

Double Trouble For Iran & Russia! ‘Key Ally’ Bashar al-Assad Faces The Heat In Syria, Can ‘War Ravaged’ Moscow, Tehran Help?

By [Ashish Dangwal](#) / December 3, 2024

The rapid advance of opposition forces in northern Syria has raised serious questions about the stability of President Bashar al-Assad’s regime and has complicated the strategic interests of his key supporters, Iran and Russia.

Syria’s more than a decade-long civil war has taken a dramatic turn, with the opposition led by Islamist Hay’at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) making significant territorial gains in northern Syria.

In a swift 72-hour offensive, the group, last week, stormed Aleppo and advanced toward the central city of Hama. This dealt a severe blow to President Bashar al-Assad’s regime, which had appeared to be on the path to consolidating its hold on the country.

[...]

Iran, meanwhile, faces its own difficulties. According to **Institute for National Security Studies researcher Beni Sabti**, Tehran’s focus on countering Israel has left it severely depleted.

“The Iranians have paid a very high price for operating all their proxies against Israel over the past year,” Sabti explained, noting the loss of many senior commanders within Hezbollah, Hamas, and other groups.

Therefore, Iran enters the Syrian campaign in a weakened state, with little capacity to support Assad’s regime. The situation has worsened as Tehran has itself become a target. Recent attacks have killed key commanders and even led to the [capture](#) of the Iranian consulate in Aleppo.

Sabti further explained that Iran struggles with fighting on multiple fronts, particularly balancing its focus on Israel with the situation in Syria.

“They’ve abandoned it for the past two or three years in favor of focusing on Israel,” he noted. “The consequences of this shift in priorities are now becoming evident, with the ‘genie out of the bottle’” in Syria, Sabti said.

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