

# Syria Rebel Leader Met Visiting UN Envoy: Statement

The Syrian Islamist leader whose group led the offensive that toppled Bashar al-Assad met Sunday with UN envoy Geir Pedersen, who was visiting Damascus, said a statement on the rebels' Telegram channel.

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) leader Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, now using his real name Ahmed al-Sharaa, discussed with Pedersen "the changes that have occurred on the political scene which make it necessary to update" a 2015 United Nations Security Council resolution "to suit the new reality", the statement said.

Jolani's HTS is rooted in Syria's branch of Al-Qaeda, the Al-Nusra Front, designated a "terrorist" organisation by many Western governments.

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