

High-Level U.S. Intelligence Officers: Syrian Government Didn't Launch Chemical Weapons

By [Washington's Blog](#)

Global Research, September 07, 2013

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Theme: [Intelligence](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

Numerous Intelligence Officials Question Administration's Claims

Without doubt, intelligence is being manipulated to justify war against Syria. [Here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Without doubt, the Syrian [rebels had access to chemical weapons ... and have apparently used them in the recent past](#).

Associated Press [reported](#) last week:

An intercept of Syrian military officials discussing the strike was among low-level staff, with no direct evidence tying the attack back to an Assad insider or even a senior Syrian commander, the officials said.

So while Secretary of State John Kerry said Monday that links between the attack and the Assad government are "undeniable," **U.S. intelligence officials are not so certain that the suspected chemical attack was carried out on Assad's orders, or even completely sure it was carried out by government forces, the officials said.**

Another possibility that officials would **hope** to rule out: that stocks had fallen out of the government's control and were deployed by rebels in a callous and calculated attempt to draw the West into the war.

Reuters [notes](#) today:

With the United States threatening to attack Syria, **U.S. and allied intelligence services are still trying to work out who ordered the poison gas attack** on rebel-held neighborhoods near Damascus.

No direct link to President Bashar al-Assad or his inner circle has been publicly demonstrated, and some **U.S. sources say intelligence experts are not sure whether the Syrian leader knew of the attack before it was launched** or was only informed about it afterward.

Indeed, numerous intelligence officers say that the *rebels* likely carried out the August 21st attack.

For example, the Daily Caller [reports](#):

The Obama administration has selectively used intelligence to justify military strikes on Syria, **former military officers with access to the original intelligence reports say, in a manner that goes far beyond what critics charged the Bush administration of doing** in the run-up to the 2003 Iraq war.

According to these officers, who served in top positions in the United States, Britain, France, Israel, and Jordan, a Syrian military communication intercepted by Israel's famed Unit 8200 electronic intelligence outfit **has been doctored so that it leads a reader to just the opposite conclusion reached by the original report.**

The doctored report was picked up [on Israel's Channel 2 TV](#) on Aug. 24, then [by Focus magazine](#) in Germany, [the Times of Israel](#), and eventually [by The Cable](#) in Washington, DC.

According to the doctored report, the chemical attack was carried out by the 155th Brigade of the 4th Armored Division of the Syrian Army, an elite unit commanded by Maher al-Assad, the president's brother.

However, the original communication intercepted by Unit 8200 between a major in command of the rocket troops assigned to the 155th Brigade of the 4th Armored Division, and the general staff, **shows just the opposite.**

The general staff officer asked the major if he was responsible for the chemical weapons attack. From the tone of the conversation, it was clear that "the Syrian general staff were out of their minds with panic that an **unauthorized strike** had been launched by the 155th Brigade **in express defiance of their instructions,**" the former officers say.

According to the transcript of the original Unit 8200 report, the major **"hotly denied firing any of his missiles" and invited the general staff to come and verify that all his weapons were present.**

The report contains a note at the end that the major was interrogated by Syrian intelligence for three days, then returned to command of his unit. **"All of his weapons were accounted for,"** the report stated.

An Egyptian intelligence report describes a meeting in Turkey between military intelligence officials from Turkey and Qatar and Syrian rebels. One of the participants states, "there will be a game changing event on August 21st" that will "bring the U.S. into a bombing campaign" against the Syrian regime.

The chemical weapons strike on Moudhamiya, an area under rebel control, took place on August 21. **"Egyptian military intelligence insists it was a combined Turkish/Qatar/rebel false flag operation," said a source familiar with the report.**

[A "false flag" is a [ploy for starting war which has been used by governments around the world for thousands of years.](#)]

Agents provocateurs are as old as warfare itself. What better than a false flag

attack, staged by al Qaeda and its al Nusra front allies in Syria, to drag the United States into a war?

And 12 very high-level former intelligence officials [wrote](#) the following memorandum to Obama today:

We regret to inform you that some of our former co-workers are telling us, categorically, that contrary to the claims of your administration, the most reliable intelligence shows that Bashar al-Assad was NOT responsible for the chemical incident that killed and injured Syrian civilians on August 21, and that British intelligence officials also know this. In writing this brief report, we choose to assume that you have not been fully informed because your advisers decided to afford you the opportunity for what is commonly known as “plausible denial.”

There is a growing body of evidence from numerous sources in the Middle East — mostly affiliated with the Syrian opposition and its supporters — **providing a strong circumstantial case that the August 21 chemical incident was a pre-planned provocation by the Syrian opposition and its Saudi and Turkish supporters.** The aim is reported to have been to create the kind of incident that would bring the United States into the war.

According to some reports, canisters containing chemical agent were brought into a suburb of Damascus, where they were then opened. Some people in the immediate vicinity died; others were injured.

We are unaware of any reliable evidence that a Syrian military rocket capable of carrying a chemical agent was fired into the area. In fact, we are aware of no reliable physical evidence to support the claim that this was a result of a strike by a Syrian military unit with expertise in chemical weapons.

In addition, we have learned that **on August 13-14, 2013, Western-sponsored opposition forces in Turkey started advance preparations for a major, irregular military surge.** Initial meetings between senior opposition military commanders and Qatari, Turkish and U.S. intelligence officials took place at the converted Turkish military garrison in Antakya, Hatay Province, now used as the command center and headquarters of the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and their foreign sponsors.

Senior opposition commanders who came from Istanbul pre-briefed the regional commanders on an **imminent escalation in the fighting due to “a war-changing development,” which, in turn, would lead to a U.S.-led bombing of Syria.**

At operations coordinating meetings at Antakya, attended by senior Turkish, Qatari and U.S. intelligence officials as well as senior commanders of the Syrian opposition, **the Syrians were told that the bombing would start in a few days.** Opposition leaders were ordered to prepare their forces quickly to exploit the U.S. bombing, march into Damascus, and remove the Bashar al-Assad government

The Qatari and Turkish intelligence officials assured the Syrian regional commanders that they would be provided with plenty of weapons for the coming offensive. And they were. A weapons distribution operation unprecedented in scope began in all opposition camps on August 21-23. The weapons were distributed from storehouses controlled by Qatari and Turkish

intelligence under the tight supervision of U.S. intelligence officers.

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