

The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria

Having played a role in every iteration of Syrian politics since the country gained independence in 1946, the Muslim Brotherhood were the most prominent opposition group in Syria on the eve of the 2011 uprising. But when unrest broke out in March 2011, few Brotherhood flags and slogans were to be found within the burgeoning protest movement. Drawing on extensive primary research including interviews with Brotherhood members, Dara Conduit looks to the group's history to understand why it failed to capitalise on this advantage as the conflict unfolded, addressing significant gaps in accounts of the group's past to assess whether its reputation for violence and dogmatism is justified.

In doing so, Conduit reveals a party that was neither as violent nor as undemocratic as expected, but whose potential to stage a long-awaited comeback was hampered by the shadow of its own history.

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The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria

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To Nana, who died just weeks after this manuscript
was submitted, having lovingly provided treats and a
second home for every step of my life's journey

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Note on Transliteration

This book includes a large number of Arabic words, names and place names. The transliteration of these words follows a simplified version of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* (IJMES) system,¹ without special characters or diacritical marks.² The names of living people are transliterated in line with the person's preference (where known), for example Hassan al-Hachimi instead of the IJMES-styled Hassan al-Hashimi. Other names and proper nouns (including place names and political parties) are transliterated in accordance with mainstream use. Words that are included in mainstream English dictionaries such as mujahidin, ulama or shaykh are not italicised and are spelled in accordance with the IJMES word list.³ Words that are not commonly transliterated in English texts follow IJMES's proscribed system. When the researcher refers to groups or organisations, the most commonly used name is used, so Liwa al-Tawhid is not translated after the first instance, but Farouq Brigades is translated. Finally, El- and Al- are rendered as al- throughout the work, while foreign words used in quoted works appear in their original form, even if this is in conflict with the IJMES style. The latter is most evident in the English language versions of *al-Nadhir*, which the Brotherhood itself sometimes transliterated to 'al-Nazeer'. *Al-Nadhir* is used in the text for the sake of consistency between the two publications, but 'al-Nazeer' is used in citations when appropriate so that readers can easily find the primary text.

¹ 'IJMES Translation and Transliteration Guide', *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 2013, http://ijmes.chass.ncsu.edu/IJMES_Translation_and_Transliteration_Guide.htm.

² Special characters are only used in rare cases, such as that of the Ba'th Party, *Da'wa* and *Ba'ya* in line with mainstream use, or in the case of direct quotes or the title of references.

³ 'IJMES Word List', *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 5 October, <https://ijmes.chass.ncsu.edu/docs/WordList.pdf>.

Glossary of Names

Anas al-Abdeh	Former President of the Syrian National Coalition (SOC), son of the Brotherhood linked Muhammad al-Abdeh.
Husni Abu Ali al-Ahmad	Fighting Vanguard leader in Aleppo. Joined the Brotherhood's armed movement in 1981. From Idlib. Left the Brotherhood in the 2000s.
Bashar al-Assad Hafez al-Assad	President of Syria 2000 – present. President of Syria from 1971 until his death in 2000.
Rifaat al-Assad	Brother of Hafez al-Assad; widely seen as the architect of the 1982 Hama massacre and the 1980 Palmyra prison massacre. Has been in exile since 1984.
Issam al-Attar	Leader of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood 1957–69, ¹ exiled in 1964.
Ali al-Bayanouni	Senior Brotherhood leader during the Brotherhood-Ba'ath confrontation, head of the Aleppo faction, 2011 uprising-era <i>Shura</i> Council chief. Brotherhood leader 1996–2010. Son of founding member Ahmad al-Bayanouni.
Mohammad Abu Nasr al-Bayanouni	Senior cleric, head of the Syrian Islamic Front. Head of Jamiyat Abi Dharr. Brother of Ali al-Bayanouni.
Maruf al-Dawalibi	Founding member of the Brotherhood, represented the People's Party in the

¹ All leadership dates used in this table are sourced from: Raphaël Lefèvre, *Ashes of Hama: The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria* (London: Hurst, 2013), p. 209.

	parliament for many years, including as Prime Minister.
Molham Aldrobi	Former head of the Brotherhood's Strategic Planning office, as a Brotherhood spokesman.
Hosam Ghadban	Deputy leader of the Brotherhood in the 2011 uprising era. Nephew of Munir Ghadban.
Munir Ghadban	Brotherhood leader 1986, uncle of the deputy Brotherhood leader Hosam Ghadban.
Burhan Ghalioun	Liberal opposition figure based in Paris. First president of the Syrian National Council.
Abd al-Fatah abu Ghuddah	Member of the Syrian parliament in the democratic era, Brotherhood leader 1972–75, 1986–91.
Hassan al-Hachimi	Former head of the Brotherhood's political office, son of Mohammad al-Hachimi.
Mohammad al-Hachimi	Chair of the Brotherhood's evaluation committee.
Marwan Hadid	Egyptian trained agronomist from Hama. Rose to prominence in the 1964 Hama riots and soon after began advocating for an armed uprising against the regime. Founder of the Fighting Vanguard.
Muhammad al-Hamid	Founding member of the Brotherhood in Hama, mentor to Said Hawwa.
Said Hawwa	Brotherhood ideologue in the 1960s and 1970s.
Hassan al-Houeidi	Leader of the Brotherhood 1980–85, 1990–96.
Fida al-Sayyid Issa	A Brotherhood youth member from a prominent Brotherhood family from Idlib. Founder of the Syrian Revolution Facebook page. Based in Sweden.
Tarif al-Sayyid Issa	Brotherhood member. Father of Fida al-Sayyid Issa. From a prominent

	Brotherhood family in Idlib. Participated in the armed uprising. Killed in a car bombing March 2018.
Abdul Halim al-Khaddam	Minister of Foreign Affairs (1970–84), Vice President (1984–2005), acting Prime Minister (June–July 2000). Formed the short-lived National Salvation Front alliance with the Brotherhood in 2005 following his defection.
Samir Abu Laban	Member of the Brotherhood's political office. Based in Austria.
Muhammad al-Mubarak	Founding member of the Brotherhood, Brotherhood representative in the Syrian parliament.
Omar al-Mushaweh	Head of the Muslim Brotherhood media office for much of the 2011 uprising era.
Adnan Saadeddine	Leader of the Hama faction in the 1970s and 1980s, Brotherhood leader from 1975 to 1980. Split from the Brotherhood in the mid-1980s.
Zuhair Salem	Brotherhood ideologue between 1986 and 2010, senior Brotherhood member.
Ayman Shorbaji	Leader of the Fighting Vanguard in Damascus.
Riad al-Shaqfeh	Leader of the Muslim Brotherhood 2010–14. Held responsibilities in the group's military command during the 1979–82 uprising. Key figure in the Hama faction.
Mustafa al-Sibai	Founder and first Brotherhood leader 1946–57.
Abu Khalid al-Suri (Mohammad al-Bahaiya)	Former Fighting Vanguard member, close associate of Abu Musab al-Suri, founding member of Ahrar al-Sham, acted as Ayman al-Zawahiri's intermediary with ISIS.
Abu Musab al-Suri (Mustafa Setmariam Nasar)	Former Brotherhood and Fighting Vanguard member, high profile jihadist strategist.

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Mohammed Sarmini	Former Brotherhood member, advisor to the then Prime Minister of the Syrian Interim Government Prime Minister Ahmed Tomeh.
Farouq Tayfour	Senior Brotherhood leader in the Hama faction, Vice President of the SNC.
Adnan Uqlah	Leader of the Fighting Vanguard during the Hama uprising.
Muhammad Walid	A British trained ophthalmologist and poet, leader of the Syrian Muslim Brotherhood from 2014 - the time of writing.
Ibrahim al-Youssef (Captain)	Fighting Vanguard and Ba'ath Party member, possibly Brotherhood member. Responsible for the Aleppo Artillery School massacre.
Abd al-Sattar al-Zaim	Fighting Vanguard leader who preceded Adnan Uqlah.