

British Parliament Discusses Authorizing Air Strikes in Syria



London, December 2 (RHC)-- British Prime Minister David Cameron has begun a debate on whether to authorize air strikes in Syria. The debate is going on as Cameron faces calls from Labour, Lib Dem and SNP MPs to apologize for reportedly telling a meeting that opponents of action were "terrorist sympathizers."

Meanwhile, in London streets, protesters with the Stop the War Coalition held banners reading: "Don't Bomb Syria."

The 10-hour debate will end in a vote on whether the UK should join allies in bombing ISIL targets in Syria. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is against the bombing but has given MPs a free vote amid divisions within his own ranks.

At least 110 MPs from six different parties -- including the SNP, which opposes action -- have already signed up to an amendment seeking to block air strikes.

157 MPs had applied to speak in the debate, but Labour and the SNP warned that not all would not get a chance and called on the government to clear two Commons days, something that was rejected by Commons leader Chris Grayling.

Cameron warned that if Tory MPs voted against strikes they risked undermining a strong message that the UK was standing alongside its allies already engaged in military action.

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