

The Complete Liberation of Aleppo, Exodus of Militant Groups, Counter-Offensive against ISIS in Palmyra

By [South Front](#)

Global Research, December 17, 2016

[South Front](#) 16 December 2016

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

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

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

Over 900 members of militant groups have been killed, dozens pieces of military hardware have been destroyed, 105 city quarters with (78.5 square km) have been liberated during the offensive operation in Aleppo city,

First Deputy Head of the Main Operations Department at the Russian General Staff Lieutenant General Viktor Poznikhir announced on December 15. 100% of Aleppo is under the control of government forces. "A total of 3,033 militants have left Aleppo voluntarily, 1,524 of them have been amnestied and released, while the rest are checked," Poznikhir added. Separately, about 5,000 members of militant groups and their families started pullout from Aleppo via a humanitarian corridor from Salah al-Din to the settlement of Al-Rashidin-4.

Syrian government forces have stabilized the situation in the area of Palmyra with Russian air support and are preparing a counter-offensive, according to the Russian general staff. The Syrian army, supported by the Russian Aerospace Forces, has repelled all ISIS attacks on the Tyas Airbase, killing some 65 terrorists and destroying 13 vehicles belonging to the terrorist group.

Government forces are putting pressure on Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra, the Syrian branch of al-Qaeda) in the Syrian province of Dara'a. Clashes between government troops and terrorists were reported near the town of al-Naimah on December 15 where the army attacked a command center belonging to Jabhat Fatah al-Sham. Pro-government sources report that the command center and its staff were fully destroyed by the attack. Pro-terrorist sources deny the casualties.

The US-led international coalition against ISIS will not operate against ISIS terrorists in central Syria, including the area of Palmyra during some time, commander of the international operation against the ISIS in Iraq and Syria, Lt. Gen. Steven Townsend, said.

He noted that ancient Palmyra was "under the control of Russia and its Syrian allies" and they have to take it back. There is also another reason – the coalition is not going to operate "more aggressively," as it does not have enough information. "We cannot distinguish one side from another one," the commander said, stressing that the coalition is going to observe what is happening from the side and "allow Russia to deal with it." An Interesting fact is this has not stopped the coalition's airpower when it supported ISIS offensive against the Syrian

army near Deir Ezzor and bombed government troops, by accident for sure.

If you're able, and if you like our content and approach, please support the project. Our work wouldn't be possible without your help: PayPal: southfront@list.ru or via: <http://southfront.org/donate/> or via: <https://www.patreon.com/southfront>

The original source of this article is [South Front](#)

Copyright © [South Front](#), [South Front](#), 2016

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: **[South Front](#)**

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