

Imprisoned Al Qaeda Fighters Freed by U.S. Allies to Rejoin Fight Against Assad

By [Eric Zuesse](#)

Global Research, December 02, 2015

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#)

Some of the world's top Al Qaeda operatives were freed from a Lebanese prison on Tuesday December 1st, to rejoin the U.S.-led war against Syria's Bashar al-Assad.

America's anti-Assad ally, [Qatar, the chief financiers of the Muslim Brotherhood](#), negotiated with the neutralist Lebanese government, to swap the 26 imprisoned Al Qaeda jihadists for 16 Lebanese soldiers who had been captured by Al Qaeda in Lebanon.

Lebanese and Syrian Al Qaeda are called Al Nusra. Al Nusra had captured these soldiers in Lebanon this past summer.

Lebanon [will get its 16 soldiers back, and Al Qaeda \(Al Nusra\) will get its 26 fighters back, including the former wife of ISIS's founder](#), Sheikh Ibrahim Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi. London's *Daily Mail* headlined about her on 21 February 2015, "[Scheming Bride of ISIS they all idolise: Mesmerising tale of wife of terror chief who inspires girls to join bloody ranks.](#)" So, she's free again, to rejoin the U.S.-led forces.

Another freed Al Qaeda operative is Sheikh Mustafa al-Hujairi, who on 20 March 2014 was described by the newspaper *Al-Akhbar* (translated by [an online website](#)) as "the leader of an armed group that provides logistical support to al-Qaida linked networks Jabhat al-Nusra, the Abdullah Azzam Brigades and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)." This report said he had 200 men under his command.

In both of those cases, the freed fighter was associated with more than one terrorist group (ISIS — or as Obama calls it "ISIL" — Al Nusra, Abdullah Azzam Brigades); but, regardless of what they are called, they are jihadists; and, so, any categorization of the anti-Assad groups other than as fundamentalist Sunnis who are active jihadists waging war to take down Assad would be deceptive, because there are no Shiites who are fighting to take down the secular, non-religious, government that is run by the Shiite Assad. All of the 'rebel' groups are only Sunni terrorists; none of them are "moderates." Whereas some of them get more money from Qatari royals, and others of them get more money from Saudi royals, they all are jihadists, and all are Sunnis.

The soldiers who are fighting on Assad's side are both Shiites and Sunnis, as well as some who are other religions or no religion. For example, the American propaganda-organ, *USA Today*, headlined on 1 August 2013, "[Sunnis fill rebel ranks, but also prop up Assad regime,](#)" and the subhead was "Many Sunnis are backing the dictatorship to preserve their livelihoods, or believe the uprising is doomed or ruthless." (The U.S. government isn't being called a 'regime'; and isn't being referred to as a 'dictatorship.') The idea there was to portray the enemies of the American government's proxy invasion of Syria as being bad ('to

preserve their livelihoods'), not good, and the friends of America's proxy invasion (via 'moderate groups', etc.) as being good not bad (not, for example, similar to the terrorists on 9/11 and at Charlie Hebdo, etc.). It's straight out of George Orwell's *1984*, but this is now real.

Qatar is part of the U.S.-Saudi-Qatari-Turkish war to overthrow Syria's Russia-allied leader, Bashar al-Assad. The royal owners of Qatar, the Thani family, want to build through Syria a gas-pipeline to get Qatar's gas into Europe to supplant Russia's gas there. Russia's ally Assad stands in the way of that. Also, the Russian government is in reality, and not only in principle, opposed to jihadists and a fusion of church and state. So, Russia has both ideological and economic reasons to be standing firm in support of Assad. The Saud family, who own Saudi Arabia, have indicated that [Israel is their friend and Palestinians are their enemy because Israel too wants the Shiite Assad and Shiite-run Iran to fall](#).

So, if purely economic motives dominate on one side or the other, it's probably on the U.S.-Saudi-Qatari-Turkish side where greed is the main motivation. This is the reason why America's side refers to Assad as a "dictator," but doesn't refer to its own allies as being "dictators" or "regimes" — not even the Saudis. However, the purest dictatorship that's involved in this conflict is [Saudi Arabia](#) (whose royalty are [the chief financial backers of Al Qaeda](#)). Next would be [Qatar](#). Both of them are far less democratic than is [Syria](#). And perhaps Russia is more of a democracy than [the U.S. is](#). Any 'press' which merely *assumes* otherwise is pure propaganda, because no *assumption* should be made about international comparisons. U.S. President Barack Obama continually says that the U.S. is superior to all other nations. He [repeatedly](#) refers to it as ["the one indispensable nation."](#) Insulting every other nation in that way sounds like what only the leader of a dictatorship would even *want* to do.

On 14 January 2012, the chief financial angel of the Muslim Brotherhood, Qatar's Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, told US television channel CBS ["some troops should go to stop the killing"](#) that Assad was doing against his Muslim Brotherhood jihadists who were trying to take over Syria. The [BBC noted](#) that, "Qatar was the first Arab country to join the Nato-led operation in Libya, which led to the downfall of Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi." The American aristocracy wanted it, and the Arabic aristocracies also did. No democracy did. Only aristocratic regimes did. And they did it. In the name of 'democracy.' And yet, many people still fall for such 'democracy.'

America and its allies have enjoyed a lot of success around the world. For example, there are millions of refugees from their wars who are now flooding into Europe. Muslim (and other) masses suffer, but aristocrats in many countries want it. Europe's leaders support America, and are its allies in NATO etc., but whether they represent the interests of the public who elected them is problematic. For some reason, European publics don't seem to understand things any better than the American public does. Perhaps democracy has been lost in Europe, too.

Democracy requires a free press. Free enough, for example, for it to publish, to mainstream audiences, articles like the present one. This article is therefore being submitted to virtually all news-media in the U.S. and many in Europe.

Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of [They're Not Even Close: The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010](#), and of [CHRIST'S](#)

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Eric Zuesse](#), Global Research, 2015

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Eric Zuesse](#)

About the author:

Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of *They're Not Even Close: The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010*, and of *CHRIST'S VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity*.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca