

Heightened Risk of Escalated War on Syria. "US Targeted Strikes against Assad Government"?

By Stephen Lendman

Global Research, June 18, 2016

Region: Middle East & North Africa, USA

Theme: <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

A <u>previous article</u> discussed dozens of unnamed State Department staffers urging "targeted military strikes" on Assad's government – signing an internal memo posted on the agency's dissent channel.

Obama already is at war to transform Syria into another US vassal state, using ISIS and other imported terrorist groups as imperial foot soldiers – supplemented by air strikes on infrastructure and government targets, along with US, UK, French and now German special forces on the ground, aiding the scourge their political leaders claim to oppose.

The State Department acknowledged the internal memo without comment. It's more evidence of neocons infesting Washington, in this case the agency most responsible for US foreign policy.

It's unclear if notorious hawk Victoria Nuland was one of the memo's signatories. She's militantly anti-Assad – earlier turning truth on its head, calling him "evil...inhumane," unfit to rule, adding:

He certainly should leave power. He is beyond brutal. It is inhumane what he has done to his own people.

I don't think anybody who has is guilty of the kinds of crimes against your own people...can be considered rational by any human sense of the word.

When Washington wants a sovereign leader toppled, politicized demonization precedes more forceful action.

Assad is overwhelmingly popular, reelected in June 2014, a process independent observers called open, free and fair. Syrians want no one else leading them. They alone have the right to choose, free from foreign meddling.

International law is clear. No nation may interfere in the internal affairs of others except in self-defense. Russia is legally aiding Syria combat US-supported terrorists at the behest of its government.

US military action flagrantly breaches international laws, norms and standards. Neocon State Department staffers want things escalated, Assad forcefully ousted, pro-Western puppet rule replacing him.

On Wednesday, John Kerry hinted at possible more robust US action, saying "Russia needs to understand that our patience is not infinite. (It's) very limited now with respect to whether or not Assad is going to be held accountable."

The United States is not going to sit there and be used as an instrument that permits a socalled ceasefire to be in place while one principal party is trying to take advantage of it to the detriment of the entire process. We're not going to allow that to continue.

Fact: Assad is responsibly defending his nation and people against US-supported terrorist invaders.

Fact: They're virtually entirely responsible for ceasefire violations.

With half a year left before stepping down, Obama is unlikely to undertake a major policy shift on Syria. At the same time, US war on its sovereignty won't end with a new administration. As secretary of state, Hillary Clinton orchestrated it. She'll likely escalate it if elected in November.

Trump showed he's hawkish, earlier saying "I'm gonna build a military that's gonna be much stronger than it is right now. It's gonna be so strong, nobody's gonna mess with us" – implying heavy-handed saber rattling, likely freely using it.

Dozens of State Department staffers wanting US military strikes on Assad's government is more evidence of America's rage for war, neocons infesting Washington exerting influence on policy, disregard for rule of law principles, and likelihood of extremist/lawless governance continuing no matter who succeeds Obama.

Escalating war on Syria heightens the danger of direct confrontation with Russia, risking the possibility of extinguishing life on earth.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html

Visit his blog site at <u>silendman.blogspot.com</u>.

Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network.

The original source of this article is Global Research Copyright © <u>Stephen Lendman</u>, Global Research, 2016

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: **Stephen Lendman**

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cuttingedge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca