



1.2.6. Other relevant armed actors

Saraya Ansar Al-Sunnah, a group that emerged in spring 2025 and has operated across northern Syria (Idlib, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Latakia and Tartous) and Rural Damascus,^{[243](#)} has been assessed by the UN to be a front group for ISIL. It consisted of between 5 and 12 decentralised cells as of late 2025. Within its ranks were ISIL members, former fighters of Hurras Al-Din (see further below in this subsection), and other militant factions. The group's operational focus lies on targeting minority groups.^{[244](#)} It claimed major deadly bombing targeting the Mar Elias Church in Damascus (June 2025)^{[245](#)} and the Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib Mosque in Homs city (December 2025)^{[246](#)} and carried out two assassination attempts against interim president Al-Sharaa (in Aleppo and Dar'a) at unspecified points in time in 2025.^{[247](#)}

Although the al-Qaeda loyalist group Hurras Al-Din formally announced its dissolution in January 2025,^{[248](#)} it was assessed as of late 2025 that the group continued to exist as al-Qaeda's Syrian affiliate. It was estimated to have up to 1 000 fighters and to maintain links with the al-Qaeda leadership and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).^{[249](#)} Moreover, there were an estimated 5 000 foreign fighters under arms in Syria, including Uzbek militants^{[250](#)} and around 4 000 Uyghur fighters.^{[251](#)} Most notably, the country's northwest saw a presence of Uzbek fighters, of the Uyghur-dominated^{[252](#)} Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), and Firqat Al-Ghuraba,^{[253](#)} a French-speaking jihadist group consisting of around 50 combatants. Both Firqat Al-Ghuraba^{[254](#)} and Uzbek fighters were involved in clashes with government forces in Idlib during the reference period.^{[255](#)} Meanwhile, Uyghur fighters were reported to have contributed to the former opposition's offensive that toppled the Assad regime.^{[256](#)}

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