

Pompeo: Russians ‘Met Their Match,’ US Killed Hundreds of Them in Syria

Says killings prove Trump's toughness on Russia

By [Jason Ditz](#)

Global Research, April 13, 2018
[Antiwar.com](#) 12 April 2018

Region: [Russia and FSU](#), [USA](#)

Theme: [Intelligence](#), [Militarization and WMD](#)

Is President Trump tough enough on Russia? For Secretary of State-nominee Mike Pompeo, the answer comes down to simple body count, as he bragged up [recent killings of Russian citizens inside Syrian territory](#).

At the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Pompeo boasted that

“the Russians met their match. A couple hundred Russians were killed,” referring to a US massacre of military contractors back in February.

Pompeo insisted these killings prove Trump’s toughness on Russia.

The comments threaten to make this incident a bigger diplomatic row. The February 7 incident came after the US claimed Kurds had come under attack. In reality, an artillery barrage landed half a kilometer from a Kurdish base, and the US reacted by [killing in excess of 200 pro-Syrian government fighters](#), declaring the killings “self-defense.”

At the time, there were concerns Russian citizens were among the slain, and US officials ultimately said “scores” of the dead may have been Russian. Now, Pompeo appears to be insisting they were all Russians, and that the killings were about being “tough” of the Russian government.

Russia’s government denied any knowledge of the incident at the time, and it appears the slain were private contractors working for the Syrian government, and not in concert with Russia’s government itself. That makes targeting them on the basis of their nationality potentially even more problematic.

*

Jason Ditz is news editor of [Antiwar.com](#).

The original source of this article is [Antiwar.com](#)

Copyright © [Jason Ditz](#), [Antiwar.com](#), 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: [Jason Ditz](#)

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