

# Washington Pretends to be Combating ISIS in Syria

By Stephen Lendman

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In-depth Report: **SYRIA** 

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Syria's Foreign Ministry released video and other evidence, showing US and Israeli arms and munitions ending up in the hands of ISIS, al-Nusra and other terrorists.

It's well known this has been going on throughout years of conflict, Washington wants it continued endlessly, not resolved.

According to Arabic-language Al-Manar news, ISIS and terrorists comprising the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) agreed to hand over the city to the SDF, no clashes occurring between their fighters.

The US-led battle for Raqqa was all about raping and destroying the city, not liberating it, most ISIS fighters redeployed to Deir Ezzor, Hama and Homs.

The battle dragged on for months to give Pentagon warplanes enough time to turn the city to rubble, massacring thousands of civilians, helping, not combating, ISIS.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman General Igor Konashenkov blasted US regional forces in southern Syria for letting ISIS and other terrorists use its illegally established al-Tanf base as a platform for launching attacks on Syrian troops.

He asked "the American side to clarify another instance of turning a blind eye to the activities of militants operating under their very noses."

"It is purely for military ethics reasons that we do not publish the latest photos of the US base in al-Tanf with an abundance of pick-up trucks with heavy machine guns and recoilless guns" used by ISIS and other terrorist groups.

"Considering such serious manpower reinforcements with US benevolence and the creation of the stock of medicines with food supplies, one should not be an expert to forecast an attempt to disrupt the peace agreement now in the southern de-escalation zone as well. We are warning that all the responsibility for the peace process sabotage will be borne by the US side."

On Wednesday, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem met with Sergey Lavrov in Sochi, discussing coordination of political, economic and military issues, along with the Astana peace process.

"We still and will always consider the Turkish presence in Syria as illegal," he stressed. "The Turks say their presence is taking place under the Astana umbrella, but I realized today that Astana has nothing to do with this Turkish act."

"Therefore, any measure that is not coordinated with the Syrian government is an act of aggression, and we don't recognize its legitimacy."

"Turkey trains terrorists, arms them and facilitates their infiltration into the territory of Syria. This is why I can state that Turkey's presence in Syria is illegal."

Separately, Moallem blasted the so-called coalition led by Washington, saying it's not combating ISIS as claimed. It's supporting the terrorist group.

It's "annihilating the Syrian people," massacring "thousands...(W)omen and children mainly have become the victims of these crimes."

Moallem told Lavrov Washington uses the so-called anti-terrorist coalition to support this scourge and "destroy Syria," mainly its vital infrastructure, wanting war continuing "as long as possible."

"(T)he US-led coalition...is systematically destroying anything but ISIL," he stressed. "The American coalition is systematically destroying the economic infrastructure, so we...strongly demand that it (be) disbanded."

Moallem earlier raised the issue of granting Kurds local autonomy in northern Syria, not permitting a separate Kurdish state.

"Today, the Kurds are actually competing with the Syrian army for control over the oil-bearing areas," he explained. "They are well aware of the fact that Syria will not let anyone violate its state sovereignty under any circumstances."

"At the moment, they are apparently intoxicated with US aid and support. However, it is must be understood that this aid will not last forever."

Throughout its history, they were never supported by a reliable major power, Moallem added. Washington, of course, uses them to serve its interests.

Its goal is regime change or destroying Syrian sovereignty by partitioning the country. Russia's goal is defeating US-supported terrorism, along with preserving Syrian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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