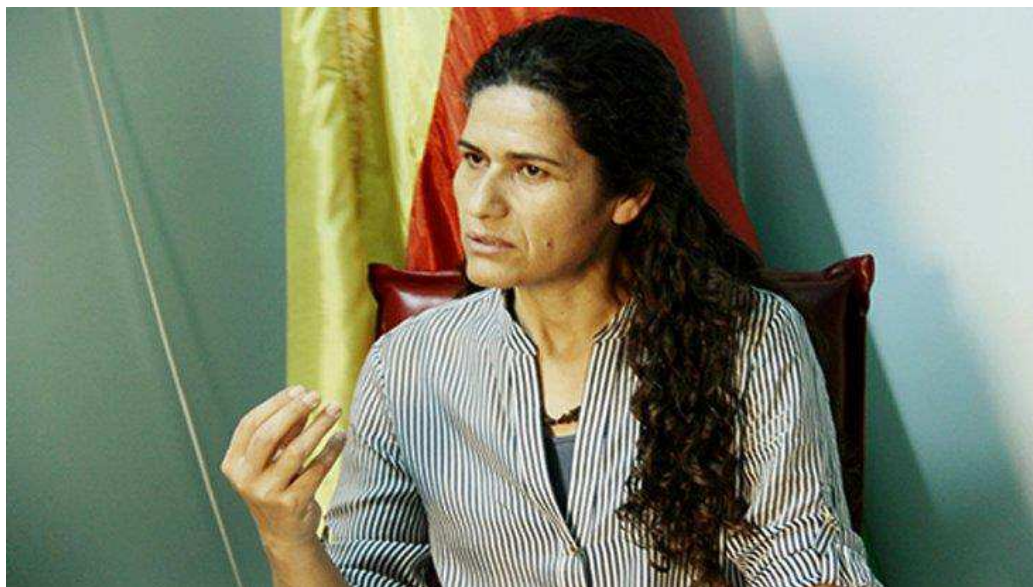


## **ILHAM AHMED**, Executive President, Syrian Democratic Council



ILHAM AHMED was born in the Kurdish city of Afrin in Rojava, Syria. Ahmed has been part of the Kurdish struggle for freedom and democracy since the 1990's, with a particular focus on women's rights. She is an active member of the Syrian Women's Initiative for Peace and Democracy (SWIPD), a network of civil society organizations from inside and outside of Syria. Ahmed currently serves as Executive President of the Syrian Democratic Council (SDC), a coalition of multiethnic organizations representing the peoples of the federal region of northern Syria. Ahmed is the most recognizable and central figure for the regional authority of the most stable, peaceful region of Syria. The SDC is the political arm of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which has been allied with the United States Armed Forces in the struggle against ISIS and global terrorism. Ahmed has appeared on many TV news programs, in publications such as *The Washington Post* and *Foreign Policy Magazine*, and has authored op-eds in *The New York Times* and other publications.