


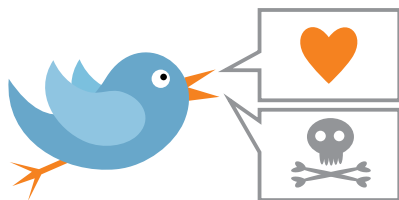
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## Zeman's Syria policy



Anyone who followed the Czech news yesterday knows that President Miloš Zeman wants to send Czech soldiers to the Golan Heights as part of the U.N. peacekeeping mission there. Only a fraction of the people who heard this are aware of a much more important statement by Zeman on Sunday. Asked by Jan Pokorný of [Czech Radio](#) if it is time to intervene from abroad in the Syrian conflict, he said that his answer is "No." The battle there is not one between good and evil, he said, but rather one between a secular dictator and groups of religious fundamentalists, with al-Qaeda at the helm. The most reasonable strategy in his view, he said, is not to take the side of either. Some critics will no doubt say that this is a subtle paean to Putin's Syria policy and that it fits into Zeman's broader pivot toward the East, and it might indeed be true. But it's also one of the wisest things Zeman has said so far as president.

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