

## Washington Supports the Islamic State: Spending Bill Grants Half-Billion Dollars to ISIS-Linked Syrian Rebels

"Moderate" rebels openly admit their alliance with ISIS

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The \$1.1 trillion federal spending bill rammed through Congress provides a half-billion dollars to arm and train ISIS-linked Syrian rebels who could potentially launch terrorist attacks against the U.S.

Section 9016 of the spending bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense \$500,000,000 to equip "appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition" who will defend "the Syrian people from attacks by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant," but back in September ISIS signed a truce with the remaining rebel groups and they are now working together against the Syrian government.

"The Secretary of Defense is authorized, in coordination with the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including training, equipment, supplies, sustainment and stipends, to appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and other appropriately vetted Syrian groups or individuals..." the bill states.

The Syrian rebels, however, consist of ISIS and groups with ties to ISIS.

"We are collaborating with the Islamic State and the Nusra Front by attacking the Syrian Army's gatherings in... Qalamoun," Bassel Idriss, the commander of a "moderate" rebel brigade, told the Lebanese <u>Daily Star</u>.

And another "moderate" commander of the Free Syrian Army, Abu Khaled, also said <u>they</u> <u>are collaborating with Islamic militants</u>.

"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," he added.

Even if there were still a large number of Syrian rebels who aren't fighting alongside ISIS, who's to say that they won't align with ISIS in the future, supplying terrorists with arms paid for by Congress' omnibus spending bill?

That's already happened before.

"Most of the arms we've given to the so-called moderate rebels have wound up in the hands of ISIS, because ISIS simply takes it from them, or it's given to them, or we mistakenly actually give it to some of the radicals," Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said on <a href="Most of the Research CBS's">CBS's "This Morning."</a>

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