



Attack by US-coalition on Syrian troops – mistake or intent?



On Saturday, September 17, 2016 a Syrian army base was bombarded by the so-called Anti-IS-Coalition, led by the USA. In this airstrike at least 62 Syrian soldiers lost their lives and another 100 were injured.

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Immediately after these airstrikes an IS-offensive on Syrian positions followed. The Russian government reacted indignantly to this incident and convened an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. The USA acknowledged that in this operation Syrian troops were most likely hit by accident. The speaker of the US-Central Command emphasized that the coalition would never intentionally initiate airstrikes against well-known Syrian military units. About a week after this incident more and more voices come up which clearly contradict the US-statement that it happened by mistake. The Syrian President Bashar al-Assad expressed himself as follows: "That was not a mistaken incident with an airplane. There were four planes and they were attacking the positions of the Syrian soldiers about an hour or even longer. A mistake cannot last for one hour."

The journalist and political expert on Mideast-affairs, Hafsa Kara-Mustapha, doesn't believe in an accident either. According to her statement, the positioning technology of the coalition allows them to make precise distinctions of which positions belong to which group with an accuracy of nearly a 100 percent. Also various diplomats such as the former consul of Turkey in Mosul, Aydin Selcen or the Russian UN-ambassador, Tschurkin, assessed the US-version of the incidents and conclude that the statement that the attacks were meant to hit the IS is not very convincing. Tschurkin expressed doubts that the US-forces should suddenly have an interest in defending the Syrian army against the IS-troops they were facing in the region. The speaker of the Russian Foreign Office, Sacharowa, commented on the incident with the words: "If we had suspicions earlier that this is in defense of Jebhat al-Nusra, then now, after today's airstrikes at the Syrian army, we come to a scary conclusion — the White House defends IS,"

These are indeed harsh accusations from the Russian side, ladies and gentlemen. But if you look at the development of this conflict, this incident blends in very well with the overall picture. The proceedings of the US-army in this conflict up to this point did not suggest that they intend to overcome the IS. While it took the USA and their allies only seven months to completely bomb Libya in 2011, one year after the beginning of the airstrikes by the US-coalition the IS has gained even more ground in Syria. It was only through Russia's interference that it was possible to force back the IS and the Syrian army was able to successfully carry out offensives against the terrorists. But instead of rejoicing about the success against the alleged common rival IS the USA, together with Western media and

politicians, slandered the Russian airstrikes.

This nurtures the doubts felt by the Western allies that this conflict seems to not to be about fighting the IS but about the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government which was legally elected by the Syrian people.

Another red line has been crossed now that after Syrian troops had recently gained more of an upper hand an attack occurred on the Syrian soldiers, led by the US-coalition.

The fact that the IS-fighters were ready for an offensive immediately after the airstrike supports the view of those who insinuate a targeted intent by the USA. They accuse the US-government of secretly supporting the IS in order to expand their supremacy in the region. It is up to the USA now to explain the incident completely and to prove the opposite. Should this not succeed the UN-Security Council should rethink his position. Likewise, it would be time for the German government to withdraw the Federal Armed Forces from this coalition. For the mandate of the Bundestag was issued for the fight against the terror organization IS and not for the fight against the Syrian army. Such would pose an illegitimate offensive in terms of article 26 of the German constitution and would have to be sanctioned accordingly.

from tz.

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