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Dr. Radwan Ziaden meets with head of Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army

On August 16, 2014, Dr. Radwan Ziadeh, executive director of the [Syrian Center for Political and Strategic Studies \(SCPSS\)](#), met in Istanbul with General Abdulilah Al-Bashir, head of the Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army, to discuss [Syria Transition Roadmap](#), a document published by SCPSS and the [Syrian Expert House](#) detailing the Syrian opposition's vision of the democratic transition in Syria.

The meeting focused primarily on the recommendations of [Syria Transition Roadmap](#) on security reform and establishing a modern national army. However, Dr. Ziadeh and General Al-Bashir also acknowledged the necessity of taking serious steps to strengthen and support the brigades of the FSA on an administrative, financial, and military level, including creating a framework for the relationship between the Supreme Military Council and the battalions on the ground, starting a political dialogue, and drafting an all-encompassing budget.

Also, those in attendance agreed on the importance of the role of the media in the battle against the Syrian regime and called for working on developing an administrative structure to determine and organize the position and ranks within the FSA. Finally, Dr. Radwan Ziadeh recognized the necessity of the Syrian Interim Government making efforts to obtain the legal recognition of all the members of the Friends of Syria group.

It is worth noting that Al-Bashir assumed his position succeeding General Salim Idriss under considerably different circumstances regarding the council's structure and its relation with the political opposition, in addition to the lack of necessary funding and arms, especially in light of the fact that the FSA was fighting on two battlefronts: the revolutionary battlefront against the Syrian army and the anti-terrorism battlefront against the Islamic State, which draft has become significantly more active recently.

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