



عمران  
للدراسات الاستراتيجية  
OMRAN  
FOR STRATEGIC  
STUDIES

Public Policy  
and Research Center

# Annual Report 2019



## About Us

- Established in 2013 in Turkey with presence in Syria, and an office in Washington, DC
- Publishes in-depth studies, analytical maps, and policy recommendations on Syrian and regional security, politics, economics, and local governance
- Hosts conferences, workshops, and seminars, bringing together scholars from around the world

## Vision

An independent policy research center that presents an objective understanding of Syria and the region and serves as a reference for policymakers around the world

## Mission

- To become an essential reference on Syria and the region on political and security affairs, local governance and administration, and economic development.
- To publish policy studies and briefs that empower relevant actors and institutions working on Syrian affairs, support decision-making mechanisms, and assess a complex set of data to produce analytical maps and recommendations.

## Why Omran

### In-Depth Assessment

Conducts critical analysis of current political and social issues in Syria and the surrounding region through direct access to information on the ground

### Bridge-Building Platform

Provides a platform for Syrian policy makers, human rights activists, local council members, and scholars to exchange and develop new ideas and solutions for Syria

### Accurate Field Data

Through a network of relationships, field researchers and partnerships

### Promoting a Reform Agenda in Syria

As an entry point for stability, security and development

### Extensive Reach

Among Syrian, regional and international decisions makers, and provide analysis and opinion for Arab and international actors

**Omran program focuses on:**

Public Policies

Governance and  
Political SystemSecurity and  
Military

Rule of Law

Regional and  
International Affairs

Development

## Issues

- The Political Process
- Security and Military
- International Forces
- Terrorism and Extremist Groups
- Identity and Culture
- Constitutional and Elections' Process
- Rule of Law and Accountability
- Refugee Resettlement
- Family Resources Development
- Education
- Healthcare
- Local Economic Development
- Women and Youth Empowerment
- Regional and International Geopolitical Affairs

## Research Programs

- Governance
- Security & Military
- Kurdish Affairs
- Rebuilding Syria

## Accomplishments 2019

34

Research Papers

83

Conferences & Events

126

Media Appearances

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12

Editorials

3

Studies

3

Books

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20

Military Maps

2

Surveys & Polls

61

Published and  
Unpublished Reports

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## Accomplishments through 2019

424

Research Papers

334

Conferences & Events

541

Media Appearances

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114

Editorials

50

Studies

12

Books

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# Omran's Impact

**Through continuous engagement with public opinion and decision makers, providing a range of solutions and policies that drive political change and stability**

## Social Engagement

- Reaching approximately 500,000 people interested in Syrian affairs on social media platforms
- Interacting with 50 local, regional and international media outlets to inform the public on Syrian affairs
- 30 institutions have republished Omran's work as a major source of information

## Engagement with Decision Makers

- 35 meetings with representatives of local, regional and international states, and political figures
- 11 research meetings with a number of think tanks institutions
- 19 events with local activists (civil society organizations, lawyers, military personnel, and academics)

## Research Collaboration

- Training 9 undergraduate and graduate students to improve their skills and research tools
- 12 published research articles in collaboration with Arab and international media and intellectual institutions
- 5 workshops in cooperation with research centers inside and outside Turkey
- 19 academic lectures and training workshops directed to the youth
- 25 consultations for researchers working on studies related to the Syrian issue

# Strategic Partner



# Highlights

## Studies and Research Papers

- The Ministry of Interior in Syria .. Reality and the Imperatives of Reform - January
- The Missing Kurdish Link in Syria .. Between Rivalry for Power and Fragile Agreements - March
- Syria and Global Security - April
- The Syrian Revolution and Possibility of Power Sharing - May
- The Constitutional Question in Syria .. A Political Approach (Ar & En) - May
- The Syrian Regime .. Reconfiguration Among Competing Partners - June
- The New Dynamics of the Conflicts in Syria .. A Reading of Post-Terror Alliances - June
- Hezbollah's International Finance Operations .. From Economic Resistance to Criminal Endeavor (En) - June
- Strategic Alert About the Nature of Regime Changes to Security Leaders - July
- Forming Military Councils in Self-Administration Area .. Context, Goals and Prospects - September



## Editorials

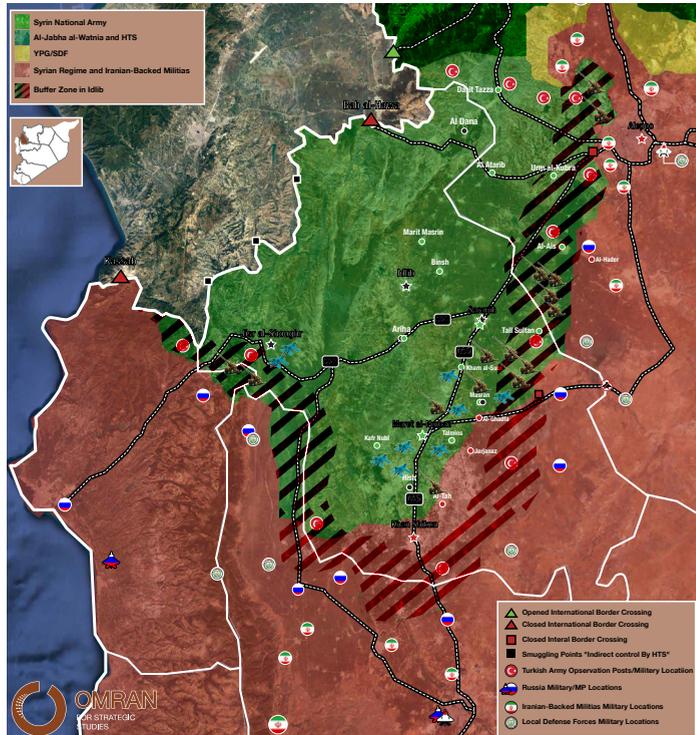
- Messages of Assad's Speeches - February
- Emerging Economic Elites in Syria .. Al-Qattan and Al-Qatirji Families - February
- Moscow's Ambitions in Syria .. Transforming its Political and Military Investments into Gains - February
- Abolishing the defense and Foreign Agencies of Self-Administration .. Restructuring or Resizing? - April
- Russian Escalations in Northern Syria .. Motives and Possible Prospects - May
- The Absence of Civil-Military Relations in Syria .. The Regime's Army Salaries as an Example - May
- Sarotism as a Popular Revolutionary Culture - June
- Fog Clears Over the American Plan for Northeast Syria - July
- East of the Euphrates .. the Success of an Agreement Still in the Works - August
- What Remains for Syrians After Announcing the Formation of the Constitutional Committee? - September
- Managing Resizing Policies .. Moscow and Investing in Contradictions - October
- Readings on Syrian Civil Society .. The Challenge of Political Neutrality "Condemning Bashar al-Assad and the Arms Argument" - October

## Special Reports

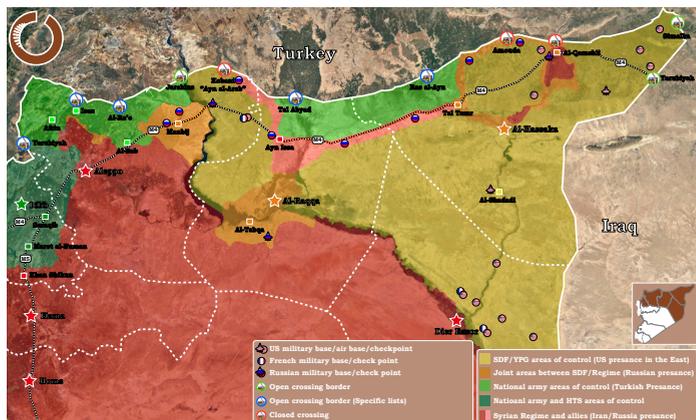
- 11 reports on The Reality of Governance and Reconstruction in Syrian Regime Areas
- 2 reports on Assassinations in Opposition Areas
- 2 reports on Early Economic Recovery Indicators in Opposition-Held Areas
- Distribution of Control and Influence in Northern Syria After Spring of Peace Operation (Ar & En)
- Indicators of Economic Cooperation Between the Syrian Regime and Iran in 2018-2019 (En)
- Iranian Influence Within the Regime's Army and the Strikes that Targeted Iran in Syria in 2017-2018 (En)
- Official Visits Between Iran and Syria in 2018-2019 (En)
- Characteristics of Private Security and Military Companies in Syria (En)

# Maps

Northern Front



Area of Control - Northern Region in Syria



# Books

## The Syrian Military Establishment in 2019:

### Sectarianism, Militias & Foreign Investment (Ar & En)

It is the second research project for Omran in this field, accomplishing a number of research outputs based on five focused sessions held with a group of defected officers to produce the following papers:

- Study: Sectarianism in the Syrian Army
- Research Paper: Military Groups and Networks within the Syrian Army: Multiple Loyalties and Militia Mentality
- Research Paper: Challenges of Restructuring Technical and Non-Technical Syria's Military Institution
- Report: New Military Corps in the Syrian Army
- Research Paper: Testing the Regime's Capacity for Restructuring and Reintegration
- Research Paper: The Role and Fate of Palestinian Forces and Militias Loyal to the Syrian Regime
- Report: Military Judicial System in Syria from 1950-2019

## Economic Recovery in Syria:

### Mapping Actors and Assessing Current Policies (Ar & En)

This book aims to highlight the reality of the economic recovery, analyze this stage from several aspects, and acknowledge the progress achieved by addressing the following topics:

- The Political Context of Early Recovery in Syria
- Early Economic Recovery in Syria: Challenges and Priorities
- The Political Economy of Early Recovery in Syria
- Early Recovery in Syria: An Assessment of the Regime's Role and Capacities
- The Turkish Approach to Early Economic Recovery in Syria: Euphrates Shield Area as a Case Study

## Palestinians of Syria.. Violation of Rights and Identity Challenges (Ar & En)

This book highlights legal status and other problems facing the Palestinians of Syria, the continued depletion of their presence in Syria, and the difficulties that face those who were forced to migrate and flee towards other countries. All attempts to remedy the deep fractures that have affected them remain tied to the outcomes of the Syrian crises. It is difficult to foresee approaches or solutions that will assure Palestinians about the future of their existence in Syria, or lead them to a more secure legal status that guarantee their rights, so long as the international community

is unable to end the tragic conditions of war, which portend even more tragic choices for the future of Syrians and Palestinians alike. Not least among those trajectories are the shrinking opportunities that refugees face with regards to regaining their original and fundamental right to return to the homeland from which they were originally displaced. This is especially true since the Syrian crises with all its tragedies, has moved them further away from Palestine and the refugee camps near it.



For further research outputs, you can visit Omran's website:

[www.omrandirasat.org](http://www.omrandirasat.org)

# Events and Conferences

## Workshops:

- "Local Experts and Actors" held by Omran to discuss results, research papers and reports prepared within the project of reforming the military sector in the post-conflict phase in Syria
- "Syrian Youth and Mechanisms of Effectiveness", organized by Omran's interns and attended by activists, students, and representatives of civil society organizations
- "Ways to Integrate Syrian Refugees in Turkey", held by German Marshall Fund for the United States (GMF) and the Turkish Economic Policy Research Foundation (TEPAV)
- "A Strong Civil Society for Refugees" held by Kadem and the European Union, to explore more sustainable and effective services for the refugee community
- "Moving Towards Decentralization: which model is best for Syria?", held by the Arab Reform Initiative
- "Security Structure in Liberated Areas" held by the Stabilization Committee in cooperation with the Middle Eastern Studies Center of Hassan Kalonji University. It was attended by presidents and representatives of local councils, the national army and the military police as well as the Minister of Justice and Interior of the Syrian Interim Government



## Seminars:

- "Constitutional Committee File", in cooperation with the Hoze Center for Community Development in Al Bab, Omran gave an extensive presentation on the positioning of the constitution in the context of the political process and the expected scenarios
- "Operation Spring of Peace and its Implications for Syria and the Region" Omran presented an intervention on the new positions of the opposition, the regime, the Kurds and ISIS in Syria after the operation, the seminar was organized by the Anadolu Center for Near East Studies, Al Jazeera Center for Studies and Al Jazeera Live
- Omran participated as a keynote speaker on the importance of caring for independent civil society organizations and their role in decision-making in the ceremony held by the Syrian-American Council in Washington, DC on the 8th anniversary of the Syrian revolution
- "After the Fall of ISIS," organized by New America, the War Future Center, Arizona State University - McCain Institute (ASU), the SOF Global Foundation, and the US Army's College of War Strategic Studies Institute in Washington DC

## Academic Lecture:

A Political Reading in the Constitutional Committee and its Impact on the Syrian Issue, held in Baytna Syria and attended by a number of researchers and activists



## Focus Groups and

### Discussion Sessions:

- "Issues and Developments in the Syrian File", held by the Middle East Institute (MEI) in Washington
- "The Future of the Conflict in Syria: Field and Political Developments", held in Washington in coordination with the Syrian American Council and the Syrian Forum USA
- "Political and Field Contexts in the East and West of the Euphrates", attended by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Syrian American Council and members of the Board
- "The Ministry of Interior in Syria, Reality and the Imperatives of Reform", attended by a group of defected officers, in addition to a group of researchers in the field of security reform

### Research Conferences:

- "Immigration and Diaspora Forum", organized by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) and in cooperation with ORSAM, to discuss the phenomenon of immigration from an academic view
- "The Middle East and North Africa Region, a Stadium of Power" Omran participated in the annual international conference organized by the African Middle East Center in Pretoria
- "Towards Building a Comprehensive Peace for the Future of Syria", organized by Chatham House Center and was attended by policy makers, experts, academics and civil society leaders



# Media Coverage



# Collaboration



# Giving Guide

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Since 2011, KPMG has conducted a comprehensive financial audit annually





[www.omrandirasat.org](http://www.omrandirasat.org)



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One of Syrian Forum's Programs  
in Public Policy and Research Center

