

## **Israeli assessments about the developments of recent political and field situations in “Syria”**

Israel Pay more attention to the developments that occurred in Syria, because of the conflict areas are near from southern Syria, and the ability of the opposition to defeat “Al-Assad” regime that is supported by Hezbollah in more than one area.

### **The political and security level:**

The recent Israeli assessments about the developments of political and field situations in Syria could be noticed through some points. At the political and security levels, it was emphasized that the Israeli army is ready to hit jihad groups operating in Syria after the fall of the regime, and that the army is now working on a bank of targets for particular Jihadist organizations to strike it. On the assumption that these organizations will fight against Israel after the fall of the Syrian regime.

All indications confirms the failed attack, which was carried out by Hezbollah forces and Syrian army in the south of Syria, especially in the area of the “Golan Heights” and “Dar’a”. These forces turned to be easy targets for the opposition forces, which forced them to shift from the attack to the defense. The conception of the general strategic in Israeli military intelligence services, confirms that the ability of Hezbollah and Iran to maintain the Assad regime becomes almost to zero, and that the importance of bombing Military convoys carrying weapons is useless as long as Hezbollah has one hundred thousand shells and missiles.

The opportunities for the fall of the Syrian regime are growing after the successful military strategy pursued by armed opposition forces in exhausting the regime capacity. In addition, the participation of thousands of "Hezbollah" fighters to support Assad regime obviously being nothing, and will not change reality facts on the ground.

## **On the Ground:**

Assessments concluded that the possibility of the fall of “Quneitra” in the “Golan Heights” in the hands of the opposition coalition of forces created important paths for the Syrian regime and its allies: firstly, to promote joint action between Syria, Iran and Hezbollah, to occupy the city. Secondly, the exploitation of the threat by “Al-Nusra Front” - arm of al-Qaeda - toward minorities that live in remote areas in the south of Syria, in general, to recruit them for the benefit of Syrian regime.

## **Escalation Paths:**

The impact of these basic steps to Israel lies mainly in the clashes between Israel and Hezbollah. If it settles in the region, and occupy “Quneitra” and control in the face of the rebels, the degree of threat toward Israel would rise in three tracks:

- 1) Hezbollah will strengthen its ability to acquire information about the army and Israeli areas in strategic area in the “Golan”.
- 2) It will try to expand the threat by launching its missiles, and improve its ability to reach the Israelis.
- 3) It will try to recruit fighters of the minorities living in Israel, Palestinians of 48, and Druze to be additional arm to carry out operations against targets inside Israel.

## **Threats beyond "Hezbollah":**

It is clear that the threat to Israel is not caused only by Hezbollah, but the fact that there are currently opposition forces in the “Golan Heights”, which will aim there weapons to Israel in the next stage. Also, Israel is ready to hit Hezbollah, both because his presence in the “Golan Heights” has become a greater threat or because Israel imagines that Hezbollah may extend a lot during its operations in Syria and Iraq, so it would be unable to risk in entering another war with Israel.

It seems that the battle of “AlQalmon” is a matter of life and death for Syrian regime and Hezbollah, and that the battle is going on between the two sides of competitors - Syrian army and Hezbollah who fighting fiercely against “Al-Fath Army” which was separated from “Al-Nosra - to win the strategic control over “AlQalmon”.

**Concluding observations:**

Israel will not allow Hezbollah to consolidate its positions in the “Golan Heights”, which it used to open a new front against Israel. In addition, the success of Hezbollah forces and Syrian regime in restoring control over several towns and villages, especially on several hills overlooking the strategic Syrian Israeli border would represent a danger to the Israel national security in the near future. However, this success does not mean a fundamental change in Syrian war, as no one of the competitors - whether the Syrian regime or armed opposition forces - can sew up the confrontations for its own.

The war in the “Golan Heights” has a crucial importance for the armed opposition forces and for the Syrian regime and his allies, as well as for Israel, as the armed opposition forces - most of them are Islamic movements such as Al-Nosra - also work against Israeli national security.