

# HOW IRAN FUELS SYRIA WAR

DETAILS OF THE IRGC COMMAND  
HQ AND KEY OFFICERS IN SYRIA

National Council of Resistance of Iran  
US Representative Office

September 1, 2016

# WHY SYRIA IMPORTANT FOR IRAN



**Mehdi Taeb, head of the Ammar Garrison and former commander of IRGC intelligence said on February 14, 2013:**

“Syria is our 35th province, and is a strategic province for us. If the enemy attacks us and seeks to take Syria or Khuzestan, our priority would be to keep Syria, because if we keep Syria, we can retake Khuzestan. But if we lose Syria, we cannot keep Tehran.”

# HOW IRAN SAVED ASSAD FROM ATTACK

## **First half of 2015:**

Armed Syrian opposition forces scored major victories on the northern and southern frontiers.

Defeats experienced by Assad's forces in Daraa.

# IRGC'S MUHARRAM OPERATION

LAUNCHED OCTOBER 15, 2015



## **Failed:**

No significant results.

## **Killed:**

Hussein Hamedani, Commander in Chief of the IRGC in Syria.

Large number of other IRGC generals.

# IRGC'S MUHARRAM OPERATION



## December 2015:

Khamenei ordered the IRGC to stand fast in the Aleppo region.

## January 2016:

IRGC doubled the number of its forces in Syria to about 60,000.

Launched extensive attacks.

# IRGC STEPS UP ACTIVITY AFTER DEFEAT

## **March 2016:**

Khamenei ordered the regular Army's 65th Division (special operations) to be deployed around Aleppo.

## **March & April 2016:**

Plans for a major offensive to capture Aleppo were set in motion.

# IRGC SUFFERS MORE DEFEAT

## **April 2016:**

During attacks by the IRGC and the Iranian army, dozens of IRGC commanders and staff, army personnel and foreign mercenaries from Iraq, Lebanon and Afghanistan, were killed.

## **May & June 2016:**

IRGC forces south of Aleppo and Khan Touman suffered severe blows.

# KHAMENEI INVOLVES TOP IRGC COMMANDERS



## February 2016:

General Mohammad Ali Jafari, the IRGC's Commander in Chief, personally travelled to Syria for the offensives against the cities of Nubl and Al Zahra.



## March 2016:

IRGC Gen. Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief during the Iran-Iraq War, appointed as Khamenei's Deputy for Syrian War.

# KHAMENEI INVOLVES ENTIRE MILITARY STRUCTURE

## **IRGC's Qods Force:**

Remains its primary extraterritorial fighting force, and primary force in Syria.

## **Others Engaged:**

IRGC's ground forces & regular Iranian Army deployed and fully engaged in the war effort.

IRGC forces, such as naval and air forces also involved.

# IRAN-AFFILIATED FORCES IN SYRIA

<b>IRGC forces:</b>	8,000 to 10,000
<b>Iranian Regular Army:</b>	5,000 to 6,000
<b>Non-Iranian mercenaries:</b>	
<b>Iraqi militias:</b>	20,000 (from 10 groups)
<b>Afghan militias (Fatemiyoun):</b>	15,000 to 20,000
<b>Lebanese Hezbollah:</b>	7,000 to 10,000
<b>Militias from Pakistan (Zeinabiyoun), Palestine, and elsewhere:</b>	5,000 to 7,000

# IRAN COMMAND STRUCTURE IN SYRIA



## Top Commander

Brig. General Hossein Hamedani was the commander of all Iranian forces in Syria, until he was killed on October 7, 2015.

Since then, the command of the regime's forces in Syria has been assigned to a Command Council.

After Hamedani was killed, IRGC Brig. Gen. Assadi was nominally named commander; changes under consideration.

# IRAN COMMAND STRUCTURE IN SYRIA



## Command Council:

IRGC Brig. Gen. Esmail Qaani  
(deputy of Qassem Soleimani who  
is the commander of the Quds  
Force)



IRGC Brig. Gen. Mohammad  
Jafaar Assadi (aka Seyyed Ahmad  
Madani)

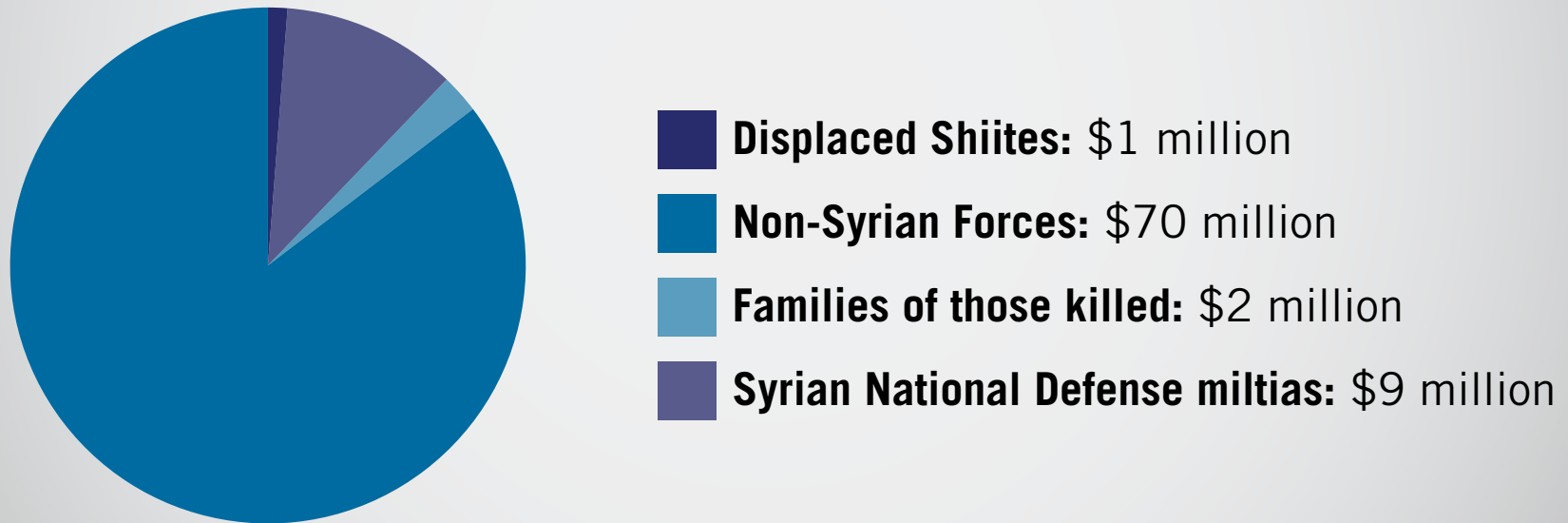
# THE IRANIAN REGIME'S FINANCIAL INVESTMENT IN SYRIA

No official figures released.

Most expenditures funded by Khamenei, unaccounted.

Tehran has spent about 15-20 billion dollars a year, totaling 80 to 100 billion dollars over the past 5 years.

# IRAN PAYS OVER 82 MILLION DOLLARS TO MERCENARIES IN SYRIA PER MONTH (OVER \$ 1 BILLION PER YEAR)



# THE IRGC DIVIDES SYRIA INTO 5 MILITARY ZONES



- 1 – The central command center**
- 2 – The southern front**
- 3 – The middle front**
- 4 – The northern front**
- 5 – The coastal front**

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# THE CENTRAL COMMAND CENTERS

## 1 – The Glass Building (Maghar Shishe'i):



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# THE CENTRAL COMMAND CENTERS

## Inside The Glass Building (Maghar Shishe'i):

**Floors 3 and 4:**  
Intelligence services

**Floor 2:**  
Foreign militia command

**Floor 1:**  
Propaganda department

**Ground Floor:**  
Private medical clinic

**Basement:**  
Counterintelligence and cash vaults

# THE CENTRAL COMMAND CENTERS

## 1 – The Glass Building (Maghar Shishe'i):

- The main IRGC command center in Syria
- Adjacent to the Damascus Airport (last location to fall)
- IRGC forces airlifted to Syria are dispatched to other areas from this location.
- One of the commanders stationed at the Glass Building is IRGC Brig. Gen. Seyyed Razi Mousavi, commander of IRGC Quds Force logistics in Syria.
- Between 500 and 1,000 Revolutionary Guards are stationed there.

# KHAMENEI PREVENTED ASSAD FROM ESCAPING SYRIA IN SEPTEMBER 2015



- According to reliable reports, Syrian President Bashar Assad, in September 2015 (before Russia started air attacks), was seen in Glass Building with several (6 or 7) escort cars intending to leave Syria.
- Naqavi who is the head of IRGC security was near Assad.
- IRGC Brig. General Haj Heidar (he is based at Glass Building and is the commander of all foreign mercenaries of Iran in Syria) relays the message of Khamenei to Assad that he should not leave.

# THE CENTRAL COMMAND CENTERS

## 2 – Shibani Garrison (aka Imam Hossein Garrison):



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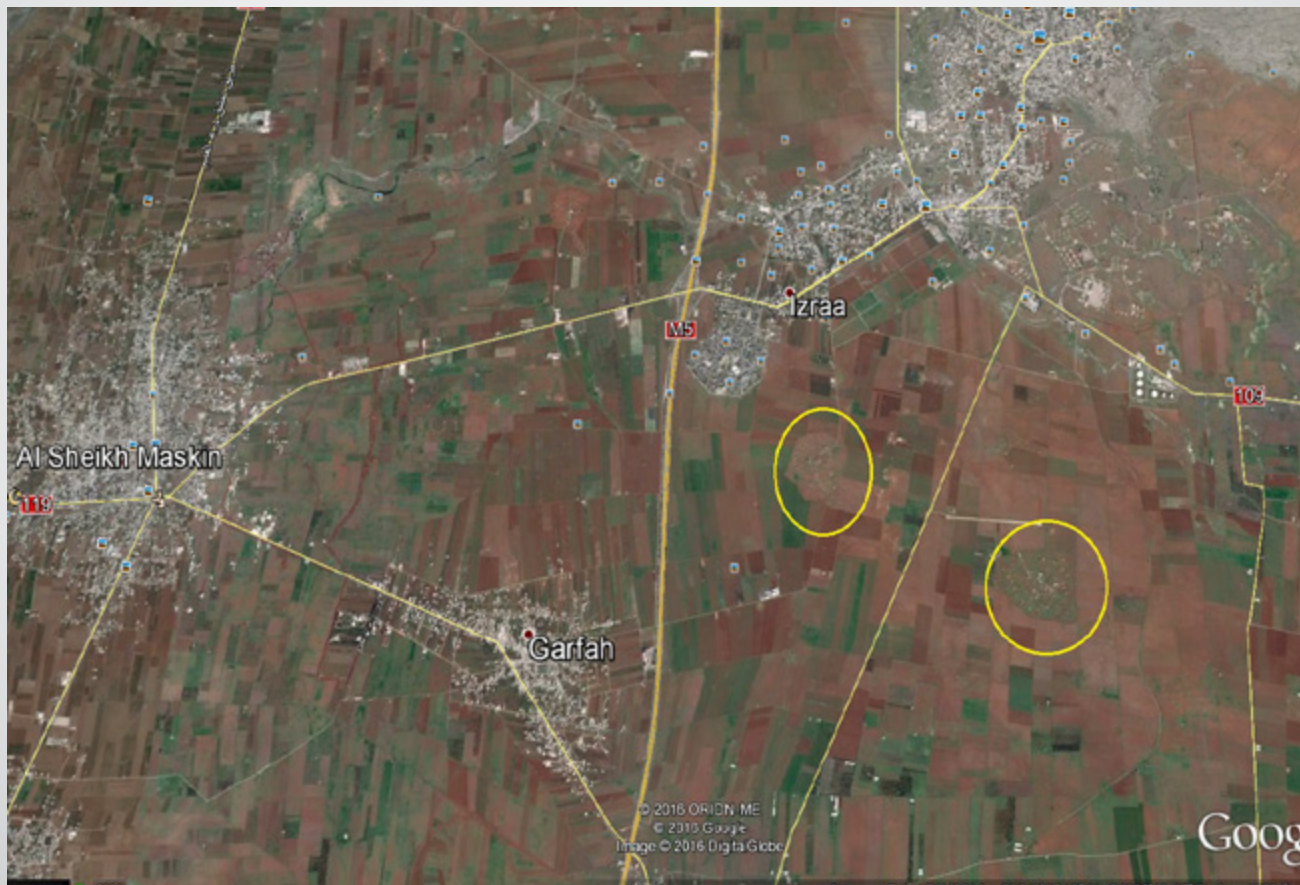
# THE CENTRAL COMMAND CENTERS

## 2 – Shibani Garrison (aka Imam Hossein Garrison):

- Assad's Republican Guards previously stationed there.
- IRGC calls it the Imam Hossein Garrison.
- Has a capacity of 6,000 forces;  
Currently 3,000 IRGC forces, including the commando brigade of the 19th Fajr Division from Shiraz, Afghan forces known as the Fatemiyoun, Lebanese Hezbollah stationed there.
- Acts as the support force to protect Assad's palace and the expeditionary force against possible attacks from Zabadani by the Syrian regime's opponents.
- Used to dispatch forces to other fronts, i.e., in April 2016, four battalions of the Afghan Fatemiyoun forces were dispatched to Palmyra from this location.

# THE SOUTHERN COMMAND CENTERS

## 5 – Izra Base:



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## 5 – Izra Base:

- Near the city of Izra, where air defense units equipped with SAM-1 (surface-to-air) missiles are stationed.
- The IRGC forces have been told in briefings that this base is tasked with defense against possible Israeli air raids.
- Missile units from Shiraz's al-Mahdi Division & units from the IRGC's aerospace section are stationed here.
- Made up of two missile sites close to each other.
- Other IRGC units tasked with carrying out operations in southern Syria or near the Jordanian border use this base as the barracks for their troops.

# THE MIDDLE COMMAND CENTERS

## 9 – T4 (Tiyas) Military Airbase:



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## 9 – T4 (Tiyas) Military Airbase:

- This airbase, which belongs to the Syrian army, is located 50 kilometers from Palmyra.
- The IRGC has used it as a concentration point in staging attacks on Palmyra.
- In October 2015, more than 1,000 IRGC forces were stationed there.
- According to one report received, around 1,000 Russian commandos were seen at this airbase in October 2015.

# THE NORTHERN COMMAND CENTERS

## 10 – Bohouth Garrison (aka Ruqiya):



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**Bahouth Garrison Command HQ1 & HQ2**

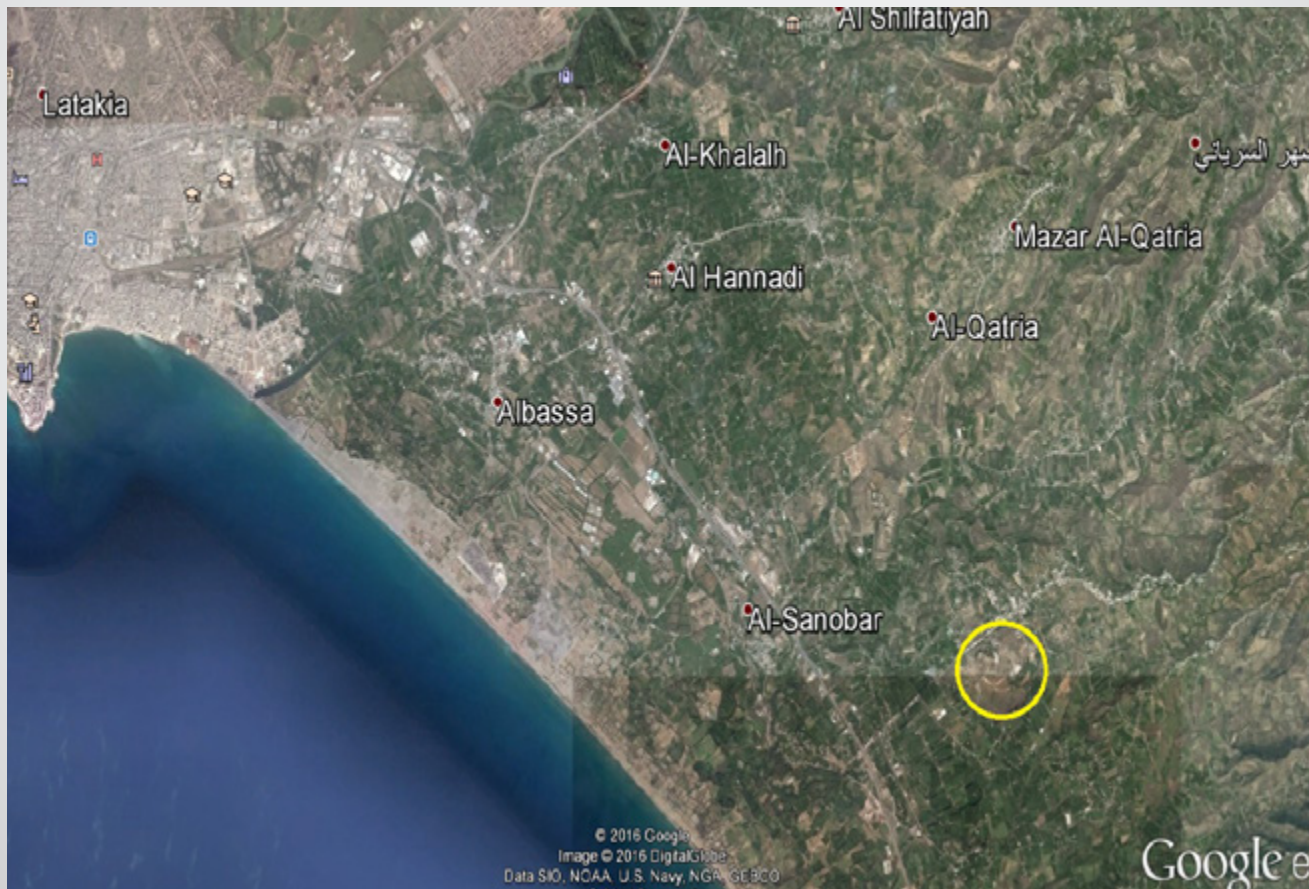
# THE NORTHERN COMMAND CENTERS

## 10 – Bohouth Garrison (aka Ruqiya):

- Was part of the Bohouth (investigation) complex of the Syrian army (codenamed 350).
- IRGC has labeled this garrison the Ruqiya base.
- This garrison is situated behind the main frontline forces in southern Aleppo.
- According to eyewitness accounts, in early 2016, 2,000-3,000 forces from IRGC, Afghan, Iraqi and Lebanese Hezbollah mercenaries stationed there.
- The material for chemical weapons and missile fuel are produced at this garrison.

# THE COASTAL FRONT COMMAND CENTERS

## 17 – Camp Tala'e Shabibeh (Scouts & Youth Camp):



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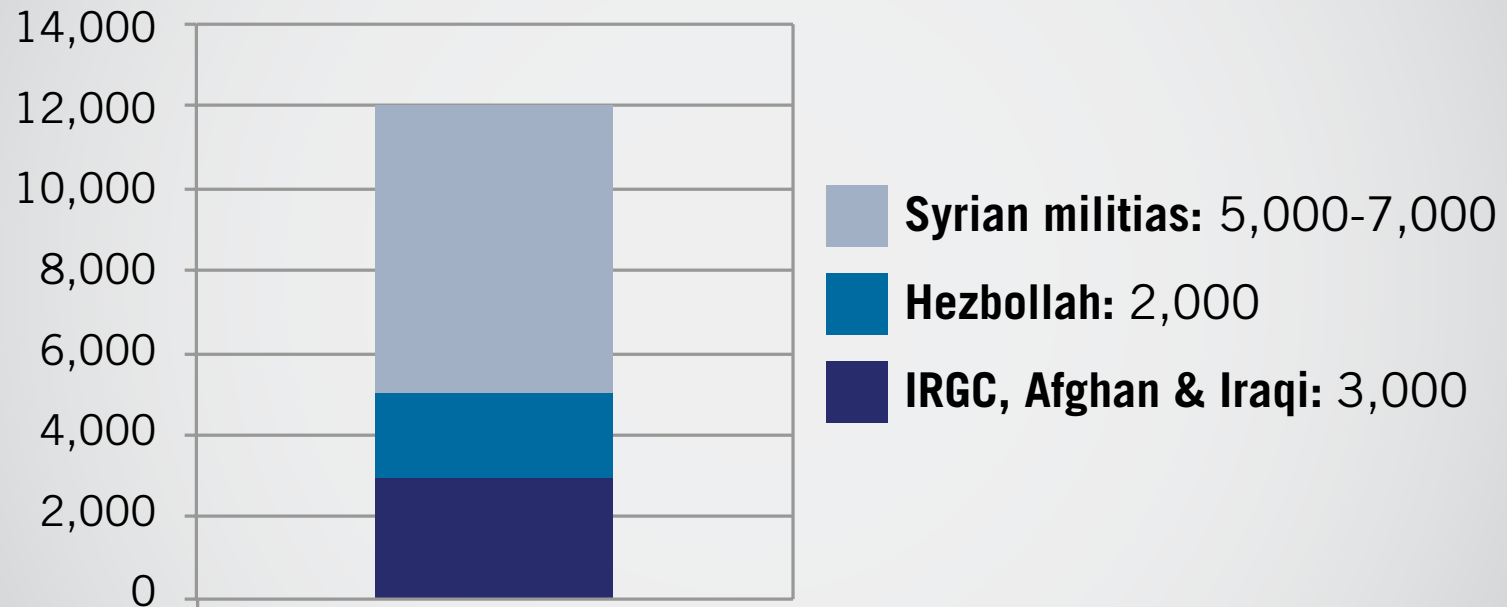


# THE COASTAL FRONT COMMAND CENTERS

## 17 – Camp Tala'e Shabibeh (Scouts & Youth Camp):

- After Russian forces arrived at Latakia airport, a significant portion of IRGC forces were transferred to the Tala'eh or Shabiheh Garrison.
- Can house up to a total of 6,000 forces.
- In addition to the Syrian forces, some 2,000 IRGC forces are present in this camp
- The IRGC dispatches its forces from this camp to Jabal al-Akrad and Jabal al-Turkeman, which are conflict areas north of Latakia.

# CASUALTIES OF IRGC FORCES IN SYRIA



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**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hassan Shateri  
February 2012



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Sayed Hamid  
Tabataba'i Mehr  
February 2013



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Haj Esmail Heydari  
August 2013



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Mohammad Jamali  
Paghal'eh  
November 2013



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Dadollah Sheibani  
June 2014



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Jabar Darisavi  
October 2014



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Mohammad Ali Allahdadi  
January 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Alireza Tavassoli  
(Fatemiyoun Group)  
February 2015

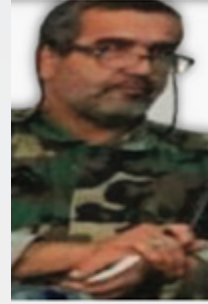
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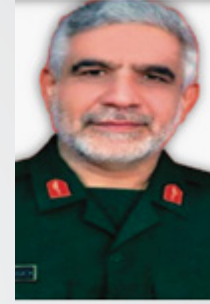
**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hossein Badpa  
April 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hadi Kajbaf  
April 2015



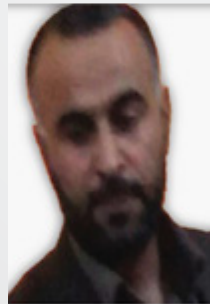
**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Roozbeh Halisia'i  
April 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Haj Abdullah Eskamdari  
June 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hamid Mokhtarband  
October 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Jabbar Araghi  
October 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hossein Hamedani  
October 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Ezatollah Soleimani  
October 2015

# CASUALTIES OF IRGC FORCES IN SYRIA



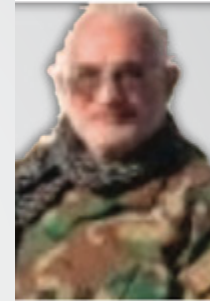
**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Farshad Hossouni Nejad  
October 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Abdolreza Mojiri  
November 2015



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hossein Fada'ei  
(Fatemiyoun Group)  
December 2015



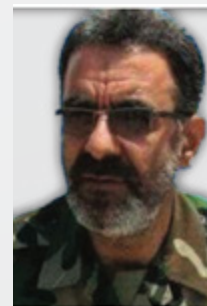
**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Saeed Saiyah Taheri  
January 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hamid Reza Ansari  
February 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Sattar Ourang  
February 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hassan Razzaqi  
February 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Reza Farzaneh  
March 2016

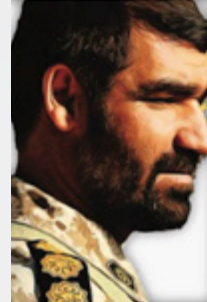
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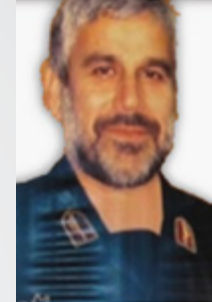
**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Hassanali Shamsabadi  
March 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Moshen Qajarian  
March 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Mashallah Shamseh  
April 2016



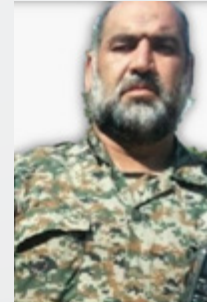
**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Javad Durbin  
May 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Seyed Shafi'e Shafi'ee  
May 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Mohammad Hassan Hakimi  
(Fatemiyoun Group)  
June 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Reza Rostami Moghadam  
June 2016



**IRGC Brigadier General**  
Jahangir Jafarinia  
June 2016

# THE WAY FORWARD

- End occupation of Syria by the Iran regime
- Exclude Iran from all international negotiations regarding Syria
- To fight ISIS, Iran is no ally; it adds fuel to the fire, paves the way for expansion of ISIS
- Broad-based political and financial backing to the democratic Syrian opposition.
- Establishing a no-fly zone in northern Syria to protect the civilians and provide help to displaced refugees.