

Obama Authorizes Airstrikes to Defend U.S.-Trained Syrian Rebels



Washington, August 3 (RHC)-- U.S. President Barack Obama has authorized U.S. airstrikes to defend U.S.-trained Syrian rebels who come under attack, including from the Syrian government. Fewer than 60 rebels have completed the U.S. training program aimed at defeating the self-proclaimed Islamic State.

The first-known U.S. airstrikes to defend the forces from militants were launched last week. Anonymous officials told news outlets the United States would provide offensive strikes to support advances against ISIL but defend the rebels against any group that attacks them.

Meanwhile, a Syrian government warplane has crashed amid air raids in the rebel-held northwestern town of Ariha, killing at least 12 people and injuring dozens.

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