

Statement on anti-Semitism / Nazi accusations in the context of the study

"Ghouta Sarin Attack - Review of Open-Source Evidence"

Following the publication of our study on the evidence available in public sources regarding the poison gas attack in Eastern Ghouta, an anonymous account "bobfrombrockley" published a compilation of tweets by one of our contributors in an attempt to undermine the report.

Nonetheless, we take these tweets very seriously because they are principled and very strongly against our deepest convictions. We distance ourselves from this content and apologize for it. In doing so, we first speak for all other contributors, supporters and authors of this study. However, we would like to make it clear at this point that Chris Kabusk also apologizes for these tweets and wishes to distance himself from this years old content.



Bobfrombrockley Tweet with collection of Chris Kabusk Tweets from 2014 to 2016

For observers of this process, it should be said by way of explanation that we urged Chris Kabusk not to delete these tweets immediately. In no case did we want outsiders to get the impression that he or we as a group were shirking our responsibility and letting these tweets disappear without having discussed them publicly.

In the meantime, they have been deleted.

The tweets in question date from well before we started working on our Ghouta study and they were not previously known to us. There was also no reason for us to investigate this because during our work with Chris Kabusk, none of these issues were ever raised by him, nor did any of these issues ever play a role in this collaboration in any way. Never did Chris Kabusk express an attitude or reservation that was in any

way questionable, even though it was and must have been absolutely clear to him what our beliefs were as a team and that Jewish people were involved in our team. In this respect, we as a team were surprised and shocked by these tweets.

Since, from our point of view, these tweets are in stark contrast to our convictions and in stark contrast to what we have experienced from Chris during our cooperation, we demanded an explanation.

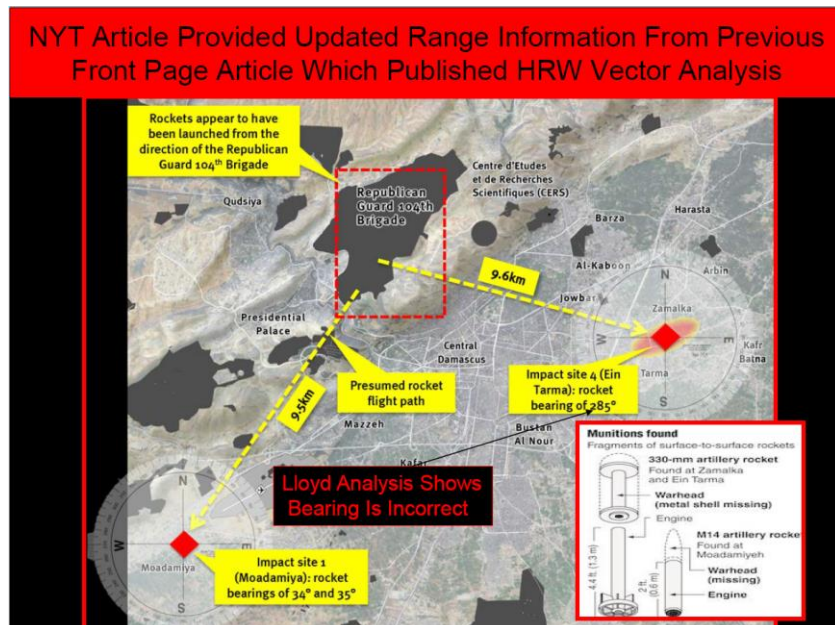
These tweets have a history that severely affected Chris Kabusk's life or damaged his circumstances. These circumstances should be mentioned very briefly, not as an excuse, but for better understanding.

In the time before 2015, Chris Kabusk worked for Bellingcat on the one hand.

Chris Kabusk: „I was in it as ‘team’ but I didn’t know they all “hated” each other until summer 2014.”

At the same time, Chris Kabusk was the graphic designer for Richard Lloyd and Ted Postol, who had come to a completely different conclusion about the Ghouta-Sarin attack than Bellingcat, which obviously led to serious discord in the Bellingcat team.

Lloyd and Postol not only calculated a missile range that challenged Bellingcat's theories, they were also aware that the angle of the trajectory presented as reliable by the UN report was wrong:

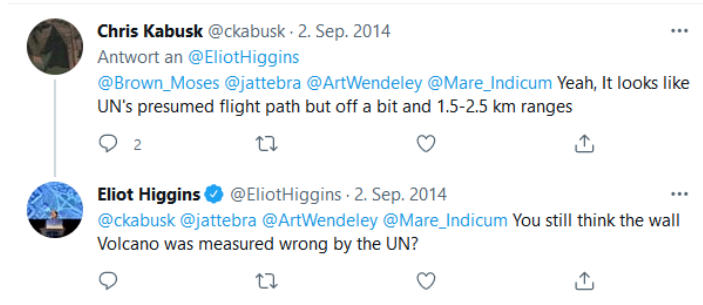


Slide of Lloyd/Postol presentation / Design: Chris Kabusk

A reflection of this rift can be read in this article:

<https://web.archive.org/web/20140417022654/http://www.mintpressnews.com/the-failed-pretext-for-war-seymour-hersh-eliot-higgins-mit-professors-on-sarin-gas-attack/188597/>

Chris Kabusk was in the middle of this dispute as a member of both parties.

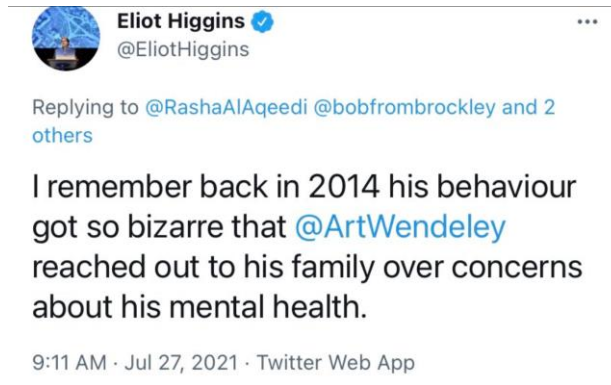


Also at the same time, the Twitter account "4thinker @MastaKace" plays a role, on which numerous Bellingcat members cavort, on which Chris Kabusk shared views on the Illuminati or wrote about "dragons", among other things. But the tweets of Eliot Higgins, Charles Lister and the fake-ISIS expert ShamiWitness were also regularly shared.

(see also here: <https://thegrayzone.com/2018/10/29/shamiwitness-how-bellingcat-and-neocons-collaborated-with-the-most-influential-isis-propagandist-on-twitter/>)



The dispute within Bellingcat went so far as to accuse Chris Kabusk of schizophrenia and, to all appearances, attempting to destroy his life.



Chris Kabusk: „Artwendeley? That’s first time I heard, maybe it was him all along, not a single in my family told me about Artwendeley, FBI hasn’t shared the details with me yet. ... My family only said FBI agents were looking for me for being a terrorist, making a bomb, etc because of information they received from someone.”

One day Eliot Higgins had announced something like this. We do not see it as our task to clarify what was going on behind the façade of Bellingcat at the time. The fact is that it still affects Chris' life today.

Chris Kabusk: “Yeah he [Eliot Higgins] said he was visited by FBI for multiple times, maybe more. He didn’t say this is about me. Maybe it is. I don’t know. He said he would tell FBI about me on their next visit. Seems like they finally admitting about the situation.”

ArtWendeley, who wishes to remain anonymous in public, also did not want to comment on this call. His contribution to clear up this situation is posting a tweet from mentioned “MastaKace” account, the only tweet of Chris Kabusk that ever mentioned a “dragon”:



After the death of Richard Lloyd on 31 October 2014, Chris entered a personally extremely difficult phase. Chris is hearing and speech impaired, he was attacked by his former Bellingcat colleagues, his own family was frightened by the FBI and untenable accusations and his previous employer had died. Chris entered into a problematic relationship with a Jewish employer. On a night with too much alcohol, he wrote an angry tweet that was very hurtful to all Jews.

Chris Kabusk: „It all started with just one sick individual in America. I worked for this person. It’s a personal. This person told me everything why it is good to be Jew. Why Israel is #1, they are above us all, using hi tech and stuff. And many more. I didn’t like what I was told. ... Then I went too far. ... It was wrong of me to say that.“

It seems unsurprising in this context that "bobfrombrockley" dug up these tweets to attack a study on the sarin attack on Ghouta which, like Lloyd and Postol at the time, arrives at a different assessment than Bellingcat. Like "ArtWendeley", "bobfrombrockley" wishes to remain anonymous in public, but has repeatedly come to attention in the past in very similar incidents in connection with Bellingcat or the Integrity Initiative.

We assume that the January 2015 tweet in particular with anti-Jewish content had been known to Bellingcat or/and bobfrombrockley for years. Bellingcat apparently did not feel compelled to have this tweet deleted or to report it to Twitter. Immediately after the publication of our study, bobfrombrockley suddenly started searching very specifically. The search terms are printed in bold on Twitter.



There would be much more to say about this "Nazi issue", because there are also tweets and anecdotes that would attest to the contrary. Our impression, however, is that the professor from a British university who hides behind the account "bobfrombrockley" is not concerned with the hurtful content of this old

tweet or its reception by Jewish people. Mind you, he did not report it to Twitter support and he did not ask Chris Kabusk to delete it or comment on it.

In our view, he is solely concerned with our study in which we examined seven impact sites of sarin rockets in Ghouta on 21 August 2013, traced the trajectories and found the most likely launch site of the rockets. Our finding is confirmed by videos showing the firing of this type of missile in the exact direction of the impacts. Likewise, our finding is confirmed by the measurements of Syrian forensic experts who visited the impact sites on behalf of Al Jazeera and were filmed during their work.

Our study conclusively shows that measurements in the UN report are wrong. Our study also conclusively shows that the previous findings and theories of Human Rights Watch and Bellingcat widely used to blame the Syrian government are wrong. We asked the Syrian Archive and Al Jazeera for additional data but received no response.

Our study can be found here: <https://blog.rootclaim.com/new-evidence-2013-sarin-attack-in-ghouta-syria/>

Since publication, there has not been a single critical comment highlighting an error in our work. And that, in our opinion, is the reason why "bobfrombrockley" purposefully used this old tweet to attack us and our study. The following of "bobfrombrockley" went so far as to defame all contributors to our study as "Nazis", which can be refuted with minimal research and is no less hurtful to Jewish contributors to our team.

In our work together with Chris Kabusk since 2017, we have never found any evidence of racist or anti-Semitic views, even though to his full knowledge Jewish people, just like people of other faiths or nationalities, participated equally in our team.

In addition, it should be mentioned that our work is purely fact-based. Chris located missile strikes, localised military movements in hours of video footage, developed 3D models and did the graphic design. All results have been reviewed and discussed by the whole group and are independent of the personal views of individual contributors.

We have accepted Chris's explanation and apology, apologise as a team for this now deleted content and hope that the public and Jewish people in particular can accept our apology.