

# Former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas: West was preparing attack on Syria before crisis started

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Former French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas revealed that there's a plot which was devised by several western countries - primarily Britain and France - to topple the Syrian the government even before the crisis started in Syria.

In an exclusive interview given to SANA's correspondent in Paris, Dumas said that while he was in Britain before the crisis began in Syria, he was invited to a party where two people an Englishman and a Frenchman, asked him if he would like to participate in preparations for an attack on Syria to topple the government in it.

He said he refused this offer, but events proved that they were serious about what they said at that evening.

Dumas voiced surprise over the French government's positions, saying that the paths chosen by the governments of former President Nicolas Sarkozy and current President Francois Holland aren't the right paths that lead to peace in Syria.

On the west's goals from toppling the Syrian state, Dumas said that he thinks the current international climate formed around the Syrian situation contentious the policies adopted several years ago to deal with the Arab world, stressing that the west's policies in such issues aren't policies of peace but rather of war, and that he personally is against war and supports the path that leads to peace.

Regarding the Syrian opposition, Dumas said that this opposition is multifaceted, and that countries like Qatar and Saudi Arabia are involved in the fighting taking place in Syria against the legitimate government.

"A peaceful solution isn't achieved by letting people fight," he said, stressing that sending weapons will not solve problems in Syria.

Dumas pointed out that the legitimate government in Syria is reclaiming areas which gunmen seized, which is a good sign, noting that France had been opposing the suggestion of holding an international conference on Syria in a manner contrary to its traditional political creed, but eventually it admitted that the conference must be held as soon as possible and its position on Iran's participation in the conference was altered.

He said that the most important point is the agreement between Russia and the US on holding this conference, noting that there mustn't be any preconceptions about the conference.

On the G8 meeting in Ireland, Dumas said that it wasn't the optimal place for discussing Syria because many countries interested in the Syrian issue weren't there, which is why the conference due to be held in Geneva is important.

Regarding France sending advanced weapons to terrorist groups in Syria, Dumas said that sending weapons contradicts peaceful solutions because weapons are made for war, adding that it's unfortunate that some sides want to send one side as this will prompt others to send weapons to the other side.

He noted that there were discussions on the issue of weapons because the west is concerned over who will receive the weapons, pointing out to Libya where weapons disappeared, asserting that sending weapons to Syria will exacerbate the conflict and make it more difficult to resolve.

Dumas said that international laws are only good for achieving peace when its time comes, and that there's no hope of ending the crisis in Syria without having all countries participate in an international conference for this purpose.

He said that the allegations of chemical weapons use in Syria are very dangerous as they bring to mind the discussions which took place about Iraq in the past, when the US alleged that Iraq possessed chemical weapons but none were found, stressing that in legal terms, evidence is procured through judicial channels, not through journalists carrying small bottles which they claim they procured in Syria, as those individuals aren't trustworthy.

Dumas went on to note that international law has items on destroying chemical weapons which raises concerns, saying it's best to have the UN send impartial and reliable experts to look into this matter.

On France's double standards in combating terrorists in Mali while supporting them in Syria, Dumas said that France says it will arm the "opposition" but it's unknown what will happen to these weapons, and that there's no way of knowing that these weapons won't be turned against France, adding "this is a great risk... when we enter a conflict we know it can spread."

He said that the traditional relations between Syria and France were good, particularly on the cultural level, but all that was undermined and now the two countries are enemies which doesn't make sense, adding "it's time to fix everything."

Dumas pointed out that some sides have a desire to destroy strong Arab states, like what happened in Iraq and Libya before and what is being attempted in Syria, particularly given Syria's special relations with Russia.

He said that Israel plays a role in what is happening in Syria, pointing out to the statements of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who said that if an agreement isn't reached, then Israel will attack and destroy the governments that stand against it.

On the possibility of France and the west changing their position on Syria, Dumas said that this is possible, and that France's position has shown some development recently which is a positive indicator and a move in the right direction.

Dumas stressed that there's massive propaganda being spread regarding events in Syria, with all news, reports and images coming from one source, causing the French public which

sees these images every day to form a terrible impression that there are “bad guys” represented by the Syrian government who are killing the people as they allege, and on the other side there are “good guys” represented by the armed groups, causing them to think that the bad guys must go and the good guys must stay, adding “but one day, the truth will come out.”

He said that conceptions must be corrected, and then those who support certain policies will see that they are mistaken, and then it’s possible to put an end to these policies.

Dumas concluded by saying that Syria and the Syrian people are great and that they will emerge from this crisis, adding “we must hope that they do not emerge from it too late... we wish that Syria doesn’t suffer many losses in lives and damages.”

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