

U.S. Says Air Assault Alone Cannot Save Kobani from ISIL



Washington, October 9 (RHC)-- The United States says it has conducted six more airstrikes against ISIL positions in the strategic Syrian city of Kobani, but the air raids are not enough to prevent the fall of the border city to the terrorists.

The U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a statement on Wednesday that the airstrikes destroyed an armored personnel carrier, armed vehicles and artillery. However, Pentagon spokesman Rear Admiral John Kirby said the air raids will not halt the militant group's momentum against the city on the Turkish border.

"Airstrikes alone are not going to do this, not going to fix this, not going to save the town of Kobani," he said. "We know that. And we've been saying that over and over again." He added: "There will be other towns that they will threaten, and there will be other towns that they will take. It is going to take a little bit of time." And the Pentagon spokesman confirmed that the U.S. has no plans to use its ground forces to counter the militant advance.

Meanwhile, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said earlier in the day that preventing the fall of the Kurdish city is not among the strategic objectives of her country. "It's obviously horrific to watch what's going on the ground, but it's important for the United States, for us to also step back and remember our strategic objective as it relates to our efforts and our engagement in Syria," she said.

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