



United States Department of State

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

April 29, 2013

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Department of State, I would like to thank the Syrian Support Group ("SSG") for its tireless efforts in assisting the leadership of the Supreme Military Council and the Free Syrian Army (FSA) in the transition towards a free and democratic Syria.

As the only US-based non-governmental organization licensed by the US Department of Treasury to support the Free Syrian Army, the SSG team has helped to empower those opposition forces fighting for a pluralistic nation under rule of law and civilian leadership. SSG has dedicated itself to standing-up the FSA as the "Future Syrian Army" through projects and programs designed to align the FSA to higher principles.

Furthermore, SSG has always worked to assist outside efforts to help the Syrian people, in particular by providing a platform by which the leadership of the Military Councils could liaise with external interlocutors. Numerous times over, SSG has coordinated with FSA leadership to solve issues confronting the international community, including the release of captive journalists and facilitating the escort of United Nations humanitarian aid convoys. SSG was a major factor in facilitating the Department of State's relationship with the Military Councils and the Chief of Staff of the Supreme Military Council, General Salim Idriss. Finally, SSG was the U.S. Government's trusted partner in transporting and distributing crucial food and medical supplies to FSA battalions in coordination with the Supreme Military Council in Syria.

SSG is a friend to both the United States and Syria. Again, I would like to thank SSG for its tireless effort to support the FSA. I encourage SSG's directors and officers to continue their impressive work in shaping a free and democratic Syria.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Robert S. Ford".

Ambassador Robert S. Ford