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Washington Threatens to End Bilateral Engagement With Russia on Syria Over Escalation in Aleppo

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U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. **U.S. State Department**

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry telephoned Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Wednesday to express Washington's "grave concern" over the situation in Syria, singling out alleged airstrikes by Russian and Syrian regime forces on "hospitals, the water supply network, and other civilian infrastructure in Aleppo."

The secretary of state "made it clear," according to a readout published by the U.S. government, that Washington holds Russia responsible for the situation in Aleppo, "including the use of incendiary and bunker buster bombs in an urban environment."

Kerry even warned that the U.S. might suspend bilateral engagement with Russia on Syria, including plans reached earlier this month to establish a Joint Implementation Center, which is intended to share targeting data and coordinate airstrikes against militants of the Nusra

Front and the Islamic State.

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