



## “Starving city Madaya”- Accusations against Assad are revealed as defamation



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On January 12th, mainstream media reported that the “starving” Syrian city of Madaya had finally received help. Trucks brought 330 tons of food and medicine into the mountain city - currently rebel controlled and besieged by government troops. The tabloid “Bild” released by Axel-Springer Publishing, reported: Helpers were faced with shocking images, 400 people close to starvation. Supposedly the “Horror city” Madaya has been encircled by government troops for almost half a year. Already for weeks, controversial photos and videos have been circulating in diverse media showing starving people in the Syrian city of Madaya near Damascus. The weighty accusation against Assad’s government is that they are purposely starving whole regions in order to win them back from the rebels. But can these reports be verified or is this again a large scale slander campaign against Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad? Kla.tv looked for answers to this question.

First of all: What the media keep silent about:

On October 18th, 2015 a treaty was reached between the Syrian government and the so-called rebels. Following this the UN and other aid organizations delivered humanitarian help to the city of Madaya. These goods were enough to last until the end of the year, as international television station RT Deutsch reported on January 12th, 2016. How is it possible then that just days later supposedly dozens of people are starving, as western media reported?

RT Deutsch showed interviews with residents of the city, who accuse the rebels of misusing the food rations for their own control purposes in the city. I quote: “The rebels are letting the people bleed. They are the ones who take the rice and resell it for 80 to 90 times more. When the aid came, they stole it and began to sell it for high prices.” RT Deutsch commented that the civilian population of Madaya is not necessarily supporting the rebels. Even recently - on November 28th - there were pro-government demonstrations. Since October 18th, both the UN and the Syrian government have tried repeatedly to deliver aid to the city. But due to fighting, over and over these deliveries had to be canceled. The media did not report a single word about this.

Secondly: Concerning the pictures spread by the media: Internet users have repeatedly made editors aware of the fact that the photo material showing starving children is old, and did not originate from the city of Madaya. Often the pictures disappear again without any commentary from the internet platforms. One RT reporter who was there, on the scene, commented: “The media is selling us wrong photos, false, made up news and everything in order to bring emotions to a boiling point.”

Thirdly: Concerning on-site coverage directly from Madaya: the Russian international news

channel RT had its own reporters on location in the Syrian battle-zone and showed in the broadcast from the 12th of January 2016 how - for the first time - a group of women and children were able to leave the city with a humanitarian aid convoy of the Red cross and UN. We show this broadcast as a counter voice to other media reports, following this program. "Bild" reporters are now claiming that this report was staged and that the 300 who were saved were only actors: they showed no signs of being undernourished so they must have been actors, this must have been staged. An activist from the region told the "Bild" tabloid that these were only members of the Baath Party of President Assad and that they had come from a different mainly Christian city. However video material documents very clearly - even for the medically untrained eye - obvious signs of malnutrition: sunken-in facial contours, the condition of the teeth etc. The pictures also show only Muslim women with the classical Hijab - head scarf

The "Bild" claims further that the United Nations together with the Red Cross have to accept the "Syrian-Russian propaganda machine" because otherwise they would not be able to continue their work in Syria. . Once again accusations by the established leading media turn out to be a well-structured smear campaign to mislead us - the people. A bogeyman is created, in this case the one of the Syrian president Assad, whose tactic was to starve people. Secondly: by whatever means possible, regardless of where these are pictures or voices come from - from any "activists" - who could not even be checked up on or confirmed, this bogeyman is nourished and implanted into the heads until the people get upset. And thirdly: if the mainstream media reports are refuted, then they simply keep lying.....Judge for yourself and watch the report of the RT-correspondent for Syria Murad Gazdiev who reports first hand as a counter voice .

from dd.

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#### Sources:

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