

Dempsey Backs Away from Obama's Threat to Intervene in Syria

By [John Glaser](#)

Global Research, September 07, 2012

antiwar.com

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

The top general of America's military last week [backed away](#) from President Obama's threats to intervene militarily in Syria against the Assad regime, warning that the worst-case scenario would be some kind of failed state in the embattled country.



Chairman of the Joint Chief's of Staff General Martin Dempsey stressed while on a trip to London that direct military action in Syria, even simply no-fly zones, might be beyond the US and NATO's capabilities and [counter to their interests](#).

Last week President Obama [warned](#) that his "calculation" to refrain from direct military intervention in Syria "could change" if Syria's chemical or biological weapons begin "moving around or being utilized," describing the WMD issue as a "red line" that would prompt direct military action, like setting up safe zones, no-fly zones, or worse.

But Dempsey explained it wouldn't be that easy. He said frequent comparison of the Syrian situation with that in Libya, where a "no-fly zone" was imposed following a United Nations resolution, is at best a source of "amusement."

General Dempsey warned that possible safe zones for refugees were not being considered for inside Syria, cautioning that imposing them could open the path to a breakout of war.

"If you chose to establish [a safe zone/no-fly zone] you would assume the responsibility for protecting it. If you are tasked to protect it you have to look at those who might seek to attack it or to influence it and that could take you, depending on weapons systems, it could take you to a limited no-fly zone it could take you to the point of having to interdict air and ballistic missile systems," he said.

As far as forcibly ousting the Assad regime, Dempsey said, such a move would be far too destabilizing. He said a failed state in Syria would be the worst-case scenario and warned against allowing armed extreme jihadists and rebels with ties to al-Qaeda to increase their

influence and expand control in a post-Assad Syria.

The original source of this article is antiwar.com

Copyright © John Glaser, antiwar.com, 2012

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [John Glaser](#)

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