Omran for Strategic Studies was founded in 2013 as a policy research center focusing on Syria and the region in three tracks: politics and international relations, economic development, and local administration & promotion of democratic practices. Omran’s work is uniquely characterized by a perspective of state institutions preservation, utilizing field-based research, analysis, scenario projections, and high credibility with relevant actors on the ground.

In 2016, we were able to develop proposals and stabilization programs and recommendations through a number of publications, maps, and seminars. We also issued editorials and briefs on political transition, local administration, security sector reform and economic development. We continued to expand our local and regional network and relations with key Syrian and non-Syrian stakeholders to collaborate and develop practical solutions that empower and assist decision-makers.

In 2017, we will focus on Security Sector Reform, DDR processes, Syrian Kurdish affairs, and local administration councils to restore stability and develop the necessary tools to deal with the forthcoming political phase.

Ammar Kahf, Ph.D.
Executive Director
About Omran

Our Vision
An independent think tank and policy center focusing on presenting an objective understanding of Syria and the region striving to become a reference point for public policies impacting the region.

Our Mission
- A research institution that serves as an essential reference on Syrian and regional affairs in political, Local Administration, and development sectors.
- Omran Center publishes studies and policy briefs that empower relevant actors and institutions working on Syrian affairs, supports decision-making mechanisms, and assess a complex set of data to present analytical maps and recommendations.
- Omran’s studies carefully analyze all aspects of a situation, efficiently identifying immediate needs and aspirations, and promoting effective plans to meet them.
Omran
Core Values

- Adhere to professional standards in describing and analyzing complex realities.
- Adopt vigorous research methodology.
- Enrich and develop our research team.
- Adapt to changing conditions and needs.
- Localize and adapt concepts and solutions to the Syrian and regional cultural and political contexts.
- Open to different orientations and methodologies through dialogue and bridge building.

Objectives

- Support decision-making mechanisms and presenting strategies on Syrian affairs.
- Provide practical solutions and policy recommendations to decision-makers.
- Publish policy studies that identify challenges within the Syrian context and the region, and foresee scenarios and alternative solutions.
- Publish papers in several languages to facilitate interaction with international actors.
- Contribute to the accumulation of knowledge that best serves the Syrian issue.
Why Omran

Quality Readership
Advises key opinion leaders and networks; more than 95 Arab and international websites republish Omran products with over 63,000 readers.

In-Depth Assessment
Conducts up-to-date analysis of political and social developments in Syria and the region using a dynamic and objective methodology based on direct access to information on the ground and abroad.

Bridge-Building Platform
Provides a platform for Syrian policy makers, human rights activists, local council members, and thinkers to exchange and develop new ideas and solutions faced by Syrians.

Multilingual
Issues original products in Arabic, Turkish and English.
Omran Units

**Research Unit**
- Economics and Development
- Politics and International Relations
- Local Administration and Promotion of Democratic Practices

**Information Unit**
- Monitoring and Map Production
- Public Opinions Polls and Surveys

**Negotiations Support Unit**
- Political Track
- Public Services Track
- Military and Security Track

**International Affairs Unit**
- Turkish Affairs Department
- US Affairs Department
- EU Affairs Department
Research Unit

The Research Unit focusses on analyzing the Syrian scene through political, military, economic and local administration dimensions, and assessing the impact of changes within it on regional and international affairs. It presents recommendations and projections for decision-makers in Syria. Researchers strive to put forward an accurate, realistic and objective assessment of the challenges and opportunities faced by Syria and circulate it to experts on Syrian affairs. The Research Unit focusses on three tracks:

- Politics and International Relations
- Local Administration & Promotion of Democratic Practices
- Economics and Development

Information Unit

The Information Unit specializes in collecting data that is key for a better understanding of Syrian and regional affairs. It also offers support to the research unit by constantly monitoring and archiving news and information received from the ground and abroad, producing special reports, bulletins, and maps. Furthermore, it tracks products by think tanks and policy centers relating to Syria and the region.

- Public Opinions Polls and Surveys
- Security and Military Affairs
- Syrian Kurdish Affairs
- Local and Shiite Militias
- Islamist and Jihadist Groups
- International Forces In Syria
Negotiations Support Unit

This technical unit includes Syrian and international experts that empower Syrian actors and decision-makers with the tools, information and analysis necessary for any negotiation process. It focuses on political, military, security and public services tracks.

International Affairs Unit

This unit includes Syrian and international academics and experts who focus on reaching out to think tanks and policy centers with similar interests to build partnerships. It also provides decision-makers in other countries the latest studies and analysis of the political and military situation in Syria. The Turkish Affairs Department was established and operates in Turkey. We also hold functions and briefings in the US and Europe.
KRIZI VE GÜVENLİK TEHDIRLERİ

25 Mart 2016
Cuma
10.30 - 12.30

Sasha Al Alou
Araştırmacı,
Omran for Strategic Studies

Can Acun
Araştırmacı,
SETA

Murat Yeşiltaş
Güvenlik Araştırmaları Direktörü,
SETA
Fields Covered
By Omran Studies

- Societal Security
- Reconstruction
- Security and Military
- The Political Process
- Refugees Resettlement

- Public Opinions Polls
- Local Economic Development
- Legal and Human Rights Studies
- Regional and International Studies
- Decentralized Local Administration

Omran's
Outcomes 2016

- **Publications:** Books, studies, research papers and briefs, editorials, analysis, strategy alerts, maps, infographs.
- **Events:** Conferences, seminars, workshops, forums, discussion panels.
- **Training materials:** developed training materials based on identified needs for customized training.
- **Consultations:** Provided recommendations to local, regional, and international entities with Syria interest.
- **Interactions:** Connected with many think tanks and policy makers.
## Omran
### Accomplishments in 2016

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Most Important Studies and Research Papers 2016

- The Security Apparatus and the Need for Structural and Functional Changes.
- The Saudi-Iranian Conflict and Delayed Confrontation.
- Aleppo Rebels Face Off Against the Russia-Iran Front.
- The Saudi-Turkish Alliance and the Syrian Test.
- China’s Role in the Syrian File: Reasons and Motives.
- The Current and Future Role of Local Councils: Analysis of Survey Results.
- The Changes in Al-Qaeda’s Rhetoric in Syria.
- Turkey: The Sudden Turn and the Big Change.
- The Current and Future Role of Local Councils in Service and Administration: Analysis of Survey Results.
- Military Control of Water Resources during the Syrian Revolution.
- Analysis of the Social Contract of the “Federation of the North”.
- Local Councils Mechanisms in Handling People’s Complaints: Efforts and Hopes.
- Self-Administration in Syria’s Northern Region, July 2016.
- Governance in Areas of Self Administration during August 2016.
- Education in Regions of Self Administration.
- Syrian Opposition Challenges after Losing Aleppo and the “Moscow Declaration”.
The Promises and Challenges Facing the High Council of Syria’s Local Councils.

The Russian-American Ceasefire Agreement in Syria.

Syria After the Ceasefire: A Reality Being Shaped.

The Battle of Mosul and the Possible Outcomes.

Aid Organizations and the Lack of their Role In Development.


Lest Local Councils Become Local Agents.

The Leading Role Moscow Plays Through Syria.

The Anticipated Role of Local Councils.

Evaluating Negotiation Basics and The Transitional Period As Shaped By De Mistura.

Local Councils Moving towards a Unique Centralized Role in Local Communities.

Syria After the Dissolution of Local Councils.

The Turkish-Russian Rapprochement: The Ceasefire in Syria.
International coalition airstrikes in Aleppo (August 24th 2016 through January 17th 2017)
Shifting lines of control in **2016** and **2017**
Most Important Media Outlets Referencing Omran

- Buzzfeed
- Voice of America
- The Telegraph
- Huffington Post
- INSIGHT
- CNN Türk
- TRTWORLD
- Defense One
- Sputnik
- RT Deutsch
- Rudaw
- Al-Souria
- Alarabia
- ARA News
- OPC
- Al-Manar
- Al-Iqraa
- Al-Sharq
- Al-Ikhlas
- Al-Rahman
- Al-Rai
- Al-Watan
- Al-Safir
- Al-Mais
- Al-Quds
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- Al-Sharq
- Al-Ikhlas
- Al-Iqraa
- Al-Quds
- Al-Ittihad
- Al-Masdar
- Al-Masafir
- Al-Anbaa
- Al-Ittihad
Second Annual Book Seminar - Gaziantep
Organized by Omran to present the Second Annual Book “National Options for Overcoming Political Fluidity in Syria”, the seminar also discussed four research papers related to the current situation in Syria.

“Syria and Security Threats” Symposium
Organized by Omran and Turkish Center for Political, Economic, and Social Research (SETA) in Istanbul. Two research papers were reviewed: Maen Talla’s “Security Repercussions of International and Regional Actions in Syria”, and Sasha Alalou’s “Terrorism as Prelude to Killing the Syrian Revolution”.

“Good Governance and Public Accountability” Training Program
Omran researcher Hadia Alomari was one of the trainers in this program on community engagement and governance planning, held by the local councils unit in cooperation with Canada’s Department of State.

“The Future of Syria” Workshop
Omran’s Executive Director, participated in this workshop hosted by EuroMesco research network and sponsored by GPoT Center, Istanbul.

“Chaos in Syria” Symposium
Omran’s Executive Director presented a paper in this symposium held by the Turkish Center for Political, Economic, and Social Research (SETA) in Istanbul.
The workshop was held as part of the research project launched by Omran on “Security Changes in Syria”. Topics discussed included the political and military events in Syria, as well as the international/regional vision for a solution in Syria and its effects on security. In addition, participants discussed the security situation in areas under regime control and areas under the control of militant opposition forces, and reviewed similar experiences that other countries went through to create the methods and mechanisms most compatible with people’s aspirations, along with the security concerns imposed specifically by the geography of Syria.

Omran’s economist Mohammed Al-Abdullah participated in this seminar held by the Istanbul Province and the Turkish Organization for Emergency and Crisis (AFAD) to deliberate the education problems faced by Syrian refugees in Istanbul.

Omran’s researcher Maen Talla gave presentation titled “The Battle of Raqqa and Its Repercussions on the Scene in Syria” at this conference organized by Rudaw Research Center.

Omran’s Executive Director presented a paper on survey results and assessment on the performance of local councils during this event held by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
Omran released its second annual book focusing on the most prominent changes and challenges in the Syrian file. Researchers from three units in Omran contributed to the book: the international affairs unit, the local administration and democratic practices unit, and the economy and development unit. The book examines the following topics:

- **Security Repercussion of Actions** in Syria by International and Regional Players, by Maen Talla.
- **Terrorism as A Prelude To Killing The Revolution** in Syria, by Sasha Alalou.
- **Decentralization Options** and the Test of State Rebuilding in Syria, by Hadia Alomari, Ayman Aldisouqi, and Mohammed Munir Alfaqeer.
- **Local Economic Development** as a Requirement for Societal Stability in Syria, by Mohammed Al-Abdallah.

The study presents a realistic assessment of the security situation in Syria by deconstructing the philosophy behind deploying the current form of security apparatus. It also presents the basis for the required changes after examining the results of security reform in countries of the Arab Spring. The study closes with recommendations for a series of actions that would ensure a solid security sector.
Omran Accomplishments since Establishment through 2016

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