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Syria's HNC Cannot Represent Armed Opposition After Astana Talks - Opposition

13:43 GMT 27.01.2017



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MOSCOW (Sputnik) – The Russian-Turkish-Iranian-backed Astana talks concluded on Tuesday, with government and opposition representatives signing a declaration on a ceasefire monitoring mechanism to uphold the December 29 ceasefire agreement. Syrian armed opposition delegation confirmed its commitment to the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

"The Riyadh bloc cannot state today that it represents armed opposition, since the agreements at [Astana] talks were achieved due to the guarantor represented by Turkey," Kassis said, referring to the fact that Turkey, which wields influence on some parts of the opposition, was one of the declaration's guarantors.

The opposition leader stressed that the Riyadh-based opposition wanted to participate in political negotiations amid the ceasefire in Syria, thus

proving it did not belong to the armed opposition.

According to Kassis, the Astana talks separated the definitions of political and military with regards to opposition forces.

The Astana negotiations will be followed by a UN-mediated meeting in Geneva expected to take place on February 8.

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Syrian opposition's High Negotiations Committee (HNC) opposition



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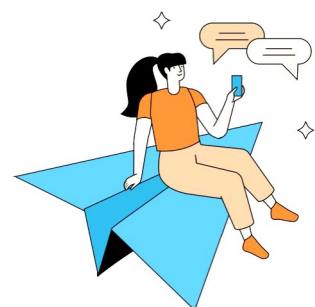


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The opposition leader stressed that the Riyadh-based opposition wanted to participate in political negotiations amid the ceasefire in Syria, thus proving it did not belong to the armed opposition. -- This is such double speak that I can't follow it. It seems like talking in circles to me. I don't know if it's the translation or what. Saudi Arabia shouldn't be involved at all. The KSA and Israel both have stated publicly that Iran is much more of a concern for them than ISIS. In other words, they want Assad removed from office and don't care about the outcomes. They just want Assad gone.



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