is willing to co-operate with al-Qaeda affiliates

Fighters: **45,000-50,000**

Al-Nusra Front

Powerful jihadist group comprising both Syrians and foreigners.

Recognized by al-Qaeda leadership as its franchise in Syria

Seen as less heavy-handed than rival al-Qaeda affiliate, **ISIS**

Fighters: **7,000-8,000**

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



Jihadist group ISIS formed by breakaway elements of Nusra Front, who joined with al-Qaeda's Iraq branch in Mar 2013

Composed mainly of foreign fighters, ISIS is seen as most hardline of all Islamist forces in Syria and is fighting other rebels in four provinces

Fighters: **6,000-7,000**

