

Water Cut-Offs in Damascus: How "Militants" (US Supported Al Qaeda Terrorists) Use "Prohibited Methods of Warfare"

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In-depth Report: **SYRIA**

Recently, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham group has been facing troubles fighting with the Syrian army which keeps seizing the terrorists' positions all over the country.

Against this background, the situation by Damascus aggravated. Militants are trying to impede the government forces advancement and are concentrated on sabotage. **Terrorists are up to using all possible means to impose pressure on the government, including prohibited methods of warfare.**

Such actions include the sabotage at the pump station on the outskirts of Damascus. It's been 3 weeks since Dec. 16 when water was cut off for 5.5 million people in Damascus. The locals almost don't use the water of Damascus sources as it may have been contaminated by the terrorists with diesel.

In connection with this, UNICEF urged all sides of the conflict to give up such means of warfare and provide security for civilian facilities: schools, hospitals and water infrastructure. The organization also stressed out that the absence of water supplies may lead to epidemics, especially among children.

The UN has already called the militants actions on blocking water supplies a military crime that could lead to terrible repercussion.

The Syrian government and Damascus administration had to take special measures to save the residents. 1,100 cubic meters of water have been delivered to the city. It is disseminated between Social and IDP Centers, hospitals, schools and bakeries.

The previous week, Damascus Governor said that engineers could be sent to repair the water supplies systems in Wadi Barada valley, which had been agreed with the militants. However, the terrorists didn't comply with the agreement and <u>refused</u> to lay down weapons.

Striking the capital's residents, militants are trying to torpedo the truce. Their actions may also affect the negotiations in Astana. Jihadists use water as an additional weapon in the war. The militants' sabotages prove that the army is fighting against Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, not the peaceful opposition as it would never strike its own people or use prohibited methods of warfare.

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