

False Claims About Russia Mass-Killing Civilians in Syria

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, October 02, 2018 Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>, <u>Russia</u> and FSU Theme: <u>Media Disinformation</u>, <u>US NATO</u> <u>War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

Propaganda war precedes and accompanies all conflicts – notably when US-led NATO and Israel wage naked aggression.

The so-called US coalition in Syria and other countries is largely a Pentagon operation with a little help from Washington's imperial friends, mainly Britain and France.

The US partners directly or indirectly in all Israeli wars of aggression against neighboring countries and Palestinians.

Civilian casualties are inevitable in all wars. US-led NATO and Israel terror-bomb targeted countries and communities indiscriminately.

Israel openly admits it, collective punishment its official policy. The IDF's Dahiya doctrine reflects it, named after the Beirut suburb Israeli forces destroyed in 2006.

The doctrine applies to all Israeli aggressive attacks, notably against Gaza. Earlier IDF Northern Commander, current chief of staff Gadi Eisenkot originated the doctrine, earlier saying:

"What happened in the Dahiya quarter of Beirut in 2006 will happen in every village from which Israel is fired on."

"We will apply disproportionate force at the heart of the enemy's weak spot (civilians) and cause great damage and destruction."

"From our standpoint, these are not civilian villages (towns or cities). They are military bases. This is not a recommendation. This is a plan. And it has been approved."

The same strategy applies to Gaza and other Israeli aggressive attacks. It's how US-led NATO operates – why millions of casualties occurred post-9/11 from war, related violence, untreated wounds and diseases, starvation, and overall deprivation.

In Syria alone, US-led NATO, Israel, and their terrorist foot soldiers are responsible for hundreds of thousands of casualties, the toll mounting daily.

Russian and Syrian aerial operations are targeted, not indiscriminate, to minimize civilian

casualties as much as possible.

Claims otherwise are fabricated by Washington, its imperial partners, and the so-called UKbased and funded <u>Syrian Observatory for Human Rights</u> (SOHR).

The one-man propaganda operation is run by Rami Abdulraham from his Coventry, UK home – earlier admitting he hadn't visited Syria in over 15 years.

His operation is all about producing material fed him by his handlers, distributed to Western and other media outlets.

SOHR wages information war, one-sidedly reporting on Syria. On September 30, it headlined "Russia kills 18,000 in Syria since 2015," saying:

"(N)early half of them (are) civilians," claiming the noncombatant toll from Russian airstrikes is "7,988," adding:

"Another 5,233 Daesh fighters were also killed in Russian strikes, with the rest of the dead including other rebels, Islamists, and extremists."

So-called "human rights groups (sic) and Western governments have criticized Russia's air war in Syria, saying it bombs indiscriminately and targets civilian infrastructure including hospitals."

"...US-led coalition fighting Daesh have also been carrying out bombing raids on Syria since September 2014."

Facts:

- No one has a precise death and injury toll, at best a close approximation.
- SOHR's numbers have no credibility. Its dubious "sources" are unnamed.
- Not a shred of evidence suggests Russian and Syrian aerial operations indiscriminately bomb civilian communities, hospitals and infrastructure – a USled NATO/Israeli specialty in all their wars of aggression.
- Washington and its imperial partners pretend to be combating the scourge of ISIS they arm, fund, train, direct, and otherwise support – along with other terrorist groups in Syria and elsewhere.

In August, <u>Russi</u>a's Defense Ministry said its aerial operations killed over "86,000 militants" and "830 gang leaders" in Syria since intervening in September 2015 at the request of Bashar al-Assad, adding:

"As a result of the operation, the Syrian troops, supported by Russian forces, liberated from terrorists more than 1,400 settlements. Over 96 percent of the territory is under the control of government troops and militia units."

Russian intervention turned the tide of battle from likely defeat of Syrian forces to hoped for eventual triumph.

It's unattainable with Idlib province controlled by US-supported terrorists, along with Pentagon occupation of northeast and southwest areas, and Turkey controlling Syrian territory bordering its country.

Months of US-led terror-bombing of Mosul, Iraq and Raqqa, Syria alone massacred tens of thousands of defenseless civilians.

Throughout the Syrian conflict since March 2011, its Foreign Ministry sent numerous letters to the UN secretary-general and Security Council president, condemning US-led terrorbombing of civilian communities and infrastructure – to no avail.

US-led support for ISIS and other terrorists, along with aggression in Syria continues endlessly. Washington came to the country to stay.

Conflict resolution remains unattainable so far because the US and its imperial partners reject it – pursuing their goal of regime change, no matter the growing human toll.

A Final Comment

Since intervening in September 2015, Russia has been falsely accused of indiscriminately killing civilians in Syria numerous times.

Its Defense Ministry and Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov strongly deny the fabricated claims.

Months earlier, Peskov called accusations "unfounded. It's unclear what they are based on. No particular data has been provided, and we assess these accusations in this way" – rejecting them.

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