

Determination of Different Aspects of Syrian Conflict

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ABSTRACT

Myriads of protestors in different cities of Syria have been protesting against Assad's government since January 2011. The main protestor groups are Ikhvan al-Muslimeen, Kurd parties, National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change, and Free Syrian Army. I.R. Iran has repeatedly announced that it supports any kind of reformation in favor of Syrian people and objects any interference of the USA and its followers in domestic affairs of Syria. Moreover, Russia has at various times used its UN Security council position to block resolutions that would harm the Syrian government (often in concert with China). However, the US, Turkey, Al-Qaeda, and League of Arab states are among supporters of opponents. After analyzing different aspects of Syria's chaos, it was concluded that consistency in Syria will be achieved through local collaborations, politic solutions, reformations, national conversations, and totally, peaceful solution for the crisis which is in favor of both people and government.

KEYWORDS: Syria conflict, international positions, Houla massacre, Islamic awareness.

1- INTRODUCTION

Myriads of protestors in different cities of Syria such as Damascus, Hama, Jableh, Latakia, Daraa, and Homs [4], have been protesting against Assad's government since January 2011, especially on Fridays bearing such names as Esteem Friday, Resistance Friday, Martyrs Friday and etc. The protestors firmly asked Assad to leave authority. The main protestor groups are Ikhvan al-Muslimeen, Kurd parties, National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change, and Free Syrian Army. The deported leader of Ikhvan al-Muslimeen, Muhammad Riyadh Shafigheh states that the group is seeking for peaceful and democratic transformation. One of the prominent members of National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change, Hassan Abdul-Aziz denies foreign interference and considers it as perilous as domestic despotism; he rejects both. Free Syrian Army is a group of detached soldiers from Assad's army. Governed by Colonel Riad Al-Assad, the group was formed by a number of fugitive soldiers in August 2011 aiming at support civilians against Syrian army [1].

Syrian National Council commenced their activities since the second half of 2011 in Turkey. The chairman for the council, Burhan Ghalioun says that the council unites opposition forces. Syrian National Council is a union of seven opponents of Syrian government attempting to present a substitution for Assad's government. The council is comprised of Damascus Declaration, Ikhvan al-Muslimeen, local coordination committees, General Commission of the Syrian Revolution, and Kurd parties.

In November 2012, the council agreed to unify with several other opposition groups to form the Syrian National Coalition. The SNC has 22 out of 60 seats of the Syrian National Coalition [5].

Friends of Syria group are a group of countries and international entities striving to find a solution for Syria crisis out of UN Security Council after China and Russia vetoed the resolution related to Syria.

2- POSITIONS AND REACTIONS

2-1- I.R. Iran

I.R. Iran has repeatedly announced that it supports any kind of reformation in favor of Syrian people and objects any interference of the USA and its followers in domestic affairs of Syria. Iranian Supreme Leader Hazrat Ayatollah Seyed-Ali Khamenei stated that the USA tries to cause problems in Syria. Syrian story is totally different from what happened in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, and Libya where the movement was formulated against the USA and against Zionism; but, in Syria, the USA is causing the problem and Zionists are following the USA. We shouldn't make a mistake. We should be aware of the criterion. The authentic and public movement is against the USA and Zionism. Slogans in favor of the USA and Zionism are big and devastating decisions; we will preserve and follow this logic, this statement, and this enlightenment [1].

2-2- Turkey

Turkey's prime minister, Erdogan threatened that Ankara will perform an action if Syria neglects cease-fire. Supporting opponents of Assad, Turkey requested a "humanistic corridor" in Syria which is impossible without military interference [1].

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2-3- Al-Qaeda

Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, supported opponents of Assad in Syria. In a video message, he told the opponents not to rely on Arab and western countries. He, also, described Syria government as a "cancerous regime" [1].

2-4- League of Arab states

In November 12 2012, the league announced that Syrian body is not allowed to take part in meetings of the league as long as Syria avoids performing Arabs' plan to cease suppression of opponents. In March 30 2012, League of Arab states requested resignation of Assad [1].

2-5- Russia

Russia has at various times used its UN Security council position to block resolutions that would harm the Syrian government (often in concert with China), including blocking the first and second drafts of a Franco-British sponsored attempt to condemn the use of force by the Syrian government. A council diplomat said, in the case of the first, that Russia objected to "the publication of the report as an official Security Council document", but another council diplomat stated that "It's obviously an attempt to protect (Syrian President) Bashar al-Assad". The vetoed report in March had apparently contained material incriminating both the leadership of Iran and Syria in matters related to the transmission of arms to militant groups. In the case of the first and second drafts of the resolution sponsored by France, the UK, Germany, the US and Portugal and to condemn the Syrian government because it feared they could lead to an interpretation by Western countries that could allow for interference in Syrian affairs. An interview in the government run-media outlet Voice of Russia stated that "What arouses concern is that in this resolution of Britain and France declares illegitimacy of the regime of Bashar Assad. That means that the approval of the resolution will make it possible for others countries to doubt the legitimacy of the regime on the base of this document." [3]

In response, the following Friday, diaspora Syrians in Lebanon rallied in front of the Russian and Chinese embassies in Lebanon to "express their gratitude for Russia and China's support Damascus and [to reject] the conspiracies sought against Syria", while, on the same Friday, protestors in Syria itself burned Russian flags and carried signs with anti-Russian slogans to show their anger at Russia's position, which they perceived as helping Assad [3].

3- HOULA MASSACRE

The Houla massacre was an attack that occurred on May 25, 2012, in the midst of the Syrian civil war, in two opposition-controlled villages in the Houla Region of Syria, a cluster of villages north of Homs. According to the United Nations, 108 people were killed, including 34 women and 49 children. In August 2012 UN investigators released a report which stated that it was likely that Syrian troops and Shabiha militia were responsible for the massacre. However, the Syrian government alleged that Al-Qaeda terrorist groups were responsible for the killings, and that Houla residents were warned not to speak publicly by opposition forces. This claim is contradicted by the U.N. Human Rights Council's report published in August 2012. Syria's president, Assad rejected any governmental forces' role in Houla massacre and considered it as a "detestable felony" which cannot be committed by "any animal". He, also, mentioned that accusing Syria government of the massacre is absolutely groundless [2].

4- ISLAMIC AWARENESS AND SYRIA OBJECTIONS

It is noteworthy that Syria's story, as the Supreme Leader of Iran Hazrat Ayatollah Seyed-Ali Khamenei stated, is totally different with other recent movement in Arab countries. He stated that America's and Zionism's hands are evident in Syria's events. This statement is totally true as some American authorities have repeatedly supported opponents of Syria government.

Furthermore, there is evidence showing the role of Saudi Arabia and Qatar in Syria chaos so that their embassies in Damascus have been suspended. Moreover, security authorities of Syria have reported that the March 14 group of Lebanon (related to Sa'ad Hariri) supports the chaos [1].

Syria's story differs from other recent movement in Arab countries in the following principles:

- (a) Syria is the most serious enemy of Israel among Arab nations;
- (b) Syria has very good relationships with Iran and Hezbollah of Lebanon;
- (c) Syria is hosting Palestinian resisting groups;
- (d) President of Syria is not devotee of America and the West and has always followed anti-US policies;
- (e) Unlike Hosni Mubarak, Ben Ali, Ali Abdullah Salih, Al Khalifa, and their families, Assad and his family are popular, beloved and respected. That's why, Syrians have repeatedly supported their president in several demonstrations by millions of Syrians.

It should be noted that opponents are not vastly favored by public because of the following facts:

- i. Objections are usually performed in border cities while big cities, especially Aleppo and Damascus, are in peace;
- ii. In general, Christians (comprising 13% of Syria's population) and Sunnite seculars are not interested in joining opposition groups;
- iii. There is a collaboration between Syrian army, security forces, and politicians resulting in higher domestic power and authority of Assad;
- iv. Majority of Sunnites are worried about fundamental revolutions;
- v. Anti-Zionism policies of Assad are vastly favored by Syrians.

5- CONCLUSION

The most important aspect of the crisis in Syria is related to foreign interferences; in other words, the main reason of continuing crisis in Syria is the competition of two groups in the Middle East, i.e. "resistance" and "Arab conservatives" [1]. It should be noted that Syria has passed the main storm of the crisis. Therefore, two local and international factors are prior to domestic factor. As a result, consistency in Syria will be achieved through local collaborations, politic solutions, reformations, national conversations, and totally, peaceful solution for the crisis which is in favor of both people and government.

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