

# *Russian President Vows to Continue Support for Syria*

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Moscow, July 2 (RHC)-- Russian President Vladimir Putin has pledged to push ahead with its support for the Syrian government and nation amid ongoing battle between Damascus and the Takfiri ISIL terrorists.

"Our policy of supporting Syria, its leadership and its people remains unchanged," Putin said during a meeting with visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem.

Putin also said he was assured that the "Syrian people will win in the final run," noting that "success is always compounded with some problems and military mishaps." He said the current crisis in Syria stems from "the aggression by the forces of international terrorism."

The Syrian foreign minister also met with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and discussed the recent developments in the Arab country.

In the meeting, Lavrov said Moscow will continue to support Syria in the fight against terrorism, adding that Russia has provided "all possible assistance to increase [Syria's] ability to resist the evil" and would "continue doing this."

Muallem lashed out at the United States for overtly supporting the terrorists fighting against the Syrian government, saying Washington has allocated USD 1 billion to support terrorists operating in Syria.

"The Americans are making no secret of their support for terrorists," he said, adding that Damascus is facing "double standards," from the side of the US as it keeps demanding a political solution but at the same time financially backs the terrorists.

Muallem said that 2,100 militants, armed with most sophisticated weapons, were recently deployed in Syria's south, adding that those backing the terrorists in Syria are hampering efforts aimed at reaching a settlement.

The terrorists, operating in Syria since early 2011, have been logistically and financially supported by Western powers and some of their regional allies – especially Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

According to reports, the crisis in Syria has so far left more than 230,000 people – including almost 11,500 children – dead.

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