

**Sana Al-Sham interview with Commander Omar Al-Shishani**  
**Amir of Northern Directorate of the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham**



Sana Al-Sham had an exclusive interview with Commander Omar Al-Shishani the military Amir of the Northern Directorate of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham. The interview was conducted by journalist Abu Ruqaya Al-Shami on 5 Du Al-Hijjah 1434 A.H. corresponding 2013-10-10.

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Sana Al-Sham: As-salam alaykum

Omar Al-Shishani: wa `alaykumu s-salām

S.S: When did you come to Syria?

O.S: Around March 2012.

S.S: What made you come to Syria?

O.S: When I was a prisoner in Georgia I promised Allah Almighty if I go out of the prison alive I will do jihad for the sake of Allah, and after came out of prison Syria was my first choice, so I went to it, but in the beginning I saw demonstrations, and the slogans of the people weren't Islamic like freedom and democracy. And this is not from the religion of Allah, they are demanding freedom to get democracy, so I

decided to go to Yemen, and I stayed in Egypt waiting for Allah to facilitate for me to go to Yemen, but Allah didn't grant me that, then I returned to Syria.

**S.S: How were your beginnings in Syria?**

O.S: When I first came to Syria I saw people smoking, and many shaved their beards, and listened to songs, and saw banners for the revolutions not carrying the word of Tawhid (lā ilāha illā-llāh), and I said to myself "why did I come here?", I considered these things a barrier, and this was how I saw things when I first came to Syria.

**S.S: What did you do before joining the Islamic State?**

O.S: In the beginning I looked to the situation and found that there wasn't any idea for a state, and I saw that the Muslims were still weak but I promised Allah to do jihad here, and if I was killed then it will be martyrdom for the sake of Allah, in compliance to the order of Allah Almighty to defend this oppressed nation as the Almighty said: (and if they seek aid from you in the matter of religion, aid is incumbent on you) 72 Surah Al-Anfal. In the beginning there were some groups and brigades but we didn't join them for various reasons including that they weren't totally righteous that's why we were working alone.

**S.S: What is the reason for your joining the Islamic State?**

O.S: The main reason that made me join the Islamic State is that they - Allah willing - have a real and successful project to build a state, also I didn't do jihad to rule or make a name for myself or my brigade, but rather I worked to implement the Sharia of Allah on earth, and restore the Islamic Khlilafah, I found the State unlike the other groups and brigades which have an effective project to establish the Islamic State on the methodology of the prophethood, which is consistent to my wish, rather with the order of Allah.

**S.S: As being the military Amir of the State, what are the locations which you participated in liberating it?**

O.S: - I do not know if it was okay to mention the names of the locations and Ghazwahs which I conducted, but since you asked me I will answer you not about my work, but the work of the mujahidin who stood beside me, so that the people know them and mention them with good.

- The first important military action was liberating the Barakat Mountain in Darat A'aza which was completely liberated with the grace of Allah, and we only had one injury.

- The second important operations was in Sayfudawllah in Aleppo city where we remained fighting there for 42 days, which we spent 22 days storming new locations every day, with the grace of Allah. After we spent a period in Sayfudawllah I looked a military view, and found that if we stayed inside the city it will be easy for the regime's forces to do a circumvent on us and besiege us so I suggested on the other brigades to go outside the city and strike the Scientific Research (buildings), and by that we will circumvent on the regime forces from behind, Alhamdulillah, the Scientific Research was stormed and we controlled it but the group that was commissioned to do the ambush against the regime forces that were coming to support the Scientific Research disobeyed orders and didn't repel that aid, and because of that we lost the Scientific Research but the results of this operation was good, since the regime withdraw large part of its forces from inside Aleppo city to restore the Scientific Research, thus the regime forces incursion inside the city stopped.

- After that we liberated Al-Ta'ana Brigade that was shelling the innocents, and cuts the road on the rebels and citizens, so we stormed it militarily from one side and from another side we secured a road for the citizens.

- Then we stormed Sheikh Suleiman where the regime soldiers were shooting at any car that passes on the road between Darat A'aza and Aleppo, and we found around 25 bodies of women and children, after we entered it in participation with Jabhat Al-Nusra and Majlis Shura Al-Mujahidin, Alhamdulillah.

- We conducted an important operation in Al-Safira but a conflict occurred between us and Jabhat Al-Nusra, and Allah says: (and do not quarrel for then you will be weak in hearts and your power will depart) 46 Surah Al-Anfal, so the regime entered Al-Safira once again after we withdrew from it.

- After that we conducted to prepare the operation of Al-Nayrab Airport and 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion and we were around 2300 fighter, but some of the groups and brigades withdrew from the storming operation in the last moments, but with the grace of Allah we stormed the 80<sup>th</sup> Battalion and liberated it, Alhamdulillah, you can enter the Battalion any time without protection.

- After that we liberated Rahbat Al-Taslih and Rahbat Al-Tasleeh in Al-Shaqif and Handarat camp.

- Our brother besieging Minnag Airport came to us asking from us support and assistance to storm the airport and we supported and helped them and the airport was stormed, Alhamdulillah, and rescued the people from this airport in the northern countryside after the delay was a test from Allah Almighty, but in the end Allah graced us to seize it.

**S.S: What was the reason for the delay in seizing Minnag Airport?**

O.S: There were many reasons including weak Iman of some, as well as some of the groups broke their promise to participate, and some of the brigades betrayed us in the last moments.

**S.S: What were your works after joining the State?**

O.S: The operations of liberating Hamah countryside.

**S.S: What happened in Hamah countryside?**

O.S: Alhamdulillah, we achieved 90% of the goals which we set in Hamah countryside.

**S.S: What was the outcome of the operation in Hamah countryside?**

O.S: Alhamdulillah, the war spoils and largess were many since we stormed 11 military locations, and took war spoils from 8 of them.

**S.S: How do you deal with the media incitement and spreading of rumors against the Islamic State?**

O.S: The first thing that we should understand is the situation in Syria is related very much to the external situation.

We Alhamdulillah do not have any relation with any party outside, that's why the media is inciting against us, and evidence for that is my interview with Channel Al-Jazeera its correspondent didn't mention that I'm the military Amir of the Islamic State, rather the Amir of Army of Muhajirin and Ansar despite I had given Baya'a to the Islamic State and was its military commander.

**S.S:** There has been talk in the past days that you gave permission for “Asifat Al-Shamal” to meet John McCain, what do you say about that?

**O.S:** This is a very ridiculous thing; I do not know how to respond to this talk.

The officials in Asifat Al-Shamal want to apologize with my name by saying: Omar Al-Shishani gave us permission to meet John McCain but that is an argument against them not for them that they made a mistake, but rather they want to apologize with my name.

I say: how can we allow them to meet the Americans the enemies of Allah Almighty and enemies of Islam, we have nothing to do with the Americans, there is nothing between us and them except the sword.

**S.S:** How is your relation to the Free (Syrian) Army?

**O.S:** There is no problem between us and the Free Army; we have no interest in fighting them as long as they didn't assault us or our religion and Aqeeda, but if they assault our religion we will not allow them, Insha'Allah people from the Free Army will come to us to help and assist us in establishing the Sharia of Allah, and we wish that they work with us for that.

**S.S:** What is happening in Atmeh?

**O.S:** There are external powers which use the PKK to get pressure cards in Syria, and impose decisions through this party, and so that they have a moving force that works with their order, the policy of the PKK is similar to the policy of the West they do not have a religion or Aqeeda, the West is using the PKK to destroy the Muslims and their religion.

**S.S:** There are many rumors that the Islamic State is only present in the liberated areas and have no presence on the fronts, what are the fronts where the State is stationed now?

**O.S:** We are in Ribat on the fronts against the PKK, we are 90% there, and are in Ribat on the front of Nubul and Al-Zahara in Aleppo and the front of Madfaiya Al-Zahara, Sheikh Said, Al-A'amirya, Al-Ramosa, Khan Toman, Dawayrina, Sikak, Tal Hasil, Tal A'arin, and around Al-Difa'a factories in Al-Adnaniya also.

**S.S:** What about Ribat outside Aleppo?

O.S: The operations in Lattakia countryside was conducted by the State.

Also in Hamah countryside all the recent operations were conducted by the State.

And in Al-Hamdiya camp in Idlib countryside we liberated some locations, but we withdrew after killing important leaderships for the regime.

**S.S: There is talk that Omar Al-Shishani has withdrawn from the State? And no longer have any relations with it, is that true?**

O.S: How can I leave the Islamic State which a project for the Muslim Ummah and all the Muslims? We didn't join the State for the sake of Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi or Abu Al-Athir but rather for the sake of Allah Almighty and to implement His Sharia on earth, and establish the Islamic state on the methodology of the prophethood.

**S.S: We want in the end of this interview a final word to the mujahidin and the public?**

O.S: I send a word to my brothers the mujahidin in Syria: it is you who have begun this jihad for the sake of Allah do not leave it and be steadfast, it is either victory or martyrdom, and beware from being deceived as your brothers in Libya and Egypt were deceived, and let us seek to implement the Sharia of Allah Almighty this an obligation on us.

wa `alaykumu s-salāmu wa rahmatu l-lāhi wa barakātuh

Source: [Sana Al-Sham News](#)