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Iran to deploy 4000 troops in Syria to support Assad forces

June 16, 2013

^[1]According to reports Iran has decided to deploy around 4,000 troops to Syria in a bid to support government troops in war against the rebels.

The Independent on Sunday reported that 4,000 Revolutionary Guard troops will be sent to fight alongside Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces.

The decision was reportedly taken last week prior to presidential election in Iran.

Pro-Iranian sources quoted by The Independent said Iran has proposed to open up a front against Israel on the Golan Heights as part of efforts to preserve Assad's regime in Syria.

This comes as United States on Thursday announced it will begin to arm the Syrian opposition in the face of evidence that Assad used chemical weapons against rebels on multiple occasions.

Iran is considered to be one of the main support of President Bashar Assad's government, and Tehran in the past admitted that Revolutionary Guard forces were active in Syria, helping the regime in its fight against rebels.

In the meantime the opposition Syrian National Coalition upon the victory of Hassan Rowhani in presidential election urged him to drop Tehran's support for Assad.

The opposition in a statement carried by AFP said, “For more than two years of the Syrian revolution, the Iranian authorities have stood against the aspirations of the Syrian people by continuing to support the criminal Assad regime politically, militarily and economically.”

The statement released by Syrian opposition coalition also called on Rowhani to “reform Iran’s position... before it is too late.”