

# *Iranian President Says U.S.-led Airstrikes in Syria Lack Legal Basis*

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United Nations, September 24 (RHC)-- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the U.S.-led airstrikes in Syria are illegal because they are not approved by or coordinated with the Syrian government.

"Bombardment by one or several countries or even one coalition is meaningless without legal basis and can be considered as [an act of] aggression," Rouhani said in a Tuesday meeting with a number of news editors in New York where he is attending the UN General Assembly annual session.

He described as "contradictory" efforts to simultaneously combat terrorists in Syria while nurturing armed and terrorist groups against the government in the country. "This contradictory behavior is not comprehensible that a country says I am fighting terrorism and simultaneously provides political assistance to groups opposed to a country's central government and even trains some people outside the country and sends them into that country to fight and wage a war against the central government. This will definitely not end in success," the Iranian president pointed out.

The Iranian leader stressed the importance of restoring stability to Syria as an important step to eradicate terrorism in the conflict-stricken country, saying: "First of all, stability must be restored to this country and

restoration of stability in Syria will be impossible without the central government's help even if there is criticism of the government's performance," Rouhani stated.

He emphasized that terrorism must be uprooted in Syria and grounds should be prepared for the return of Syrian refugees from neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon so that the country will experience security and calm.

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