

# Pentagon Trained Syria's Al Qaeda "Rebels" in the Use of Chemical Weapons, Confirmed by CNN

The Western media refutes their own lies

By [Prof Michel Chossudovsky](#)  
Global Research, April 09, 2018  
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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)  
Theme: [Media Disinformation](#), [Militarization and WMD](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)  
In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

*This article was first published in April 2017 following the accusations directed against the Syrian government of using chemical weapons against its own people. In a bitter irony, CNN confirms in a 2012 report that the Al Qaeda affiliated rebels were trained by the Pentagon in the use of chemical weapons.*

Update, March 19, 2018, April 9, 2018.

*"The last terrorist-held bastion of East Ghouta to the east of Damascus city center, Duma, has been devastated by a chemical weapons attack that has killed at least 70 people. The majority of the victims were women and children.*

*However, characteristically and typically, the mainstream media have immediately blamed the Syrian military for the dreadful attack even before investigations can occur. Their sources? The White Helmets and Jaish al-Islam."*



## [Another Chemical Attack in Syria: But Why Is the Corporate Media Missing Crucial Points?](#)

By [Paul Antonopoulos](#), April 08, 2018

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A March 17, 2018 [Russia's Ministry of Defense](#) report stated the following:

*"We have reliable information at our disposal that US instructors have trained a number of militant groups in the vicinity of the town of At-Tanf, to stage provocations involving chemical warfare agents in southern Syria. ... The provocations will be used as a pretext by the United States and its allies to launch strikes on military and government infrastructure in Syria."*

In a bitter irony, **Moscow's allegations directed against the U.S. are confirmed by CNN.**

While the Western media casually upholds Washington's narrative which consists in blaming

Bashar Al Assad of killing his own people, coincidently they also **refute their own lies**.

**Trump's earlier decision to strike a Syrian airbase (April 2017) in retaliation for Assad's alleged use of chemical weapons against his own people confirms that the "False Flag" Chemical Weapons attack scenario** first formulated under Obama is still "on the table". Our analysis (including a large body of Global Research investigative reports) confirms unequivocally that Trump is lying, the Western media is lying and most of America's allies are also lying.

### **The Pentagon's Training of "Rebels" (aka Al Qaeda Terrorists) in the Use of Chemical Weapons**

CNN accuses Bashar Al Assad of killing his own people while also acknowledging that the "rebels" **are not only in possession of chemical weapons, but that these "moderate terrorists" affiliated with Al Nusra are trained in the use of chemical weapons by specialists on contract to the Pentagon.**

**The CNN report by Barbara Starr below dated September 2013:**

## Pentagon proposes training moderate Syrian rebels

By Barbara Starr, CNN Pentagon Correspondent

🕒 Updated 1131 GMT (1931 HKT) September 19, 2013



In a twisted logic, the Pentagon's mandate was to ensure that the rebels aligned with Al Qaeda would not acquire or use WMD, by actually training them in the use of chemical weapons (sounds contradictory):

Moreover, in an earlier report dated December 9 2012, CNN confirms that:

"The training [in chemical weapons], which is taking place in Jordan and Turkey, involves how to monitor and secure stockpiles and handle weapons sites and materials, according to the sources. **Some of the contractors are on the ground in Syria working with the rebels to monitor some of the sites, according to one of the officials.**

The nationality of the trainers was not disclosed, though the officials cautioned against assuming all are American. ([CNN](#), December 09, 2012, emphasis added)

## Sources: U.S. helping underwrite Syrian rebel training on securing chemical weapons

By Elise Labott

The United States and some European allies are using defense contractors to train Syrian rebels on how to secure chemical weapons stockpiles in Syria, a senior U.S. official and several senior diplomats told CNN Sunday.

The training, which is taking place in Jordan and Turkey, involves how to monitor and secure stockpiles and handle weapons sites and materials, according to the sources. Some of the contractors are on the ground in Syria working with the rebels to monitor some of the sites, according to one of the officials.

The nationality of the trainers was not disclosed, though the officials cautioned against assuming all are American.

### Recommended: Syrian rebels creating unified command

One of the aims, the sources said, is to try to get real time surveillance of the sites because the international community would not have time to prevent the use of the weapons otherwise. The program could explain how U.S. intelligence was able to learn what U.S. officials said was evidence the Assad government is mixing precursors for chemical weapons and loading those compounds into bombs. The intelligence, one U.S. official told CNN last week, came not just from satellite surveillance, but also from information provided by people. The official would not say whether the human intelligence came from telephone intercepts, defectors or people inside Syria.

The U.S. military is also working with neighboring Jordan's military to train for the potential need to secure chemical weapons sites. But U.S. troops cannot train rebel forces because the United States has only authorized nonlethal aid for the opposition.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad seems to be backing off, at least for now, on the possible use of chemical weapons, after the major international outcry over the military activity, according to several sources. CNN reported Friday that the bombs are not being moved to any delivery devices and that the United States was not aware of any significant additional movement of chemical materials.

screenshot of the CNN article, the original link has been redirected to CNN blogs,

The above report by CNN's [award winning journalist Elise Labott](#) (relegated to the status of a CNN blog), refutes CNN's numerous accusations directed against Bashar Al Assad.

Who is doing the training of terrorists in the use of chemical weapons? From the horse's mouth: CNN



Sources: US helping underwrite Syrian rebel training on securing ...  
CNN (blog) - Dec 9, 2012

By Elise Labott ... European allies are using defense contractors to train Syrian rebels on how to secure **chemical weapons** stockpiles in Syria, ...

[Sources: U.S. helping underwrite Syrian rebel training on securing chemical weapons](#)

And these are the same terrorists (trained by the Pentagon) who are the alleged target of Washington's counterterrorism bombing campaign initiated by Obama in August 2014:

"The Pentagon scheme established in 2012 **consisted in equipping and training Al Qaeda rebels** in the use of chemical weapons, with the support of military contractors hired by the Pentagon, and then holding the Syrian government responsible for using the WMD against the Syrian people.

What is unfolding is a diabolical scenario -which is an integral part of military planning- namely a situation where opposition terrorists advised by Western defense contractors are actually in possession of chemical weapons.

This is not a rebel training exercise in non-proliferation. While president Obama states that "you will be held accountable" if "you" (meaning the Syrian government) use chemical weapons, what is contemplated as part of this covert operation is the possession of chemical weapons by the US-NATO sponsored terrorists, namely "by our" Al Qaeda affiliated operatives, including the Al Nusra Front which constitutes the most effective Western financed and trained fighting group, largely integrated by foreign mercenaries. In a bitter twist, Jabhat al-Nusra, a US sponsored "intelligence asset", was recently put on the State Department's list of terrorist organizations.

The West claims that it is coming to the rescue of the Syrian people, whose lives are allegedly threatened by Bashar Al Assad. The truth of the matter is that the Western military alliance is not only supporting the terrorists, including the Al Nusra Front, it is also making chemical weapons available to its proxy "opposition" rebel forces.

The next phase of this diabolical scenario is that the chemical weapons in the hands of Al Qaeda operatives will be used against civilians, which could potentially lead an entire nation into a humanitarian disaster.

The broader issue is: who is a threat to the Syrian people? The Syrian government of Bashar al Assad or the US-NATO-Israel military alliance which is recruiting "opposition" terrorist forces, which are now being trained in the use of chemical weapons." ([Michel Chossudovsky](#), May 8, 2013, minor edit)

Note: Reference to an ambiguous Daily Mail report has been removed

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## **[The Globalization of War: America's "Long War" against Humanity](#)**

**Michel Chossudovsky**



America's hegemonic project in the post 9/11 era is the "Globalization of War" whereby the U.S.-NATO military machine —coupled with covert intelligence operations, economic sanctions and the thrust of "regime change"— is deployed in all major regions of the

world. The threat of pre-emptive nuclear war is also used to black-mail countries into submission.

This “Long War against Humanity” is carried out at the height of the most serious economic crisis in modern history.

It is intimately related to a process of global financial restructuring, which has resulted in the collapse of national economies and the impoverishment of large sectors of the World population.

The ultimate objective is World conquest under the cloak of “human rights” and “Western democracy”.

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Michel Chossudovsky is an award-winning author, Professor of Economics (emeritus) at the University of Ottawa, Founder and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), Montreal, Editor of Global Research. He has undertaken field research in Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, sub-Saharan Africa and the Pacific and has written extensively on the economies of developing countries with a focus on poverty and social inequality. He has also undertaken research in Health Economics (UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNFPA, CIDA, WHO, Government of Venezuela, John Hopkins International Journal of Health Services (1979, 1983) He is the author of 13 books including The Globalization of Poverty and The New World Order (2003), America’s “War on Terrorism” (2005), The Globalization of War, America’s Long War against Humanity (2015). He is a contributor to the Encyclopaedia Britannica. His writings have been published in more than twenty languages. In 2014, he was awarded the Gold Medal for Merit of the Republic of Serbia for his writings on NATO’s war of aggression against Yugoslavia. He can be reached at

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