

## **Russia says will target U.S.-backed fighters in Syria if provoked**

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*Indeed, we have the absurd and highly illegal attempt by the USA, utilising its supported Kurdish proxy fighters, to prevent the Syrian government reclaiming its own lands -- now think of that situation for a minute. Also, chicken shit Putin has faced this problem in Syria almost from the time that Russia legally intervened to support the sovereign state. Consider the expression "if provoked," a cowardly and unnecessary condition as Russian and Syrian government forces have been provoked almost continuously by the USA since they initially attempted illegal regime change. If illegally occupying American forces and their proxies cut and run they would surely then face SEVERE consequences including international legal challenges.*



### **'Removal' of this treacherous Traitor is long overdue**

*American command really has no choice and must continue to illegally intervene or it would suffer more losses than it currently anticipates, notwithstanding the complete collapse of the neocon plan for carving up the Middle East. Russia would soon learn that international law and fighting illegal military interventions requires no conditions, notwithstanding that treacherous and cowardly traitor Putin should have been shot by his military after he ALLOWED the US to install nuclear capable missiles on Russia's European land borders, thereby gaining for the USA a nuclear first strike advantage due to proximity -- this is perhaps Putin's greatest crime against the Russian people as forcing the removal of these installations at the time, would have been easily accomplished. Putin's offshore bank accounts tell a very compelling story in this regard. Putin is in FACT a puppet of the global elite!*

MOSCOW/WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Russia warned the United States on Thursday it would target U.S.-backed militias in Syria if Russian troops again came under fire, as the United States disclosed an unusual face-to-face meeting between U.S. and Russian generals meant to avoid such clashes.

The Russian warning underscored growing tensions over Syria between Moscow and Washington. While both oppose Islamic State (IS), they are engaged, via proxies, in a race for strategic influence and potential resources in the form of oilfields in eastern Syria's Deir al-Zor province.

The Russian Defence Ministry said the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had taken up positions on the eastern banks of the Euphrates with U.S. special forces, and twice had opened fire with mortars and artillery on Syrian troops who were working alongside Russian special forces.

"A representative of the U.S. military command in Al Udeid (the U.S. operations center in Qatar) was told in no uncertain terms that any attempts to open fire from areas where SDF fighters are located would be quickly shut down," Major-General Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

"Fire points in those areas will be immediately suppressed with all military means."

In a sign of the high stakes as both forces come in increasing proximity, U.S. and Russian generals held a face-to-face meeting this week in an effort to avoid accidental clashes, U.S. military officials said on Thursday.

"They had a face-to-face discussion, laid down maps and graphics," said Army Colonel Ryan Dillon, a Baghdad-based spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, adding it appeared to be the first meeting of its kind.

Dillon, addressing a Pentagon briefing, disclosed few details, including who participated in the meeting or its precise location.

A U.S. military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the participants included both U.S. and Russian generals.

U.S. SPIES?

The Russian Defence Ministry this week accused U.S. spies of initiating a jihadi offensive against government-held parts of northwest Syria on Tuesday.

The ministry, in a Wednesday evening statement, said 29 Russian military policemen had been surrounded by jihadis as a result and that Russia had been forced to break them out in a special operation backed by air power.

"According to our information, U.S. intelligence services initiated the offensive to halt the successful advance of government troops to the east of Deir al-Zor," said Colonel-General Sergei Rudskoi.

The Syrian army, backed by Russian war planes, has captured about 100 km (62 miles) of the west bank of the Euphrates this month, reaching the Raqqa provincial border on Wednesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.

Syrian troops also crossed to the eastern side of the river on Monday where the SDF, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias fighting with the U.S.-led coalition, has been advancing.

The convergence of the rival offensives has increased tensions in Deir al-Zor.

The U.S.-backed militias said on Saturday they had come under attack from Russian jets and Syrian government forces, something Moscow denied.

On Monday, the SDF warned against any further Syrian army advances on the eastern riverbank, and Russia's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday that the waters of the Euphrates had risen as soon as the Syrian army began crossing it, suggesting this could only have happened if upstream dams held by the U.S.-backed opposition had been opened.

(Corrects conversion of 100 km to miles in paragraph 13.)

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