

Abstract

Mr Maxim Grigoriev, Director of the Democracy Research Foundation, has got wide experience in dealing with the Syrian crisis, which has become one of the major issues in the global politics. Geopolitical games aimed at changing regimes in the WANA region led to devastation of statehood in Iraq and Libya as well as instability in other countries, which resulted in unprecedented outbreak of terrorist activities under the black flags of the so-called Islamic State and other terrorist organizations. In order to prevent such scenario for Syria, which was the next target for the regime change policy followed by illegal military presence, as well as not to let international terrorists disseminate foreign terrorist fighters and radical ideology to the neighbouring regions, in 2015 Russia following the invitation by the legitimate president Bashar Assad started the air-force operation to support the Syrian government. Targeted military efforts, including surgical strikes, undertaken in coordination between the armies helped to liberate a major part of the territory of the country from terrorists.

Against the backdrop that the regime change plan for Syria was eventually prevented, and simultaneous endeavours on the political settlement in the framework of the Astana format led by Russia, Iran and Turkey have become a successful supplement to the Geneva Process, there was anyway constant pressure on the Syrian government and other supporting countries, first of all Russia, by the West under the pretext that Damascus repeatedly used chemical weapons against civilians.

Disagreements on the Syrian crisis were brought to the UN and also to the purely technical mechanism OPCW in the Hague designed to implement the Convention for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CPCW).

However, no real proof was presented by the OPCW Fact Finding Mission and NGOs, whose information was based on groundless allegations by the Syrian opposition. While attempts to dismiss biased approaches were succeeding, unprecedented actions in this regard were undertaken by the White Helmets NGO, which was busy in staging alleged consequences of the Syrian army offensives, including chemical attacks, against civilians. After the “actors” of such films were questioned, they admitted that they were paid to perform.

Importantly, the Western countries actively use such data in various platforms such as the UN Security Council and the OPCW in order to justify their pressure against the Syrian government and other countries, including by imposing illegal unilateral sanctions. Such policy is detrimental to the settlement of the crisis.

Mr Maxim Grigoriev visited Syria and met representatives of various communities, collecting solid proofs from the ground and revealing conspiracy behind the allegations that the Syrian government has ever used chemical weapons for the above purposes. He has developed an alternative vision of the humanitarian aspects of the Syrian crisis which are intentionally ignored by the Western states.