

Reports Say U.S.-led Coalition Killed 300 Syrian Civilians in Airstrikes



London, October 26 (RHC)-- Amnesty International says the U.S.-led coalition has killed hundreds of civilians during its air raids in Syria since 2014, calling for an investigation into potential violations of international law during the so-called campaign against terror.

"It's high time the U.S. authorities came clean about the full extent of the civilian damage caused by coalition attacks in Syria," Deputy Director for Research at Amnesty's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Lynn Maalouf said Tuesday.

The UK-based rights group said as many as 300 civilians had been killed in 11 attacks conducted by the Washington-led alliance since September 2014. "Analysis of available evidence suggests that in each of these cases, coalition forces failed to take adequate precautions to minimize harm to civilians and damage to civilian objects," Maalouf added.

The Amnesty official further urged independent investigations into possible violations of international law, calling on the coalition to take more precautions prior to their attacks.

There are also reports that the US-led attacks have on numerous occasions hampered counter-terrorism operations by Syrian armed forces. In September, a US-led airstrike hit a military base belonging to the Syrian army, leaving over 80 army troops dead and some 100 others wounded in the eastern part of the country. The raid helped Daesh terrorists make some gains in the area at the time.

The U.S. Defense Department has not made any comment on the latest Amnesty report so far, but it has invariably insisted that the forces are taking enough precautions to avoid civilian fatalities.

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