

# *Russian Foreign Minister Says U.S. Mission in Syria Insignificant*

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Moscow, October 14 (RHC)-- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has questioned the effectiveness of the mission of the so-called anti-Daesh U.S.-led coalition in Syria, saying the results of the coalition's measures are "insignificant."

"We have very few specifics which could explain what the U.S. is exactly doing in Syria and why the results of so many combat sorties are so insignificant," Lavrov told Russian channel NTV. "With, as far as I know, 25,000 sorties they (the U.S.-led air campaign) could have smashed entire Syria to smithereens," the Russian foreign minister noted.

Since September 2014, the U.S. and some of its allies have been conducting airstrikes against the purported positions of Takfiri Daesh terrorists inside Syria without any authorization from Damascus or a UN mandate.

Lavrov also cast doubt on the objectives of the U.S.-led coalition in Syria, saying the US should make it clear whether it wants to eradicate terrorism in the Arab country or to use terrorists there to achieve its political

goals. Lavrov raised the question: "Maybe their stated goal is not entirely sincere? Maybe it is regime change."

The Russian official also expressed concern over weapons and munitions being airdropped by U.S. forces to foreign-sponsored Takfiri militants in Syria, warning that the weapons will end up in the hands of terrorists. Lavrov said: "I want to be honest; we barely have any doubt that at least a considerable part of these weapons will fall into the terrorists' hands."



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