



# Despite Winning the 'Alternative Nobel Prize': Credibility of the White Helmets Remains Controversial



**They go where no one else goes: the so-called White Helmets in the Syrian Civil War save, rescue and help. According to their own statements they have saved more than 60,000 human lives so far. On the occasion of November 25th, 2016 the German news portal tagesschau.de and other media reported: The White Helmets received the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' as one of four prize winners.**

They go where no one else goes: the so-called White Helmets in the Syrian Civil War save, rescue and help. According to their own statements they have saved more than 60,000 human lives so far. On the occasion of November 25th, 2016 the German news portal tagesschau.de and other media reported: The White Helmets received the 'Alternative Nobel Prize' as one of four prize winners. But who exactly is behind this non-governmental organization, and are the White Helmets as neutral and impartial as they claim to be on their website? It says: "We help all Syrians".

First of all, it must be noted that the White Helmets present themselves as "Syrian civil protection" but have nothing to do with a civil protection organization in the conventional sense. As a rule, an organization like that is subordinated to the government.

The organization behind the White Helmets is "The Syrian Campaign" registered in Great Britain. "The Syrian Campaign" is – according to its own statement - "absolutely independent" and accepts "no money from governments or anybody directly involved in the Syrian conflict".

However this claim turned out to be a lie. The White Helmets received 23 million US-dollars solely from USAID, an aid organization subordinate to the US-government. This was confirmed by Mark Toner, the official spokesman of the White House on April 27th 2016. The financial flows of the White Helmets come through the foundation "Mayday Rescue", which was created especially for this purpose. It is based in Istanbul but registered as a Dutch organization. Other main sponsors of the White Helmets - according to the "Mayday Rescue" website - are the British, Dutch, German, Danish and Japanese governments. Therefore, it is not surprising that the White Helmets were not founded by a Syrian but in March 2013 by a British man in Istanbul named James Le Mesurier, who – incidentally - also founded "Mayday Rescue".

As a former British secret agent and specialist for private security companies, Le Mesurier was hardly likely to have been in Syria by chance. Le Mesurier was an officer of the Olive Group, a private mercenary group that has now merged with Academi, the largest US-American private security and military company, under the Constellis Group. Le Mesurier has participated in various conflicts around the world, including Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine.

According to an interview with Al Jazeera, Le Mesurier began to train volunteers in Turkey ...

initially only twenty. Today there are about 2,800 "volunteers" according to the head of the White Helmets, Raed al-Saleh as he told the news magazine DER SPIEGEL. "Honorary volunteers" is not quite accurate, though, since the monthly pay is said to be \$150 USD according to several sources. According to the World Bank the Syrian average income in 2010, before the war, amounted to \$229 USD per month.

Raed al-Saleh also demanded a flight ban on Syria, which could hardly be regarded as neutral and independent, since it would be directed mainly against the Syrian and Russian governments. Therefore, it is also not surprising that the Syrian and Russian presidents expressed their opinion that the White Helmets were a means for Western states founded for propaganda purposes which sympathize with the terrorists.

The White Helmets obviously have an image problem - because of their partisanship and sympathy for terrorists. Thus there exist photos and videos from Syria with members of the White Helmets: White Helmets celebrating the death of civilian government workers; White Helmets who cheer up an Al-Qaeda victory and swing the black IS flag; White Helmets, calling for hatred against people of different faith; White Helmets, which help in an execution; White Helmets waving the triumphal sign as they transport dead government soldiers in the small lorries; White Helmets who carry weapons in addition to their civil defense uniforms; and - perhaps particularly piquant - White Helmets, who openly appear armed in fighting suits on social networks.

All these hints point to propaganda purposes concerning the White Helmets. There are also pictures of the White Helmets carrying children in their arms, a common propaganda tactic, as Klagemauer.TV explained in the broadcast "War Strategy: Suffering Children" which you can find in English on [kla.tv/9342](http://kla.tv/9342).

Therefore, the neutrality and impartiality of the White Helmets must be questioned and tested for credibility. Watch at the end a news release from the international television station RT about a more recent, apparently fake rescue operation of the White Helmets, which raises numerous questions.

from dd.

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