

**THE REACTION OF THE SYRIAN REGIME AND THE SYRIAN
OPPOSITION TO THE FAILED COUP IN TURKEY**

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The Syrian opposition and the Syrian regime's reaction to the failed coup in Turkey

An Overview of the History of Turkish –Syrian Relations

Turkey-Syria relations went through different stages, such as alternating periods of incompatibility and convergence between the two sides. After the independence of French-occupied Syria the relations were dominated by a strong tension between the two sides. The nature of the long border between the two sides is known. This necessitates a cooperation between the two countries regarding the mutual border. Syria has been a haven for Kurdish rebels who fought against the Turkish state and hosted the PKK leader (Ocalan). Syrian government refused to hand over Öcalan and eventually in 1998 upon Turkish threat of invasion, Syria's only option was delivering Öcalan to Turkey.

However, these relations significantly changed with the advent of the Justice and Development Party in Turkey, and former Turkish president Ahmet Sezer's visit to Syria.

The breakthrough in relations between the two countries brought about a friendship and cooperation in all including economic, cultural and political arenas. Entry visas were abolished between the two countries and a free trade zone was established in order to facilitate trade between the two sides.

However, the brutal repression of its people by the Syrian regime and her persistent repressive politics, following the Syrian revolution, has created a new tension between the Turkish government and the Syrian regime.

The wrath of the Syrian regime and its collaborators increased as Turkey followed an open-door policy towards refugees from Syria who fled oppression in Syria. Turkey has become a safe haven for every Syrian who fled the brutal massacre in Syria. After this stage Turkey was the first official enemy of the Syrian regime.

First: Response of the Syrian Regime and their Collaborators towards the failed coup in Turkey

The Response of the Syrian Regime in the Media on the Night of the Failed Coup

On the night of the failed coup the Syrian regime released breaking news titles such as “Cruel Erdoğan rule overthrown”, “The Army restores democracy to Turkey and overthrows the dictator”, “Erdoğan government falls”, “Erdoğan runs off to Germany and seeks asylum”, “Turkey saved from dictator” which confirmed their joy over the extraordinary military coup. The celebrations went on with the arrival of warmongering commentators creating a festive atmosphere. The spokesperson of the Syrian regime interpreted the coup as the victory of Allah and a benevolent divine gift and help on the side of cruel Basher Assad againsts tyrant Erdoğan. In their own words every tyrant against their hero ruler Assad would fall. The media

in support of the regime cancelled all their programs on that night and aired live programs that featured warmongers who supported the coup and condemned the government.

Responses from areas under control of the Syrian Regime

Regime supporters responded similar to those on the media. Many regime supporters in Syria took the streets, chanting. Some were celebrating the coup sounding the horns of their cars. The press in support of the Syrian regime interviewed these people on the streets of Damascus. Some of the slogans used were: Whoever confronts Basher Assad will fall...This is the punishment of those against Syria and Assad...Erdoğan deserves this end...He is a dictator and a tyrant...Assad will win! God supports him with this victory and all his enemies will fall...

The collaborators of the regime fired their guns up in the air in order to celebrate the events. Guns, including howitzers and machine guns, were fired from all the military control points throughout Syria and especially in Damascus and Latakia tanks were also used for celebrations. People of Latakia and Damascus thought that the ongoing war spread to their city. Later it was discovered that this was caused by some fools carried out these for the events in Turkey. These random shots killed 10 civilians and some more were deadly wounded. Some of the residents of Damascus reported that “it was like daytime in the middle of the night”. This explains the mass of the guns fired up in the air.

Official Response of the Syrian Regime

No official declarations were made by the Syrian regime on that night. However, the Syrian state channel 1, satellite channel and Syrian official News Station are all mouthpieces of the regime and cannot air even a single word without the consent of the regime and most of the time expect news to be dictated by intelligence personnel. The below quoted news were

expressed by the official media of the Syrian regime. They are real and true expressions of the spokesman of the Syrian regime and point at the official attitude of the system. The declarations of the regime media and the responses via official stations were previously given in detail.

Second: The response of the regime and its supporters after the failed coup attempt:

In the regime controlled media

New concerning the failed coup in Turkey were not shared by regime supporters in the media channels.

The media controlled by the Syrian regime underlined that the coup was successful and all the following events were taken as tactical moves of the coup plotters. They declared that Erdoğan and his supporters lied about the internal condition of Turkey and insisted that they were captured by the coup plotters.

The media institutions in support of Syrian regime do not want to face the bitter reality of Turkish government overcoming the coup attempt. Thus the celebrations upon the fall of the democratic government in Turkey turned into a nightmare for them.

There is still a strong and solid democracy in Turkey. The public took the streets in support of the elected government challenging all the evil forces that threaten their country. Such views let alone being accepted by the Syrian government are very difficult to be imagined in other parts of the world.

Coups take place in repressive governments of military dictators who are thirsty for blood, power and tyranny. Although coups and similar events take place for defending oppressed folks bloodshed can be observed on the streets of developed countries as well.

This denial continued in the regime media for more than a week although news from Turkey reported that everything was normal and order was restored. Turkey became stronger, more robust and consistent after the coup attempt.

The media in control of the Syrian regime were excessively insolent. Counterfeit films and photos showing the bad situation in Turkey were released to suggest that chaos and instability seized Turkey and the country was at the threshold of a great social explosion. They even included phone and video interviews with people from İstanbul, Ankara and other cities in the news bulletins who said that the military took control in many cities and Erdoğan supporters and previous government were investigated and prosecuted.

When democracy was restored and the legitimate government controlled Turkey the regime media accepted the bitter reality and started to blame the government with dictatorship, injustice and tyranny and continued their abusive news. The media controlled by the regime named president Erdoğan as the Red Sultan. (This is an allusion based on tyranny.) the West used this nickname for Abdulhamid II, may Allah save his soul, because of their grudge against him.

In the end, Assad's media continues their hostile policy towards the present Turkish government. They blame the government as the sponsor of terror and terrorists in Syria. For Syria, Turkey is the archenemy given the present government.

The responses of the regime supporters after the failed coup

When it comes to the supporters of the regime, it can be said that they are like cheap vehicles used by others and they always support the dictator's regime. Similarly, very much like the regime media, they refuse the fact that the coup has failed and the elected government of Turkey gained back the control of the country and peace was restored.

Observers who monitor social network sites might come across with various comments and explanations about political and social persona who support the regime. How can they deny the failure of the coup while they wanted the coup to be successful in the end due to their attitudes towards the government led by Erdoğan and a strong military exists in Turkey? How could the previous attempts succeed? These are all military tactics in their own words the calm before the storm.

When the regime supporters were shocked and startled by the unbelievable consequences the streets of Damascus and Latakia were calm again and they wanted all these were but dreams.

But the morning was close; the rise of the sun is the victory of the strong Turkish people and their just government. The light of day blinded all jealous and malevolent people. Peace and calm fulfilled the streets after the tumult of a few hours ago.

Third: The response of the Syrian Opposition to the failed coup in Turkey

The response of the Opposition in Rebel Zones

The moment of the coup was more ruthless at the rebel zones and refugee camps in Turkey where Syrians lived. Turkey is not simply a neighbour country. Turkey is the mother, sister, friend and company of Syrian people after Allah.

That night was really a difficult one. Every free Syrian lived those moments as if days. Syrians sobbingly prayed Allah to save Turkey from this disaster and this plot against the stability of the country.

Syrians in the rebel zones followed news from Turkey reading the Holy Koran and praying for the delivery of beautiful Turkey.

Each and every Syrian undoubtedly thought that Turkey would be saved from this sad condition. They believed this because they thought that Turks believed Allah and felt his presence before all else and Turkey took sides with all the oppressed folks around the world which brought them prayers of the oppressed. Salvation was so close for everyone who loved Turkey and believed in salvation. This is valid not only for rebel zones in Syria but also for the rest of the world.

The response of the Syrian refugees in Turkey to the failed coup

The condition of the Syrian refugees was not better than the Syrians in rebel zones in terms of expectations and worries. Their worry and fear equalled them. I can assure you that their worries even surpassed our Turkish brothers. Why not? The kind and compassionate Turkish hands touched their lives. No Syrian refugee living in Turkey felt himself a guest or a stranger. On the contrary everyone from the government to the public told Syrians that Turkey was their second homeland and served them as if they were home taking care of their wounds.

The solidarity between the Syrian refugees and Turks showed that the Syrians living in Turkish cities were also against the coup like their Turkish hosts. When president Erdoğan summoned people to the streets to counter the coup against democracy they also took the streets alongside Turks and fought on the side of the legitimate government adding their

voices to those of their Turkish brothers. There were even wounded Syrians among those who fought against the tanks of the coupists. Syrians were in all the squares of Turkey spending the night in support of liberty.

The opposition of the entire Turkish public to the coup and their gathering around the elected government made Syrians feel that this square was a square of democracy. This suggested that every free individual in the world would struggle for the perpetuation and glory of democracy at all expenses.

Fourth: The response of the Syrian Opposition within and outside the country after the failed coup in Turkey

The response of the opposition in the rebel zones in Syria after the failed coup

During the failed coup attempt the fear, expectations and silence of the Syrians in rebel zones turned to a strong sentiment of joy when it was announced that the coup failed. Most of the Syrians waved Turkish flags to express their joy upon this victory and they said Allahuakbar for Turkey, democracy, themselves, the ummah and every free person in the World.

They even gave away halva on the roads in rebel zones and thanked Allah in the mosques for this great salvation.

Social media pages were full of celebrations of the victory of the Turkish people. Most people resembled the events to great conquests in history. The nation started writing its own history after this point.

Turkey presents an example to our country on how the people could come together with their leader, government and people and love their president and each other. This strong

people and their government gave us a very good example. All the Muslims around the World and all the freedom fighters will take Turkey as their role model.

The Syrians inside the country were restored to life and tears of joy run to their eyes. Their hearts were full of hope for a bright future. Turkey has become a symbol of freedom and democracy for the world. Turkey has been a radiant sun over injustice and tyranny after this coup.

The responses of the Syrian refugees in Turkey after the failed coup

The Syrian refugees in Turkey joined the celebrations of Turkish people once democracy was restored after the failed coup. They shared the joy and grief of the country and the victory of democracy against the enemies of the state.

From the first moment when Syrian refugees came to this hospitable country onwards were grateful for the benevolence of the Turkish people, government and president. Many people might not be aware of the extreme love and fandom of Syrians for president Tayyip Erdoğan.

Many Syrians value president Erdoğan as a hero of the nation who saved the country from the plots of the coupists. Some see him in resemblance to the great Ottoman sultans and conquerors who ruled the Arab countries and the ummah with justice and peace.

This attempt at the last stronghold of the ummah caused a real merger among Syrians, Arabs, Muslims and Turks.

This event has been a chance to underline the solidarity of the people, raise an awareness of the threat and block the attempted coup.

From now on Syrians see themselves as integral parts of Turkey as true citizens who love the country and actively partake in all affairs.

Result

To sum up, what happened on July 15 is not specific to Turkey, indeed the entire Muslim World endured it.

Our hearts were beating with this country and praying Allah for saving this country from the evil doing of the coup plotters. Every one of us spent the night awake praying for salvation.

No Muslim or Turk was happy about the events that took place on that night. In one single night the ummah came together upon one call, one heart and one feeling. All the attention was on Turkey, the heart of the ummah, the example of gaining glory and honour on behalf of the ummah.

Allah has preserved Turkey and its strong people and the last hero of this century president Tayyip Erdoğan showing him the true path. Allah has adorned him with a good atmosphere to complete his mission and reach his blessed end.

May Allah's mercy and grace be with you.