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Russia to give strongest air support to Syrian army in Aleppo area - Lavrov

06/06/2016



*“We will decide on how our air forces should act, depending on the situation,”* Lavrov said in a media conference following talks with his Finnish counterpart. *“This will not be a surprise for the Americans.”*

Al-Nusra Front, an al Qaeda offshoot in Syria, went on an offensive in Aleppo last week. The Russian military blamed the US for stalling Russian airstrikes against the terrorist group’s forces in the region. The US said moderate rebel groups mingled with the terrorists in some areas and that Russia should use caution and not strike those groups by mistake.

Read more [‘Moderate opposition’ involved in ongoing attacks on civilians in Aleppo – Syrian FM to UN](#)

*"We believe there was plenty of time for the 'normal' opposition to leave Nusra Front territories since February. Those who didn't part ways with the terrorists have only themselves to blame,"* Lavrov added. Moscow hopes that the US is not trying to do anything behind Russia's back, Lavrov said.

*"We expect our partners to cooperate with us honestly and not try to use our regular contacts to secretly go with a Plan B, C or D behind our back."*

Russia and the US jointly support a peace process in Syria that aims to produce a transition government approved by both the so-called "moderate rebel" groups and the government of Syria. A truce between all sides who claim to share this goal was established in February, reducing the violence in the war-torn country.

[READ MORE: 270 civilians killed in terrorist shelling in Syria as Al-Nusra regroup - Russian MoD](#)

Terrorist groups Al Nusra Front and Islamic State are not part of the process and do not uphold the ceasefire. Russia accuses certain other Islamist militant groups operating in Syria of not being honest and siding with the terrorists, but the US opposes designating those groups as legitimate targets for military attacks, arguing that they have the backing of Saudi Arabia and a place at the negotiating table in Geneva.

The situation is further complicated by the sheer number of armed groups in Syria and the complexity of their allegiances and rivalries, which makes distinguishing terrorists and "moderate rebels" often problematic.

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