

Coming to the Rescue of "Our Terrorists": US Evacuated Islamic State (ISIS/Daesh) Fighters from Ramadi

By Stephen Lendman

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In-depth Report: **IRAQ REPORT**

Before Iraqi forces retook Ramadi last week, Washington was accused of evacuating around 2,000 ISIS terrorists from the city.

Iraqi People's Mobilization Shiite militia umbrella group commander Hashd al-Shaabi said America delayed the liberation of Ramadi and Fallujah to enable "evacuat(ion) of (ISIS) ringleaders (and fighters) secretly to unknown places" by helicopter.

<u>Fort Russ</u> reported an unnamed high-ranking Iraqi official, saying "(o)ur signals and human intelligence informed the Americans...about ISIS movement(s)."

"We were not allowed to engage against these, and no one in the government can contradict the Americans...The US ordered Baghdad to (permit) free passage (for) ISIS and to reduce the Iranian influence..."

Washington ordered Baghdad to replace heads of antiterrorism, intelligence, military security services and the interior ministry. It wants a US-friendly team serving its interests on the ground.

So far, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi hasn't requested Russian air support, caving to US demands, even though he knows it's supporting ISIS and wants Iraq balkanized into a Kurdish north, Shia south and Sunni center.

Washington supports the illegal presence of Turkish forces in northern Iraq. A French intelligence official said "(t)he Middle East will never be the same as before."

"What is becoming more clear now is that ISIS is a (tool) used by (powerful) players for their agenda and plans to" redraw the regional map.

Death, destruction and human misery haunt millions of Iraqis. Washington's imperial agenda bears full responsibility.

A UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) reported 7,500 Iraqis killed and another 15,000 injured in 2015 – a likely gross undercount given raging conflict in much of the country.

Casualties are likely multiples greater than special UN representative for the Secretary-General (SRSG) Jan kubis indicated, saying:

"The year 2015 has seen thousands of Iraqis killed and injured as a result of conflict and terrorism. This is unacceptable. The Iraqi people have every right to live in peace and tranquility. The United Nations continues to deplore this continuing loss of life."

Ban Ki-moon is a US-appointed imperial tool, failing his sworn mandate "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war," oppose force and uphold fundamental human rights.

He's an instrument of US foreign policy, notably its endless imperial wars. The long-suffering people of Iraq and other troubled countries have no ally in the Secretary-General. He's done nothing to serve their interests.

Scores die or suffer severe injuries daily in Iraq from violence alone, at times hundreds, civilians mostly affected.

UNAMI admits it's impossible to verify the precise casualty count, much higher than official reports. No count is kept on numbers perishing from lack of food, water, necessary medical care or overall deprivation.

Nothing in prospect suggests relief, not as long as Washington continues pursuing its imperial agenda, ruthlessly disregarding human lives and welfare.

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