

## **Eastern Ghouta: Do Western Countries Support Terrorists in Syria?**

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Nowadays there are certain events in Syria that can determine future not only in the Middle East region, but in the whole world. The Syrian Army supported by its allies and in the hopes of recovering peace continues to fight terrorists in the country.

Meanwhile, an increasing number of experts believe that some Western countries led by the U.S. under the different pretexts try to delay the political settlement of the Syrian crisis, and make every effort to escalate internal tensions. In order to overthrow the Syrian government the West continues to support numerous militant groups sparing no efforts and money.

The current situation in Eastern Ghouta is a shining example of that. There the terrorists equipped with the U.S.-made modern weapons <u>shelling</u> residential areas of Damascus and use civilians as human shield.

The Syrian officials consider that such actions of militants indicate that the U.S. has launched a widespread information campaign in order to support them and discredit the actions and policy of the legal authorities. This was reported by Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the UN <u>Bashar Ja'afari</u> on March 12, 2018.

If we analyze the publications of the world's largest media, as well as statements made by U.S. State Department Spokesperson <u>Heather Nauert</u> and White House Press Secretary <u>Sarah Sanders</u>, Ja'afari's words reflect the reality. The European and American mainstream media are full of headlines that Damascus allegedly organized a siege that leads to hunger and misery of Syrians in Eastern Ghouta. Moreover, the West continues to unsubstantially accuse the Syrian Army of conducting and preparing chemical attacks against civilians.

It should be mentioned that according to the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2118 (2013), Syria completely destroyed its chemical weapons arsenal. On January 4, 2016, this fact was officially confirmed by the OPCW. Besides, the Syrian government forces have found handcrafted chemical weapons depots belonged to terrorists in Eastern Ghouta.

Moreover, the U.S. uses unconfirmed reports from the White Helmets organization about the chemical attacks from the 'regime' as a universal pretext for launching new missile strikes. Thus, at the previous UN SC meeting, <u>Nikki Haley</u> stated that Washington was ready "respond and take action" for sake of the people of Syria.

In turn, UN Secretary-General António Guterres supported the U.S. Ambassador Haley and

described the situation in Eastern Ghouta as "hell on Earth", calling for an immediate implementation of Saturday's Security Council resolution for a 30-day ceasefire in Syria. Apparently, Guterres doesn't know that there is no any moderate opposition in Eastern Ghouta, but there are terrorist groups that refuse to comply with the requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2401. In addition, the diplomat preferred to keep silent regarding 10,000 civilians, who used humanitarian corridors established by the government forces and left dangerous territory of Eastern Ghouta.

It seems quite strange that despite the West is trying to provide assistance to the residents of Eastern Ghouta, <u>humanitarian convoys</u> sent by various international organizations often fall into the hands of militants. This allows terrorists to limit access to basic necessities and medicine for ordinary people.

It becomes obvious that the West defends the interests of terrorists, but not civilians in Syria. Probably, if Europe and the U.S. had focused their efforts on the settlement of the Syrian conflict, Syrians would live in the stable country.

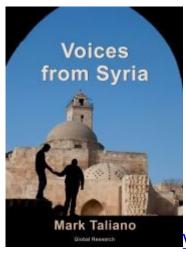
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Anna Jaunger is a journalist focused on the current situation in the Middle East.

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