

# Breathtaking U.S. Hypocrisy on Chemical Weapons

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#),  
[Militarization and WMD](#)

## The U.S. has Repeatedly Violated the “Red Line” on Chemical Weapons

The [U.S. encouraged](#) Saddam Hussein’s use of chemical weapons against Iran ... which was the *largest* use of chemical weapons *in history*. While the number of people killed in the August 21st chemical weapons attack has been estimated at [between 350 and 1,429, 20,000 Iranians and 5,000 Kurds](#) were killed by Saddam’s chemical weapons attacks with [full U.S. support and backing](#).

The U.S. sprayed nearly [20,000,000 gallons](#) of material containing chemical herbicides and defoliants mixed with jet fuel in Vietnam, eastern Laos and parts of Cambodia. Vietnam estimates *400,000* people were killed or maimed, and *500,000* children born with birth defects as a result of its use. The Red Cross of Vietnam estimates that up to 1 million people are disabled or have health problems due to Agent Orange.

The United States has used chemical weapons [in the last 10 years](#).

The U.S. [agreed](#) pursuant to the international Chemical Weapons Convention to destroy its chemical weapons stockpiles by April 2007. It received several extensions. The [final extension expired in April 2012](#). The U.S. [failed to comply with the deadline](#). (Syria was never a signatory to the treaty.)

Given the above, does the U.S. have the moral or legal standing to accuse Syria of violating a “red line” on chemical weapons?

*Notes: U.S. military action in Libya and Syria have also caused chemical weapons to [fall into the hands of Al Qaeda](#) ... and Al Qaeda has in fact [used those weapons](#).*

*Britain has also used chemical weapons [within the past 10 years](#), and has been caught allowing its companies to [sell nerve gas chemical weapons](#) to Syria for years.*

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