



Syria Update

(U) This infographic offers an overview of recent events in Syria. Syrian rebels, supported by Turkey and linked to jihadist Sunni Islam, have taken control of the capital city, Damascus. This marks the end of President Bashar al-Assad's 13-year rule and the six-decade-long autocratic regime of his family. The fall of Assad's government has significant implications for the region, reducing Iran's influence and potentially jeopardizing Russia's access to its naval base in the Mediterranean.



Former President
Bashar al-Assad

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has fled to Moscow, securing asylum from his steadfast ally, Russia. This decisive move follows a bold rebel advance that has taken control of Damascus and brought an end to his family's 50-year reign. The collapse of Assad's regime has ignited powerful celebrations throughout the streets of Damascus, where thousands of Syrians proudly wave the revolutionary flag and celebrate with gunfire, marking a significant turning point in the nation's history.



Abu Mohammed al-Golani

Abu Mohammed al-Golani, leader of the rebel faction, is a crucial figure for the country's future, calling for a transition to a new government. The rebels are ready to tackle the major challenge of rebuilding after nearly 14 years of civil war.



Several Middle Eastern countries have issued strong statements on the situation in Syria. Jordan's King Abdullah II expressed unwavering support for the Syrian people, calling for conflict avoidance and regional security. Qatar and Egypt demand a peaceful resolution and unity in Syria, referencing UN Security Council Resolution 2254. Saudi Arabia is actively engaging with key stakeholders, including Turkey, while Iraq emphasizes the need for non-interference in Syria's internal affairs.

US President Joe Biden has cautioned the Islamic State group against attempting to exploit any power vacuum resulting from the ongoing transition in Syria. According to CENTCOM, the US conducted over 75 airstrikes on Sunday aimed at eliminating ISIS camps in central Syria.

The Kremlin claims to be "maintaining ties" with the Syrian opposition and asserts that it has guarantees for the security of its military bases in the region. However, the situation is more complex than it appears. Currently, around 7,500 Russian military personnel are stationed in Syria, with the majority located at important Russian military facilities in Tartus and Latakia.

The fall of Assad's regime also marks a significant blow to Russia and Iran, which had intervened in the war to support him. The rebels' victory is seen as a major turning point for the Middle East, with potentially far-reaching consequences for the region and beyond. The situation in Syria remains fluid and uncertain, with many questions about the country's future still unanswered.

Source: [Syrian rebels topple Assad who flees to Russia in Mideast shakeup](#) (Reuters); [BBC Syrian Live Update](#) (BBC); [Syria latest: Syrians celebrate Bashar Assad's fall as his whereabouts remain unknown](#) (AP News)