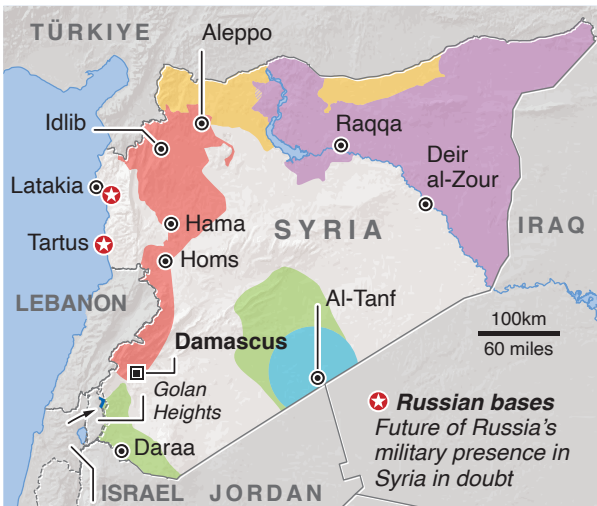


# Key Syrian rebel groups

Syrian rebels who have ousted **Bashar al-Assad** and seized the capital Damascus include fighters from different factions, while other groups also hold territory elsewhere in the country



**Ahmed al-Sharaa**  
HTS leader has now dropped nom de guerre  
**Abu Mohammed al-Golani** linked with jihadist past



**HAYAT TAHRIR AL-SHAM (HTS)**  
Main rebel group behind Assad's ousting, first emerged as **al-Qaeda** affiliate at start of Syria's 2011 uprising, but broke ranks with jihadist group in 2016. **Despite trying to shed extremist roots, U.S. and others still consider HTS a terrorist group for now**

**SYRIAN NATIONAL ARMY (SNA)**  
Umbrella alliance of Turkish-backed militias believed to have given tacit approval to HTS' recent offensive. **Türkiye sent troops into Syria from 2016 to push Kurdish militants and so-called Islamic State (IS) group away from border**

**SYRIAN DEMOCRATIC FORCES (SDF)** Alliance of Kurdish-led militias, backed by U.S. Formed to hold back advance of IS in Syria in 2014, it now controls some of country's biggest oil fields. **Türkiye regards SDF as terrorist group linked to Ankara's proscribed PKK Kurdish group**

**Al-Tanf deconfliction zone**  
55km area around U.S. military base in Al-Tanf

**Unidentified opposition groups**

**Israel Defence Forces (IDF)**  
Entered buffer zone in Golan Heights for "defensive purposes" on Dec 8

**Lost Syrian regime territory**