

## America After Losing the Proxy War in Syria Directly Engages Syrian Forces in Battle

by Jon Queally via shirl - CommonDreams Thursday, Feb 8 2018, 11:33pm

international / prose / post

*America's presence/occupation in Syria today is grossly illegal. However, when have legalities ever stopped the world's leading civilian killing terrorist nation from pursuing its criminal goals?*

The Syrian government of President Bashar Al-Assad accused the United States of "new aggression" on Thursday after American warplanes bombed government soldiers in the eastern part of the country.

Syria's state-sponsored news agency SANA [said](#) the attack—which it decried as an "attempt to support terrorism" in the province of Deir Ezzor—left "scores of persons dead and others injured."

The U.S. military officials confirmed the bombings against Syrian forces, but its military coalition characterized the airstrikes as "self defense" in nature.

With U.S. soldiers on the ground in Deir Ezzor, where they are embedded with Syrian Democratic Force (SDF) fighters, the U.S.-backed coalition said an SDF base came under attack from government forces and the airstrikes were a counter-measure against the assault.

As Middle East historian Juan Cole warns on his Informed Comment blog Thursday, the presence of U.S. soldiers inside Syria—a sovereign country with which the U.S. is not officially at war—creates an inherent risk of larger escalation as the various proxy militias battle for territory in the country ravaged by civil war. "The presence of US military in eastern Syria," writes Cole, "acts as a standing pretext for a wider US war in Syria. Had US personnel been killed yesterday, you can only imagine how Trump would react."

As Common Dreams [reported](#) in 2015, when President Obama expanded the U.S. military footprint inside Syria, critics [denounced](#) the move as "pouring gasoline on the fire."

"US Special Ops headed to Syria to 'advise and assist.' This should end really well," said journalist Jeremy Scahill, with sarcasm, at the time.

According to the Washington Post:

The clash was the biggest confrontation yet between the U.S. military and the pro-Syrian government alliance that includes Russia and Iran, since U.S. troops began deploying in Syria in 2015 in support of local Kurdish and Arab fighters taking on the Islamic State.

It coincides with heightened tensions between the United States and the Syrian government as the Islamic State war winds down, leaving eastern Syria roughly partitioned between U.S.-backed forces and the Russian-backed Syrian government.

The Syrian government has repeatedly called for U.S. troops to leave Syria now that the

ISIS war is over, and has regularly threatened to push them out by force.

Thursday's escalation comes amid separate reporting from Middle East Eye that the U.S., as well as other European allies like France, are "considering new military strikes" against the Assad government.

As Jason Ditz at Antiwar points out, the growing tensions in Syria, and Thursday's development's specifically, "reflect the reality that, after the defeat of ISIS, the US has said troops in Syria are there primarily with an eye toward imposing regime change in Syria, and picking fights with the Iranians."

Meanwhile, the suffering of the Syrian people continues to intensify with the United Nation's assistant secretary general and regional humanitarian coordinator for Syria, Panos Moutzsis, saying this week that there has been "dramatic deterioration in the humanitarian situation" over the last two months. The crisis, he said, is more "extreme" than at any time in the country's 8-year civil war.

"There is a misperception that the de-escalation areas have resulted in peace and stability. If anything, these have been serious escalation areas," said Moutzsis. "We feel really outraged. Dramatic developments have been building up and it has reached a point where we can no longer stay silent. These are multiple fires we have to respond to, with a dramatic deterioration in many places."

Creative Commons attribution applies.

*[Once again Russia's much lauded air defences seem to have failed, but most likely not due to technical reasons; clearly, true to his cowardly track record of not supporting allies, Putin ordered that US warplanes not be attacked. But WHY, as Putin has every LEGAL RIGHT to defend Syria from ANY foreign attack? Putin clearly is what he is, a corrupt, (\$250 billion in personal assets) stinking coward and paid globalist puppet, the sooner a true Russian patriot shoots him the better for Russia.]*

🔊 [Reckless -- Australian Crawl](#)

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/02/08/syria-denounces-new-aggression-after-us-warplanes-bomb-government-forces>

---

Jungle Drum Prose/Poetry. <http://jungledrum.lingama.net/news/story-3173.html>