

# Air Strikes against Syria: Who are the War Criminals? Who is Supporting Al Qaeda? Russia or America?

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#),  
[Terrorism](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*America is coming to the rescue of Al Qaeda under a humanitarian mandate. The unspoken agenda is to undermine the Liberation of Aleppo.*

*The pretext and justification for these actions are based on America's "responsibility to protect" (R2P) the "moderates" in Aleppo from Syrian and Russian attacks and bombing raids.*



*On October 3, the US State Department announced the suspension of bilateral relations with Russia pertaining to Syria (see document below), in response to which, France's foreign Minister Jean Marc Ayrault was called upon to intermeditate at the diplomatic level.*

*Pointing his finger at Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Jean Marc Ayrault casually accused Moscow of crimes against humanity, "La France est indignée" (France is indignant).*

*In turn, the Western media (including segments of the "Left" alternative media) went into overdrive, accusing Russia of killing innocent civilians, demonizing president Putin;, and more significantly ignoring the devastating impacts of Obama's (2014-2016) fake "counterterrorism campaign" implying extensive and routine bombings of both Syria and Iraq over a period of more than two years.*

*Initiated in Summer 2014, Operation Inherent Resolve's real objective is to "protect the terrorists".*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate Release

STATEMENT BY JOHN KIRBY, SPOKESPERSON

October 3, 2016

### Suspension of Participation in Bilateral Channels with Russia Established to Sustain the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria

The United States is suspending its participation in bilateral channels with Russia that were established to sustain the Cessation of Hostilities. This is not a decision that was taken lightly. The United States spared no effort in negotiating and attempting to implement an arrangement with Russia aimed at reducing violence, providing unhindered humanitarian access, and degrading terrorist organizations operating in Syria, including Daesh and al Qaeda in Syria.

Unfortunately, Russia failed to live up to its own commitments - including its obligations under international humanitarian law and UNSCR 2254 - and was also either unwilling or unable to ensure Syrian regime adherence to the arrangements to which Moscow agreed. Rather, Russia and the Syrian regime have chosen to pursue a military course, inconsistent with the Cessation of Hostilities, as demonstrated by their intensified attacks against civilian areas, targeting of critical infrastructure such as hospitals, and preventing humanitarian aid from reaching civilians in need, including through the September 19 attack on a humanitarian aid convoy.

The U.S. will also withdraw personnel that had been dispatched in anticipation of the possible establishment of the Joint Implementation Center. To ensure the safety of our respective military personnel and enable the fight against Daesh, the United States will continue to utilize the channel of communications established with Russia to de-conflict counterterrorism operations in Syria.

## Strategic Meeting at the White House

On October 5, a strategic meeting of the so-called Principals Committee (tantamount to a War Cabinet) met behind closed doors at the White House. In attendance: senior officials (Secretary level) from the Pentagon, CIA, Joint Chiefs of Staff, State Department and top national security advisors of the White House.

On the agenda: a proposal earlier voiced by the US state Department to directly attack Syrian government forces and military facilities, inevitably implying the possibility of direct military confrontation with Russia as well as a process of escalation.

While Russian airstrikes are carefully targeted against the terrorists, Moscow is accused of committing extensive war crimes as well as supporting the terrorist organizations sponsored by the Western military alliance.

The media has built upon the humanitarian crisis triggered by Russian intervention against the [terrorist] "freedom fighters".

What the media has failed to investigate since the outset are US war crimes against the

People of Syria and Iraq, which are amply confirmed by official US Department of Defense data.

## The Figures Speak for Themselves

1. The US-led coalition is protecting the terrorists
2. U.S. and Coalition Airstrikes (Pentagon data)
3. The Cost of Obama's Air Campaign: 9.3 billion dollars
4. The US-led coalition is providing the terrorists with large amounts of weapons

### 1. The Airstrikes are intended to Protect the Terrorists

What we have witnessed is an ongoing drawn out campaign over the last two years of relentless air raids and bombings, and the terrorist enemy is apparently still intact.

Let us examine the data regarding air strikes by the US and its coalition partners, all of which were allegedly directed against the ISIS-Daesh terrorists who crossed the desert from Syria into Iraq in their Toyota pickup trucks in June 2014.



What would have been required from a military standpoint to wipe out the ISIS Daesh convoy with no effective anti-aircraft capabilities?



If they had wanted to eliminate the Islamic State brigades, they could have “carpet” bombed their convoys of Toyota pickup trucks when they crossed the desert from Syria into Iraq in June.

The answer is pretty obvious, yet not a single mainstream media has acknowledged it.

The Syro-Arabian Desert is open territory (see map right). With state of the art jet fighter aircraft (F15, F22 Raptor, F16) it would have been –from a military standpoint– “a piece of cake”, a rapid and expedient surgical operation, which would have decimated the Islamic State convoys in a matter of hours.

## 2. U.S. and Coalition Airstrikes

- The total number of US and coalition sorties against Syria and Iraq is of the order of 111,000. This translates into an average of 147 sorties a day (over a period of 755 days).
- More than 8,300 strike sorties have been carried out against Syria according to US Department of Defense sources.
- The non-strike sorties have been used for the purposes of reconnaissance, logistics and coordination with terrorist commandos on the ground.
- 31,900 targets in Syria and Iraq have been hit by US war planes (see table below) including public buildings, residential areas, economic infrastructure (all of which was waged under a fake campaign against ISIS- Daesh).

Its all for a good cause. None of these strikes were directed at the Syrian people, according to official statements.

And these humanitarian statements have never been challenged by the Western media.

The initiative was part of the “Global War on Terrorism”. It was in violation of international law.

## Targets Damaged/Destroyed as of Sept. 26, 2016

### OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE TARGETS DAMAGED/DESTROYED\*

 Tanks	<b>164</b>
 HMMWV's	<b>388</b>
 Staging Areas	<b>2,050</b>
 Buildings	<b>7,948</b>
 Fighting Positions	<b>8,638</b>
 Oil Infrastructure	<b>2,638</b>
Other Targets	<b>10,074</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,900</b>

\*Numbers may fluctuate based on battle damage assessments  
Current as of 26 September 2016

Source: CENTCOM CCCI

## Strikes in Iraq and Syria



As of 4:59 p.m. EST September 27, the U.S. and coalition have conducted a total of 15,310 strikes (9,973 Iraq / 5,337 Syria).

- U.S. has conducted 11,829 strikes in Iraq and Syria (6,761 Iraq / 5,068 Syria)
- Rest of Coalition has conducted 3,481 strikes in Iraq and Syria (3,212 Iraq / 269 Syria)

The countries that have participated in the strikes include:

- In Iraq: (1) Australia, (2) Belgium, (3) Canada, (4) Denmark, (5) France, (6) Jordan, (7) The Netherlands, and (8) UK
- In Syria: (1) Australia, (2) Bahrain, (3) Canada, (4) Denmark, (5) France, (6) Jordan, (7) The Netherlands, (8) Saudi Arabia, (9) Turkey (10) UAE and (11) UK

As of August, 2016, U.S. and partner nation aircraft have flown an estimated 111,410 sorties in support of operations in Iraq and Syria.

## Cost of Operations

As of August 31, 2016, the total cost of operations related to ISIL since kinetic operations started on August 8, 2014, is \$9.3 billion and the average daily cost is \$12.3 million for 755 days of operations. A further breakdown of cost associated with the operations is [here](#).

Source US Department of Defense, copyright US DoD

### 3. The Cost of Obama's Air Campaign: 9.3 billion dollars

755 days, 12.3 million dollars a day since August 2014

These are the costs of destroying an entire country, killing tens of thousands of Syrians, triggering a refugee crisis. These costs are ultimately financed by tax dollars.

These 12.3 million dollars a day are the cost of destroying Syria and Iraq and killing their people.

In the table above the "official" breakdown is provided, the figures refer to US strikes against Syria and Iraq.

31,900 targets as part of a war on terrorism. Ironically, the number of terrorists has increased dramatically as a result of the "counter-terrorism" campaign, not to mention the NATO sponsored international campaign of recruitment of terrorists.

## 4. Weapons for the Terrorists

In turn, the US and its allies have since the outset of the conflict send in tens of thousands of tons of light weapons into Syria through illicit arms trafficking channels.

These shipments of weapons are not conducted through internationally approved weapons transfers. While they are the result of a Pentagon (or US government) procurement, they are not recorded as “official” military aid. They use private traders and shipping companies within the realm of a thriving illicit trade in light weapons.

Based on the examination of a single December 2015 Pentagon sponsored shipment of more than 990 tons, one can reasonably conclude that the amounts of light weapons in the hands of “opposition” rebels inside Syria is substantial and exceedingly large.

For further details see [U.S. “Military Aid” to Al Qaeda, ISIS-Daesh: Pentagon Uses Illicit Arms Trafficking to Channel Enormous Shipments of Light Weapons into Syria](#), by [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#), October 02, 2016

The above data on air strikes, the smuggling of weapons confirm extensive US sponsored crimes against humanity

And we are led to believe that the Islamic State cannot be defeated by a powerful US led military coalition of 19 countries.

The air campaign was not intended to decimate the Islamic State.

The counter-terrorism mandate is a fiction. America is the Number One “State Sponsor of Terrorism”.

The Islamic State is not only protected by the US and its allies, it is trained and financed by US-NATO, with the support of Israel and Washington’s Persian Gulf allies.

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About the author:

Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of

Global Research. He has taught as visiting professor in Western Europe, Southeast Asia, the Pacific and Latin America. He has served as economic adviser to governments of developing countries and has acted as a consultant for several international organizations. He is the author of 13 books. He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO's war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at [crgeditor@yahoo.com](mailto:crgeditor@yahoo.com)

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