

Russia Effectively Smashing US-Supported Terrorists in Syria

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, October 02, 2017 Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>, <u>Russia</u> <u>and FSU</u> Theme: <u>Terrorism</u>, <u>US NATO War Agenda</u> In-depth Report: <u>SYRIA</u>

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Russia's military intervention in Syria at the request of its government began two years ago today – September 30.

It dramatically changed the dynamic on the ground, turning sure defeat into eventual triumph.

Thousands of square miles of Syrian territory were liberated from the scourge of USsupported terrorists, defeating Washington's imperial aims, wanting regime change, the country transformed into another vassal state.

Tass reviewed Russian operations over the past two years, saying "victory over terrorism is near." Its efforts transformed armed opposition conflicting groups into "a common front in the struggle against terrorists."

What began two years ago today "is entering its final phase," Russian air power enabling Syrian and allied forces to regain control over "85% of the country's territory," a remarkable turnaround from conditions before Moscow's involvement.

Washington didn't expect it, intending to eliminate Assad the way it ruthlessly killed Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi.

Things didn't go as planned. Russia foiled US objectives, achieving them highly unlikely, a significant body blow to its regional aims, a step closer to defeating them worldwide.

In Syria, Aleppo was liberated late last year, the country's pre-war commercial hub. Historic Palmyra was freed twice, hopefully for good after the second time.

The campaign to liberate Zeir Ezzor province entirely from US-supported terrorists continues, ISIS' last stronghold in the country. Its three-year-long siege of the city was broken, security sweeps underway to eliminate its remnants in residential and other areas.

"Official forecasts regarding the chances of a successful completion of the antiterrorist operation sound ever more optimistic," said Tass.

Ahead of the Deir Ezzor campaign, Akerbat was liberated,

"a major transport hub and command center (and stronghold) of the terrorists in the east of Hama province," Tass explained.

"With the loss of the city the terrorists were no longer able to regroup forces, receive ammunition and supplies, while the Syrian government army gained access to Deir Ezzor."

During 24 months of combat, 38 Russian military personnel perished, including General Valery Asapov, the coordinates of his location almost certainly provided ISIS by US forces. Washington bears responsibility for his death.

Russian and American objectives in Syria are world's apart – Moscow combating terrorism, Washington supporting it. Bilateral relations are dismal on virtually everything except cooperation in non-military space activities.

Astana peace talks spearheaded by Russia continue making progress – without significant breakthroughs so far because Washington wants endless war and regime change, waging a losing battle, pursuing it anyway.

According to Russia's reconciliation center, 2,200 localities joined the ceasefire agreement. More than 230 armed groups agreed to observe it.

Reconstruction in some areas began, restoring power, water and other essential infrastructure a vital first step, along with supplying humanitarian aid – Russia, Iran and Damascus alone providing it.

Nothing from America. Nothing from the EU. Nothing from regional Arab countries. Nothing from Israel, of course. Woefully inadequate UN help, Syrians on their own, dependent on their government and allies.

Moscow remains firmly committed to Syrian sovereign independence, its territorial integrity, and right of its people alone to choose their leadership, free from foreign interference.

"Both Russian and Syrian military commanders stress the intention to push ahead with the operation until the elimination of the last terrorist" nationwide, said Tass.

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