

# TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

## PERSPECTIVE

The online journal of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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**PATRON: Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, Mohtaram Shujaiddin Shaikh**

**'PERSPECTIVE' is a trend-setting journal issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.**

**A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...**

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## PERSPECTIVE

The Online Journal of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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**Patron:** Shujauddin Shaikh  
**Chief Editor:** Dr. Ghulam Murtaza  
**Editor:** Raza ul Haq

**From the Qur'an:**

But those who are mindful of their Lord will be in Gardens under which rivers flow, to stay there forever—as an accommodation from Allah. And what is with Allah is best for the virtuous.

Indeed, there are some among the People of the Book who truly believe in Allah and what has been revealed to you [believers] and what was revealed to them. They humble themselves before Allah—never trading Allah's revelations for a fleeting gain. Their reward is with their Lord. Surely Allah is swift in reckoning.

(*Surah A'li-Imran: Ayaat 198-199*)

**Hadith**

Reported by Hazrat Anas bin Malik (رضي الله عنه)

The Holy Prophet (ﷺ) is reported to have said:

“The [road to] Paradise is surrounded by hardships and the [road to] Hell-Fire is surrounded by temptations.”

(*Sahih Muslim: Hadith 2822*)

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

After more than 13 years of war, hundreds of thousands of people killed and millions displaced, the 24-year rule of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is over. Large crowds gathered in the streets of Damascus to celebrate, after opposition forces took control of the capital in a stunning advance that saw them seize several key cities in a matter of days.

Al-Assad reportedly fled the country on an airplane allegedly with \$2 billion to Moscow, bringing an end to more than 54 years of his family's authoritarian rule over Syria. His departure leaves a country in ruins and millions of Syrians wondering what's next.

When al-Assad inherited power in 2000 after the death of his father, Hafez, there was cautious optimism for political change in Syria. Originally an eye doctor studying in London, al-Assad was never meant to become president. He was called back to Syria after the death of his older brother, Basil. In order for Bashar to assume the presidency, the parliament had to lower the minimum age for candidates from 40 to 34. He won a referendum with more than 97 percent of the vote, where he was the only candidate.

The “quiet”, “reserved” man initially generated hopes for reform, but aside from a few limited economic changes, his rule closely resembled his father's 30 years of authoritarian governance. A decade later, in March 2011, al-Assad faced his first major challenge as Syrians took to the streets demanding democracy, civil liberties and the release of political prisoners. Al-Assad dismissed the uprising as a foreign conspiracy, labelling his opponents as “terrorists”.

As leader of the country's only legal political power, the Baath Party, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces, his response was a brutal crackdown. This only intensified the protests, which quickly escalated.

In 2012, the government used heavy weapons against rebel groups, including air raids. The unrest spread, prompting an armed rebellion that drew in regional and international powers. In the years that followed, the al-Assad government clung to power with the political and military backing of Russia and Iran, as well as the Tehran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah.

Al-Assad gradually managed to win back most of the territory his forces had initially lost. But he ruled over a fractured nation, with only partial control and a narrow base of support, particularly from the Alawite minority of which his family is part.

A truce was declared in March 2020 following an agreement between Russia and neighboring Türkiye, which has historically supported some opposition groups in Syria. But Syria continued to suffer from frequent bombardments and fighting.

Since the 1960s, Syria's Alawi minority – led by the Asad family – has controlled the Syrian government. They fiercely and systematically discriminated against the Sunni majority – ensuring that Alawis dominate all the top political and military positions. Indeed, to keep Sunnis subservient, Alawis undertook the most constant and extreme persecution of Sunnis found anywhere in the world. They ruled through terror to maintain their power – arresting, torturing, and disappearing

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countless Sunnis. There was no way that Sunnis could have been expected to tolerate a continuation of this situation any further. The only logical consequence was to remove Asad forcibly from power, and a new government that reflects the Sunni majority to be established. Sunni Islamists would necessarily exert significant influence over such a government. Asad's Shia allies (Iran, Hezbollah, Houthis) as well as Russia finally acknowledged, as events quickly unfolded starting December, that Asad's regime could not be sustained, and they were ultimately forced to cease supporting it.

Bashar al-Assad was secure in power right up until the moment he wasn't, which it turns out was November 30, when the northern city of Aleppo — or what was left of it after Assad and his Russian and Iranian allies devastated the city and murdered tens of thousands of its inhabitants between 2012 and 2016 — fell to the forces of the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham-led alliance.

Few observers picked that a full-scale collapse of the Assad regime was imminent — the fall of Aleppo was merely a "significant threat", according to the sober-minded Foreign Policy. Then Homs, a city far to the south and more than halfway to Damascus, fell at the end of last week and it became clear an Afghanistan-style collapse was happening to a regime that had appeared immovable.

The leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, Ahmad al-Sharaa (formerly Abu Mohammed al-Golani), might seek to portray himself as an unusually pluralist kind of Islamist militant, but as yet there is no evidence he can hold Syria together any more than Assad could in the face of multiple factions and a continuing Russian presence — or that he won't resort to the same brutal measures to hold on to the territory he's now claimed. At this point, Libya Mark 2 would seem to be the most likely outcome, despite the celebrations in Syrian cities, with the Islamic State poised to try to take advantage.

Then there is the refugee crisis. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Bashar regime, several European countries pause Syrian asylum requests days after the al-Assad dynasty collapsed. More than a million Syrians have sought asylum in Europe in the past 13 years. But the overthrow of President Bashar al-Assad is raising questions about the future of about 100,000 refugees. At least eight nations have frozen Syrian asylum applications. What triggered the decisions? Do European governments believe Syria is safe for refugees to return? And if they do choose to go home, what lies ahead? The main commander of the Syrian fighters who toppled Bashar al-Assad has warned that anyone involved in the torture or killing of detainees during the deposed president's rule would be hunted down and pardons were out of the question. "We will pursue them in Syria, and we ask countries to hand over those who fled so we can achieve justice," Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) leader Ahmed al-Sharaa, said in a statement published on the Syrian state TV's Telegram channel.

Secondly, one must also recognize in light of the Yinon Plan (Greater Israel Project), that Israel and the US were always trying to create a situation where Syria was kept weak by constant sectarian war, and that all forms of Islamism are eliminated throughout the Middle East. The key to this plan is creating a situation where Sunni and Shia Islamists fight one another without end. Israel and the US will aid Sunni Syrian Islamists kill the Shia Islamist allies of Asad (i.e., Iran, Hezbollah). But Israel and the US will also prevent Sunni Islamists from taking substantial power in Syria. This will be done, in part, by forcing Shia Islamists to fight and weaken them.

With all eyes on the Syrian capital Damascus, Israeli forces this week have struck several locations across Syria, destroying most of the country's strategic weapons stockpiles. Israel hit nearly 500 targets, including anti-aircraft batteries, military airfields, weapons production sites, combat aircraft and missiles. In addition, missile vessels struck the Syrian naval facilities of Al-Bayda port and Latakia port, where 15 Syrian naval vessels were docked. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he authorized the bombing campaign so that weapons would not fall into the hands of rebel fighters. Israeli ground forces have also moved deeper into the occupied Golan Heights, effectively expanding its occupation. Troops have seized what was previously a demilitarized buffer zone in what the UN said it's a violation of the 1974 disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria.

The third brute fact is that it has become apparent now that the future of Syria will largely be decided by outside powers. Abu Mohammed al-Golani's Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which in itself has a controversial past and is currently fully supported by US (and by proxy Israel) along with Türkiye will have very little to do with the strategic power and politics, internal and external. The bottom line is that Syrians alone will not decide the future of their country as they are too militarily and economically weak to establish any kind of independence. Rather, outside forces will play a dominant role in deciding the future.

The situation in Syria, and frankly around the Muslim world is currently in a melting pot. May Allah (SWT) guide the Muslim Ummah towards the truth and provide them with the willingness and courage to repent for their individual and collective sins, and may the Muslim Ummah revert to the sublime super-structure of Khilafah to dent the nefarious designs of the forces of evil. *Ameen!*

Signing off...

Raza ul Haq (Editor)

## We Syrians are no longer just 'refugees,' but a nation with dreams

By: Inas Al Hashem

**The fall of Bashar al Assad is a new dawn for millions of refugees and their families. These are the words of Inas al Hachem about her father, who left Aleppo but always held onto the hope of returning.**

I still remember my first trip to Aleppo, Syria, on June 28, 2001. I was almost seven years old. School holidays in Spain had begun, and like many families in the Syrian diaspora, my father, Fathallah, saved money every year for this moment. It was an expensive trip, especially for a large family like mine. But he never stopped telling us about Syria: about Aleppo, particularly Al-Bab, and about its people, its ethnic and religious diversity, its history, its flavours. And that love, that connection to our land, he instilled in us with the same intensity. He used to say that we had to love Madrid, but without forgetting where we came from. He dreamed of going back one day when Syria would be free. He fantasised about opening hospitals, schools, mosques, and humanitarian centres. But it was a difficult dream, and he knew it. Syria had been suffering for years under the Baath Party Regime, and my father, like so many others, had to leave in 1969. Not because he wanted to, but because he saw no other option. With the support of his family and through his own efforts, he finished his medical degree at the Complutense University of Madrid while working to support himself. He never stopped thinking of Syria. The liberation of his people was one of those things that always came up in his conversations.

### Civil war

Back to my first trip to Syria. I remember how much it impacted me. Everything was impressive/breathtaking/astonishing, but what caught my attention the most were the pictures of the dictator, Bashar Al-Assad, in every corner. Innocently, I asked why his photo was everywhere. "Lower your voice," said my mother and older brother, who, apparently, had already learned the lesson from his previous trips. It was as if Assad couldn't even be mentioned if it wasn't to praise him. When the revolution broke out in 2011, it was as if an impossible dream was starting to materialise. We clung to the hope that things would change for the better with everything we had. We followed the news 24/7 - Al Jazeera was always on.

"We never imagined that this struggle would last 14 years and that my father wouldn't live to witness it, as he passed away three years ago."

At first, the calls to our family were to share hopes and updates, but soon they turned into an endless list of tragedies: bombings, arrests, disappearances. We lost so many. My maternal uncle Mahmoud, a veterinarian with six children, died in a bombing while protesting in Aleppo. Two cousins, Firas and Hasan, disappeared, and we didn't even have their bodies to bury. My cousin Amani's son, Ali Rakan, only 14 years old, was brutally murdered by the regime and Russian forces. And another uncle was arrested. Over time, desperation became stronger than hope. But my father never stopped dreaming. Every step the rebels took was, for him, "the decisive one." He said victory was close. We never imagined that this struggle would last 14 years and that my father wouldn't live to witness it, as he passed away three years ago.

### The end of Assad

Then suddenly everything changed. The night of December 8 will be unforgettable. When the capital Damascus fell, the news reached us at 5:30 am after only two hours of sleep. We knew this would mean the end of Assad. You could see my brother and me here in Istanbul with the TV on, following the news. More updates on Twitter and Instagram. Video calls with family—some in Madrid, others in Qatar, Norway, Syria, Germany... spread across the world. Each new advance by the rebels was a huge celebration. At 3:30 am, I was half asleep, but still paying attention, until my brother woke me up about two hours later, shouting with joy: "Bashar has fallen! Bashar has fallen!" It was an explosion of emotions that I can't describe. Laughter, tears, hugs. We couldn't go back to sleep. We went out into the street in Istanbul, to the Fatih neighbourhood, where a large displaced Syrian community lives. People were handing out sweets, especially *halawet el jibn*, a traditional dessert for special occasions. Others were singing "One, one, one... the Syrian people are one" while celebrating. Although we didn't know each other, that day we were one family. We congratulated each other. After so much pain, we were together celebrating the same victory, dreaming with the same hope. Finally, Syrians deserved to be happy again. We finally stopped being just "refugees" to become, once again, a people with land, with a name, with dreams.

### Ready for the future

Syria, or as we like to call it, Sham, the land of jasmine, will be remembered for its beauty, its history, its ancient civilisations, its rich culture, and not for its wars.

I know what lies ahead won't be easy. Post-war nation-building never is. But at least, for the first time in years, we have something to celebrate and hope for in the future.

I think of all those we've lost, those who gave their lives for this, from little Hamza al-Khatib, the first martyr of the revolution, tortured and killed in Daraa for daring to write the word "freedom" on a wall, to Abdul Baset al-Sarout, the great symbol of this struggle.

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A former goalkeeper for the Syrian national football team, his voice resonated in the streets of Homs, an act of bravery that he paid for with his own life.

I think of my father and smile, because I know he's smiling too. Thank God.

And yes, we are already planning our next trip. Because now, finally, we can visit Syria and Aleppo again. For us, yes, but especially for him.

**Source:** <https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/we-syrians-are-no-longer-just-refugees-but-a-nation-with-dreams-18241664>

**About the Author:** Inas Al Hashem is deputy producer at TRT Español.

## Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

9 December 2024

### The sudden fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime is a clear warning to dictatorships around the world.

**Lahore (PR):** This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer remarked that the Assad family, belonging to Syria's religious minority sect, maintained its grip over the country for 54 years while subjecting citizens of the religious majority sect to extreme oppression. During the so-called Arab Spring, Bashar al-Assad, who came to power in the year 2000 after the death of his father Hafez al-Assad, faced strong resistance from opposition forces and armed rebels, supported by the United States and Turkey. However, with backing from Iran and Russia, these efforts were unsuccessful. Reports suggest that the former Syrian President has fled to Moscow, while the armed opposition group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, has seized control of all major cities, including Damascus, Aleppo, and Idlib. A general amnesty has been announced for Assad's supporters who have surrendered, which is a very welcome step. The reality is that those who govern against the will of the people and create an environment of oppression ultimately meet such an end. The Ameer stated that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham will face numerous challenges after assuming power. On one side is Israel, which has reoccupied the Golan Heights, and its nefarious Greater Israel project is no secret. On the other side, the head of the movement, Abu Muhammad al-Julani, will face pressure from the U.S., Western European countries, Iran, and Turkey to accept their dictates regarding regional objectives. Additionally, Russia is expected to express open hostility toward the new Syrian government. The Ameer emphasized that this change must not harm the Palestinian cause. He reminded that the Ahadith provide clear insights into Syria's importance in the final battles between truth and falsehood. In such a situation, it is imperative that the new Syrian government announces the implementation of Islamic Shariah in line with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (SAAW), works sincerely toward this goal, places trust in Allah's help, takes steps for the welfare of the people, and ensures the peaceful and dignified return of Syrians who have fled the country. It is also crucial for this new government to protect itself from the conspiracies of global imperialism at all costs.

6 December 2024

### The statement by the Chairman of the Council of Islamic Ideology is entirely in accordance with Islamic teachings that any individual changing their evident sex/gender is impermissible.

**Lahore (PR):** These thoughts were expressed by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer mentioned that there is a clear decision from the Federal Shariah Court on 19 May 2023, regarding the notorious Transgender Act of 2018, in which the court ruled that several provisions of this law are in conflict with Islamic teachings and that it is the government's responsibility to promptly remove these provisions and revise the law in line with Islamic principles. The fact is that the Transgender Act of 2018, along with many other similar laws, is part of a malicious agenda to impose the shameless and decadent Western culture on Pakistan and undermine our family system. According to Islamic teachings, an individual's sex/gender is determined by Allah (SWT), and therefore, declaring a "gender identity" contrary to one's biological sex/gender based solely on inner feelings or emotional inclinations is a clear violation of Shariah laws. Furthermore, such behavior is a result of a mental disorder known as "gender dysphoria," and it is the state's responsibility to provide medical treatment for such individuals. However, those born with a congenital defect in sex/gender are referred to as "خنثى" ("khuntha") in Islamic teachings, and their sex/gender can be determined through proper consultation with a board of qualified doctors, followed by treatment in accordance with Islamic principles. The Ameer stated that the Federal Shariah Court has already issued detailed rulings against the Transgender Act of 2018 and the prevailing usurious economy in the country. Appeals had been filed in the Supreme Court, and thus, these rulings are yet to be implemented. He demanded that the Shariah Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court immediately hear these appeals and resolve them in accordance with religious teachings and the Constitution of Pakistan, so that the path of immorality under the guise of transgender rights may be blocked and the ongoing war and rebellion against Allah (SWT) and His Messenger (SAAW) may be abandoned. Only by doing so can the nation and country be freed from the distress that has enveloped them, and practical steps can be taken towards making Pakistan a genuine Islamic welfare state.