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Lavrov: Iraq developments show total failure of American-British 'adventure'

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*"It has been reported that the UK foreign minister declared that the events in Iraq are, according to him, an illustration that terrorism is rampant in the region due to the absence of reconciliation in Syria," Lavrov said.*

*"We've known that our English colleagues have a unique ability to twist everything. But I didn't expect such cynicism, because the events that are taking place in Iraq are an illustration of a complete failure of the venture started by the US and the UK that allowed it to spiral out of control completely."*

*"We express our solidarity with the Iraqi authorities, the Iraqi people who should restore peace and security in their country, but the actions of our Western partners raise a lot of questions," Lavrov marked.*

Lavrov noted that 11 years ago the US president announced the victory of democracy in Iraq, and that *"the situation has deteriorated in geometrical progression."*

*"The unity of Iraq has been called into question. The rampant terrorism is taking place due to the fact that the occupation troops didn't pay any attention to the interior political processes, didn't help the national dialogue, and only pursued their own interests," Lavrov said.*

On Monday night, the terrorists seized control of the town Mosul – the administrative center of the northern province of Nineveh. On Wednesday, the authorities informed the population about the fall of Tikrit, the hometown of former leader Saddam Hussein and just 150km from Baghdad.

Sergey Lavrov has also touched on the developments in Ukraine. He said Moscow demands an immediate investigation into the reports of the use of banned weapons in Ukraine.

*"We emphasize concern over the reports about the use by the Ukrainian military of fire bombs and other indiscriminate weapons. Those reports must be urgently checked," Lavrov stressed.*

He said the Russian Ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin *"will be calling the OSCE mission which has observers in Ukraine, to establish facts [of using indiscriminate weapons], as well as will strive for the investigation into the tragedies in Odessa on May 2, in Mariupol on May 9, the ongoing actions in Kramatorsk and Slavyansk, and the snipers' case on Maidan in February – all those probes should be brought to a close."*

*"We know that the European Council is ready to be involved in the probe which the Ukrainian authorities carry out. We are convinced that this should be done,"* Lavrov stressed.

Russia is also submitting to the UN the draft resolution on Ukraine calling to follow the roadmap the OSCE previously proposed.

*"We've asked our UN envoy to submit to the UN Security Council the project on the resolution on the Ukrainian situation because the lack of progress on the halt of the violence and military actions since the start of the punitive operation causes concern,"* Lavrov said.

At the moment there is no talk about bringing peacemakers to Ukraine, Lavrov said.

*"We don't think that the situation has reached that point yet. There is still hope for a declaration by [Ukrainian President Petro] Poroshenko that the violence will be stopped and the negotiations will begin,"* he added.

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