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## Obama bombing ISIL in Syria to topple Assad: Columnist

9/26/2014

**US President Barack Obama is using ISIL as a pretext to topple the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, a political commentator says.**

“When that may happen, we don’t know, but it seems inevitable,” Veterans Today columnist Shamus Cooke said in a phone interview with Press TV on Friday.

He added that Obama has chosen to campaign against the ISIL terrorist group with the Persian Gulf monarchies that “are attempting to topple” the Syrian government.

“Qatar, for example, recently announced that Bashar Assad is still the main problem, not ISIL. So, the agenda is still also to attack the Syrian government,” the analyst said.

“Very soon, we’re going to see a point where the president and the military is going to make a decision on what might be next and I think that’s going to happen pretty soon,” Cooke said.

The United States says it is arming and training “moderate Syrian opposition” to fight ISIL terrorists on the ground.

US Secretary of State John Kerry also announced an additional \$40 million in non-lethal aid to help take on the terror group.

During his speech at the United Nations earlier this week, Obama acknowledged that targeting the Syrian government was at least half of his intention by funding the Syrian rebels.

“Together with our partners, America is training and equipping the Syrian opposition to be a counterweight to the terrorists of ISIL and the brutality of the Assad regime,” Obama said.

The US military began airstrikes against ISIL targets in eastern Syria on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, “participated in or supported” the operation.