

Syrian Foreign Minister Says Damascus Has Full Confidence in Russia



Damascus, October 1 (RHC)-- The Syrian foreign minister has expressed his country's confidence in Russia's anti-terror position as Russian President Vladimir Putin describes preemptive airstrikes as the best way to fight international terrorism.

Walid al-Muallem made the comments in an interview with Russia's RT TV channel on Wednesday, adding that Damascus has full confidence in the Russian stance and in that of President Putin, who made Moscow's position about counter-terrorism clear earlier in the day, Syrian official SANA news agency reported.

Voicing distrust in the objectives that the United States and the U.S.-led coalition pursue, the top Syrian diplomat said: "They carried out over 9,000 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria and we haven't seen any results, so we support what President Putin does in this regard."

The remarks came as Russian fighter jets conducted their first airstrikes against the Takfiri Daesh militants in Syria on Wednesday. Regarding the airstrikes, the Russian president said they have been carried out with the knowledge of Moscow's foreign partners.

“We have always supported and support the struggle against international terrorism, at the same time we are convinced that it should be waged exclusively in strict compliance with international law, so, within the framework of the UN Security Council resolutions adopted in such cases or at the request of a party which needs military assistance,” Putin said.

Referring to the fact that the U.S.-led coalition’s airstrikes in Syria are conducted without the authorization of the UN and the Syrian government, the Russian president said Washington’s initiative lacks the criteria Moscow has considered in its strikes.

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