

Moscow Wants UN To Expose the British-Saudi-Qatari Gun-Running through Libya

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The Russian Ambassador at the United Nations has been told to urge the UN Sanctions Committee to launch a probe into likely arms supplies from Libya to Syria, the Russian Foreign Ministry official spokesman, Alexander Lukashevich, told a news briefing in Moscow on July 5. "Our permanent representative in New York has been instructed to make the proposal to the Committee referring to media reports that expose a whole set of problems in the observation of the embargo on arms supply to and from Libya," Lukashevich said.

"The problem has grown acute lately, especially because of the decisions made by Western and regional partners. As you know, there have been reports of the Western press: The situation suggests the need for interference of the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee: If the mentioned facts are true, we are witnessing a flagrant breach of the embargo imposed by the UN Security Council resolution on Libya," Lukashevich said.

Moscow's demand is likely based upon a recent investigative report by Reuters, cited in an *Al-Akhbar* article on June 18. That article said the report alleges that Abdul Basit Haroun, a former Libyan rebel commander in the uprising that overthrew Muammar Qaddafi in 2011, is behind some of the biggest shipments of weapons from Libya to Syria, which he delivers on chartered flights to neighboring countries and then smuggles over the border.

In Libya, Haroun helps the government with state security, according to Interior Ministry spokesman Majdi al-Ourfi. However, he had long been working on behalf of the British intelligence, MI6. Reuters says: "After fleeing Libya in his 20s, Haroun established himself as a property developer in Manchester. After about two decades in the British city, he returned to Libya in 2011 to fight in the revolution, where he became a prominent rebel commander."

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