

Russia Says It Won't Shoot Down Any U.S. Missiles Launched at Syrian Government

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Russian S-400 air defense missiles being deployed at the Hemeimeem air base in Syria, Nov. 27, 2015.

Russian Defense Ministry Press Service

The head of the Russian Federation Council's Defense and Security Committee says Russian armed forces based in Syria will not attempt to intercept any American missiles, if Washington orders another airstrike.

On Monday, Russian Senator Viktor Ozerov [told](#) the news agency Interfax, "Our armed forces are in Syria to fight terrorism — not to defend against external threats. That's not our mandate, and we're not going to intercept anything," he said, adding that the Syrian military still has every legal right to try to shoot down the missiles.

Related article: [Factbox: Russia's S-400 Air-Defense Missile System](#)

Responding to news that the U.S. might launch more airstrikes against the Syrian government, if more chemical weapons are used, Ozerov called the threat “absurd,” explaining that “Damascus has no chemical weapons.”

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