

---

Biden blames US allies in Middle East for rise of ISIS

03/10/2014



America's *"biggest problem"* in Syria is its regional allies, Biden told students at the John F. Kennedy Jr. Forum at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University on Thursday.

*"Our allies in the region were our largest problem in Syria,"* he said, explaining that Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the UAE were *"so determined to take down Assad,"* that in a sense they started a *"proxy Sunni-Shia war"* by pouring *"hundreds of millions of dollars and tens of thousands of tons of weapons"* towards anyone who would fight against Assad.

*"And we could not convince our colleagues to stop supplying them,"* said Biden, thus disassociating the US from unleashing the civil war in Syria.

*"The outcome of such a policy now is more visible,"* he said, as it turned out they supplied extremists from Al-Nusra Front and Al-Qaeda.

All of a sudden the regional powers that sponsored anti-Assad rebels awakened to the dawn of a major international security threat in the face of ISIS – now called Islamic State. After being essentially thrown out of Iraq it found open space and territory in eastern Syria and established close ties with the Al-Nusra Front which the US had earlier declared a terrorist group.

Now Washington needs a coalition of Sunni states to fight the Islamic State because *"America can't once again go in to Muslim nation and be the aggressor, it has to be led by Sunnis, to attack a Sunni organization [the IS],"* Biden said, acknowledging that it is for the first time that

the US uses a geopolitical strategy.

*“Even if we wanted it to be, it cannot be our fight alone,” Biden said. “This cannot be turned into a US ground war against another Arab nation in the Middle East.”*

---