

# Free Syrian Army (FSA)

## Who:

- Army defectors and civilian militias
- Umbrella for various armed rebel groups
- No traditional command structure, loose coalition of units with HQ in Turkey



## Overview:

- No clear sectarian goals, but see it as Islamic struggle against secular regime
- Numbers unclear—affiliates and groups claiming affiliation w/FSA (at least 25,000, probably more)

## Priorities:

- Defend Syria & her people from harm (esp. from Assad and his forces)

## Support:

- Operate throughout Syria, concentrated in central areas, including Homs & Hama
- Supported by Sunni population, among others
- Get financial support from some Persian Gulf nations and Syrian Support Group in US (for non-lethal purchases)

## Political Associations:

- Supports National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, recognized by Turkey, US, Germany, France—130 nations in all

## Criticisms:

- Accused of war crimes, including executing Christians
- Criticized for inclusion of jihadist groups under the umbrella