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US wants to distract attention from coalition strike on Syria troops – Lavrov

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The US and its Western partners are trying to steer the world's attention away from their airstrikes on the Syrian Army by accusing Russia of attacking a UN humanitarian convoy outside the Aleppo, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told Russian television.

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*"I would like to emphasize that the Americans and their Western allies, for one thing, want to distract public attention from what had happened in Deir-az-Zor,"* Lavrov told NTV on Monday following the urgent meeting of the UN Security Council.

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*"When the humanitarian convoy was hit [outside Aleppo], we demanded that an investigation be conducted. [US Secretary of State] John Kerry, a good partner of mine, behaved the way he never has done previously."*

*"He claimed that the investigation might take place, but they know who did it, namely the Syrian Army or Russia, and that it was Russia's fault in any case," he said.*

Kerry appeared to be “*pinned down by stark criticism from the American military apparatus*,” Lavrov noted, which may indicate that the US military does not comply with its commander-in-chief’s orders.

*“[President] Barack Obama always supported, as I was told, cooperation with Russia, and he confirmed it himself during the meeting with [President] Vladimir Putin in China. It seems to me that the military may not be obeying their supreme commander too much.”*

Lavrov went on by saying that Washington is trying to continue finger-pointing at Russia and hold it accountable for what is happening in Syria. Such approach is counterproductive and leaves Moscow wary of the US-led coalition’s actions, the FM said, adding that there is no room for “*100 percent trust*.”

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In turn, Moscow will push for a detailed investigation into the attack on the humanitarian convoy, the minister said.

The US and the West are not coping with their obligations on combating the Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL), Lavrov said.

*“It is clear that the West, led by the US which runs the anti-IS coalition and, as they put it, Al-Nusra Front in Syria, do not cope with their obligation.”*

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