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Press TV

Syria-Turkey tensions orchestrated by US, Israel: Analyst

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The comment comes as tensions between Ankara and Damascus escalated after a mortar shell fired from Syria killed five people in the southeastern Turkish town of Akcakale in Sanliurfa province on Wednesday.

Syria said it had started an investigation into the cause of the mortar attack on the Turkish territory.

However on Thursday, several Syrian soldiers were reportedly killed in a retaliatory attack by Turkish forces on a military post near Syria's border town of Tel Abyad.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday that Turkey does not plan to wage a war against Syria after the Turkish parliament gave the nod for military operations outside the country.

"We have no intention of starting a war with Syria," Erdogan said in a joint press conference with the visiting Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi in Ankara.

Press TV has conducted an interview with Scott Richard, former American Intelligence Linguist, from Orlando to further discuss the issue.

The program also offers the opinion of two additional guests: Moufid Jaber with the Middle East Center for Studies and Research from Beirut and Chicago-based political analyst Joe Iosbaker.

What follows is an approximate transcription of the interview.

Press TV: What about that Scott Richard is it because Ankara is saying on the one hand that it does not want war with Damascus but what we see is an intensification, is Ankara basically listening to the orders of Washington DC or is it something else behind what seems to be motivated to have war with Syria?

Richard: Well, Joe is absolutely correct, Turkey is doing the bidding for NATO. NATO has been very clear about wanting to go to war with Syria. If you look at what they've been doing, they've been going to the UN over and over again and thank God for China and Russia keeping US out of Syria. There is no doubt that you got western powers here who are on a mission and they're trying to take out Syria and doing the bidding for NATO right now is Turkey.

Now that being said we're talking about a few mortars that were launched out of Syria and probably less than a few dozen or less than a dozen or so mortars that were launched back into Syria from Turkey. So it's a very small event. There is a lot of activity going on around Homs; there is a lot of activity going on around the Bekaa Valley, [in Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon] and also a lot of activity going on very near Aleppo where they've taken out some of the commander positions in Aleppo.

Right now Syria is being very successful in putting down the Western intervention. So the West is becoming desperate. They're using their relationships with NATO and with Turkey to escalate the war and try to justify it but absolutely Syria is not attacking Turkey and this is something that is being orchestrated by the West.

Press TV: Many political analysts are saying that this is the strategy of the United States basically to let Muslim countries fight it out with each other and wait for the smoke to clear and take care of the rest, how do you see the situation? Is it that the United States really wants Turkey to get in a direct confrontation with Syria?

Richard: Well, Turkey getting into a direct confrontation with Syria is really not the case. They were hoping to use intervention early on and get NATO support coming in at the bid of the UN and Turkey now has to step up and really provide an avenue for them to make even more excuses.

Just as Joe was saying this is a systemic problem with the United States warfare that we've conducted across the world and this is something that's not new. This is something that's been going on for some time, that's happened in Libya just recently. They wanted to repeat what they did in Libya and by taking down the organizations it makes them easier to control the countries.

They can use the enemies within the country to fight the wars for them just as Joe described it's an old strategy, it's worked for centuries and what they try to do is break down the existing government and they go to the factions within and then weaken the country and by weakening the country it makes it a far less opponent against the Western objectives.

And the Western objectives are clear here, they're to control the resources and to financially fix their failed banking system. The US is involved in a an incredible banking failure, Europe's involved in a banking failure and countries like Iran and Libya and other countries that have not depended on the petrodollar [system] are doing just fine.

Press TV: Mr. Richard, what needs to be done in order to deescalate these tensions cause as we're speaking now there is a military buildup right now on the border with Syria and Turkey by Turkish military. So now what needs to be done to deescalate?

Richard: Well, unfortunately what needs to be done is in the United States, the problem is rooted in the United States, Britain and France and the only country that can actually stop it would be the United States. What you have in Turkey is clearly described here as a nation of people that do not want war. Unfortunately you have a government that's heavily aligned with the NATO forces and aligned with Israel.

You have to look at Turkish relationships with Israel. There is a lot of trade, military trade and petroleum trade between Israel and Turkey. So the interest from the economic perspective between Israel and Turkey is very strong and also you have to look at the national security advisers in the United States.

We're talking in the United States the National Security adviser behind Mitt Romney is a guy named Dov Zakheim, Dov Zakheim is an extreme Zionist and also under Obama you have Rich [Richard] Verma; Rich Verma is also another extreme Zionist. So we have a very pro-Israel, a very pro-Zionist and a super control over Turkey where I have to agree with Joe, Turkey is becoming more of a puppet, where in the past they've been very closely aligned with Syria.