

More media fraud in the Syria war

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These two examples illustrate well how pictures are used for propaganda: On September 28, 2016 the French delegation to the UN presented an allegedly current photo that was said to display the destruction of a hospital in Aleppo - supposedly caused by the Russian or Syrian air force. But the fact is that this very same picture already surfaced more than 2 years ago, on August 3, 2014 in an article by the German news station n-tv showing attacks and destruction in Gaza. The following example also confirms the massive image-supported propaganda that accompanies the war in Syria. In the Syrian district of Idlib, a school was allegedly destroyed by a Russian air strike on October 27, 2016. 22 children reportedly died due to the attack. The photos and video presented by the so-called “rebels”, however, don’t withstand a more detailed examination. Although a bomb allegedly blasted off the complete wall of a classroom, the desks and benches behind it remained unmoved and ... unscratched. The video of the alleged air strike can also be debunked as cut-together from different events by simply observing the cloud situation in the video before and after the alleged bombing. Furthermore there is no radar data from this particular time that could prove the presence of Russian or Syrian airplanes. As with all previous wars, also with the Syrian war people’s emotions are being manipulated.
Photos of children, rescued from the rubble in areas, allegedly bombed by Syrian or Russian forces, keep circulating in the media. One example of this: several media published photos, in different months, all showing the same girl, but each time in the arms of a different rescuer. Although a staging can’t be proven, it’s obvious that, by using this girl as well as other children before, emotions should be implanted into the viewers mind, fuelling hate against Syrian and Russian armed forces.
So it’s no surprise that the major German television station ZDF also stirred up emotions against Assad. Back in 2011 they presented Assad in a broadcast as a brutal dictator who abuses his people in the worst imaginable way. During this broadcast the German Syria correspondent Christian Sievers reported, that rebels passed some video footage on to him. On this footage uniformed people can be seen terribly maltreating prisoners. Meanwhile he refers to the alleged atrocities of the Assad regime. However, the very same video was already uploaded onto YouTube in 2007 and was filmed in Iraq. Even the organization „doctors without borders“ allowed itself be abused for spreading false information by the rebels. On April 29, 2016, „Doctors without borders“ reported about an alleged attack on the „Al-Kuds-Hospital“ in Aleppo with at least 50 casualties. This report, which had been brought into circulation by the rebels, was debunked as fake by Tony Sayegh, a surgeon at the University of Aleppo‘s medical faculty. In an interview he said that he and his colleagues had never heard of an „Al-Kuds-Hospital“. Also, the allegedly killed pediatrician Wassein Mohammed Maaz is unknown to the Syrian Medical Association: „Every doctor in Syria must be registered in the Association in order to practice“. The same applies to other doctors who have been declared dead. These reports are just another example of how such false information is used to heat up emotions and to put Syria and Assad in a negative light, from the very start. We will continue our series with part three - turning towards Libya - reporting more media fraud.

**from abr./pa./fh./ma./ww.**

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