

# British SAS Special Forces "Dressed Up as ISIS Rebels" Fighting Assad in Syria

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, August 04, 2015 Region: <u>Europe</u>, <u>Middle East & North Africa</u> Theme: <u>Intelligence</u>, <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

On August 2, Britain's <u>Sunday Express</u> newspaper headlined "SAS dress as ISIS fighters in undercover war on jihadis," saying:

"More than 120 members belonging to the elite regiment are currently in the war-torn country" covertly "dressed in black and flying ISIS flags," engaged in what's called Operation Shader – attacking Syrian targets on the pretext of combatting ISIS.

Maybe covert US special forces and CIA elements are involved the same way. During Obama's war on Libya, Britain deployed hundreds of Special Forces Support Group (SFSG) paratroopers – drawn from SAS (Special Air Service) and SBS (Special Boat Service) personnel.

Around 800 Royal Marines and 4,000 US counterparts were on standby to intervene on short notice if ordered.



The latest revelation comes two weeks after learning Prime Minister David Cameron last year approved British warplanes joining US ones in bombing Syria despite parliamentary rejection in August 2013.

At least part of its current covert ground operation is under US command – so-called "smash" units traveling in pickup trucks able to launch mini-UAVs to scan terrain for targets to attack.

Over 250 UK (and perhaps US) specialists are involved to provide communications support, the Sunday Express explained.

British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said "(o)ur actions and surveillance capabilities are freeing up other countries to strike in Syria."

UK SAS forces are in Saudi Arabia training anti-Assad terrorists along with US operatives doing the same thing – including in Turkey, Jordan, Qatar and perhaps Israel.

US and UK claims about training so-called "moderate" rebels reflect smoke-screen cover for working directly with ISIS terrorists – trained, armed and funded abroad, funneled crossborder into Syria to fight Assad, now with US/UK and Canadian air support along with covert commandos on the ground.

The Express cited former British Army General David Richards saying "tanks will roll" as part of UK operations in Syria.

A separate article discussed US airstrikes defending ISIS terrorists serving as US foot soldiers against Assad.

The <u>Wall Street Journal</u> reported what appears ominously like prelude to Libya 2.0 – falsely claiming Obama authorized airstrikes against Syrian forces if they attack (nonexistent) US-supported "moderate" rebels.

Separately, Turkish media reported President Recep Tayyip Erdogan saying Putin may have softened on Assad. (H)e may give up on" him.

Obama said he was "encouraged by the fact that Mr. Putin called him (in late June) and initiated the call to talk about Syria."

I think they get a sense that the Assad regime is losing a grip over greater and greater swaths of territory inside of Syria and that the prospects for a (jihadist) takeover or rout of the Syrian regime is not imminent but becomes a greater and greater threat by the day. That offers us an opportunity to have a serious conversation with them.

Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said both leaders discussed combatting terrorism – especially the Islamic State.

"The Russian view is well-known," he explained. "(I)t was reiterated by (Putin) during (his) conversation" with Obama. It hasn't changed.

Putin opposes outside interference by any nations in the internal affairs of others. He supports the sovereign right of Syrians and other people to choose their own leaders and legislators.

Putin aide Yury Ushakov said "the current leadership of Syria is one of the real and effective forces confronting the Islamic State."

Nothing indicates less Russian support for Assad.

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