

Syria Elections 2016: US-NATO's Failed Attempt to Deny the Will of the Syrian People

By Vanessa Beeley

Global Research, January 01, 2017

21st Century Wire

Region: Middle East & North Africa

Theme: Media Disinformation, US NATO

War Agenda

In-depth Report: SYRIA

While this article first published in April 2016 confirms the holding of parliamentary elections in Syria, the Western media in chorus describe Syria as a dictatorship. They also fail to acknowledge that the opposition "rebels" supported by the "international community" are Al Qaeda affiliated terrorists.

"We declare our right on this earth...to be a human being, to be respected as a human being, to be given the rights of a human being in this society, on this earth, in this day, which we intend to bring into existence by any means necessary." ~ Malcolm X

Yesterday Parliamentary elections were held in Syria. 7000 polling booths were opened across the country. 11, 341 candidates were proposed from across Syria with 250 to be elected to Parliament, including a number of female candidates.

Candidates were spread <u>out as follows:</u> 988 in Damascus, 817 in Damascus countryside, Aleppo 1437, in Aleppo regions 1048, In Idleb 386, in Homs 1800, Hama 700, Lattakia 1653, Tartous 634, Deir Ezzor 311, Hasaka 546, Raqqa 197, Daraa 321, Sweida 263 and in Quneitra 240

Voting centres opened at 7.30 am and were obliged to extend their sessions by five hours to accommodate the high turn out of voters.



Some of the women candidates in Syrian Parliamentary elections.

"The voting centers include over 2,000 centers in Damascus, 17 in Deir Ezzor, 1,047 in Lattakia, 661 in Homs, 347 in Sweida, 741 in Hama, 368 in Hasaka, 816 in Tartous, and 347 in Sweida are receiving voters.

It should be noted that voting centers were opened in Damascus, Damascus Countryside, Hama, Lattakia, Aleppo, Tartous, Hasaka, and Deir Ezzor to receive voters staying in these provinces who are originally from other areas, namely the provinces of Idleb, Raqqa, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor, and Daraa." ~ SANA



Students from Damascus University queueing to vote: SANA

So contrary to spurious claims from western governments and media, efforts were made to open the voting to all Syrian civilians including those who have fled terrorists held areas. We must also bear in mind that over 90% of IDPs [Internally displaced persons] have fled to Government controlled areas, thus further discrediting claims that these elections are non representative.

For a full photo report on the Syrian elections: Peoples Assembly Elections 2016

On an equally positive note, of course ignored in the western and gulf media, 1.7 million of these internally displaced refugees have been able to return home thanks not only to the SAA liberation of whole swathes of Syrian villages and towns from US NATO terrorist occupation but also due to the Syrian Governments laudable efforts to rebuild and restore infrastructure in these areas.

<u>Small government loans</u> are being given to impoverished families to enable them to reestablish their lives torn apart by the illegal war of aggression that has been waged against Syria by the US, NATO, GCC and Israel for the last five years.

It is guaranteed that none of these initiatives will be reported in the mainstream media, including the Syrian Higher Committee for Relief's efforts to facilitate the delivery of Humanitarian aid to the remaining terrorist held civilian areas in Syria.

As <u>Professor Tim Anderson</u> [who is in Syria to observe the elections as indeed he was in 2014] said:

"Syrian democracy needs no outside approval. Repeated outside demands that 'Assad must go', or that a Washington-approved executive 'transition government' be formed, have become meaningless, since the military tide turned in the embattled country's favour."

The Syrian elections proceeded according to the Syrian constitution and law. We see this being enforced in Aleppo for example where it was decided that <u>violations of the voting</u> <u>process</u> had taken place and a re-election was called for.

UNSC [Security Council] resolution 2254 stated clearly that Syria's future is in the hands of the Syrians and the Syrians are proving that they are doing just that with little fuss but a lot of enthusiasm and determination to deny foreign intervention in their sovereign affairs.

The Syrian "Dictator" goes to Vote

Now lets have a look at the President that western governments and their media minions would have us believe to be a bloodthirsty, butchering dictator as he and his wife Asma head for the polling booths with no security in sight.

Compare this if you will, to the protests being held across Britain demanding that David Cameron aka "Dodgy Dave" resign over the <u>Panama papers scandal</u>, the subsequent police clamp down and the manhandling of protestors.

Perhaps even more laughable in the face of the UK Government's own deteriorating human rights record at home and abroad, is their statement on the Syrian elections:

<u>Britain said Damascus'</u> decision to go ahead with the elections in the war-torn nation, where hundreds of thousands cannot take part, shows "how divorced (the government) is from reality."

<u>With homelessness and child poverty</u> reaching Victorian levels in Britain, legal cases pending for criminal arms sales to the genocidal Saudi coalition conducting wholesale slaughter of Yemeni civilians, and recent reports on the British government <u>clandestine</u> <u>assassination programmes</u>, one would be justified in saying the British government has not only divorced itself from reality but from Humanity in every feasible way.

"Reprieve highlights the fact that Britain conspired in a US-inspired Kill List soon after 9/11. It says quite categorically that "Starting in 2002, working closely with the Americans, Britain had played a leading role in the euphemistic Joint Prioritized Effective List. As with Yemen, the JPEL Kill List was not even limited to a war zone – it spanned over into Pakistan, which was an ally, not an enemy at war."

What this effectively means is that not only has Britain brought back the death penalty it has done so without public or parliamentary consultation, and carried out these deadly deeds regularly without even a basic trial." \sim Britain's Secret Assassination Programme

France has also hit the deck with cries of illegitimacy regarding the Syrian elections.

"The idea that there could be elections is not just provocative but totally unrealistic. It would be proof that there are no negotiations or discussions [in Geneva]." ~ Francois Hollande



This statement comes from the man who crossed an executioners palm with silver to secure a multi billion dollar arms deal with Qatar.

In this photo Hollande is presenting France's most prestigious award, the Legion D'Honneur to Saudi interior minister, Muhammed Bin Nayef. Bin Nayef is personally responsible for choosing who of the many prisoners in Saudi jails is eligible for execution or crucifixion without trial and usually on trumped up charges.

So one is once more justified to ask, which leg is Hollande standing on when he denigrates Syrian elections while commending one of the world's most renowned terrorists on his efforts to combat...terrorism.

The award for hypocrisy goes to..

US State Department spokesperson Mark Toner <u>said</u> that the US "would view those elections as not legitimate in the sense that they don't represent… the will of the Syrian people.

"So, to hold parliamentary elections now, given the current circumstances, given the current conditions in the country, we believe is at best premature and not representative of the Syrian people," Toner said.

Early last week Toner said that "a political process that reflects the desires and will of the Syrian people is what should ultimately decide the future leadership and the future government of Syria." $\sim RT$

Here is the answer of the Syrian people to Mr Toner's comments:



Mohammed Ali of Press TV reports from Damascus

Conclusions

The US, NATO, GCC and Israeli agenda has careered into the brick wall of Syrian resistance, integrity and unity. The will of the Syrian people is being listened to by the Syrian government.

Ideologically and spiritually the Syrian people believe in their political and military victory. The Syrian people have said "no" time and time again to foreign intervention. They have endured crippling economic sanctions, invasions by proxy terrorist armies, occupation by mass murderers funded and armed by the US and NATO alliance but their resilience will ensure their self determination against all odds.

To achieve their objectives in Syria, the US and NATO are reliant upon mercenaries, terrorists, rapists and felons who have no vested interest in victory other than lining their own pockets with drugs and oil revenue.

The US and NATO agenda in Syria has no basis in law or even sound ideology, it is based upon pure greed and power sustained by corruption and inhumanity. It shall fail and Syria will emerge unbowed, stronger and ultimately victorious. The Syrian people have redrawn

the geopolitical map with strength of *will* alone. This is the will you should be respecting Mr Toner, there is no other.

"The Syrian people are engaged in a war that has been going on for five years, through which terrorism managed to shed innocent blood and destroy much infrastructure, but it failed in achieving the primary goal it was assigned, which is destroying the principle structure in Syria, meaning the social structure of the national identity." ~ President Bashar al Assad.



Author Vanessa Beeley is a contributor to 21WIRE, and since 2011, she has spent most of her time in the Middle East reporting on events there – as a independent researcher, writer, photographer and peace activist. She is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Syria Solidarity Movement, and a volunteer with the Global Campaign to Return to Palestine. See more of her work at her blog The Wall Will Fall.

The original source of this article is <u>21st Century Wire</u> Copyright © <u>Vanessa Beeley</u>, <u>21st Century Wire</u>, 2017

Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page

Become a Member of Global Research

Articles by: Vanessa Beeley

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the

copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca