

Russia summons US, Saudi and NATO Envoys to Explain Accusations of Russian Airstrikes against Civilians in Syria

By [Sputnik](#)

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Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

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The Russian Defense Ministry has urged NATO and Saudi Arabia to explain accusations that Russian airstrikes had allegedly targeted hospitals in Syria, Russian Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said Tuesday.

“We have summoned the US, UK, French, German, Italian, Saudi Arabian, Turkish and NATO military attaches today asked to give a formal explanation of these statements or to refute them. This especially concerns a number of outrageous allegations in the English-speaking media about alleged airstrikes on hospitals,” Antonov said.

Deputy Def Minister Anatoly [#Antonov](#)’s statement for Media after meeting with mil.attaches <https://t.co/7ySjYZMmC5> pic.twitter.com/eKHZIFZ5Ik

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According to him, information attacks on the Russian Aerospace Forces’ actions in Syria have intensified in a number of Western media outlets.

“We are being accused not only of launching airstrikes on ‘moderate opposition’, but also on civilian targets like hospitals, as well as mosques and schools. As a result, civilians are allegedly killed, according to Western media reports,” Antonov added.

[#Antonov](#): We’re accused of performing strikes at objects like hospitals, mosques and schools. As by Western media civilians are being killed

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He expressed regret that “some officials and politicians of a number of foreign states make similar statements [on civilian deaths in Russian airstrikes in Syria].”

Antonov cited statements made by US State Secretary John Kerry, US Defense Secretary Ashton Carter, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, UK Defense Secretary Michael Fallon and French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian as examples. The Russian Defense

Ministry is “closely monitoring and analyzing these statements,” he added. According to him, Russia is bringing Russian and international communities to the notice about the Russian aviation’s actions in Syria on a daily basis.

“If our partners have some additional information, we have long called on them to share it with us.”

He added that if no evidence on civilian deaths in Russian airstrikes in Syria was provided in a few days, Moscow would come to a conclusion that the claims were part of the information warfare against Russia.

“But if there is no evidence [of civilian casualties in Syria] or official refutation, we will consider that these anti-Russian media hoaxes are part of the information war against Russia.”

[#Antonov](#): If there is no evidence or official refutation, we would estimate this stovepiping as a part of information warfare against Russia

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“In every case when the information is confirmed about destroyed hospitals, mosques and schools, as well as the deaths of civilians as a result of the Russian Air Force’s actions we will conduct a thorough investigation, of which Western media... will be informed.”

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