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Press TV

## America's CIA spies, Britain and France aiding Syrian rebels: Analyst

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The comment comes as according to a *New York Times* report published on Thursday, some US and Arab intelligence officials say a group of “CIA officers are operating secretly in southern Turkey” and that the agents are helping the anti-Syria governments decide which gangs inside the Arab country will “receive arms to fight the Syrian government.”

“CIA officers are there and they are trying to make new sources and recruit people,” said one of the Arab officials, whose name was not mentioned in the report.

The arms include automatic rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, ammunition and antitank weapons, which are being transported “mostly across the Turkish border,” the report said.

Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar pay for the transport of the weaponry into Syria, according to the US and Arab intelligence officials cited in the report.

The CIA spies have been in southern Turkey for the past several weeks and Washington is also considering providing the armed gangs with “satellite imagery and other detailed intelligence on Syrian troop locations and movements,” the report adds.

This as Syria has been the scene of violence since March 2011. Many people, including security forces, have lost their lives in the unrest.

The West and the Syrian opposition accuse the government of killing the protesters. But Damascus blames "outlaws, saboteurs and armed terrorist groups" for the unrest, stating that it is being orchestrated from abroad.

Press TV has conducted an interview with political commentator, Sukant Chandan, to further shed light on the issue. What follows is an approximate transcript of the interview.

The video also offers the opinions of two other guests: Lawrence J. Korb with the Center for American Progress and author and Islamic studies expert, Kevin Barret.

**Press TV:** Sukant Chandan, how do you explain claims of “diplomacy” from the United States when it comes to Kofi Anan’s peace plan but then reports like the one in the *New York Times* surfaces pointing to the CIA in addition to Washington’s allies in the region for aiding armed groups fighting the Syrian government. Does the US have any interest to support Anan’s peace plan or is the claim sort of a political ploy?

**Chandan:** The Western white power structure has one aim which is to conduct regime change against any state in the Global South which poses any type of obstacle to its total domination of the world.

I mean it’s high time that the empire admitted through the New York Times that the CIA officers have been directing and arming the Syrian rebels which, you know, let’s be honest with ourselves if anyone understands a little bit of the nature of the West we know that they’re up to this all the time and we don’t need them to admit it.

But once they’ve admitted it, we know that they’ve been up to this for a long, long time when the former US ambassador Mr. Ford - for Syria that is- was on the demonstrations when this rebellion first took place in the first days and weeks.

Who is Mr. Ford; Mr. Ford is the protégé of Mr. Negroponte. Who is Negroponte; he is the arch designer of the contra dirty war in Latin America.

So when Mr. Ford has been meeting the rebels and CIA officers are meeting the rebels, they’re discussing what type of weapons to give the rebels and what type of military strategy to conduct and knowing the type of dirty war that these people get up to we know that the United States along with Britain and France are encouraging and probably training [the rebels].

*Don’t forget it was in Scotland that the British state trained the Mujahidin to fight the Soviets and the [People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan] PDPA government back in the 80s fast forward to today we’re seeing a tragic rerun of a similar type of dynamic that took place in Afghanistan today in Syria, where you have a state backed by the Global South, particularly Russia and China that’s supporting Syria on the other hand you have imperialism arming and training and financing these terrorists for regime change.*

So it’s all in the open and no one should be confused about the situation, it’s all very clear you have a clear polarization of forces, on the one hand you have the empire, the Western white

power structure whatever you want to call it allied directly with Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia and the state of Israel.

Don't forget Shimon Peres himself said just very recently, a few days ago that he would wish that the Syrian rebels would win. So on one side you have these forces on the other side you have the forces for independence and progress for the people of the world, led by Russia and China and the Syrian government and their allies.

*So the situation is very clear and I'm really quite disturbed by how too many people out there are still befuddled or taking this nonsensical third way or neutral position as [South African activist and retired Anglican bishop] Desmond Tutu said and he's not my favorite progressive character but as he said if you're neutral in a situation of oppression then you're siding with the oppressor and that's what's going on.*

**Press TV:** Let's go back to our guest in London Mr. Chandan you were shaking your head there when Mr. Korb was giving his answer let's relate one of his talks to you. Do you agree first of all with Mr. Korb that the United States is trying to prevent arms from reaching al Qaeda forces if they are in Syria and add anything if you have to the comments made by Mr. Korb.

**Chandan:** It's incredible how history developed. I mean our friend from the United States is either so naive to not understand the system of governance and world domination of his government or he is a trickster frankly.

I mean now today you can become a Jihadist and go fight against the Syrian regime or against Gaddafi's regime yesterday and you'll be promoted and celebrated in the mainstream media in the West. It's all very clear what's going on.

I mean you know the United States and Britain and France are constantly conducting covert regime change against the whole Global South. This is what the state of the West is all about.

Just recently today you can read how the United States is putting pressure on stopping a report showing a report that Rwanda, its proxy in Africa, is involved in destabilization against the Democratic Republic of Congo which if Congo becomes independent in alliance with China will lift Africa and smash US domination and British domination in that region.

So it's clear what the nature of this state is all about. I mean again the way the West is dealing with al Qaeda is very interesting, because it's obviously purging al Qaeda of those elements which it sees too problematic to its interests and then promoting other elements of al Qaeda.

Al Qaeda is very active in Libya and they always have been since the beginning of the uprising and before when the Libyan Islamic fighting group was one of the main organizations supported by the CIA and the MI6 and the French intelligent service against Gaddafi's regime.

It's all on record. It's all on the open and it's very important that our people raise their voices, organize themselves and are really rigorous and assertive in struggling for peace and development of the countries of the Global South.

**Press TV:** Mr. Chandan in London some observers critical of Turkey's role in Syria are saying that it is acting as a proxy for the US and NATO. How do you perceive that and in addition to that do you have anything to add to what Mr. Korb just said?

**Chandan:** In response to Mr. Korb it's a typical strategy of the white man to project all issues of oppression that's actually coming from the White power structure onto the natives and onto the brown and black people i. e. you know the white power structure is absolutely, you know, innocent of any wrong doing and it's these silly Africans and these silly Asians and these silly Arabs who are creating all the mess and all the problems.

*The interesting thing in that regard with Libya and now with Syria is that the West don't want to put any of their boots officially on the ground but obviously in the first days of the Libyan uprising the British SAS were in Benghazi and they got sprung because the telephone conversation between the former British ambassador to Libya and the head of the NTC their phone conversation was exposed by Gaddafi's regime and similarly in Syria.*

They don't want to put official boots on the ground in Syria so they are sending covert agents to do all the dirty work because they want to give the impression to the rest of the world: hey we're the good guys and if any dirty business is going on it's these crazy natives and on the issue of the Arab Spring as well that this befuddling of minds about what to lose in Egypt is all about.

Tunisia has broken relations with the Assad regime and the Muslim Brotherhood which it seems to be in the ascendancy for the time being is against the Assad regime.

Their comrades in Syria are absolutely involved in the insurgency against the Assad regime there. On the issue of Turkey, it's a similar thing actually and it's a great shame that the Turkish state has strategically decided not to side with the Global South but it sees its interests for the time being and it's a very narrow strategy that it's employing and it's going to go nowhere because, you know, anyone who dances with the devil will find that the devil will stab them in the back in the not too distant future. So really it's not even in Turkey's national interest to go along with NATO as it did with Libya and now with Syria...

**Press TV:** You seemed a bit anxious there to get a response to what Mr. Korb was saying please go ahead with that and also do you think that with so many external factors, this can be a Syrian-led effort to end the unrest?

**Chandan:** It's amazing. I don't know what world Mr. Korb is living in. You know the Americans don't want to get involved with anyone; the British don't want to get involved.

**Korb:** Wait a second I don't attack you personally...I'm living in the real world, you're not. Don't attack me personally.

**Chandan:**...the establishments in Britain, France and the United States are constantly planning wars. Mr. Corb himself constantly talked about the pivot to Asia. Is that not a war plan? Of course it's a war plan. I mean it's total nonsense what Mr. Korb is coming out with but. But in

terms of the internal Syrian situation we need to- I've said many times before, I'll say it again, the Global South needs to assert itself and take the initiative.

We lost Libya- that was devastating. We didn't take enough initiatives, meaningful initiatives whereas Latin America- I'm loyal to all of our Global South and Latin America politically is the most advanced. It needs to be making moves to rediscover the regime change...