

## **Obama to Give Jihadists the Ability to Order Airstrikes**

"Rebels" who pledged allegiance to ISIS to control American bombers in Syria

By <u>Mikael Thalen</u> Global Research, February 18, 2015 <u>Infowars</u> 17 February 2015 Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u> Theme: <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

The Obama administration is preparing to equip the so-called "moderate" Syrian rebels with the ability to order U.S. air strikes despite the group's admitted allegiance to the Islamic State.

Members of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) will be provided with radios to call in strikes from American B-1B bombers as well as pickup trucks with mounted machine guns as the president puts the final touches on plans to train as many as 3,000 rebels in Jordan and Turkey by the end of 2015.

"Negotiations have been concluded and an agreement text will be signed with the US regarding the training of the Free Syrian Army in the coming period," <u>said</u> Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Tanju Bilgic.

The planes will reportedly use similar munitions to those seen in Afghanistan, targeting anything from small vehicles to tanks with 500 and 2,000-pound guided bombs.

Aside from the Toyota Hi-Lux trucks, multiple groups of rebels will also be given mortars and possibly antitank weapons as well.

A senior military official speaking with the <u>Wall Street Journal</u> stated that the decision would likely emulate recent bombing campaigns against the Islamic State in Iraq.

"The way we envision it, it would be very similar to Kobani," the source said.

Ludicrously refuting <u>previous statements</u> by claiming not to be at war with the Syrian government, U.S. officials alleged that air strikes would likely not be ordered against the Syrian army.

Despite the Obama administration's claims, countless intelligence and military officials have stated that the "moderate" rebels are essentially non-existent, with well over 90 percent being with terrorist groups or aligned in ideology.

Just last September, a commander with the FSA <u>admitted to fighting alongside several</u> <u>terrorist organizations</u> in the region including the Islamic State.

"We are collaborating with the Islamic State and the Nusra Front by attacking the Syrian Army's gatherings in... Qalamoun," Bassel Idriss, commander of an FSA-run rebel brigade,

said. "Let's face it: The Nusra Front is the biggest power present right now in Qalamoun and we as FSA would collaborate on any mission they launch as long as it coincides with our values."

Jamal Maarouf, the leader of the Syrian Revolutionary Front (SRF), also told reporters last April that<u>his fighters regularly worked with Al Qaeda</u> and Al-Nusra as well.

During the same time period it was reported that "several factions within the FSA, including Ahl Al Athar, Ibin al-Qa'im," decided to <u>hand their weapons over to the Islamic State</u> before pledging their allegiance to the group.

An Islamic State fighter speaking with <u>Al-Jazeera</u> in 2013 revealed that the FSA regularly sold its weapons to them shortly after they would receive shipments from the U.S.

"We are buying weapons from the FSA," Abu Atheer said. "We bought 200 anti-aircraft missiles and Koncourse anti tank weapons. We have good relations with our brothers in the FSA."

Obama's rebels and the Islamic State even went as far as to <u>sign a non-aggression pact</u> with one another in order to rally against the Assad government in late 2014.

In fact, with <u>thousands of rebels openly defecting</u> and joining ranks with the Islamic State, President Obama was forced to brazenly <u>repeal sections of U.S. law that banned the arming</u> <u>of known terrorist groups</u> in order to keep weapons flowing.

Obama's actions spurred a major backlash within the military at the end of 2013, resulting in numerous U.S. troops taking to social media to <u>post photos of themselves holding up</u> <u>signs</u> stating that they would not fight on the same side as terrorists in Syria.

Texas Senator Ted Cruz presciently warned in 2013 that President Obama was quickly turning the United States into <u>Al Qaeda's air force</u> as the situation in Syria continued to intensify.

"We should be focused on defending the United States of America," Cruz said. "That's why young men and women sign up to join the military, not to, as you know, serve as Al Qaeda's air force."

Watch: Obama is Arming ISIS to Fight ISIS

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