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he rebel leader in Syria is called Abu Muhammad Jolani, founder in 2012 of the Syrian wing of al Qaeda (Jabhat an Nusra) but then broke away from international al Qaeda to create a more pragmatic form of political jihadism based in the north-western Syrian region of Idlib.

Here, over the years, Turkey has extended its direct political and military influence, having already occupied large areas of north-west and north-east Syria.

Jolani, 42, originally from the Damascus region, although he has never admitted having direct links with Ankara, is widely described as an agent of the power system embodied by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Ahmed al-Sharaa, known precisely by his nom de guerre al-Jolani, or al-Golani - which ideally links him to the Syrian Golan Heights occupied by Israel since 1967 - is an old acquaintance of the Arab press, which has followed him closely at least since he founded Jabhat an Nusra in 2012. An initiative that has also earned him a \$10 million bounty placed on his head by the Americans.

Strengthened by his victories on the ground and eager to gain credibility as an interlocutor of the next American president Donald Trump, the leader of the offensive, Abu Muhammad al Jolani, gave an interview to CNN just two days ago: "The objective of the revolution is the overthrow of this regime," he said, sporting a less threatening beard than his previous al-Qaeda tradition.

"It is our right to use all available means to achieve this goal," Jolani added, while reassuring Western chancelleries of his militias' desire not to harm the interests of Christian communities and other non-Sunni groups: "No one has the right to erase another group. These religious communities have coexisted in this region for hundreds of years and no one has the right to eliminate them," the rebel leader said.