

Russian Journalist Exposes Propaganda Lies about Houla Massacre

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, June 03, 2012

3 June 2012

Region: [sub-Saharan Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

Going to war depends first on selling it. Gaining public support is vital. Walter Lippmann coined the phrase “manufacture of consent.”

Edward Herman and Noam Chomsky discussed the “propaganda model” in their book titled [“Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media.”](#)

The Media use it to manipulate and control public thinking and perceptions. News and information are filtered. Acceptable “residue” only is reported.

Dissent is marginalized. Government and dominant private interests are prioritized.

Michael Parenti explained:

“The enormous gap between what US leader do....and what American’s think their leaders are doing is one of the great propaganda accomplishments....”

In their book titled [“Propaganda and Persuasion,”](#) Garth Jowett and Victoria O’Donnell defined their topic as “the deliberate, systematic attempt to shape perceptions, manipulate cognitions, and direct behavior to achieve a response that furthers the desired intent of the propagandist.”

Richard Alan Nelson described the technique as follows:

“Propaganda is neutrally defined as a systematic form of purposeful persuasion that attempts to influence the emotions, attitudes, opinions, and actions of specified target audiences for ideological, political or commercial purposes through the controlled transmission of one-sided messages (which may or may not be factual) via mass and direct media channels.”

“A propaganda organization employs propagandists who engage in

propagandism—the applied creation and distribution of such forms of persuasion.”

Propaganda has different forms. Advertisers use it to generate sales. So do politicians to get elected. Religious leaders use it to indoctrinate the faithful. So do nations to promote their agendas.

When war is planned, it's used to create fear, demonize enemies, dehumanize them, falsely accuse them of atrocities and other crimes, and enlist public support for intervention for alleged humanitarian reasons.

In 1917, George Creel first used propaganda successfully to turn pacifist Americans into raging German-haters.

In his 1928 book titled [“Propaganda,”](#) Edward Bernays said it's possible to “regiment the public mind every bit as much as an army regiments their bodies.”

“If we understand the mechanism and motives of the group mind, is it not possible to control and regiment the masses according to our will without their knowing about it?”

In his book titled [“Taking the Risk Out of Democracy: Corporate Propaganda versus Freedom and Liberty,”](#) Alex Carey said:

“The twentieth century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance: the growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy.”

It's also used to launch wars, trick enemies for strategic purposes, and deceive the public while waging them. Media scoundrels play a crucial role. People are manipulated to think aggressive wars are just ones.

Big lies launch them. None achieve peace, security and stability. One conflict begets others. Endless destructive cycles follow. Countless millions die. Vast destruction ravages countries. Human misery, not liberation, results.

Human needs go unmet. Wealth, power, and imperial interests only matter. Successful propaganda convinces people that what harms their well-being actually helps them.

Post-9/11, America waged multiple direct and proxy wars. They continue without end. Obama itches for more. Syria is target one, then Iran, then other nations for unchallenged US dominance. At issue is can humanity survive?

On June 11, Global Research published Russian journalist [Marat Musin](#)'s firsthand observations of what really happened at Houla. He exposed media scoundrel misinformation and lies. Doing so provided a vital service. (See below).



[THE HOULA MASSACRE: Opposition Terrorists "Killed Families Loyal to the Government"](#)

- by Marat Musin - 2012-06-01

The terrorists were not pro-government shabbiha militia as conveyed, in chorus, by the mainstream media, they were in large part mercenaries and professional killers operating under the auspices of the self-proclaimed Free Syrian Army (FSA).

Western-enlisted death squads bear full responsibility. Government forces and/or so-called pro-Assad shabbiha had no involvement.

Scoundrel media and Western officials provided fabricated accounts of what went on. It was classic, duplicitous propaganda. It rages to enlist public support for war.

Musin's article is powerful reading. Circulating it widely is important. Only public rage can stop wars. Nothing else works. Knowing the truth and spreading it has impact. Imperial America and war profiteers fear that most.

It's time ordinary people got radicalized for their own well-being. Focus first on ending imperial wars. Imagine what's possible at peace. Imagine public needs prioritized over conquests and domination. If that's not worth fighting for, what is?

Below is a snapshot of what Musin wrote. Read his article for the full account.

On May 25, Houla was attacked by hundreds of "bandits and mercenaries."

Ar-Rastan-based and Free Syrian Army terrorists were responsible.

Civilians abandoned the town of Ar-Rastan. Lebanese Wahhabi/Salafist extremists dominate the area. With foreign money and weapons, they carry out terrorist attacks.

When killer gangs entered "the lower checkpoint in the center of" Houla, they attacked pro-government residents.

"Many of those killed were 'guilty' of....dar(ing) to change from Sunnis to Shiites." They were murdered in cold blood "with knives (or) shot at point blank range."

Scandalous accounts blamed Assad. Government forces and/or supporters had nothing to do with it.

Musin called UN observers claiming they heard artillery fire “a bad joke.” Assad’s forces were in Homs, 50 kilometers away.

“After a visual inspection of (Houla), it is impossible to find traces of any of fresh destruction, bombing and shelling....Militants used heavy weapons and snipers...”

Official and scoundrel media reports wreak of inconsistencies and duplicity.

“Militants opened fire on virtually everyone who tries to get closer to (Houla). Before us a UN convoy was fired upon and two armored jeeps of the UN observers were damaged, when they tried to drive up to an army checkpoint in Tal Dow.”

“....(M)any of the militants are professional snipers.”

“....(B)andits even fired an automatic burst on our group of journalists....”

About 108 civilians were killed, including 38 or more young children. They were executed in cold blood. They were pro-government loyalists.

Musin discussed media disinformation, saying:

“To exert pressure on public opinion and change the positions of Russia and China, texts and subtitles in Russian and Chinese languages were prepared in advance, reading:

‘Syria – Homs – the city of Hula. A terrible massacre perpetrated by the armed forces of the Syrian regime against civilians in the town of Houla. Dozens of victims and their number is growing, mainly women and children, brutally killed by indiscriminate bombing of the CITY.’ “

“Two days later, on May 27, after the residents’ stories and video recordings made showed that the facts do not support the allegation of shelling and bombing, the bandits’ videos had undergone significant changes.”

“At the end of the text appeared this postscript: ‘And some were killed with knives.’ “

Musin reported what everyone needs to know and tell others. Pentagon war plans were

ready months ago. Obama itches to attack Syria. Perhaps Houla or another planned incident will trigger it.

On Friday, Syria's Human Rights Council representative, [Faisal al-Hamwi](#), blamed Houla killings on terror gangs. They're trying to incite sedition, he said.

"No sane person can believe some of this session's sponsors when they show sorrow and pain for the victims at the time when they participate in killing the Syrians and shedding their blood," he added.

On June 1, the Human Rights Council met to discuss Syria. Washington pressure assured its conclusions in advance.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Navi Pillay](#), blamed Assad for killer gang crimes. She wrongly said the "Syrian military allegedly unleashed a barrage of heavy weapons on" Houla, "including artillery and tank fire...." She also blamed "pro-government Shabiha paramilitary groups...."

Doing so ignored clear evidence of responsibility. She wants government officials prosecuted at the International Criminal Court. Western and complicit regional states' accountability wasn't mentioned.

On June 2, the State Department claimed satellite images show Houla mass graves. Assad was named responsible. Alleged nearby artillery craters were also shown.

So-called images can be easily manipulated and/or fabricated. They can also be from other areas unrelated to Houla or Syria. State Department claims are spurious and unverified. So are scoundrel media reports about them.

On Friday, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Lukashevich said preliminary government investigations showed a well-planned operation carried out by gunmen intent on violence, not a diplomatic solution to Syria's conflict.

He blamed weapons and funding supplied foreign mercenaries.

Houla killings advanced the ball closer to war. Launching it could happen anytime, with or without Security Council authorization.

Doing so will ignite a regional firestorm. Imagine the potential catastrophic consequences. Future updates will cover more.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago and can be reached at

lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book is titled "How Wall Street Fleeces America: Privatized Banking, Government Collusion and Class War"

<http://www.claritypress.com/Lendman.html>

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com and listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network Thursdays at 10AM US Central time and Saturdays and Sundays at noon. All programs are archived for easy listening.

<http://www.progressiveradionetwork.com/the-progressive-news-hour>.

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2012

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

<http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html> Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted

material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca