

## False Claims About the Assad Regime's Use of Chemical Weapons

By International Action Center

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International Action Centrer

Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>

In-depth Report: **SYRIA** 

According to a Reuters poll, 89% of the U.S. population is opposed to U.S. support for the Syrian opposition. Despite this, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has just made an ominous announcement that the U.S. intends to take "action" against Syria, and that Syria will be "held accountable" (for the use of chemical weapons).

All the evidence indicates that it is the rebels backed by Britain, the U.S. and others who are using chemical weapons to provide a pretext for the foreign aggression against Syria.

United Nations weapons inspectors are in Syria at the direct request of the Syrian government to prove that they have not used chemical weapons. The attack took place a mere ten miles away from the inspection team, on the very day they arrived.

Carla Del Ponte, a United Nations Human Rights investigator, has stated that the Syrian government has not used chemical weapons but the rebels have.

In May, 12 members of the Syrian rebel forces were arrested in Turkey. The rebels possessed 4.5 pounds of Sarin, the neurotoxin gas alleged to have been used in the recent attack.

In January, the British newspaper Daily Mail, reported that the Syrian rebels were planning a chemical attack which they would blame on the Syrian government in order to justify U.S. intervention. The report was based on leaked emails from military contractors.

The Syrian rebels are receiving direct weapons and funding from the United States, despite their record of atrocities including rape, murder, and torture. The U.N. has reported that they are actively recruiting young children, in addition to other violations of international law.

The Assad government has fully cooperated with the weapons inspection teams. Members of the United Nations inspection team have openly stated their doubts about the chemical attack. Dr. Ake Sellstrom, the leader of the team, called the reports of the alleged attack "suspicious".

Reports on the attack are very inconsistent. Some reports said over 1,300 were killed. Other reports have said less than 200. Still other reports say over 350. The numbers are unclear and totally unsubstantiated.

The report being circulated by "Doctors Without Borders" is not based on their own

information, but based on reports they received from a Syrian rebel group by their own admission.

Videos of the alleged attack were posted on the internet by allies of the Syrian rebels, BEFORE the attack took place.

The credibility of the video of the alleged chemical attack is being widely questioned by chemical weapons experts. The victims are not displaying the proper symptoms of having been struck by a Sarin nerve gas. The people shown treating them are not wearing proper equipment.

The U.S. is currently urging the U.N. weapons inspection team to halt its work. The U.N. weapons inspectors insist that they must be allowed to continue their investigations and to determine actual facts.

Despite all of this confusion and inconsistency in the claims about this alleged attack, the U.S. government, along with its corporate allies in Britain and France are openly pushing for an attack on Syria. [...]

(Extract from the Call issued by the International Action Center in the U.S. for united actions of antiwar, community and progressive forces to organize for anti-war people's assemblies, rallies, and protests against another war)

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