



US, Russian Federation jets came within visual range over Syria - US military

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Russian Federation surprised the world two weeks ago when it launched its first airstrikes in Syria.

"There certainly is ample rhetoric that we see from Republican critics essentially goading the president to try to engage in a proxy war with Russian Federation", White House spokesman Josh Earnest charged on Tuesday.

In one terrifying close call Lt Gen Charles Brown, commander of the American air campaign in Syria, said USA and Russian planes came within just 20 miles of each other - which, at the speeds they travel, is as little as 30 seconds from a disastrous impact. The Obama administration has acknowledged that most of Russia's actions in Syria have been against groups opposed to Assad.

However, anti-Assad groups trained by Central Intelligence Agency reported that Russian airstrikes have targeted rebels that are fighting to oust President Bashar Al-Assad from power.

Letters ask the debaters to address economic populism issues and the Black Lives Matters movement. But Syrian rebels and opposition activists say Moscow's warplanes in recent days have focused on U.S.-backed rebels in areas with no IS militants.

"Countering" Russia's actions in Syria is "not almost as high a priority" as helping civilians who have endured a more than four-year civil war inside Syria, Earnest said.

As US-led forces announced they had staged 24 attacks on the Islamic State on Saturday, Russian Federation claimed to have hit 55 IS targets - and president Vladimir Putin taunted the West for not getting "results".

"The European Union condemns the excessive, disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks that the Syrian regime continues to commit against its own people".

"Crushing blows are going to be carried out against this region", one flier states.

"When you get close to the Syrian army's checkpoints, be sure that you do not carry any kind of weapons, carry your personal identities and your necessary needs with you...."

Russian Federation has several reasons for remaining friends with Syria. Its only reliable naval port on the Mediterranean Sea is there - Tartus. The Syrian regime has bought billions of dollars worth.

Russian Federation also doesn't believe revolutions, wars and regime change bring stability and democracy.

Brad Stapleton, a visiting research fellow at the Cato Institute, said more carnage will likely ensue.

US and Russian jets entered the same battlespace over Syria on Saturday, according to the USA military.