



Virginia State Senator Richard Black exposes lies about Syria

Richard Black, a Republican member of the Virginia State Senate, has recently returned from a six-day visit to Syria. In an exclusive 10 September Sputnik interview about the country, its President Bashar al-Assad, and its people, Sen. Black destroyed the image of “Assad the tyrant” constructed by the British Tories and American neocons, and pushed by the mainstream media.

Black, who has now met twice with Assad, described him as an “optimistic, determined” yet humble man, who “drives himself in his own SUV” rather than retaining a chauffeur.

Black told Sputnik he and Assad discussed the upcoming battle in Idlib, a holdout jihadist pocket controlled “by an individual named [Abu Mohammad] al-Julani, al-Qaeda’s top figure in Syria. If the USA were to intervene in Idlib, we would be fighting shoulder to shoulder alongside al-Qaeda, the same group that attacked the Twin Towers and the Pentagon on 9/11”.

Sputnik asked about the chemical weapons. Black said he had studied the Syrian war for seven years: “I’ve studied each of these gas attack provocations and with the exception of Douma [in April 2018], every one of them has been carried out by the terrorists, often in conjunction with Turkey or with other foreign intelligence agencies.” In Douma, the terrorists were forced to fake an attack after the Syrian Army captured their chemical laboratory and stockpiles.

Black pointed out that no American journalist has ever asked why, if Syria had poison gas in the first place, does it not use it against the terrorists? “Why use it against women with baby strollers, and old men?” He told Sputnik, “I worry very much that there will be a poison gas attack; there’s been actual intelligence released on it. It appears as though British Intelligence, MI6, will carry out a staged gas attack; they have already chosen a location that’s been disclosed. They have trained people to fake as if they were victims of gas. Now that it’s been disclosed, they may change their plans. We may see a different scenario.”

Did you receive actual assurances from Assad that the Syrian army isn’t using chemical weapons? Sputnik asked.

Sen. Black: “President Assad finds it to be ludicrous—the idea that he would ever use it. You recall that [in January 2016] the USA declared unequivocally, along with the UN, that there were no poison weapons remaining in Syria. They [Syria] know that if they really did it, it would probably provoke an invasion by the West. They have absolutely nothing to gain, and everything to lose.”

Sen. Black was asked what part of US policy he most disagrees with. He replied, “Going all the way back to when the USA opposed the Soviet Union’s occupation of Afghanistan, we have begun to use terror as a weapon.” Since then, the CIA, working with British intelligence, “have repeatedly used the terror weapon to overthrow nations. ... We talk about the war on terror, but we are not waging a war on terror. We are waging a war in which terror is our principal weapon.”

Asked whether this would change under the Donald Trump administration, Sen. Black said: “I had very much hoped that this would be the case when President Trump appointed [former Defence Intelligence Agency head Lt. Gen.] Michael Flynn to be his National Security Advisor. I knew Michael Flynn. I knew his advisors; they were people who have

an interest in peace. They genuinely opposed terror; they wanted to improve relations with Russia; they saw no reasons for the tensions with Russia. The Deep State were terrified ... [so] they

ousted him and successively put in bellicose people like John Bolton, and they probably couldn’t find a greater advocate of war than John Bolton.

“At this point I think it is quite questionable if the president will be capable of changing and shifting American policy. The problem is that he is surrounded by the Deep State. We use the term to refer to elements of the CIA, the State Department; to a smaller extent, the Defence Department, some members of Congress ... certain key people—[Senator] John McCain was a good example. Then we had those think tanks which were typically funded by Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar ... [whose] job is to write articles that undermine secular governments and lead to their overthrow.

“I wish that President Trump would carry out some of his campaign promises that I like very much. He said, ‘I’m going to work with Syria, with President Assad. I’m going to diminish tensions with Russia, which aren’t necessary; I’m going to downgrade NATO.’ I agree with all these things, and I wish that he had carried them out.”

The people of Idlib need to be rescued, Black said. “The idea that somehow we would leave the most hideous jihadists, the worst terrorists on earth untouched to prevent the death of some civilians, is like if at the end of WWII, we would say, ‘Well this final battle for Berlin will result in civilian casualties, so we can’t go after Adolf Hitler’ ... For all the civilised world, it is central that the battle for Idlib take place.”

Sen. Black emphasised that President Assad “wants all the refugees back. He needs them to rebuild Syria.” The UN, however, is under pressure from the USA, Saudi Arabia and others to prevent this. “So what they do, is that for refugees who have left Syria, they provide financial incentives, money, food, medical attention; but if they return to Syria, they get nothing.” Despite that fact, 150,000 have returned to Aleppo City and 350,000 to Homs City.

The United States should end the sanctions on Syria and allow peace to return, Black said. “One-third of our entire national debt was incurred fighting in the Middle East, and there is not one single thing that has benefited the American people or American foreign policy from what we have done in the Middle East. Everything has been destruction ... so it is time that we refocus our foreign policy and restore the image of the United States as a good, decent, and moral country.”

Read the full interview at <https://sputniknews.com/interviews/201809101067877625-us-senator-black-syria-interview/>



Sen. Richard Black (right) with Syrian President Assad on his recent trip. Watch a LaRouche PAC interview with Black at larouchepac.com. Photo: Screenshot