



# Coalition for Peace Action - Information and Action

## The Crisis in Syria – Who used Chemical Weapons? Why Should we Attack Syria?

*The U.S. Case Against Assad is not conclusive.*

**T**he U.S. Administration is rushing to intervene militarily in Syria based on what it claims is evidence that Bashar al-Assad used **chemical weapons** on Syria's own people. But several reputable news sources cast doubt on this claim. Below is a sampling of recent stories from various news outlets. Indeed, when one realizes that, as the **New York Times** states below, Assad's forces were winning, why then, while having the rebels on the run, would Assad risk his position by using chemical weapons and **giving the West a reason** to intervene?

- By **BEN HUBBARD**  
**The New York Times**  
Published: July 17, 2013

“BEIRUT, Lebanon — Not long ago, rebels on the outskirts of Damascus were peppering the city with mortar rounds, government soldiers were defecting in droves and reports circulated of new territory pried from the grip of President Bashar al-Assad. As his losses grew, Mr. Assad unleashed fighter jets and SCUD missiles, intensifying fears that mounting desperation would push him to lash out with chemical weapons. That momentum has now been reversed.”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/18/world/middleeast/momentum-shifts-in-syria-bolstering-assads-position.html?pagewanted=all&\\_r=1&](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/18/world/middleeast/momentum-shifts-in-syria-bolstering-assads-position.html?pagewanted=all&_r=1&)

- **Paul Joseph Watson**  
Infowars.com  
August 30, 2013

“Syrian rebels in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta have admitted to Associated Press correspondent Dale Gavlak that they were responsible for last week's chemical weapons incident which western powers have blamed on Bashar al-Assad's forces, revealing that the casualties were the result of an accident caused by rebels mishandling chemical weapons provided to them by Saudi Arabia.”

<http://www.infowars.com/rebels-admit-responsibility-for-chemical-weapons-attack/>

- By **Shaun Waterman**  
The Washington Times  
Monday, May 6, 2013

“Carla del Ponte, a member of the U.N. Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, told Swiss TV there were “strong, concrete suspicions but not yet incontrovertible proof,” that rebels seeking to oust Syrian strongman **Bashar al-Assad** had used the nerve agent.

But she said her panel had not yet seen any evidence of **Syrian government** forces using chemical weapons, according to the **BBC**, but she added that more investigation was needed.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/may/6/syrian-rebels-used-sarin-nerve-gas-not-assads-regi/>

- By **Frederik Pleitgen** and **David Simpson**,  
CNN, August 25, 2013 –  
Updated 0510 GMT (1310 HKT)

**Damascus, Syria (CNN)** – “As Western powers try to verify claims that the Syrian government used chemical weapons this week in a northeastern suburb of Damascus, the Syrian government is accusing rebel forces of doing the same. State-run television reported Saturday that Syrian armed forces had surrounded Jobar, the opposition-held district on the edge of Damascus that saw some of the 1,300 reported dead in Wednesday's early morning attack. Several of the soldiers were “suffocating” from exposure to gases as they entered the city, according to state TV.”

“It is believed that the terrorists have used chemical weapons in the area,” Syrian TV reporting, citing anonymous source. The government uses the term “terrorists” to describe rebel forces. It showed video of a room containing gas masks and gas canisters that the Army said were discovered in a storage facility in Jobar. CNN could not independently confirm the veracity of the claims or the authenticity of the video.”

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/08/24/world/meast/syria-civil-war/index.html>

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There are even more important questions we need to answer before we intervene militarily and risk wider war and blowback on US interests and assets.

### What IF Assad did use chemical weapons in Syria?

He should not be bombed, but at the end of the day, he must be brought to justice for crimes against humanity. We can do this, and it can bring justice, rather than endless war. But the humanitarian effort is the best road to peace, with justice for those who are dying every day.

Any attack without authorization of the United Nations Security Council would be a violation of international law.

### International Law is clear on "Use of Force".

There are two circumstances:

1. Self Defense'
  2. Approval of the UN Security Council.
- Bombing Syria does not come close to meeting either of these.
  - Bombing Syria will be an illegal act under International Law.

**We are Winning! Congress is getting your calls & e-mails!**

As of 9/5/2013 Check back for updates at this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/nowarwithsyriapeacenow>

Demand a No Vote! We want **No War with Syria!** It doesn't matter if you are a conservative, independent or progressive we cannot get into another War! Keep the pressure on congress! Call and make sure the 9% support for war in the polls translates into congress listening to the American public! Make your voice heard! Call, e-mail, Facebook and tweet your congress rep to vote No on War with

**The White House Comment line (202) 456-1111**

**Capitol Switchboard to reach all US Congresspersons (202) 224-3121.**

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Follow who got the money from Defense Contractors! Are they voting with the public's best interest in mind? Check your local legislators and call them out! <http://maplight.org/us-congress/interest#sector=Defense>

