

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Anne-Marie Slaughter <[redacted]>
Sent: Friday, July 27, 2012 12:07 PM
To: H
Cc: Cheryl Mills; Jacob J Sullivan (SullivanJJ@state.gov); Abedin, Huma
Subject: Weekend read: Detailed, interesting, and important piece on Syria from Der Spiegel

B6

It's too long for me to put in an email, but here is the link (be sure to click on and print out part 2 as well).
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/violence-on-the-rise-in-syria-as-assad-seeks-to-maintain-control-a-845935.html> The most important points, in my view, are:

- 1) the perception on the ground that Assad will do ANYTHING to stay in power, including using chemical weapons on his own people. I agree and don't think the Russians really have any leverage to stop him.
- 2) The detail about the FSA brigades and the way young commanders have taken control (a little like the class of young captains who led their units in Afghanistan and have returned as leaders) and are trying to get financing on their own through social media
- 3) The assessment of the balance of power b/w the FSA, including Islamist units, and the true jihadists
- 4) The view that power is crumbling along the periphery, which suggests that we can supply arms and assistance to FSA commanders in border zones and insist that they allow journalists and monitors in to watch what they do.

Best,
AM

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