**Syrian National Council (Ankara) Aug 29 (Damascus Declaration connections) (Council includes people IN Syria) -**It was officially “formed” Oct. 2 but a core of the national council was announced in mid-September, followed by negotiations to include more political groups.

**Purpose:**

The organization’s vision is the "formation of a national body to represent the Syrian Revolution, embody its aspiration in toppling the regime, achieve democratic change, and build a modern civil state", according to a council document. It sees itself as a "political umbrella for the Syrian revolution in the international arenas" that aims to "deliver the message of the Syrian people in the field of international diplomacy.”

A spokesman for the group, French-based Syrian exile Basma Kadmani, said the council hopes to see the fall of the Assad government within six months and to form a transitional administration.

**Organization**:

Oct. 29 - The council hasn’t yet held its first meeting to elect a president, vice presidents and others. The founding board has not been announced. Consultancy and executive committees are yet to be formed. "Problems of organization, the sharing of responsibilities, decision-making mechanisms, a lack of responsiveness and lack of visibility have yet to be resolved. It must be pointed out that most of us have a background as activists, not as political leaders. I myself am an academic, not a politician. Furthermore, each tendency is trying to assert itself. The shortcomings in the way our work is organized are partly due also to the haste to respond to the demands for political and diplomatic contacts that have come from everywhere since the SNC's formation." - Burhan Ghalioun.

The SNC claims to have developed a highly sophisticated structure, including foreign relations, media, and finance bureaus, along with a 230-seat general assembly. The organization is capped by a 29-member executive committee with similar representational distributions. The SNC is to elect a president and have a 29-strong general secretariat representing seven of the country's opposition factions. It comprises 6 members of the Local Coordination Committees, 5 Muslim Brotherhood and tribal representatives, 4 from the so-called Damascus Declaration and 4 for a liberal grouping led by Ghalioun. The remaining members of the secretariat are five independents, four Kurds and a Christian. According to the website, a preparatory committee of fifteen members has been formed and intensive communication with various parties has taken place in order to reach a consensus satisfactory to the Syrians on the street (inside Syria).

**Foreign Policy Stance:**

Oct. 29 - “With regard to our overall policy line, we all agreed on a complete break with the regime, and are clearly demanding its departure. Another point of consensus is the SNC's openness to all Syrian tendencies and communities, without exception. Different viewpoints exist in particular on the issue of foreign military intervention and an air exclusion zone. For the present, the SNC's official and consensual line is to call for the protection of civilian populations in accordance with the principle of "responsibility to protect," calling first for civilian observers on the ground, as we have a proposed to the Arab League." –Burhan Ghalyson

The international community should "protect the civilians by all the legal means commensurate with the U.N. charter and international conventions", Hozan Ibrahim, spokesperson for the coordinating network Local Coordinating Committees (LCC) of Syria and member of the SNC, told IPS. The SNC's founding statement rejects foreign intervention, but its members are calling for "international protection for civilians," an ambiguous statement that leaves the door open for interpretation. Syrian National Council (SNC) which has put out founding [statements](http://syriarevolts.wordpress.com/2011/10/18/the-syrian-national-council-and-the-international-protection-of-civilians/http://syriarevolts.wordpress.com/2011/10/18/the-syrian-national-council-and-the-international-protection-of-civilians/) against NATO intervention, stating that they would only like international protection which would include international observers, humanitarian assistance and stronger sanctions.

The SNC membership is divided among three groups in respect to their positions on military intervention. One group is opposed to any form of military intervention and argues that protests and other forms of civil disobedience should remain the only means to topple the regime. A second group is for military intervention irrespective of who leads the effort with some preferring a NATO-led effort. A third group argues that military intervention should be considered as part of a broader strategy including a host of legal, economic, and humanitarian measures and that the military intervention should not be NATO-led but fashioned more along the lines of the international coalition recently established in Libya under Qatar's leadership.

ARAB LEAGUE:

Syrian National Council urged the pan-Arab bloc "to take a strong and effective position against the Syrian regime commensurate with the dangerous development of the situation in Syria." It wants the League to freeze Syria's membership, impose economic and diplomatic sanctions, and seek the referral of allegations of genocide and other human rights violations by the regime to the International Criminal Court (Nov. 8).

**Members of SNC:**

Members said it includes representatives from the Damascus Declaration grouping, a pro-democracy network based in the capital; the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic political party banned in the country; various Kurdish factions; and the grass-roots Local Coordination Committees, which have led protests across the country; as well as other independent and tribal figures. SNC claims representation from the seven major groups currently represented in the opposition – expat leaders, Islamists, intelligentsia, leftists, grassroots activists, and a variety of minority groups.

But, Haitham al-Maleh, an 80-year-old lawyer who was imprisoned for years for his political activism, accused the SNC of sidelining major figures and said the group never consulted him.

-Burhan Ghalyson - Chairman of the group and a Paris-based professor of political sociology at the Sorbonne, has been working to set up an advisory board of older opposition members. He was born in Homs, Syria but was exiled. He is in his 60s and he is a secular Sunni who has often appeared on foreign television channels during the uprising, he has managed to win a surprisingly large following inside Syria.

-Riad Seif, a veteran dissident currently in Syria who is a member of the new council. He also is an original signatory of the Damascus Declaration 2005.

-Razan Zeitouneh- a lawyer and young Syrian activist located in Syria. <http://goo.gl/GOked> Female and she runs a blog called the Syria Human Rights Information Link. Her husband was arrested and she is in her early 30s.

- Najib al-Ghadban - Member of the Syrian transitional council

- Muhammad Sarmini – Member of the SNC who is pro-No Fly Zone. Sarmini went further, adding: “imposing a no fly zone will have several benefits, in terms of blockading the regime and restricting its movements…It will provide a safe opportunity for more defections in several army branches, particularly as we have received information that many members want to defect but fear their positions would be bombarded by aircraft.”

- Imad al-Din Rashid, A member of the General Secretariat of the Syrian National Council, currently in Cairo

-Samir Nashar – SNC Executive Council member present in a media conference in Istanbul Dec. 14

**Street Credit:**

The SNC has since been recognized by the LCC but, *originally* the spokesman for LCC, Omar al-Idlibi said this formation hurts the cause on the ground because they are rushed and not done in a professional way. The activists on the ground say that coordination should be left to them. Their plan now, according to one opposition figure in Syria who requested anonymity, is to unite the committees on the ground. “As soon as we get that done we’ll elect a transitional council, but we don’t want it to happen outside the country,” the man said. “People outside don’t know what’s going on inside. We’re the ones with experience.” The SNC has tried to include the pivotal Local Coordinating Committees that have been directing much of the protest action on the ground, and has explicitly reserved 55 seats in its 230-member general assembly.

There are some protests in Homs where they hold posters with the “Syrian National Council” letterhead and the words printed in English “We want no fly zone” during protests in [Homs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLhe7JMcjb0&feature=player_embedded#!). But people inside Syria are divided on this and I have not seen any specific protests in which protesters are rallying for the Syrian National Council, but it is possible that some and possibly many Syrians support it.

**Relations with Other Countries (**Only Libya’s NTC has recognized them)

-**France**: French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday that France intends to establish relations with the SNC, while the European Union hailed its formation, calling it a "positive step". Oct. 10

The French regime have already declared their openness in recognizing the council and cancelled a meeting booked by the main internal opposition bloc (‘National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change’) for a press room belonging to the French foreign ministry. Alain Juppé himself chose to deliver an official French statement, in an event organized by the Syrian community in Paris and attended by leaders of the Syrian National Council, attesting to the level of support provided by the French regime (Oct).

‘Opposition are still divided and its structure remains unclear, but I do not rule out recognizing the Syrian National Council which is working on unifying opposition,' French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told the newspaper (Nov. 8).

-**US**: The Obama administration, which in Sept. called for Assad to “step aside,” is welcoming the formation of the opposition coalition whose professed aim is to oust Syria's government. Sept. 15 "The opposition must still improve its organizational and outreach efforts," said U.S. Ambassador to Syria Robert Ford. Ford said developing consensus around a specific political and economic plan would help persuade Sunni business elites and other Syrians still on the fence to defect from the regime. "There is a huge need for the council to explain what exactly they will bring to Syria," Ford said during an address this month to The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Oct. 28. On Oct. 13, four members of the SNC were hosted by the U.S. Institute of Peace to introduce the U.S. public to the council and answer questions about their structure, objectives, and representation. Najib Ghadbian, Dima Moussa, Murhaf Jouejati, and Ausama Monajed covered topics ranging from the representational structure of the council to the council's expectations from the international community.

-**Lebanon**: Future Movement MP Khaled Daher has called on the Lebanese government and Arab League to recognize the nascent Syrian National Council, and urged that Syria be suspended from top Arab body. Oct. 18

-**Syria:** Oct. 31 Assad dismissed the Syrian National Council, "I wouldn't waste my time talking about them," he said. "I don't know them. It's better to investigate whether they really represent Syrians." He insisted that anti-government demonstrators were being paid and were motivated by money

**Free Syrian Army Relations**

SNC members have assured the public that the Free Syrian Army, formally under the jurisdiction of the council, has limited its engagements to the protection of civilian demonstrators, by "defending a city until they secure certain passages for civilians to evacuate, then withdrawing.” However, clashes like the five-day standoff in the central town of Al-Rastan have raised the specter of militarization of the Syrian opposition, which some fear may lead to a Libya scenario in which the country descends into a violent, divisive civil war.

Even as SNC members claim that the "FSA activities have no connection to militarizing the uprising," U.S. Ambassador Robert Ford urged Syrian protestors to stick with nonviolent methods, warning of creating a situation similar to Iraq in 2004.

In a more recent article, according to officials in both the Syrian National Council and the Free Syrian Army, there are no formal communication channels yet between the two entities.

**National Coordination Committee (NCC)** apparently Damascus-based

**Organization**: The National Coordination Committee is an internal opposition bloc consisting of 13 left-leaning political parties and independent political activists including 3 Kurdish political parties and youth activists.

**Policy Issues:** NCC calls for dialogue conditional on the withdrawal of the military from the streets, the cessation of the regime attacks against protesters, and the release of all political prisoners. (Wheras, SNC is opposed to a dialogue with the Assad regime except one that would address the modalities of the devolution of power from the Assad regime.) The NCC is the only entity that still calls for a conditional dialogue with the regime. They argue that dialogue remains the least costly route to a political transition. All other components of the Syrian opposition including the SNC reject dialogue with the Assad regime arguing that any dialogue will be used by to divide the opposition and break down its resolve.

NCC prefers economic sanctions and other diplomatic measures in order to ratchet up pressure on the Syrian authorities. The Higher Council of the Syrian Revolution is mainly Islamist in its orientation. Its leading activists originally hail from Homs and its suburbs as well as Idlib.

Hussein Abdel Azim – Leader of NCC and also leader of National Democratic Grouping party

**Higher Council of the Syrian Revolution**

Smaller group like the LCC who has alos pledged support for SNC snf

**National Committee for Democratic Change**

Haytham Manna, a Paris-based dissident who heads the external branch of a smaller rival group called the National Committee for Democratic Change, objects to any possibility of military intervention.

It is based in Damascus, which comprises the nationalist, pan-Arab, and socialist parties and figures. According to Ghalioun, "They have distanced themselves from the SNC in order to protect themselves, and we are aware that these oppositionists inside the country cannot go as far as us. But there are regular contacts with members of the group, who privately support us, and seats have been reserved for them within the SNC."

**National Salvation Council (Istanbul) July 16, 2011** (Damascus Declaration connections)

**-**Formed by 350 Syrians in exile who decided upon electing 25 members from that group of 350 and 50 from inside Syria. The council is said to be modeled after Libya’s NTC. The 350 consisted of activists, including representatives from the Muslim Brotherhood and liberals, as well as tribal factions. Many who were present were Syrian exiles who had left the country years earlier. During the Istanbul meeting, the opposition groups appeared divided over whether to form a government-in-waiting or wait to see how the uprising unfolds.

http://www.smh.com.au/world/syrian-exiles-vote-for-transitional-government-20110718-1hllw.html#ixzz1XSDukS5M

<http://goo.gl/vewuL>

- This 75 member council will also work towards forming a national unity government that can guide Syria in a transitory period, should the regime fall. This transitory period will seek to administer a road-map that re-structures the Syrian state from a dictatorship, dismantling a police state, to a representative democracy. However, those present have refused the idea of forming a shadow government at this moment...."

- The council will choose an 11-member cabinet that could take over the running of Syria in the event of regime collapse. In the meantime, they hope to win diplomatic recognition. The meeting failed to achieve its stated goal of producing a unified strategy to oust the Assad regime, with long arguments between liberal, Islamist and Kurdish factions. http://goo.gl/D1Kav

-Haitham Al-Maleh (Haytham al-Malih) speaking and spearheaded the council. Leading human rights activist and former judge but was dismissed because of his outspoken-ness against the 1963 emergency law. He’s been arrested a ton of times for his human right activist work. He founded Human Rights Association in Syria 2001 and was president until 2006. He has been active in Amnesty International since 1989. He was arrested in 2009 after giving an interview on “Panorama” which is a political analysis show on Barada TV, London-based satellite channel associated with the Syrian opposition. He is also an original signer of the Damascus Declaration.

-Iyas al-Maleh, a Syrian exile council member said ''Our immediate aim is to organise ourselves so that we will be ready to take over on a temporary basis to avoid chaos.' “But everybody is not joining forces, just monitoring each conference. It’s still fragmented. Everyone thinks they can do it on their own. There’s a lot of ego, unfortunately.” Maleh said organisers had been in regular contact with demonstrators despite the difficulties caused by regime surveillance. Skype was mentioned as one of the ways. Iyas is the son of Haitham and visited his father in jail March 19 2010. Iyas works also with Damascus Declaration. http://goo.gl/ZFZyJ <http://goo.gl/Mx0yC> <http://www.smh.com.au/world/syrian-exiles-vote-for-transitional-government-20110718-1hllw.html#ixzz1XSFOJdnB>

- Haisami Maler – opposition activist present at the conference.

- Adib Chichakli, democracy activist from a political line, installed in Saudi Arabia. Present at the conference.

- Wael al-Hafez - one of the opposition figures present in Istanbul. “I’m for anything that will unify the Syrian people, help people and unite us in our fight against this repressive regime, illegitimate, which has usurped power and violated the rights of man” , he said to the hundreds of persons gathered in Turkey.

-The Kurds walked out of the session in Istanbul after some individuals insisted upon keeping the word “Arab” in the name “Syrian Republic.”

- Activists in Syria accused the Syrians abroad that they are wasting their time running and organization of meetings, rather than actual coordination, appear to opponents of President Assad in Syria, most of them secular, were uneasy about the role of Turkey and the Government of the Islamic, which hosts most of the meetings of the opposition on its territory. http://goo.gl/F1YK5

**National Council in Damascus (could be fake) Sept. 4**

Also, we have another "National Council" created in Damascus Sept. 4 but the names are not public due to security reasons. The purpose of the group is not really to unite but rather to reignite the revolution in Syria.http://www.worldbulletin.net/?aType=haber&ArticleID=78565

We don’t have much information on this group because the names are not being released, therefore it is possible that this group does not exist.

**National Council of Syria NCS (Istanbul) (Damascus Declaration connections)**

-Moulhem Droubi - A high-level member of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood; attended NCS conference in Istanbul. Also a member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Canada

-Sheikh Muteih al-Butain - A leader of the street protests in Deraa that helped ignite the uprising

-Khaled al-Haj Saleh - Former political prisoner and Scion of a leftist political family

-Hazem Nahar – member of Democratic National Grouping (which signed the Damascus declaration) Writer known for his blog posts and he also translates. He was imprisoned during the uprising and managed to leave Syria. http://goo.gl/3vU0C

-Abdulbaqi Yusuf - A leader of the Kurdish Union Party who attended the gathering in Istanbul and said, “The meeting was to discuss our position towards the Syrian regime. The meeting was also to form a national assembly—an interim Parliament for the immediate period after the regime change. Parties with unclear positions on the regime will not take part.” Yusuf dismissed claims that participating in the conference is dividing a Kurdish umbrella group of 11 parties. He also rejected the claim that Turkey has imposed its own agenda on the Syrian opposition. Other Kurds don't trust meetings such as the one held in Istanbul nor do some Kurds trust Turkey and their influence. <http://www.rudaw.net/english/news/syria/3941.html>

- Yaser Tabbara - A syrian dissident who was one of 50 present at the meetings held in Istanbul to establish the council. He said the goal of that national council (NCS) ""Our aim is to be the voice of the Syrian revolution and to help increase the pressure on the Assad regime," The Syrian opposition groups said their main target is to " destroy the current regime in Syria" and to create infrastructure that prevents any foreign military intervention and maintain the unity of Syria as a whole." They do not ask for foreign military intervention. He is also the Executive Director for the Syrian American Council (SAC) and the President of the Board at Project Mobilize (a US-Based group) <http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2011-08/23/c_131069628.htm>

- Osama Kadi - He is a Canadian and part of the SCC and Kadi was among those who went to Turkey in mid-August to help set up a transitional National Syrian Council. He said the council is intended to be the international arm of the political opposition in Syria, with the aim of helping set up a roadmap for activists within the country while communicating with the international community in ways activists in Syria can't.

-Obeida al-Nahhas - present at Istanbul conference

-Mahmud Osman- opposition member at Istanbul

**National Transition Council (Ankara) Aug 29 (Damascus Declaration connections) (Council includes people IN Syria)**

-94 members 42 from outside and the rest from inside Syria. The conference where people were appointed. Spokesman for LCC, Omar al-Idlibi said this formation hurts the cause on the ground because they are rushed and not done in a professional way. The activists on the ground say that coordination should be left to them. Their plan now, according to one opposition figure in Syria who requested anonymity, is to unite the committees on the ground. “As soon as we get that done we’ll elect a transitional council, but we don’t want it to happen outside the country,” the man said. “People outside don’t know what’s going on inside. We’re the ones with experience.”

-Burhan Ghalyson, Chairman of the group and a Paris-based professor of political sociology at the Sorbonne, has been working to set up an advisory board of older opposition members. He was born in Homs, Syria but was exiled. He is in his 60s and he is a secular Sunni who has often appeared on foreign television channels during the uprising, he has managed to win a surprisingly large following inside Syria.

The board, a group of 40 experienced opposition figures, would be available to advise the young activists in Syria, when and if they ask for it.

-Riad Seif, a veteran dissident currently in Syria who is a member of the new council. He also is an original signatory of the Damascus Declaration 2005.

-Razan Zeitouneh- a lawyer and young Syrian activist located in Syria. <http://goo.gl/GOked> Female and she runs a blog called the Syria Human Rights Information Link. Her husband was arrested and she is in her early 30s.

**Damascus Declaration For National Democratic Change**

The Muslim Brotherhood was an initial supporter of the Damascus Declaration and continues to communicate indirectly with some members of its’ earlier alliance, the Damascus Declaration. The 2 groups had a slight fizzure in June 2009 when the MB wrote a letter to the DD where they accused DD of violating the Damascus Declaration National Council's bylaws on electing members to the General Secretariat. The Muslim Brotherhood's protest stemmed from the external Damascus Declaration committees' failure to coordinate with the MB in setting up the external political structures meant to compliment the Damascus Declaration's internal structures. After this the a representative of the London-based Damascus Declaration committee, Anas al-Abdah -- who was also the leader of the Movement for Justice and Development, a self-professed moderate Islamic organization tried to reach out to the MB along with many others but the MB did not respond. MJD had many members who were formerly with the MB. MJD's organizational successes so far might best be explained as the by-products of its relationship with the USG. According to WikiLeaks, since 2005 between $6 million and $12 million in U.S. funds went to Syrian opposition groups. Much of this money went to the Movement For Justice and Development in Syria. The money apparently was funneled through the State Department’s Middle East Partnership Initiative.

Since 2008, expatriates have formed Damascus Declaration committees throughout Europe and the United States. Born not as a political party, but as an umbrella organization composed of many different groups, the Damascus Declaration has been handicapped by internal divisions among unlikely allies: the Kurds, the MB, liberals, national socialists, communists and others. <http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/10405>

Signatories to the Declaration include, Parties and Organizations: Democratic National Grouping in Syria, Kurdish Democratic Alliance in Syria, Committees for the Revival of Civil Society, Kurdish Democratic Front in Syria, Future Party (Shaykh Nawwaf al-Bashir) and it was supported by the Muslim Brotherhood. It was signed also by Riyad Sayf, Jawdat Sa'id, Dr Abd-al-Razzaq Id, Samir al-Nashar, Dr Fida Akram al-Hurani, Dr Adil Zakkar, Abd-al-Karim al-Dahhak, Haytham al-Malih, and Nayif Qaysiyah. <http://www.demdigest.net/damascusdeclaration.html>

**1. Damascus Declaration The National Council in Syria**

Dr. Fida al-Hawrani – Chairwoman of the National Council

Original signer of the Damascus Declaration

-Akram al-Bunni – Secretary of the National Council

-Abdulhamid Darwish – Vice-chairman of the National Council

-Abdulazia Alkhaier – Vice-chairman of the National Council

-Dr. Ahmad Touma – Secretary of the National Council

**Damascus Declaration The National Council Abroad**

Abdul Razaq Eid – Chairman of the National Council

-Saleem Mu’nim – Secretary of the National Council

-Ahmed Jitu – Deputy Chairman of the National Council

**2. Damascus Declaration Secretariat General in Syria**

Sameer Nashar – Head of Secretariat General

He was an original signatory of the Damascus Declaration

-Ali al-Abdallah – Member of Secretariat General Head Office

Ali al-Abdullah, a leading opposition figure only released from jail in May, had been seized in a morning raid a few hours before at his home in Qatana, south of Damascus. Ali al-Abdullah, 61, was jailed for 2½ years in 2007 for signing the Damascus Declaration, a previous attempt to call for democratic reform in Syria. **Mohammad al-Abdullah is a US-based dissident and Ali’s son.**  Mr Abdullah said he was skeptical of the ability of the new Istanbul council (National Salvation Council) to achieve a united front against Assad. ''This traditional opposition lacks a connection with the street,'' he said. ''The street protesters have organized themselves by themselves.''

http://www.smh.com.au/world/syrian-exiles-vote-for-transitional-government-20110718-1hllw.html#ixzz1XSF9sBuI

-Amin Obeidi – Member of Secretariat General Head Office

-Riad al-Turk – Member of Secretariat General Head Office

--Muwafaq Neirbia – Member of Secretariat General

--Yasser al-Eiti – Member of Secretariat General

--Walid al-Bunni – Member of Secretariat General

Did not take part in the meeting of 200 opposition leaders in Damascus on July 27 because he said the meeting would be exploited as a cover-up for the arrests. He said he was not invited to the meeting because he ‘vetoed’ some names.

--Jibr al-Shufi – Member of Secretariat General

---Nada al-Khash – Member of Secretariat General

---Ghassan Najar – Member of Secretariat General

---Suleiman Shummar – Member of Secretariat General

**Damascus Declaration Secretariat General Abroad**

Anas Al Abdah – Head of Secretariat General

He is the head in London, who was previously a member of the Movement for Justice and Development.

-Abdul Hamid Al-Attasi – Secretary of Secretariat General

-Kamaran Hajoo – Deputy Head Secretariat General

--Saeed Lahdu – Member of Secretariat General

--Dr. Kamaran H Abdu – Member of Secretariat General

---Sameer Aldukhail – Member of Secretariat General

---Mohamed Z Alkhatib – Member of Secretariat General

**Movement for Justice and Development** (see bullet under "Satellite Channels")

According to WikiLeaks, since 2005 between $6 million and $12 million in U.S. funds went to Syrian opposition groups. Much of this money went to the Movement For Justice and Development in Syria (MJD), an organization reportedly headed by former Muslim Brotherhood members. The money apparently was funneled through the State Department’s Middle East Partnership Initiative. http://goo.gl/WmOKY

**Syrian Observatory for Human Rights**

A London-based news source and activist group that claims to have a wide network of sources on the ground from which it gains its material. Rami Abdel Rahman leads the group and a network of 200 rights activists across Syria who report to him to allow news of the latest bloodshed in their country to reach the outside world. Rahman claims contacts are made through Skype, Gmail and by telephone on unregistered numbers.

- In terms of where the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights receives their financing, Rami Rahman states that they do not receive money from anyone and insists that its own members fund the Observatory and thier Arabic- website. Rahman says he doesn't trust the international community and that it is up to the Syrian people to do it for themselves. However, since this is a group run out of London it is very possible and likely that additional funding is received from groups such as the Syrian American Council which is a group based in Illinois that encourages donations from its members who also pay membership fees. Members include prominent Syrian opposition leaders such as Louay Safi who served on Islamic Society of North America (ISNA has been accused of being an arm of Muslim Brotherhood, and was investigated by USG for alleged financial support of terrorism). Safi has been present at numerous conferences and is associated with the "National Council of Syria."

SAC members also attend conferences abroad to establish Syrian councils such as the NCS council in Istanbul held Aug 21-23. SAC is a grassroots organization open to Syrians and Americans of Syrian origin. Supports the creation of the Syrian National Council. They have nine chapters located in Arizona, Chicago, D.C./Maryland/Virginia, Detroit, Flint, Florida, Houston, Los Angeles, and Sacramento. The SAC has many partner organizations including: Syria First Coalition, Syria Emergency Task Force, Project Mobilize, ISNA, Coalition for Free Syria, CAIR Chicago, Arab American Action Network, and the Syrian American Society.

**Syrian Revolution General Commission**

The website was registered and formed out of Belvue, Washington state and is an umbrella group for 120 other local committees representing 70 percent of the coordinating committees which include the Local Coordinating Committee (another source mentioned by news outlets). The Syrian Revolution General Commission supports and highly encourages support for the Syrian opposition from abroad, however it advised against forming any representative body/council to represent the revolution. In terms of the Syrian Revolution General Commission since their group website was created in Washington it is likely that it may also receive support from SAC and SAC's supporting organizations.

**Armed Groups**

It is also important to note that none of the opposition groups within or outside of Syria call for violent demonstrations. The only organizations that publicly state that they are armed groups is the Free Officers Movement which consists of the Free Officers of Syria and the Free Syrian Army which are groups of defected Syrian army officers and soldiers who are stationed in Antakya, Turkey. It is the Free Officers Movement which calls themselves the protectors of the peaceful protesters.

The Revolutionary Council of the Syrian Coordination Committees is also armed and one of their leaders, Mohammed Rahhal, told Sharq al-Awsat, "We made the decision to arm the revolution, which will turn violent very soon, because what we are being subjected to today is a global conspiracy that can only be faced by an armed uprising." With regard to the sources of weapons, he told Asharq Al Awsat: "The Arab countries, which are supposed to help and support us, are cowards, and they refuse to act. Therefore, we will follow the Afghan example; when the Afghans were asked: Where will you get the weapons? They answered: As long as the United States is here, there will be weapons." http://www.imra.org.il/story.php3?id=53563

**Muslim Brotherhood Syria - MB Influences**

February 2011, following the dramatic events in Tunisia and Egypt, the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood re-launched their media campaign against the Syrian regime. They called on it to stop its suppression against the Syrian people and strongly criticized the poverty, hunger, and unemployment prevailing in Syria.

April 29, A declaration sent to Reuters by the MB stated, "Do not let the regime besiege your compatriots. Chant with one voice for freedom and dignity. Do not allow the tyrant to enslave you. God is great." This was the first call to support the protesters in the streets. http://goo.gl/a11kI

There have been reports of the MB smuggling weapons in through Turkey and even fighting against Syrian forces in Jisr al-Shougr, but these reports are very haphazard and not verified. And Shaqfa denied such reports in a phone interview July 7 http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=279126

Facebook Page: http://www.facebook.com/pages/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B3%D9%88%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A7/156199404405941

Official Website: <http://www.ikhwansyria.com/ar/default.aspx?xyz=U6Qq7k%2bcOd87MDI46m9rUxJEpMO%2bi1s7rSuySlZi%2bl3dKqN1HPx0dNL0i7QTi9sKjNL88ODtDPPr4y2bc%2fI9OwDoWAkugc1WvCuYZSEyzgMtAvoMblCTzau6ibpomL9EHi27h4b0Iao%3d>

-Moulhem Droubi is a high-level member of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood; attended NCS conference in Istanbul. He is also a member of the Muslim Brotherhood in Canada

-Zuhair Salim is a spokesman for Syria's Brotherhood based in London and stated, "We have a desire to coordinate the position of the opposition," said Zuhair Salim." "We are supporters, and not creators. The voice of the street is a spokesperson for itself." This reflects a cautious position calibrated to avoid claiming leadership of a protest movement that Assad's government has characterized as run by armed, extremist Islamist groups. Salim said May 16 that the MB wasn't taking a stronger line, and will not call people onto the streets. Salim has become increasingly vocal since the Brotherhood in late April backed the protest movement, appearing on Arabic-language television programs to support what the group has called a "peaceful, popular intifada," or resistance.

Salim said the group is in touch with religious leaders, mosque imams, and their students in and outside Syria. The plan for now is, we say we are in cohesion with the protesters, and that means we will monitor the movement of the Syrian street," Mr. Salim said. "We're not in a position to approach them with something that they can't take on, and yet we can't abandon them so they feel they're on their own." http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703509104576327212414590134.html

Salim said the group has engaged in talks with a group of activists—minus a handful of figures who the Brotherhood had broke alliances with in the past— who have tried, but failed, for two months to form a broad enough coalition to represent Syria's opposition abroad (May 17 2011). http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703509104576327212414590134.html#printMode

\*\*As you can see in the past the MB did not call for individuals to take to the street to protest. However April 29 the MB issued a statement saying that the people need to take to the street. http://www.jihadwatch.org/2011/04/syria-muslim-brotherhood-behind-new-day-of-rage.html

-Ali Sadreddine Bayanouni/Ali Sadr al-Din al-Bayanuni علي صدر الدين البيانوني - Former head of MB Syria. Born in 1938 in Aleppo and brought up in a religious family, where his father and grandfather were both well known Muslim scholars. He joined the Muslim Brotherhood while in secondary school, in 1954, and went on to receive training as a lawyer. After spending time in prison, he emerged to become the deputy leader of the Brotherhood in 1977. He left Syria two years later and eventually settled in Jordan, where he remained for twenty years. He arrived in Britain as a political refugee in 2000, after the Jordanian authorities requested he leave the country. He lives as a political refugee in London.

In a 2005 interview Bayanouni said his role in Syria is "I lead the political and media activities. More broadly I attend to any other pressing matter relating to the Syrian MB." Full text of the 2005 interview here, http://www.jamestown.org/programs/gta/single/?tx\_ttnews[tt\_news]=551&tx\_ttnews[backPid]=180&no\_cache=1

-Muhammad Riad al-Shaqfa - Suceeded Byanouni as the leader/Secretary General in the summer of 2010. Muhammad Riyad al-Shaqfa was born in Hama, 1944, to a father who served as the leader of the local clerics’ association. He joined the Muslim Brotherhood in 1961. He studied in Damascus University in the 1960s and graduated in 1968 with a B.A. in civil engineering. In 1978 he became member of the Muslim Brotherhood local leadership in Hama, and its chairman one year later. In 1983 he became member of the Syrian movement’s leadership. He apparently has a military background. Since the early 1980s (probably following the Hama events) Al-Shaqfa resided in Iraq. In 2003, he survived an assassination attempt in Baghdad with only light injuries. He has been living in Yemen since 2008. He said that, although he lived in Yemen, he was constantly in touch with the Muslim Brotherhood through the internet.6 In the past year, he expressed his willingness to turn the Syrian movement into a political party, similarly to Muslim Brotherhood movements in other countries. http://goo.gl/UxHcd It is said that he was part of the MB armed wing in Syria. http://www.nidaasyria.org/ar/text/news/2391

Shafka has gathered a group of younger Turkey-based activists that are now trying to help activists inside Syria to coordinate, people close to the party said. According to Sooryoon.net Al-Shaqfa and one of his deputies belonged to the organization's military arm. <http://goo.gl/P3kDx> http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703509104576327212414590134.html

April 1, Shaqfa held a press conference in Istanbul which was broadcast live on Al Jazeera where he critisized Assad for being oppressive. Al-Shaqfa concluded by denying Bashar’s claims that foreign elements were pushing the Syrian people to a revolution, accused the president of being an obstacle to reforms, and announced that an intifada was expected to take place in Syria on April 1 (the day of the press conference). http://goo.gl/UxHcd

The Brotherhood continues to communicate, indirectly, with members of its earlier alliance, the Damascus Declaration, including veteran dissident Michel Kilo, who met with Assad advisor, Bouthaina Shaaban in early May.

The Shura Council of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria met in Istanbul Aug 2 2010 to elect Riyadh Al-Shaqfa as the organization's general guide, and Sheikh Hatem Al-Tabsha as council chairman. <http://goo.gl/P3kDx> Jan 20 2011 Shaqfa said the MB will not seek power in Syria. http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?id=27887

-Sheikh Hatem Al-Tabsha was elected as council chairman in a meeting in Istanbul Aug 2 2010. <http://goo.gl/P3kDx> It has been stated that Al-Tabsha used to be part of the armed Muslim Brotherhood wing in Syria. http://www.nidaasyria.org/ar/text/news/2391

-Sheikh Yousuf Al-Qaradhawi is one of the most prominent Sunni clerics who is associated with MB. He signed a Fatwa Aug. 23 http://www.memri.org/report/en/0/0/0/0/0/0/5589.htm#\_edn1 with the religious scholars of Kuwait, the head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, and Dr. Shafi Al-Ajami (secretary of the Association of Shari'a Scholars in the Gulf). The fatwa forbids assisting this regime, calls on the Syrian ambassadors to resign, and exhorts the Arab and Islamic countries to assist the Syrian people. The press conference where the fatwa was read was organized The Gulf Association for Solidarity with the Syrian People. http://atlasshrugs2000.typepad.com/atlas\_shrugs/2011/08/muslim-brotherhood-goes-after-syria-fatwa-in-the-gulf-signed-by-yousuf-al-qaradhawi.html

Al-Qaradawi was a follower of Hasan al-Banna during his youth and a longtime member of the Muslim Brotherhood. He has twice turned down offers to be its leader. In an interview on the Dream channel, al-Qaradawi states the following about his relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood (MB): “ I joined the Muslim Brotherhood Group and worked with Imam al-Banna. I was influenced by al-Banna’s moderate thoughts and principles ...(Later) MB asked me to be a chairman, but I preferred to be a spiritual guide for the entire nation... MB consider me their Mufti, but I don’t have a relation with the organization, because being an MB chairman is something difficult requiring a highly sophisticated wisdom, and I prefer to be devoted to the entire nation, and I feel comfortable with this decision. I like MB and consider them the nearest group to be righteous." http://www.ikhwanweb.com/article.php?id=3537 He's not specifically tied with the Syrian MB, but he was involved with negotiations between the Syrian regime and the MB in the past. He also spoke for Syrian liberty and against the Syrian regime during his sermon in Doha March 26. http://goo.gl/JF6LF

Sheikh Al-Qaradawi he was born in a small village in the Nile Delta in 1926. He studied Islamic theology at the Al-Azhar university in Cairo, from where he graduated in 1953. Twenty years later he was awarded a PhD for his thesis on how Zakat (Islamic alms) can contribute to solving social problems. He has written extensively on Islam and is regarded as a respected scholar. His website describes him as the most prominent voice of moderation in Islam (wasatiyya), building bridges between traditionalists and modernisers. It is his involvement with the outlawed Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood that has landed him in trouble. The group, founded in the 1920s, is one of the largest and most influential Islamist organisations in the region. It has a history of violence, but now says it is committed to peaceful means to create an Islamic state. Sheikh Al-Qaradawi has been jailed several times in Egypt. But he has lived and worked in the Gulf State Qatar since 1963 where he now heads an Islamic research centre. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\_news/3874893.stm

Al-Qaradawi enjoys considerable influence among Sunni Muslims worldwide, including Hamas. It may be assumed that Al-Qaradawi also has influence among the Sunni Muslim population in Syria. Al-Qaradawi was joined by Jordan’s Muslim Brotherhood, which called on the Syrian regime to promote democracy and national reconciliation, and abolish the emergency laws (Jordanian Muslim Brotherhood website, April 4). http://goo.gl/UxHcd

Al-Qaradawi expressed support for a revolution in Syria during his March 25 Friday sermon. The following is a summary of the sermon, as broadcast on Al-Jazeera Live (March 25, 2011) and on CNN Arabic (April 1): He said Syria was deserving of the 'revolution train' and condemned the Syrian security forces for ignoring the sanctity of the mosques and having murdered the demonstrators at the Al-Omari mosque in Daraa. He further added that the fact of their murder shows that the Syrian revolution has already been won. Al-Qaradawi criticized the Syrian constitution and argued that “the story of the Baath [party] ended with Saddam Hussein. The age of totalitarian party has come to an end. He called on the Syrian regime to change, and said that “those who do not change will be trampled.”

**Hamas**

Hamas is in a bit of a tough position because they do receive guidance from Al-Qaradawi but Qaradawi calls for the revolution to take Syria and for protesters to call for their rights. Sheikh Al-Qaradawi is a primary religious authority for Hamas and its supporters, and the Muslim Brotherhood—persecuted and suppressed by the Syrian regime—is Hamas’ mother movement. Furthermore, thinking ahead Hamas needs to take into account that complete identification with the Assad regime may compromise it if and when it is toppled.

A statement was released by the Hamas leadership in Damascus (Palestine-info, April 2). In the press release, Hamas stresses its support of “both the Syrian leadership and the Syrian people” as they have supported it and the Palestinian people “and their legitimate rights”. The announcement states that the events in Syria are that country’s own internal affair, and that Hamas hopes that “the current events in Syria end in a way that will fulfill the aspirations and desires of the Syrian people while maintaining Syria’s stability”. In the announcement, Hamas avoided taking a definite, firm stand for the Syrian regime, expressing implicit support both for the regime and, implicitly, for the anti-regime demonstrators. http://goo.gl/UxHcd

**Logistics**

**Satellite Phones**

* Several say they relied on Syrian businessmen — abroad or in Syria — to finance one of their most impressive feats. After witnessing the Egyptian government’s success in shutting down the Internet and mobile phone networks in January, they made a concerted attempt to circumvent a similar move by delivering satellite phones and modems across Syria. Ammar Abdulhamid, an activist in Maryland, estimated that they delivered 100 satellite phones, along with hundreds of cameras and laptops. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/24/world/middleeast/24beirut.html?pagewanted=all>
* In the movement’s infancy, expatriate Syrians who operated Web sites, smuggled in donated satellite phones and computers, and provided leadership on how democracy evolves helped to create crucial momentum. But their role is fading as Syria’s internal opposition movement struggles toward political maturity and its leadership begins to coalesce, some of these overseas activists say. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/28/world/middleeast/28syria.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all>
* This is a translated memorandum from the General Head of the National Security Office.  It was issued May 22.  “Internet is to be completely disconnected in Daraa, Homs and the eastern provinces starting on Wednesday at 14:00.  Upload packet size to be reduced in all other areas.  Issuing an announcement, via Ministry of Information through local media, informing all citizens, that owners of unregistered satellite phones are obliged to submit them to the General.  Establishment of Telecommunications or any of its branches in Syria, within 10 days of the date of the announcement, because such phones are considered means of dealing with foreign parties that intend to damage the national security, and any phone to be found after the stated period means that the owner is an agent of a foreign enemy.”  <http://justjournalism.com/opeds-features/leaked-syrian-document-shows-how-assad-banned-internet-access-and-satellite-phones/>
* Thuraya satellite phone network used by pro-democracy activists to circumvent the secret police. Thuraya is owned by the UAE. <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/apr/26/world/la-fg-syria-neighbors-20110427/2>
* Mahmoud Issa is an opposition figure tried by a military court for owning a satellite phone and high-tech computer. Issa was arrested on April 19 after giving an interview to the pan-Arab television channel Al-Jazeera on the situation in Syria. A key figure of Syria's opposition movement, Issa was jailed in 1992 for eight years for belonging to the banned communist party and again in 2006 for three years. In March 2007 he was charged along with prominent dissident leader Michel Kilo for spreading false information and sowing discord, after they signed a petition calling on Syria to recognise the independence of Lebanon. http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArchiveDetails.aspx?ID=264622#ixzz1XBp2OHZ9

**Satellite Channels**

* The London-based satellite channel, Barada TV, began broadcasting in April 2009 but has ramped up operations to cover the mass protests in Syria as part of a long-standing campaign to overthrow Assad.Barada TV is closely affiliated with the Movement for Justice and Development, a London-based network of Syrian exiles. Classified U.S. diplomatic cables show that the State Department has funneled as much as $6 million to the group since 2006 to operate the satellite channel and finance other activities inside Syria.  The U.S. money for Syrian opposition figures began flowing under President George W. Bush after he effectively froze political ties with Damascus in 2005. The financial backing has continued under President Obama, even as his administration sought to rebuild relations with Assad. In January, the White House posted an ambassador to Damascus for the first time in six years. It is unclear whether the State Department is still funding Syrian opposition groups, but the cables indicate money was set aside at least through September 2010. While some of that money has also supported programs and dissidents inside Syria, The Washington Post is withholding certain names and program details at the request of the State Department, which said disclosure could endanger the recipients’ personal safety. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-secretly-backed-syrian-opposition-groups-cables-released-by-wikileaks-show/2011/04/14/AF1p9hwD_story.html>
* This is the wikileak document <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/special/world/wikileaks-syria/cable1.html>

Internet Access

* According to LCC Syria the internet and landlines are now back in Homs as of Sept. 7. <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=280500391977104&set=a.221856221174855.74557.217848338242310&type=1&theater>