

Khan Sheikhoun  
**How Human Rights Watch  
wags the dog**



compiled by  
Michael Kobs, Petri Kohn, Adam Larson, Qoppa and others

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## Current Situation

In recent weeks, a precarious situation has developed. There are now two military world powers in Syria, and the propaganda that has been forced over the years now means that normal military action can be misinterpreted in such a way that an international expansion of the conflict seems almost inevitable.

On April 4, the Syrian Air Force attacked the city of Khan Sheikhoun. A short time later, the news spread that people in the affected urban area collapse without recognizable injuries. The suspicion of an attack with chemical weapons became loud and spread rapidly worldwide thanks to modern media.

Under the pressure of public outrage, US President Trump was compelled to uphold his face and decided a counter-strike seemingly against the recommendation of the CIA.<sup>1</sup>



A prominent role in this dangerous development is the hasty report of Human Rights Watch. This report links untruths and hearsay to a conspiracy theory, according to which a maniacal dictator killed almost a hundred indiscriminate civilians with the highly toxic poison gas sarin, contrary to any political instinct and without any military goal.<sup>2</sup>

This so-called report was presented to the UN and was apparently used by Nikki Haley as a blueprint for her presentation to the UN Security Council, in which she announced a 180° turn of the Trump politics towards Assad and military action.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article165905578/Trump-s-Red-Line.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/05/01/death-chemicals/syrian-governments-widespread-and-systematic-use-chemical-weapons>

The close link between the government and a so-called non-governmental organization (NGO) should alert as well as the fact that important information from this NGO report is based on unverifiable or false "open source" information from Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. In this way, currently more and more apparent information is collected (or cherrypicked) in order to make appear a prefabricated image as a result of a fact-based research.



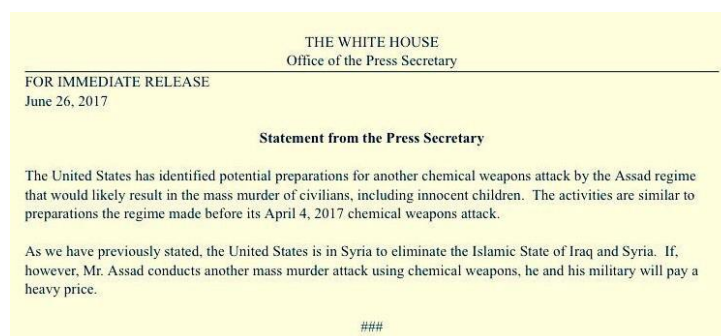
U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley holds photographs of victims during a meeting at the United Nations Security Council on Syria at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.  
REUTERS/SHANNON STAPLETON

After the first missile strike of the Trump administration against Syrian government troops, the president again had to keep his face and, of course, had to announce further blows, in case the Syrian government will use chemical weapons again.

The cherrypicked "Open source" information, which nourishes the thesis of a chemical weapon attack, have dropped any hint under the table that do not fit the preferred narrative. Nor has it been considered at any moment that intelligence services can selectively disseminate information in the social networks. According to the principle of Mafia money laundering, an unsuspected NGO can discover and spread those "washed" information. The second step is to ensure that the preferred interpretation is particularly widespread via the media.

Now we have the situation that any military action can be interpreted as a "preparation" of a chemical weapon deployment, and any actual use (even under a false flag) forces the US president to intervene in a massive way. Under these conditions, of course, every pool attendant can write world history by throwing a chlorine can from a roof. Likewise, any hostile Intelligence service can ensure that some sarin lands in an urban area.

On June 26 the White House spread the following message:



These “potential preparations” are apparently troop redeployments as described by the Guardian:

In the Khan Sheikhoun attack, preparations included the movement of forces closely linked to the use of chemical weapons to the airbase from where the jet that allegedly dropped the sarin took off.

Those forces included the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre, the Republican Guard and the 4th Division, run by Bashar al-Assad’s brother, Maher. Intelligence agencies also noticed the unusual deployment of air conditioning and air purification units to the same base days earlier. These are used in the preparation and storage of sarin, often when it is mixed and weaponised from binary substances, and typically just before use.

A brief research on the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center leads to Wikipedia and the sources of Wikipedia lead back to several Intelligence reports and a Guardian article that reflects what the French Intelligence had to say about it.

## Syria crisis: French intelligence dossier blames Assad for chemical attack

Document says information from 'France's own sources' shows Syrian regime forces carried out attack that killed hundreds



The French prime minister, Jean-Marc Ayrault, who summoned ministers to his offices for an emergency meeting on Syria. Photograph: Jean-Francois Monier/AFP/Getty Images

While the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center seems also to be responsible for ballistic missiles and all the other troops have been moved from battle to battle since the beginning of the so-called civil war, while the generals of these units in a hot desert state presumably always deploy air-conditioning and the threat of a chemical weapons attack is not limited to civilians in anti-Assad areas, these movements now became evidence of the preparation of a planned poison gas attack in the near future. Once again, any pool attendant or a hostile Intelligence service has easy game to change the war progresses and the world history. This situation reminds that the intelligence services currently involved in Syria can be considered hostile. It reminds a White House memo right after 9/11 as described by General Wesley Clark<sup>3</sup>:



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rz5fZiMWEE>

It reminds that in 2001 the CIA and Dick Cheney invented a meeting of Mohammed Atta with an Iraqi Intelligence officer in Prague that never happened, just to convince the public mind of a connection between Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein.<sup>4</sup>

RUSSERT: The plane on the ground in Iraq used to train non-Iraqi hijackers.

Do you still believe there is no evidence that Iraq was involved in September 11?

CHENEY: Well, what we now have that's developed since you and I last talked, Tim, of course, was that report that's been pretty well confirmed, that he did go to Prague and he did meet with a senior official of the Iraqi intelligence service in Czechoslovakia last April, several months before the attack.

Now, what the purpose of that was, what transpired between them, we simply don't know at this point. But that's clearly an avenue that we want to pursue.

After the war was done in 2006 Dick Cheney sounded pretty different<sup>5</sup>:

VICE PRES. CHENEY: We've never been able to confirm any connection between Iraq and 9/11.

MR. RUSSERT: And the meeting with Atta did not occur?

VICE PRES. CHENEY: We don't know. I mean, we've never been able to, to, to link it, and the FBI and CIA have worked it aggressively. I would say, at this point, nobody has been able to confirm...

It reminds the incubator lie<sup>6</sup>, Inhofe's fake Russian intervention in Ukraine<sup>7</sup>, Hillary Clinton's "We came, we saw, he died"<sup>8</sup> and Saddam's aluminum tubes<sup>9</sup>. For this reason, it must be surprising that only one member of the UN Security Council had the courage to keep Nikki Haley's Mirror and to remind 1 million deaths.



This series of low points of Western policy allegedly based on intelligence (in other words, with the help of intelligence) are enough reasons to take a close look at the HRW report and the missing alternatives of the interpretation.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/vicepresident/news-speeches/speeches/print/vp20011209.html>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nbcnews.com/id/14720480/page/3/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.prwatch.org/books/tsigfy10.html>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/14/world/europe/sifting-ukrainian-fact-from-ukrainian-fiction.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/oct/21/monica-crowley-hillary-clinton-benghazi-lies-and-v/>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/10/03/washington/us/the-nuclear-card-the-aluminum-tube-story-a-special-report-how.html>

## Construction of Motif

The chapter on Khan Sheikhoun begins with some introductory words to give the impression that, in the run-up to the poison gas attack, the Syrian army in Homs has been in a dead end for months. The HRW apparently interprets the back and forth in Hama as a motive for the poison gas attack on civilians in a 40km distant town of Khan Sheikhoun.

### **HRW report:**

*All evidence reviewed by Human Rights Watch suggests that a Syrian government warplane dropped a bomb with sarin on Khan Sheikhoun around 6:45 a.m. on April 4, 2017, killing at least 92 people and injuring hundreds. Human Rights Watch interviewed 32 witnesses of the Khan Sheikhoun attack, eight in person in Turkey, and the rest by telephone. Human Rights Watch also reviewed satellite imagery; photos and videos of the victims, the impact site, weapon remnants, and the immediate aftermath of the attack; and information about aircraft movements.*

*Khan Sheikhoun, a town in southern Idlib, has been under the control of armed groups fighting the government since 2012. Local residents estimated that there were about 60,000 people in the town at the time of the attack, many of them displaced from other places due to the war.*

*The Khan Sheikhoun attack and chemical attacks on and near al-Lataminah took place in the context of heavy fighting near Hama city, about 20 kilometers south of al-Lataminah and 35 kilometers south of Khan Sheikhoun. On March 21, armed groups led by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham launched an offensive against government positions near Hama. Over the next several days, the anti-government forces made significant advances, coming within three kilometers of the city and threatening the Hama Military Airport. By the time of the Khan Sheikhoun attack, the battle was still raging back and forth.*

A short look at the contents section of the Wikipedia article about the “2017 Hama offensive”<sup>10</sup> compared to the dates reveal the following:

Contents [hide]	
1 The offensive	
1.1 Tahrir al-Sham-led offensive south and east of Halfaya	21 March
1.2 Syrian Army repels Ahrar al-Sham-led offensive on Kernaz	24 March
1.3 Rebel attack on Qomhana and Syrian Army advance near Mahardah	24 March
1.4 Second Ahrar al-Sham-led attack repelled	28 March
1.5 Syrian Army counterattack and rebels pushed back	29 March
1.6 Back-and-forth fighting and the Syrian Army reaches Suran	3 April
1.7 All rebel gains reversed	
1.8 Army push into rebel territory; Taybat al-Imam and Halfaya captured	
2 See also	
3 References	

Apparently, there was some back-and-forth fighting the day before the chemical attack but the chapter tells us that the mentioned back-and-forth began after 9 hours of fighting the next day on April 4.

### **Back-and-forth fighting and the Syrian Army reaches Suran** [ edit ]

On 3 April, the Syrian Army recaptured the town of **Maardis**, along with the nearby silos and hills. Subsequently, they shifted their assault and reclaimed the village of Iskanderiyah and Maardis bridge.<sup>[107]</sup> **The next day, the rebels counter-attacked against Maardis and recaptured it after more than nine hours of heavy fighting.**<sup>[108]</sup> The initial rebel assault involved three suicide car-bombers.<sup>[109]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017\\_Hama\\_offensive#cite\\_note-108](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Hama_offensive#cite_note-108)

In other words, there wasn't any back-and-forth fighting prior to the alleged chemical attack. The Syrian army advanced until hours after the alleged attack. The HRW motive is a construction out of thin air to support their following claims.

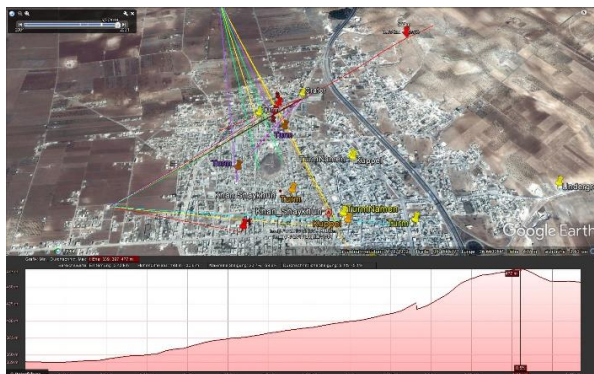
### A shadow that wasn't there

#### HRW report:

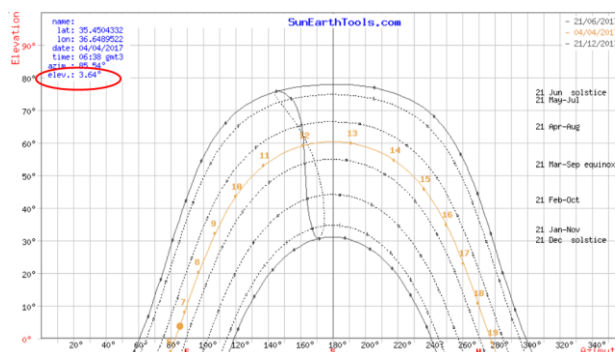
Local residents told Human Rights Watch that they heard or saw a warplane fly over Khan Sheikhoun early in the morning on April 4. Several witnesses said that the warplane flew over the town twice, dropping a chemical bomb the first time and explosive bombs the second time.

Ahmad al-Helou, who was tending the fields that morning, told Human Rights Watch that he looked up when he saw a shadow on the ground and saw a plane fly towards Khan Sheikhoun from the east. Al-Helou said that because of his high vantage point he saw the plane drop a bomb and the bomb falling until it hit the ground. The bomb fell in front of the bakery, he said. Al-Helou said that he did not hear an explosion, but that he saw the bomb kick up yellowish smoke that spread in the prevailing wind. [29]

Ahmad al-Helou is the only witness who allegedly has observed the drop of the "first bomb". His description of the circumstances, however, arouses doubts. According to his statement, he saw the shadow of the plane (about 6:38 clock) on the ground and the plane flew towards the city in the West of him. So, he should have been located on a higher field in the east of the city.



The problem with this description, however, lies in the fact that the sun had just entered the horizon and reached a height of 3.6° at 6:40 o'clock. The shadow of a Su-22 is not only small and very fast, it could not even meet the ground anywhere near. Not only because this shadow was casted far away in front of the plane at an angle of just less than 4°, but also because the western side of the hill Ahmad al-Helou was standing on.





Seen from his vantage point the bomb must have been hit the ground behind the bakery and not in front of it. His description likely indicates what he has seen on photos or has been told by anyone.

The most important part of his statement, however, is the yellow cloud that rises there. As this part of the city was still in the shadows, the hue can hardly be traced back to the early morning sun. The yellow hue would have to speak for chlorine. However, none of the accounts described or even confirmed the use of chlorine, so the hue would probably speak for what al-Helou had heard and learned in the media about chemical attacks.

Remains the question of whether there had ever been a visible cloud. This question can be answered with the help of other HRW witnesses.

**HRW report:**

*Other witnesses gave similar accounts. Ismail Raslan, a Syria Civil Defense member who lived about 100 meters from the bakery, told Human Rights Watch that he heard a warplane fly over some time after 6:30 a.m. He told Human Rights Watch: "I heard the wind and the roar from a bomb falling, but there was no explosion, just a thump. I thought that it either fell far away or failed to explode. I looked out from the balcony and was surprised to see white dust in the air."[\[30\]](#)*

According to his account, Ismail Raslan was close enough to hear the wind of a bomb but considers himself far enough to hear just a thump of a distant explosion. Indeed, the first bomb fell in the south of Khan Sheikhoun and 1.2 kilometers away from the later toxic area in the north.

Raslan says, he looked out and was surprised to see white dust in the air.

Video images taken about 10 minutes after the attack show indeed surprising "dust" even in the south of Khan Sheikhoun and far away from the impact points of the bombs. Furthermore, no victim of gas was reported for that area.



The only reasonable explanation for this wide distribution of "dust" is in fact natural fog that is observable even close to the horizon.

However, Raslan account somehow seems to confirm al-Helous yellow plume prior to the conventional strikes but the impact in the asphalt has barely flung huge amounts of dust at all. So, was it a cloud of vaporized sarin, as the report seems to suggest?

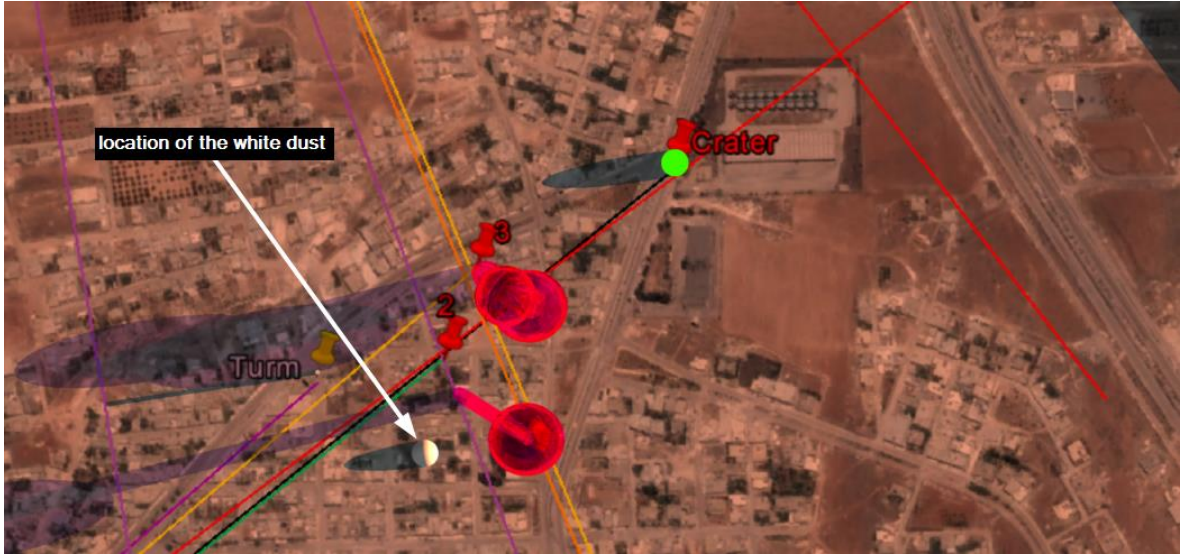
There was a lot of white dust close to the impacts of the conventional bombs.



That white dust was a result of the vaporized concrete after the conventional strikes and was blown sideways with the pressure wave of the explosion. The same effect can be observed in images from Gaza.



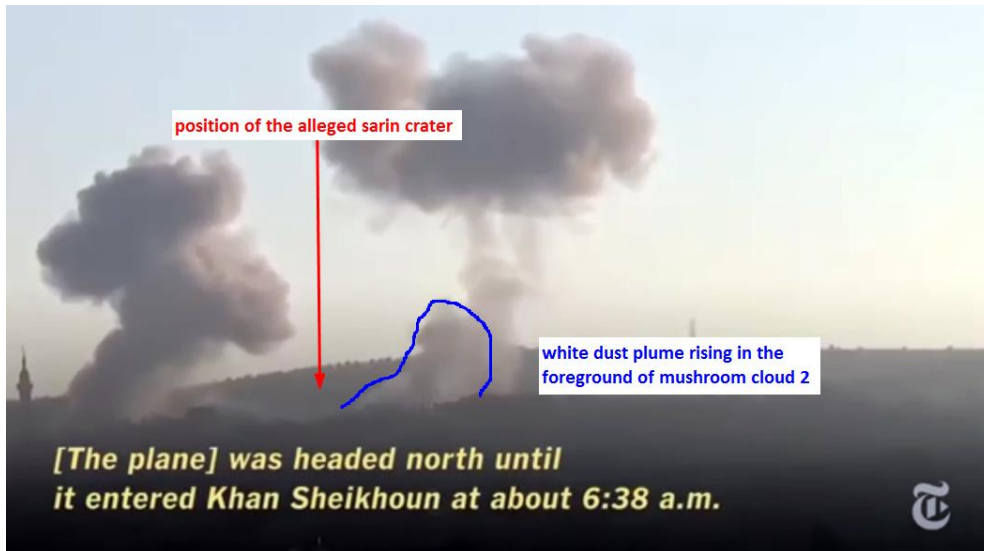
Two known camera angles allow to triangulate the position of the rising white dust south west of the mushroom cloud 2.



Rising white dust from the alleged sarin crater (green dot) should have been visible on the opposite side of the mushroom clouds (image above the Gaza image) but right in that area of mushroom cloud

2 and the white rising dust is the house of witness Abdulhamid al-Yousef. We will examine his accounts a little later.

In a video taken from a point of view in the east of Khan Sheikhoun a „yellow plume” or visible vapor cloud should be located right in the middle between the mushroom clouds (image below). None of it is possible to confirm by the visual evidence. Instead we see the same haze in the air like along the right edge of the image and even in the south of the city. That haze all over the place is far away from any spot of reported casualties. Therefore the only reasonable explanation for this haze is the already rising natural fog.



### Heroes & Victims & the Wind

Abdulhamid al-Yousef lost between 19 and 25 family members in that attack due to sarin poisoning according to different media reports. It is said that he sent his wife and children to the basement and found them 3 hours later dead.

Surprisingly, the witness Abdulhamid al-Yousef, who lived 330 meters away from the bakery, told the media that he woke up from the sound of the first air strike. And he describes two more airstrikes. We cannot rule out that al-Yousef is talking about the bomb in the south of Khan Sheikhoun and two more bombs in the north.



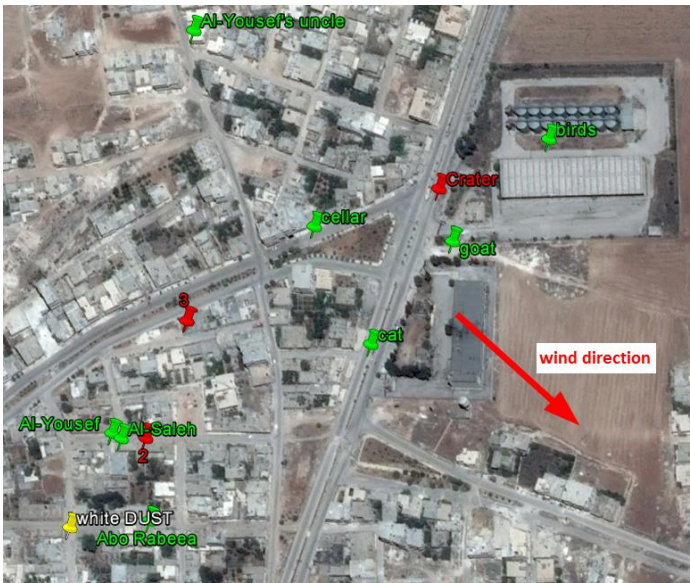
It must be surprising, however, that the witness al-Yousef with no word mentions the massive dust that was described by witness Ismail Raslan. That dust wrapped al-Yousefs neighborhood completely within seconds because of the conventional bomb explosions 2 and 3. This is all the more surprising as Al-Yousefs house was wall to wall with the destroyed Al-Saleh house and therefore very close to the impact of bomb 2 as victim Abo Rabeea has shown to the BBC<sup>11</sup>.



Amira Saleh's children were here.



And Abdel Hamid al-Youssef's children too.



One should expect that he saw almost nothing for the next 10 to 15 minutes. Instead Abdulhamid al-Yousef said the following:



I looked out, the second strike had hit near their house  
Five more minutes, there was a third airstrike

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-39800714/syria-chemical-attack-the-man-who-survived>

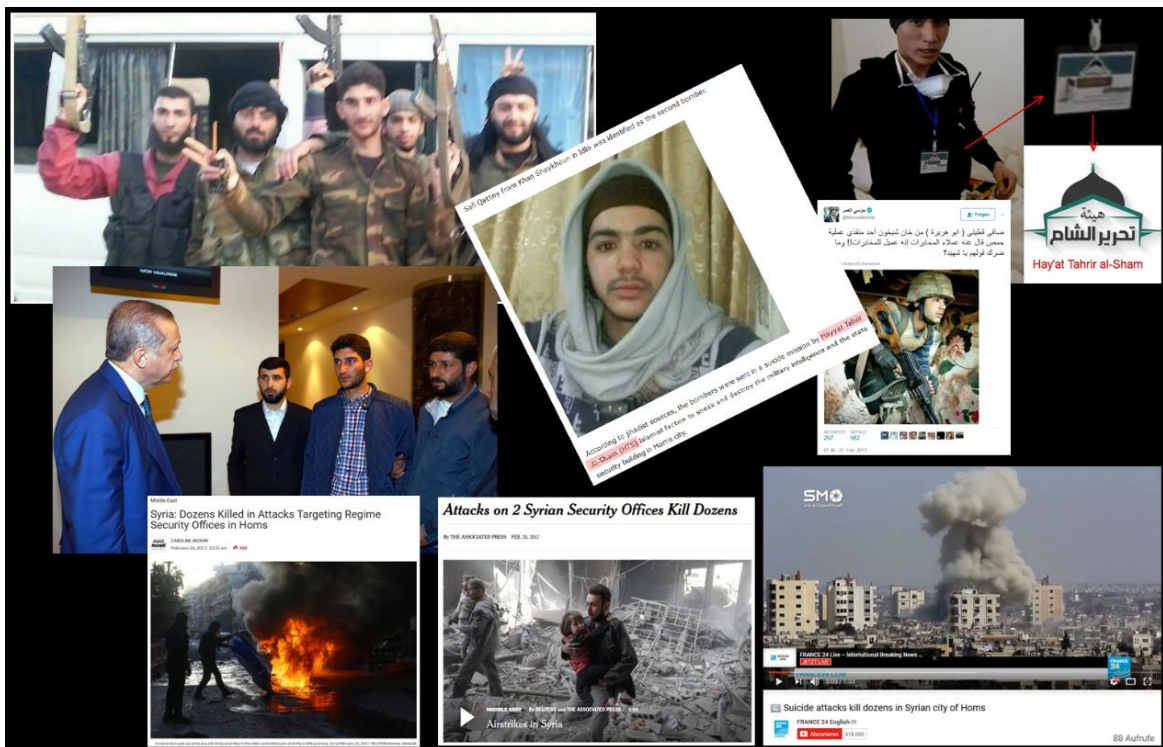
He repeatedly stated that he looked out of the window after the 2<sup>nd</sup> airstrike and that the bomb hit somewhere else near the house of his parents. In fact, the dust and the damage completely contradict his statements about the airstrikes and his actions during that time. One has to consider that he wasn't at home at all.



The fabrication of a hero story could explain why his infusion needle jumps from hand to hand and why the infusion hose is closed during the interview with hose. His partner apparently had the hose just under his cover.



A closer look at this hero-witness reveals that he shared photos and a machine gun with a young boy Safi Qattiny from Khan Sheikhoun who became famous as a suicide bomber of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) in the February 25 attack in Homs that killed dozens.



This way the hero-witness story is connected to the beginning of the HRW chapter and the Homs battle. But there is another connection to the Nikki Haley speech in front of the UN security council. The image she holds up during her speech shows a van with alleged sarin victims. The victims in the image provided by the Syrian American Medical Society were identified as the worldwide known Al-Yousef toddlers and the children of the Al-Saleh family.



These victims are piled up on a sniper rifle including a munition bag and a bin bad full of water bottles. The father is known to pose with such a sniper rifle on Facebook photos he immediately deleted after they were found. Several of the victims are bleeding from the nose either due to inner injuries from the explosion of the conventional bomb that destroyed the roof and wall of their house or for any other violent act.

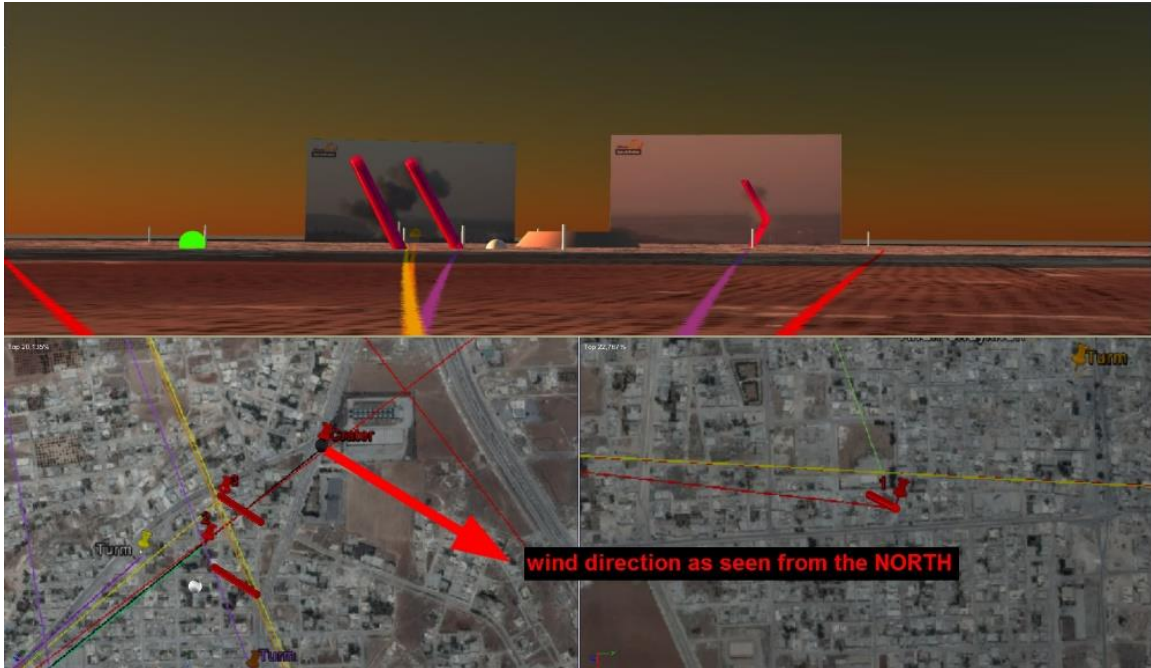


According to the account of what appears to be the mother of the Al-Saleh children<sup>12</sup>, she found them after a long search dead in the Al-Yousef house next door. Apparently, the Al-Yousef mother took them to their home after the airstrikes. Even this account conflicts with the account of Abdulhamid al-Yousef who allegedly left his home after the airstrikes to help as many neighbors he could. If the air attack did not kill the children, what caused their bloody noses? If Abdulhamid al-Yousef left his home after the air strikes and his toddlers were okay then when started their noses to bleed?

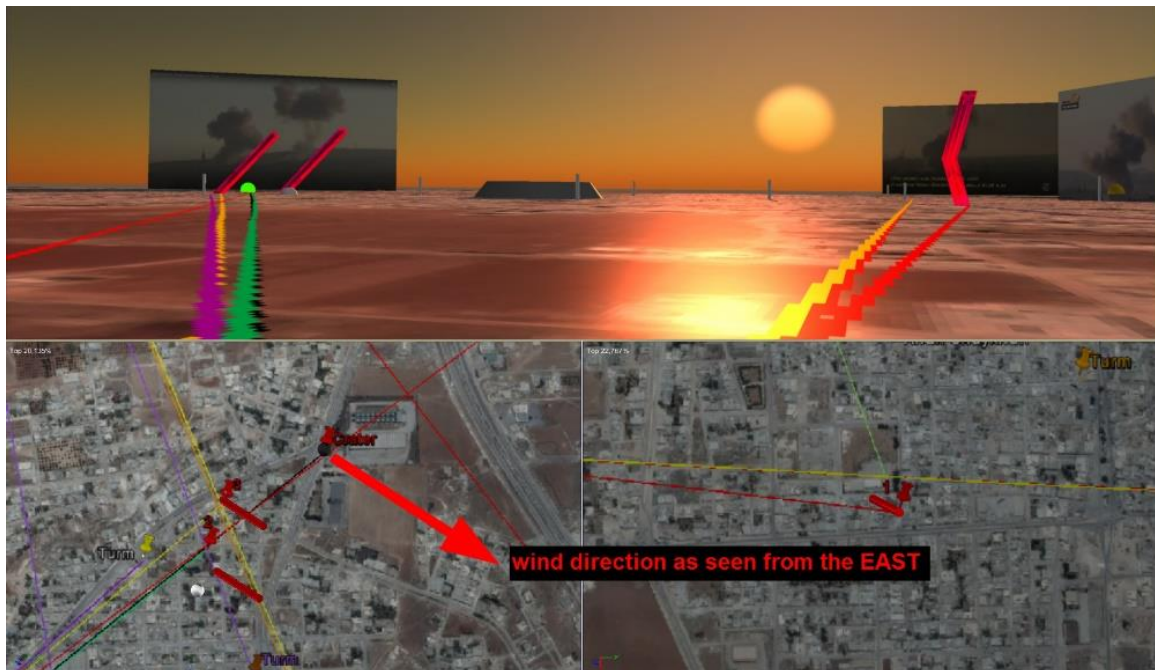
<sup>12</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoUuLavOtIY>

Human Rights Watch and the London-based Syrian Network for Human Right published victim lists of about 90 casualties but without indication of the cause of death. Thus, these lists suggest that all victims have died because of a sarin poisoning. The media reported it this way. Nevertheless, it seems to be impossible that sarin from the crater near the silos can be responsible for the death of all these victims, while no injuries due to blast and dust effects were reported. On the one hand, the wind blew from NW to SE and therefore any gas or vapor cloud away from these victim's homes as proven by two well-known cameras at an angle of about 100°:

Perspective of Mohammad Saloum (POV 35.462945° 36.639180°) from the North:



Perspective of Adham al-Husseini (POV 35.439222° 36.632507°) from the West:





On the other hand, some images show victims bleeding from the noses or head wounds like these boys<sup>13</sup>:



The same boys appear in at least 5 videos (see below). They were washed like all victims that day and subsequently presented as sarin victims. In the end, it seems impossible to know how many victims died because of a toxic gas that day and where they were found. Without these information, it seems also impossible to map the distribution of the gas and to draw conclusions about the origin of that gas.



The misleading nature is reflected in the article of the research platform Bellingcat "The Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack, the evidence so far"<sup>14</sup>. Here, too, the same boys are declared as sarin victims.<sup>15</sup>

Edlib Media Center [broadcast a live video](#) at 6:22am UTC showing victims of the attack being treated. At 6:24am UTC Dr Shajul Islam, based in Binnish, 50km north of Khan Sheikhoun [tweeted](#) "OUR HOSPITAL GETTING FULL FROM THE SARIN ATTACK TODAY. ANYONE THAT WANTS EVIDENCE, I WILL VIDEO CALL YOU.", and shortly afterwards, [at 6:33am UTC a video showing 9 dead children described as victims of a chemical attack was published online \(graphic\).](#)

A similar multiple use (or abuse for propaganda) can often be observed on this day. A child was first shown by Orient News and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham's Ibaa News Agency wrapped in a bloody cloth. The White Helmets presented it naked and externally uninjured.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=56aB6JXKIo8>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/mena/2017/04/05/khan-sheikhoun-chemical-attack-evidence-far/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6rpgSGclUw>



There is no doubt, however, that this is the same child.



Another dead girl was handed over to a White Helmet photographer who carried her to some car.



The same girl was later used for a story showing her alleged father carrying her to a motor bike.



Both children were finally used for a promo-protest of the photographer at the alleged sarin crater.



The last patient in the white helmet underground base that day, a boy with foot injuries, was recycled by CNN as a sarin victim.



In the House of the uncle of al-Yousef, the dead babies were lined up, which should have died there. However, they also took pictures of them with an inhalation mask.



Some children were declared dead or dying by the media and later reappeared as witnesses.



A girl was rescued for the camera but appears healthy and intimidated by what's happening.



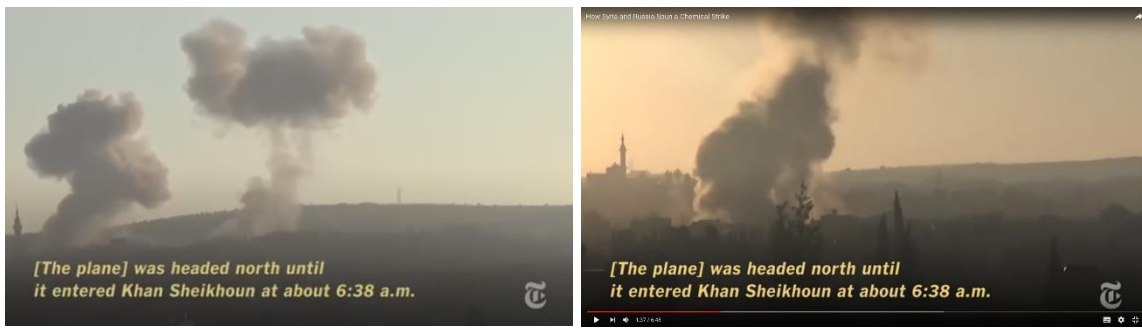
The only commonality of all these children is the multiple use of their medial efficacy as sarin victims.

## Smoke prior to conventional bombs

### HRW report:

*Adham al-Hussein, a local journalist, told Human Rights Watch that he woke up when sentries and the Syria Civil Defense reported over the radio network that a warplane was heading north from the Shayrat airbase in Homs. At 6:37 a.m., he said, he heard the warplane fly over Khan Sheikhoun. He went to the roof of his building where he saw the plane fly away towards the north. Over the radio, one of the sentries said that the warplane had not attacked because there was no explosion, but al-Hussein could see white smoke over the northern neighborhood. From his roof, al-Hussein filmed the smoke, which he showed to Human Rights Watch.* [31]

If this statement is correct then it is a miracle that this special video showing white smoke over the northern neighborhood prior to the conventional airstrikes has not been published yet. The story of Al-Hussein, however, coincides with an anonymous "local activist" whose images were shown by the New York Times. To the NYTimes, however, this activist gave apparently different information as one can read in the subtitles.

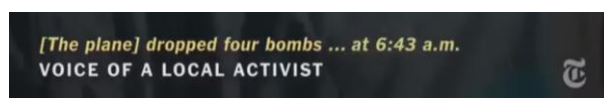


These pictures indeed were taken from a roof west of Khan Sheikhoun (35.439222° 36.632507°) and show white smoke over the northern neighborhood (left image) and also smoke in the south (right image).



His viewing direction is best suited to distinguish the direction of flight of the aircraft between East-West or South-North. According to the activist, the aircraft headed north and his images show three mushroom clouds that match the known bombs strikes. There is no doubt that he filmed the very same mushroom clouds the other known videos have shown. The NYT mapped the known impact locations and the resulting map seems to confirm a South-North direction.

The witness and cameraman continued to tell the NYT:



The second time indeed sounds like two passes of fighter jet(s), and then at least the second pass (about 5 minutes later) had to be directed from south to north or north to south.

When the statements of Al-Hussein are summed up (and there is very little doubt that he is indeed the anonym activist of the NYTimes video), he was alerted to the approaching aircraft at an early stage. When he heard it at 6:38 a.m., he ran to the balcony and saw it fly away in northern direction without having seen or heard an explosion. Supposedly he saw smoke he was filming. This smoke, however, is without doubt the smoke from the conventional attack with four bombs (two bombs in the south and two bombs in the north). He says, however, that the plane dropped the bombs at 6:43am, five minutes after he saw a plane fly away without explosions.

One can turn and turn his testimony, but a credible sequence of events does not come about. In addition, his testimony again contradicts other witnesses who saw two planes flying from east to west. So, as a real proof, only his video remains and this shows the consequences of the conventional attack.

It is hard to say whether and how much HRW and NYT have processed and alienated his statement. Contrary to the assertion of HRW to have seen a video of the smoke before the conventional air strike, it simply appears as a forgery of the facts. The NYTimes video also shows another portion of his video, which indicates that this activist (Al-Hussein) observed the development of smoke several minutes while filming.



The crater in the street is right below the red arrow. Is it possible that Al-Hussein has shown the later part of the video and telling HRW that the visible dust is the sarin vapor prior to the conventional air strike? Is it possible that HRW just interpreted the images in a preferred way?

In the images of the dust or mist, one can see how not only the dust on the ground, but also the diluted mushroom clouds have spread far already. In the images of the mushroom clouds it is hard to assume that some dust or smoke from a prior attack completely disappeared after 5-10 minutes. Therefore, we may expect to see some diluted dust or smoke of the alleged white or yellow cloud. However, in the two famous videos the air on the ground, as well as the sky is perfectly clear, while the mushrooming clouds of the alleged second pass still rising. In addition, in the Saloum video the sun proves the order in which the video snippets were taken.

The bottom line is, it makes no difference whether Al-Hussein or HRW lied about the dust. The truth can be seen in the footage itself, namely that there is no video footage shot prior to the conventional air strikes and the videos of the smoke mushrooms do not reveal any previous smoke in the air. It can only be said that it is the responsibility of HRW to examine such statements. And that was clearly not done.

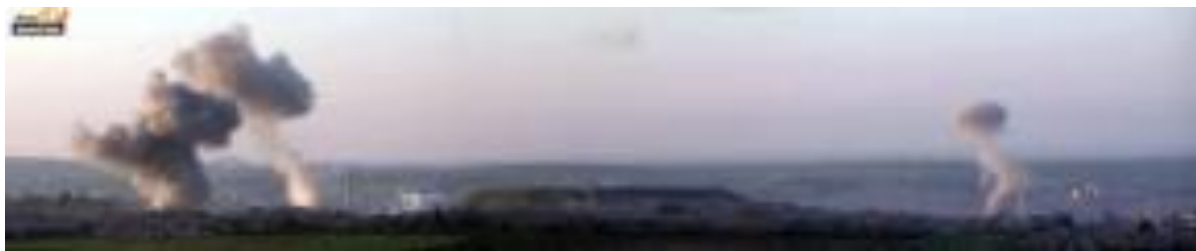
#### **HRW report:**

*A Syria Civil Defense member at the base confirmed that they heard no explosions during the first fly-over, but that a colleague had called for an ambulance: "We got a call from one of our colleagues living in the northern neighborhood who asked us to send ambulances because there were unconscious people on the ground. We were surprised because we had not heard any explosions." He said that they immediately sent a team to the area.*[\[33\]](#)

*Mohammad Juneid, a Syria Civil Defense member who was on the team, confirmed that they were dispatched to the northern neighborhood immediately after the first fly-over.*[\[34\]](#)

*Al-Hussein also said there were radio reports of injured after the first fly-over.*[\[35\]](#)

*A few minutes after the first attack, and while the Syria Civil Defense team was on its way to the northern neighborhood, a plane flew over Khan Sheikhoun in the same direction, from east to west, witnesses said. It is not clear whether it was the same plane. This time, the plane dropped three or four high explosive bombs on the town.*



© 2017 Mohammad Saloum/Bellingcat

Composite of screenshots from video of the immediate aftermath of the attack during the second fly-over showing four smoke columns. Bellingcat, a group specializing in analyzing information posted online, including videos and photographs, has concluded that the video was filmed from a location to the north of Khan Sheikhoun.

*Al-Hussein said that the plane dropped two bombs in the northern neighborhood, both to the west of the bakery. These two bombs created loud explosions. The plane then dropped another bomb about one kilometer from the others, near the market area. He filmed plumes of smoke from the three strikes during the second fly-over, which he showed to Human Rights Watch.*[\[36\]](#)

Here HRW lists several White helmets, all confirming that the first emergency calls arrived after the first flyover. They were surprised because none of them has heard or seen an explosion.

Then HRW let al-Hussein and the White Helmets tell their story further. According to the accounts, the rescue forces were already on the way when a second airplane dropped 4 conventional bombs over the city: two bombs in the northern part of the city and west of the bakery, then one or two bombs in the southern part.

Again, it is astonishing that al-Hussein says, "west of the bakery", although these bombs fell from his perspective "in front of the bakery". The same geographical top view thinking was already shown by the witness Ahmad al-Helou and some of the witnesses also prove an unusually precise memory with regard to the exact minute of their observations. Therefore, we cannot exclude that these memories have already been mixed up with knowledge that has been learned later or had some editorial help by HRW.

According to the order of the bombs described by al-Hussein, this second aircraft would have had to fly from north to south. Since no uncut version of his footage is known, we cannot prove this statement by his video. However, we can try to prove it by the video of Mohammad Saloum<sup>16</sup>. This video starts shortly after the detonation of the apparently third bomb left (east) in the image below as well as in the Bellingcat composite above. The sound of this explosion can still be heard in the video.



The smoke of the previous explosion to the West (right) of it has already risen significantly higher. However, the comparison with similar mushroom clouds shows that the height of the trunk only takes 2-3 seconds to achieve a comparable height. 18 seconds later the video pans to the mushroom cloud in the south. At that point in time that southern cloud already had plenty of time to rise. A fighter jet flying from north to south is therefore quite possible and the panning direction of the camera support that claim.

Also Saloum uploaded a second video to his YouTube account.<sup>17</sup> The second video (below right) was recorded a few minutes later, as more buildings are being illuminated by the flat sunlight. Some buildings in the foreground are affected by the shadows of the northern mushroom clouds but e.g. the orange house in the lower right corner shows a horizontal shadow of some neighboring structure. In the right image, this shadow is lower indicating a higher sun elevation and therefore a later point in time.

**Video that shows mushroom clouds**



**Video that shows widespread mist**



<sup>16</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYOMEDK\\_uVs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYOMEDK_uVs)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWvDisOxJi0>

It is also evident that in the meantime the “dust” appears to have spread over a wide area of the city. So, it is the same effect as in the second snippet of the Al-Hussein video shown by the NYTimes. The wide distribution even in the south of the city strongly suggests natural mist unrelated to the bombing. That mist might have started to develop prior to the actual bombing but wasn’t caught on video.



Interesting on both Saloum-videos is the fact that he (just like Al-Hussein/anonymous activist) with best view of the city has observed the process for several minutes. However, neither in the first nor in the second video he pans far enough to the left (east) to show the area in which the poison gas tragedy occurs in exactly these minutes.

Since Saloum does not pan to the left in both videos, but shows the development of the remaining three mushroom clouds, one must assume that even from his perspective at that time nothing conspicuous was visible near the silos and the bakery.

This assumption is supported by the fact that Saloum is seemingly a permanent observer for the activists in the region. In a series of videos, he captured even small clouds of smoke, while reporting the events on the radio.

By the help of his other videos it is possible to complete his field of view, which proves that Saloum had the best view of bakery and silos.



We can summarize at this point that

- Two cameramen watched and filmed the process for about 15 minutes.
- Neither of them has shown video images prior to the impact of conventional bombs
- While in the footage of Al-Hussein no trace of previous smoke is visible, Saloum pans not far enough to the left to show the area concerned (despite his view and his observer mission)
- Al-Hussein describes place and time not as an eyewitness, but either as professional observer or as learned knowledge ("West of the Bakery", "at 6:36 a.m.")



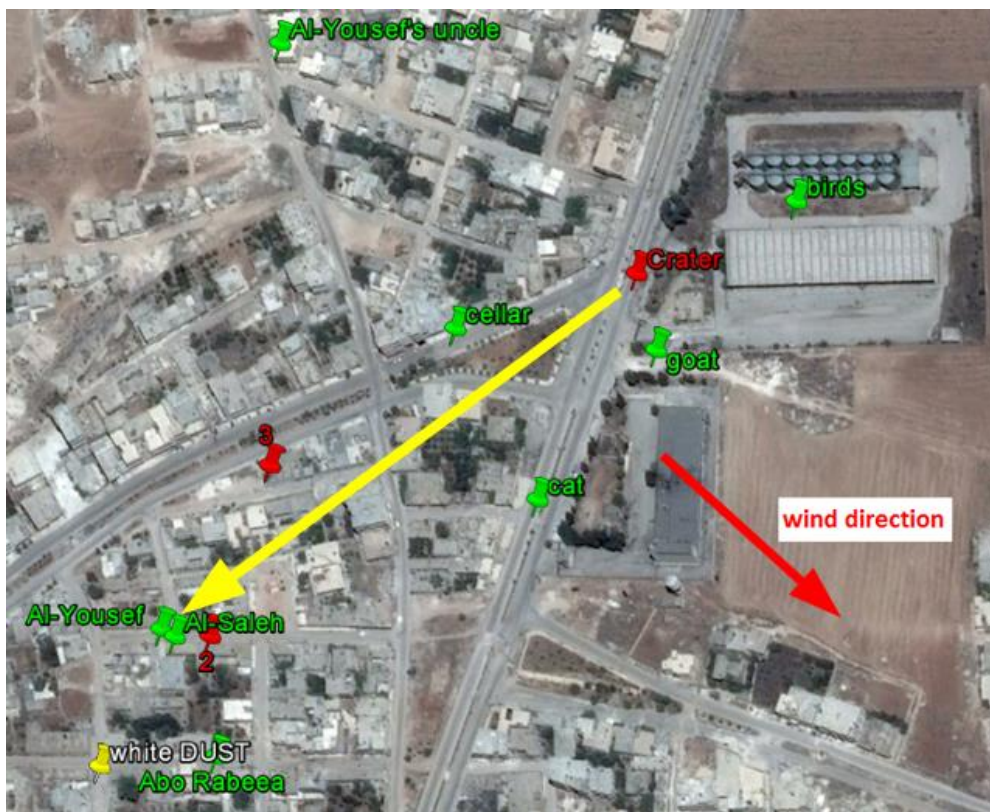
## Dust & Mist & Manipulations

### HRW report:

Many local residents said that they **woke up or became aware of the attacks only when they heard the loud explosions** after the second fly-over. Many said they immediately felt sick. A young teacher who lived about 300 meters from the bakery told Human Rights Watch that she woke up from the sound of a loud explosion that blew the windows in her house open:

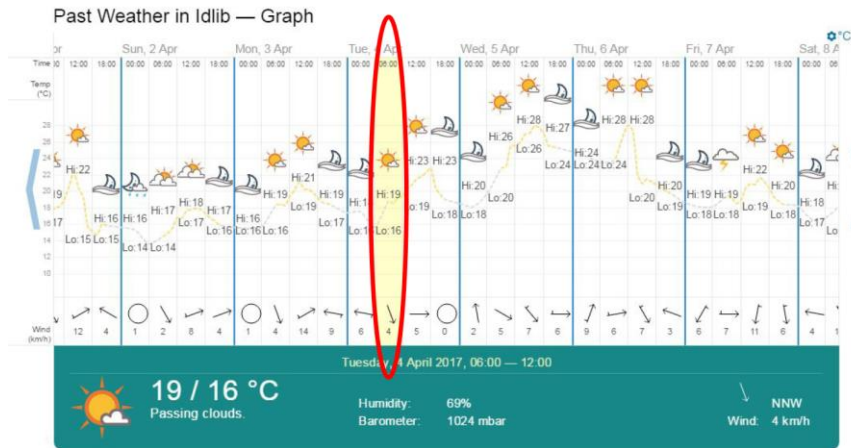
**It felt like the air had weight.** It got harder to breath; tears were running down our faces, and our eyes were burning. My son, who is one year and ten months, was running around. I couldn't see because of the tears. He was screaming "mom, dad!"<sup>[40]</sup>

Since a loud explosion blew her windows open 300m away from the bakery, it can be assumed that she lived near the impact of the second conventional bomb and therefore close to Al-Saleh and Al-Yousef.



Before the impact of conventional bombs, however, there was neither a fireball nor a pressure wave that could have drawn toxic gas 300 meters away from the silos and thus at an angle of 90° against the prevailing wind direction. How should that sarin has been near the house when the windows were blown open to show immediate effect? It already borders on collective madness how a whole world community simply neglects this fundamental and crucial question as if the laws of nature were overridden by the evilness of Assad, even if the past weather graph for Idlib perfectly confirms the observation.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/@169389/historic>



Even with the knowledge that a nerve agent has been used that day, burning eyes and heavy air must not be a compelling indication of a nerve agent in this area. If a vacuum bomb has actually been used, it sprays an aerosol. The explosion can damage the lungs and creates large amounts of concrete dust, which makes breathing difficult and makes the eyes burn.

The following statement by Ake Sellström describes another crucial the problem<sup>19</sup>:

**GW: Do some of these 'mistaken' claims make it more difficult to assess the more likely ones? That they are either 'crying wolf' because they have been asked to, or because chlorine or some kind of obscurant has been released. Does this make it harder to pick out the likely ones?**

AS: Yes, and we realised in this investigation that we needed to invest in some science and technology. You can get many symptoms from other items in a war: phosphorous smoke, tear gas, many of these devices in a battlefield scenario will affect the lungs, eyes and give you respiratory problems. Also, in any theatre of war, people will claim that they are intoxicated – we saw it in Palestine, Afghanistan and everywhere else. No-one knows what happened, but we need to be better at differential diagnostics on the intoxication, better medical markers. The people who made the allegations had poor background material to give to the Secretary General;

**HRW report:**

Witnesses consistently said that those affected by chemical exposure were in the northern neighborhood and that those exhibiting the strongest symptoms were located near the bakery, or Impact Site 1. This is also consistent with al-Hussein's account. He said that he saw smoke in the northern neighborhood after the first fly-over. When he heard that people had been injured, he immediately went to help. As he was moving towards the bakery, near Impact Site 1, he helped several people along the way who were shaking, had trouble breathing, and had foam coming

<sup>19</sup> [http://www.cbrneworld.com/uploads/download\\_magazines/Sellstrom\\_Feb\\_2014\\_v2.pdf](http://www.cbrneworld.com/uploads/download_magazines/Sellstrom_Feb_2014_v2.pdf)

from their mouths. About 20 minutes after the first attack, he said, he was around 200 meters from the bakery at Impact Site 1: "It looked like it was winter, there was so much fog. The gas was one or two meters high, all over the place."<sup>[51]</sup>

20 minutes after the "first attack" (allegedly the silent bomb) means 15 minutes after the detonation of the conventional bombs. While the described symptoms speak their own language, the white mist was presumably the same mist he and M. Saloum filmed for at least some minutes after the conventional airstrikes. At the time of the known video snippet (composite image below) that mist covered already an area of 3-7 km north-south expansion. Again, Saloum didn't pan his camera to the bakery area (left outside of the frame) obviously because the visible attraction of mist and dust wasn't there but in the valley.



However, this shows a striking intervention by HRW to interpret the events in a preferred direction. By placing the statement by Al-Helou first and subsequently presenting cherry-picked and fragmented statements, the term "first attack" appears to refer to Al-Helous "silent bomb" dropped during a first flyover. This, however, is a deliberate manipulation.

Let's compare the statement of Othman Al-Khder, a field researcher at the Syrian Institute for Justice<sup>20</sup>:

"The targeted locations included many places, not only one. There were many strikes and the distance among them was triangular, between 400 to 500m. One of the strikes was on the main highway opposite to the grain center, the second strike on the highway leading to the center of the city, and the third strike was in "Jadat al- Khamael" and caused a great destruction. However, it did not cause the same destruction thermobaric weapons usually cause."

He added,

"The projectile that slammed on the highway- opposite to the grain center- was not the only projectile loaded with chemicals, the other three rockets in the first attack also had chemicals and slammed on the highway opposite to the grain center, the main street leading to the middle of the city, and on "Jadat al=Khamael." This is according to the residents' testimonies. We talk about several rockets loaded with toxic gases. Having examining the second strike's location, a house in Jadat al-Khmael, pigeons were found choked without any trace of blood. People in the vicinity confirmed that as well. Even the next attack that followed the "Jadat al-Khamael" also contained chemicals."

In his understanding, the "first attack" refers to the first attack of several attacks during that day including the attacks on the White Helmet underground base at noon. His "first attack" involved 4 rockets. And since the Syrian Institute for Justice is aware about the wind direction and the wide distribution of victims, they concluded that all 4 rockets had some chemicals in the warhead. Al-Khder, however, confused the dead pigeons from the silos area with some dead chickens in the Al-Saleh house. Assuming that a thermobaric bomb exploded over the roof of that house, those chickens might have been killed by the blast wave.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.stj-sy.com/en/view/123>



Dead chickens in the destroyed room<sup>21</sup>:



However, this pile of six dried out chickens is dead for days or weeks obviously. These chickens might have been placed there like the goat close to the silos either in some cleaning effort or to plant some evidence.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AhCi6QG5a-s&feature=youtu.be>

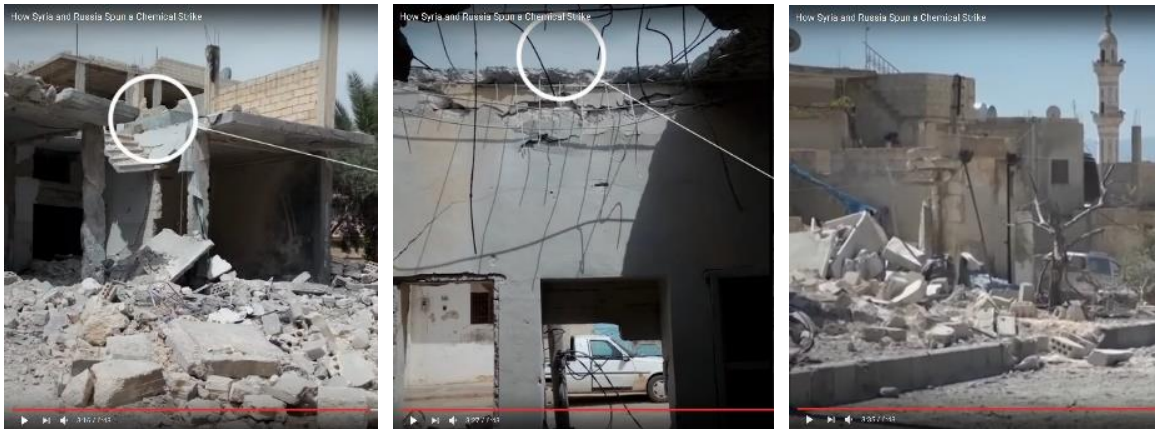
## Plane Spotter & the Magical Flightpath

### HRW report:

The Syria Civil Defense member said: “The second attack was with **three or four vacuum bombs**, which we can tell because the explosions were so strong. We’re not sure [if it was three or four bombs] because **they fell almost at the same time**. They could be heard all over, and shook the city.” Mohammad Saloum, a local journalist, filmed the immediate aftermath of the second fly-over and posted a video on YouTube showing **four smoke** columns rising from Khan Sheikhoun. [37]

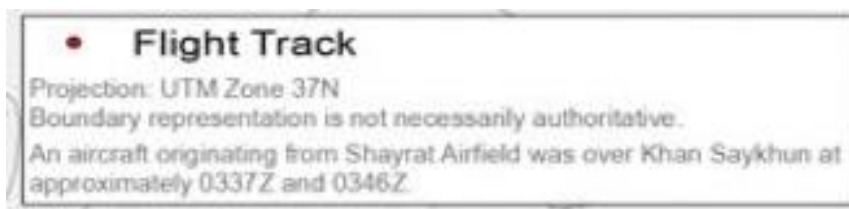
As seen above, Saloum did not film four, but three ascending smoke clouds. However, it should be noted that the third and last looks more powerful than the two preceding. This could be because the third explosion was actually caused by two bombs at the same time, or by a different bomb, or just because it caused more pulverized concrete, while the other two explosions apparently caused just minor damage.

In the apparent order of the explosions:



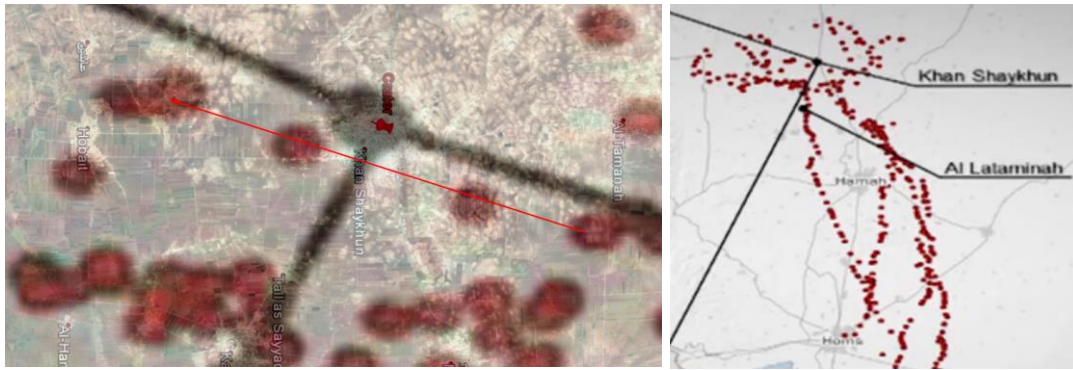
Many witnesses reported either two flyovers and up to 4 bombs or up to 3 separate attacks, while all these witnesses heard either no explosion during the first flyover or heard just a thump like a distant explosion.

The alleged tracking data released by the White House also confirm two passes at 6:37am (0337Z) and 6:46am (0346Z).



While videos and damage locations suggest a flight direction from south to north, many witnesses speak of an east-west direction as shown in the map published by the White House. The irregular distances between the dots and suddenly terminated lines do not appear like radar records. Rather, these dotted lines might be the gathered data from a network of plane spotters who have already reported the launch of a jet from the airport heading north.

However, neither the reported two flyovers from east to west nor any flyover in the norther half of the city can be confirmed by these data.



At least one witness of the White Helmets reported 4 rockets<sup>22</sup>. Another White Helmet reported vacuum bombs hitting at almost the same time while witness Al-Yousef reported 3 air strikes separated by about 5 minutes each. Adham al-Hussein reported one flyover from south to north and a second from north to south while the White Helmets reported two jets both from East to West.

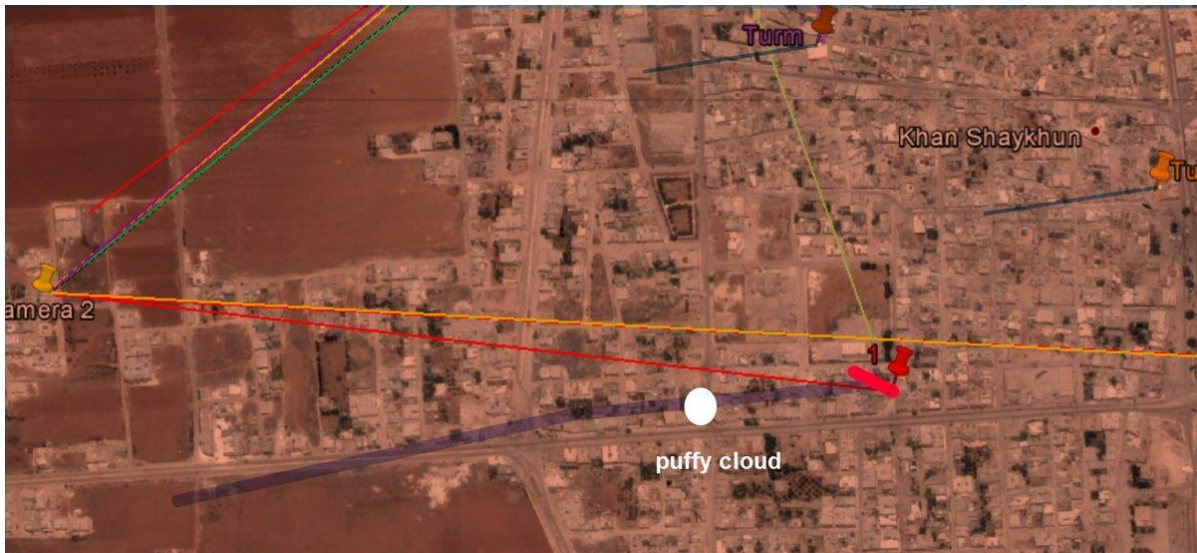
If the dropped munition were either unguided bombs or S-8 rockets, then at least parts of the narrative do fit together. Bombs and S-8 rockets are dropped or shot ahead and thus follow the flight direction of the aircraft. In other words, one jet flying from East to West cannot account for bomb impacts 1,2 and 3 or even 4 explosions at almost the same time.

In other words, the narration of the (activists) witnesses of the first flyover (green) and a silent bomb (4) inevitably leads to a logical problem that resembles the magic bullet that once killed JFK in zigzag flight.



<sup>22</sup> <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/mena/2017/04/05/khan-sheikhoun-chemical-attack-evidence-far/>

It should be mentioned at this point that a third video<sup>23</sup> by Mohammad Abo Zied shows the smoke mushroom in the south of Khan Sheikhoun much closer. His video, however, shows another white puffy smoke cloud (in the image below right / in the map above “1b”) apparently in the shadow of the southern smoke mushroom. This cloud most probably marks the position of a faulty fourth bomb.



The line of sight and the shadow angle at about 6:40am places this puffy smoke cloud about 200m in the west of the tall mushroom cloud.

Overall, this results in a plausible image that contradicts the portrayal of HRW. It seems likely that two bombs were dropped in the southern part of the city while the plane also dropped two bombs in the northern part of the town. This is a standard procedure.



<sup>23</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTx0kmQnZLw>

The alleged sarin crater and therefore the drop of a silent bomb doesn't fit into that scenario but witnesses in the northern part of the town might have heard some thump from any unknown origin. When they looked outside, they also might have seen the rising mist that morning.

It might be interesting that that all three cameramen of the incident are friends via facebook and obviously connected to the White Helmets and the fighting forces. They all appear to be plane spotters as well and are connected via radio. Therefore, all of them knew the plane was coming since it took off from Al-Shayrat airbase.



While Adham al-Hussein told HRW that the civil defense warned via radio of a fighter jet just started from Al Shayrat airbase heading north, Mohammad Abo Zied was seen on the TV channel of the Ibaa News Agency (Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham) talking about plane spotting.<sup>24 25</sup>



He might be the first one who mentioned “toxic gas” and “vacuum bombs” only minutes after the airstrike. At 3:57am (UTC) he wrote “# Urgent || Khan-Shikhon Several aerial air raids on the city were carried out by warplanes” and changed the text at 4:17am (UTC) into “# Urgent || #Betrayed \_ Shikhon Several air strikes with vacuum bombs, believed to carry poisonous gases to the city, were carried out by warplanes. God Peace”<sup>26</sup>



<sup>24</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCZU3WZzlao>

<sup>25</sup> <http://jihadintel.meforum.org/identifiers/>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100012534222479>



Certainly Abo-Zied received the message about poisonous gases via the radio and then spread it himself via the radio and Social Media. The spread of this message may have affected many later witness reports, especially by witnesses who have little knowledge of weapons and symptoms. For example Ahmad al-Helou might associate “yellow smoke” with toxic gas and reported it this way.

Abo-Zied was (like his colleagues) connected to Activists and White Helmets via Hoky Talky radio communications and therefore to the latest knowledge. In this respect, it is astonishing that he did not record any pictures of the first overflight or a smoke cloud in the north before the conventional air raid.

In addition, from his roof (POV 35.444848° 36.641362°) he had the best view of the place where the sarin tragedy was to occur at the same time. Nevertheless, he does not pan his camera there. He tweeted 10 minutes after the conventional air strike no word about poison gas. This addition was added 20 minutes later.

The first reference to chemical weapons that the search platform Bellingcat<sup>27</sup> could find is a tweet at 5:21 a.m. UTC and thus an hour later than Abo-Zied’s Facebook message. That tweet of the HAQ News Agency linked the already discussed YouTube video of Mohammad Saloum.<sup>28</sup>

### Eyewitness accounts

Locals claim the attack took place around 3:30 am (6:30 am local time) in all available statements. Translations of such accounts can be found in [our previously published article on the attack](#). **The earliest reference we have discovered to it being a chemical attack is a tweet at 5:21 am (8:21 am local time), referring to a video published at 4:59 am (7:59 local time).**

With other words, there is obviously no evidence of the "silent bomb" or any victims prior to the conventional air strike except the word of one or some activists themselves.

Maybe the most interesting detail about the HRW report is, that according to their sources HRW **knew** the report of the “Syrians for Truth and Justice” (STJ)<sup>29</sup> but withheld the account of cameraman Saloum that completely contradicts the claims of a silent bomb and rescue teams prior to the conventional strikes. It contradicts also the dotted lines published by the White House and confirms Al-Husseins North-South-flightpath.

Mohamed al-Saloum Al Abed <sup>11</sup>, the activist who **videotaped** the moments immediately after the attack, stated he woke up that morning when he heard military aircraft hovering over the north-east side of Khan Sheikhoun. He saw it fly over the north-west part of the area, back again to the north, and then pass over to the south. As it passed, the aircraft fired four successive bombs; three of them fell on the north side while the fourth one fell on the west part in the city center.

He added,  
*“At first, I did not realize that it was a chemical attack, until one of the Civil Defense members went there and told us via a portable wireless set that he was falling asleep, feeling drowsy. Then, we lost contact with him. After that, we launched a warning call to civilians to tell them it was a chemical attack. Soon, we received names of scores of victims, being dead or injured, who suffered from asphyxiation and foam out of the mouth.”*

Concerning the nature of explosions, al-Abd stated that the explosion, which contained a substance like oil, hit the northern neighborhood. He headed to the impact site after three hours had passed and, even then, he started to manifest symptoms of headache, cough and nasal irritation.

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.bellingcat.com/news/mena/2017/04/10/khan-sheikhoun-chemical-attack-bombed/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://twitter.com/Agencynewshaq/status/849129791294930944>

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.stj-sy.com/uploads/pdf\\_files/A Special Report on the Chemical Attack in Khan Sheikhoun-Idlib.pdf](https://www.stj-sy.com/uploads/pdf_files/A%20Special%20Report%20on%20the%20Chemical%20Attack%20in%20Khan%20Sheikhoun-Idlib.pdf)

According to his statement we get the following flightpath:



Saloums description sheds some light on al-Hussein's account. According to Al-Hussein's own words he heard on the radio about a plane heading north from the airport. When he heard the noise of it, he went to the balcony and saw it flying away in norther direction. Later he described a the fighter jet heading from north to south and filmed the mushroom clouds of the bombs.

His statements, however, were fractured by HRW and NYTimes in a way that the impression of a "silent bomb" and a "first attack" wasn't harmed.

And there is another hint in the Syrian report:



A panoramic image showing the site of the four rockets launched in the second attack. It should be recalled that news coverage did not claim the second attack contained chemical substances.

Image credit: Mohamed al-Saloum al-Abd  
(This image represents an integration of three separate images.)

Obviously they considered a „4th missile” because of the rising concrete dust. Since there wasn't any damage they apparently considered an impact in the farmland somewhere south of the city. At the same time they missed that little puffy cloud in the footage of Mohammad Abo Zied.

## A KhAB filler cap & green bands

The only remnants of a bomb surprisingly were found in the fourth crater close to the bakery allegedly caused by the "silent" sarin bomb. This bomb, however, was not exploded or exploded just "little" almost without noise. Nevertheless, only a narrow sheet of metal and a filling nozzle of 105mm diameter remained of some tall bomb.



While the rest of the bomb and about 1 m<sup>3</sup> of pavement were apparently blown away, the identifiable filling nozzle ended up on the top of the loose rubble in the crater but wasn't secured before around 3 pm and dozens of visitors taking photos and videos and samples of the rubble.

These metal remnants were promptly identified by HRW as a Russian sarin bomb including the green bands.

### **HRW report:**

*The photos and videos of the crater show two remnants from the chemical weapon used: a twisted thin metal fragment with green paint and a smaller circular metal object. Green coloring is widely used on factory-produced weapons to signify that they are chemical weapons. The KhAB-250, for example, one of two Soviet-produced bombs specifically designed to deploy sarin from a warplane, has two green bands. The circular object seen in photos of the crater appears similar to the cap covering the filling hole on the KhAB-250.*

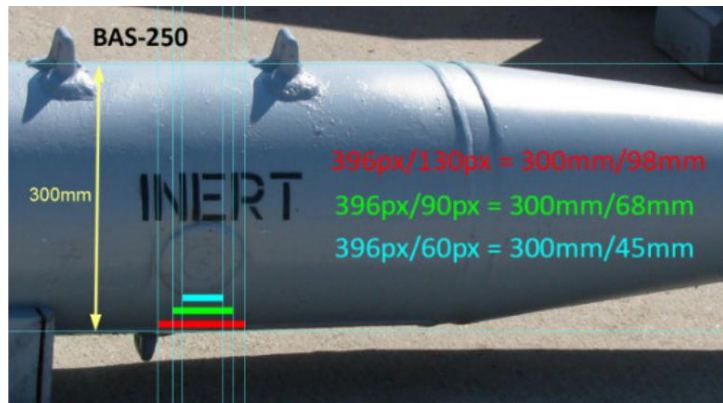


A closer look reveals that there are no green bands at all. The outer side is entirely painted green.



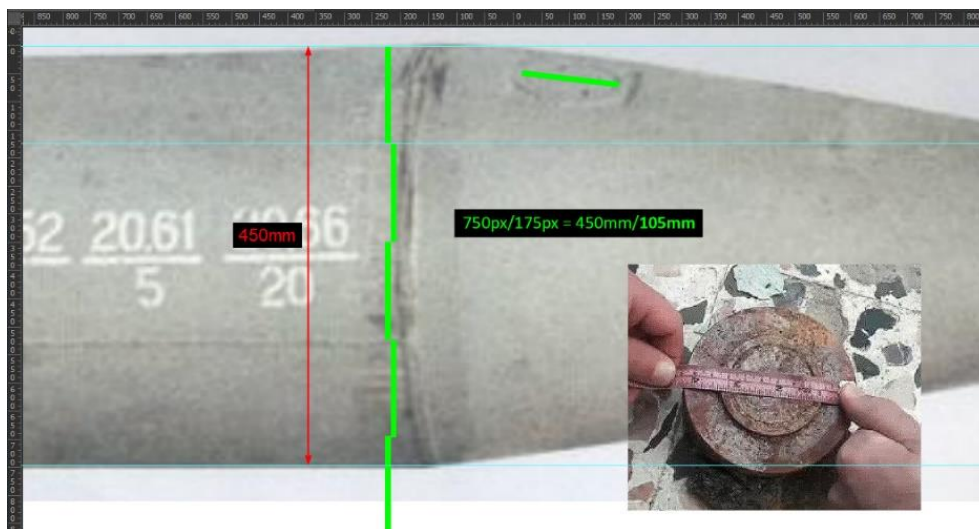
While the outer side of the filling cap still has residues of the green color, two characteristic holes are also visible. These holes are used to open the cap by means of a simple fork-like tool. None of the Russian bombs for the use of chemical weapons could be opened so easily. At least the caps have a completely different design without holes and therefore require a special tool for opening.

Russian bombs for chemical use had filler caps like this:

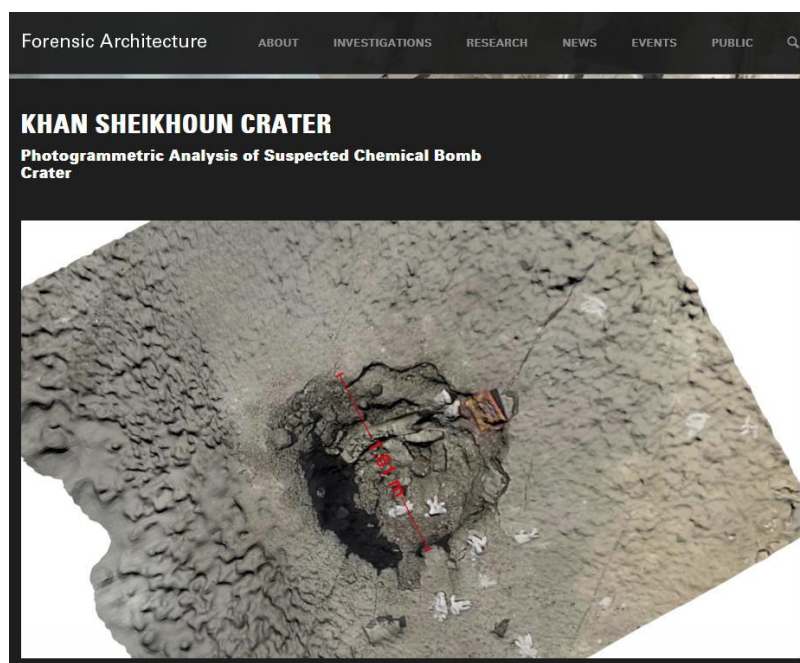


Meanwhile, Russia has enlightened the world that the KhAB-250 sarin bomb isn't in the arsenal of the Russian army since the 1960s, has never been exported and the HRW photo was taken in a museum in Moscow. Furthermore, the KhAB type was designed to explode 30 meters above the ground and therefore leaves no crater.

In fact, the metal remnants in the sarin crater especially the filler cap seem to be the remnants of an OFZAB-500 high explosives bomb. That bomb type has a filler cap with drilled holes, the nozzle is welded in the same way and the diameter equals the size of the filler nozzle found in the crater hole (105mm).

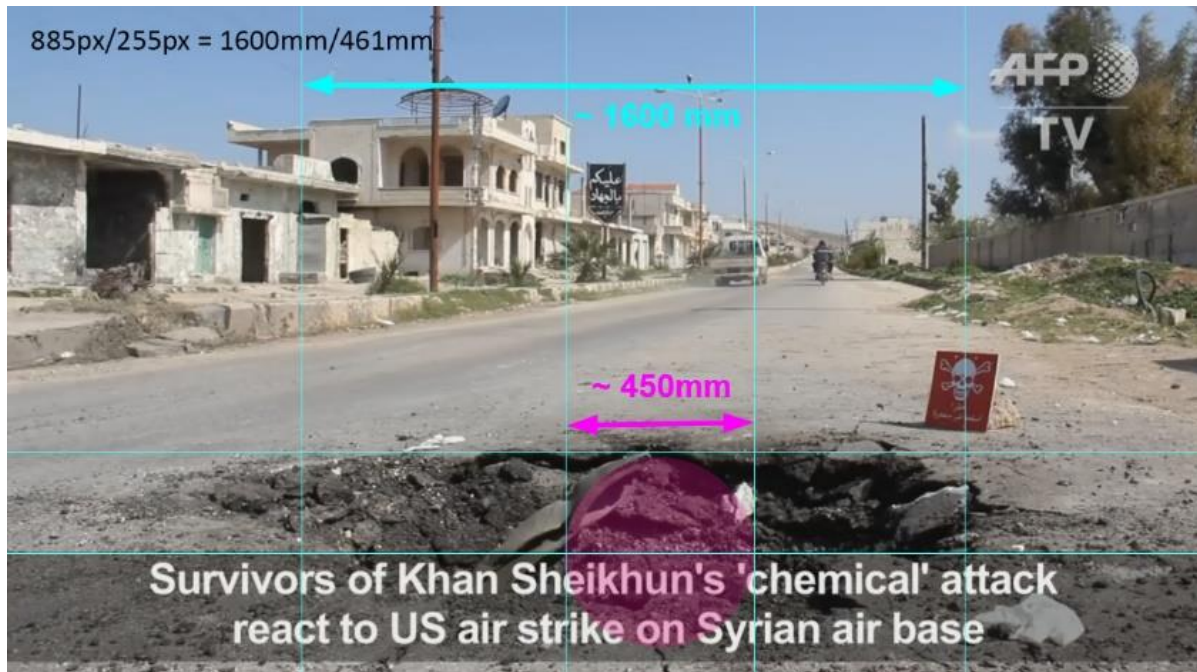


It is also possible to draw conclusions from the diameter of the crater to the diameter of the bomb. According to the measurement of Forensic Architecture<sup>30</sup> the diameter of the crater is about 1.6m.



<sup>30</sup> <https://vimeo.com/215741302>

In some photos of the alleged sarin crater, one recognizes that a part of a ring is still attached to the long remnant of the bomb shell. With the help of the diameter of the crater measured by Forensic Architecture, a diameter of the bomb of circa 450mm can be calculated. This diameter would also correspond to a OFZAB-500 bomb. However, it is questionable whether this bomb type can be used for the deployment of chemical warfare agents.



Neither bomb type has green bands as a hallmark of a "chemical weapon". The only discernible difference of the cap of a Russian OFZAB-500 bomb is the distance between the holes and the green color.

However, by 2015, the SyAAF had run out of bombs. With Iranian support, the Defense Factories at As Safira launched production of crude copies of various Russian designs.<sup>31</sup> These copies were painted green.



According to the "War Is Boring" website:

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<sup>31</sup> <https://medium.com/war-is-boring/the-su-22-is-syrias-war-weary-warhorse-e8f0f681bfe8>

By mid-2016, the Syrians again possessed around 30 Su-22s of different variants in three squadrons at Tiyas, Shayrat and Dmeyr. Perhaps more importantly, thanks to Tehran's help, the old Fitters are well-stocked with such weapons as parachute-retarded FAB-500ShN and ODAB-500ShL thermobaric bombs, OFZAB-500 incendiary bombs and S-24 unguided 240-millimeter rockets.

Most importantly, these old Fitters fly 25-34 missions per day and the remnants of these bombs can be found all over Syria.

It is not surprising that Bellingcat quickly and harshly attack the M.I.T. Professor Postol for an error, but in the same minute uncritically spread the mischief of Human Rights Watch and "Big El".

↻ Eliot Higgins heeft geretweet

**Big El**  
@elemcee69

Anyone explain why Ted Postol thesis doesn't mention green stripe (Russian CW designation) on metal fragment found in #KhanSheikhoun crater

11:13 a.m. · 13 apr. 2017

Eliot Higgins @EliotHiggins · 1. Mai  
Antwort an @EliotHiggins  
Human Rights Watch believes the remains of the chemical bomb used at Khan Sheikhoun are closer to an airdropped bomb

IMPACT CRATER  
Khan Sheikhoun, Syria - April 4, 2017  
Remnants found at the crater are consistent with KhAB-500 or OFZAB-500 bombs. Secret produced the dropped chemical bombs designed to spray war.

Green bands painted on a munition body suggests a chemical weapon.

Flat hole top

KhAB 250: An airdropped chemical bomb designed to spray war.

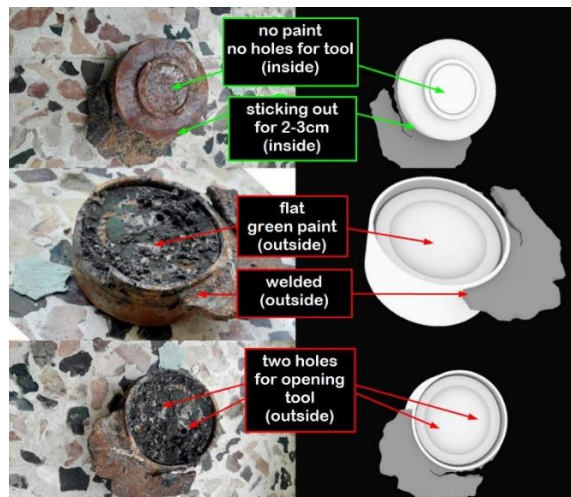
8 47 30

Eliot Higgins @EliotHiggins · 1. Mai  
Postol claims the Khan Sheikhoun munition was 122mm calibre, but the filling cap is ~105mm wide by itself.

he White House, the was not tampered w improvised disper in and capped on

19 25 24

Bellingcat is less concerned with the veracity of a statement, rather than to push the "investigation" in the desired direction as long as possible. At this point, Eliot Higgins knew that only the inside of the found filler looks somehow similar to the outside of a KhAB filler. You only had to accept that this filler would sticking out of the surface of the bomb for 2-3 cm.



But even after the "KhAB" and "green bands" hoax was no longer tenable, there was no loud criticism. Instead, they presented a 3D model of the filler without holes but with a wrong hollow. Also, HRW did not see itself induced to take this mischief out of the net or at least correct it. Instead, HRW translated the KhAB lie into Arabic, pouring oil into the fire. Now you retrieve that "fake news" nonsense also on Facebook of al-Yousef's brother.





## A crater & a wet street

Apparently, this bomb did not explode above the ground, because the debris found had barely the kinetic energy to fling  $1\text{m}^3$  pavement aside. But if it exploded on the ground, you should expect much more damage in the perimeter. Instead, the Power box immediately adjacent to the crater is completely untouched. If it only exploded "a bit" (silent enough to not damage the green box), where is the wreckage of the bomb? How did the filler nozzle from the rear end of the bomb made it in the crater and to land on top of the rubble while the rest of the bomb was apparently vaporized?

If a bomb of this size explodes above the ground, then it is quite possible that the debris will hit a crater in the pavement. However, this debris need a certain size and weight.



None of it can be seen in Khan Sheikhoun. Instead, the chunks of the pavement were neatly put aside when the first camera appeared at the crater and no one can tell how long these chunks are lying there already. The sand heap shows no trace that these heavy chunks have just been thrown there. At least there are no discernible dents or skid marks in the sand.



Judging by the Sun's angle, Orient News was around 8:30 a.m. local time at the crater. In these first pictures (at least among the published) the road is already cleaned and wet and a tractor drives close to the hole.

**HRW report:**

Through interviews with local residents, and analysis of photographs and video footage posted on the internet and provided by local residents and satellite imagery, Human Rights Watch identified three impact sites in the northern neighborhood: in the middle of a paved road close to the central bakery ("Impact Site 1"); the house of the al-Omar family ("Impact Site 2"), about 240 meters southwest; and near Mustafa al-Youssef's house ("Impact Site 3"), another 100 meters southwest. All three sites are visible on satellite imagery from April 6.

This analysis sounds like a huge amount of work. A closer look, however, reveals that Bellingcat simply used a satellite image dated February 21 to match the current destruction with a satellite image taken on 6 April. This analysis doesn't mention two more craters north of the grain silos, which first appeared at some point in time during the same timeframe and are aligned with the crater in the street and of approximately the same size.



And the satellite image used by Bellingcat:



In this line of argument, these craters to the north of the silos are equivalent and may have been created the same day as the crater in the street. Nevertheless, these craters are simply ignored by Bellingcat and HRW and other biased researchers for no apparent reason.

Some sources like the NYTimes simply cut off this area and put a date on it.



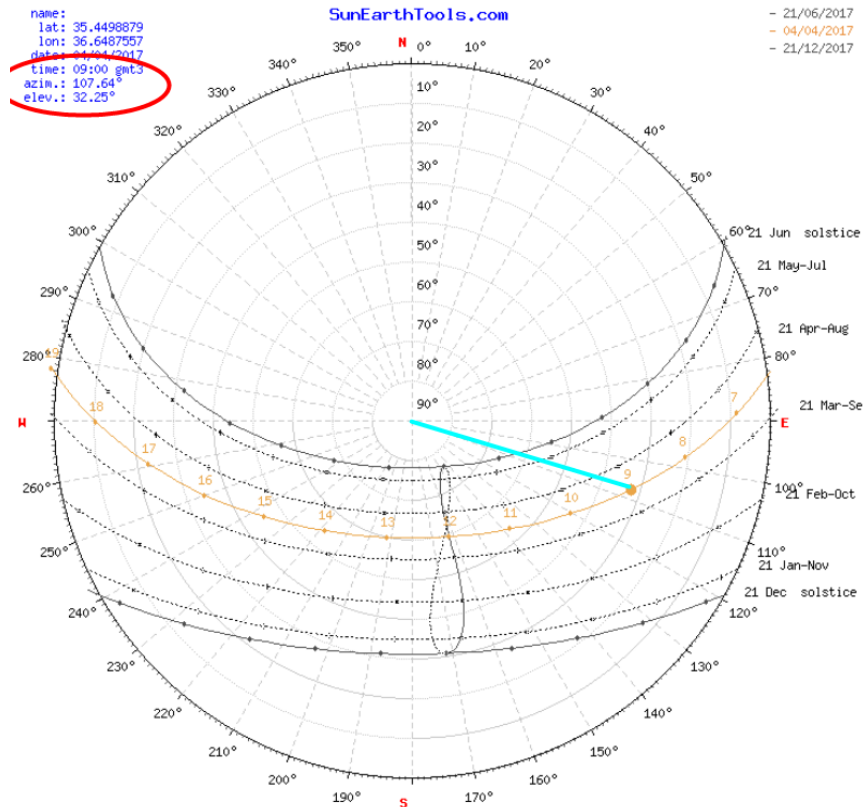
**HRW report:**

*The first photos taken of the crater at Impact Site 1 a few hours after the attack also appear to show liquid on the asphalt around the crater. Several witnesses described it as a black, oily substance. Such liquid is consistent with the use of a sarin bomb, as some of the sarin, which is a liquid, will fail to turn into aerosol and vapor. [52]*

According to the source 52, this knowledge comes from the Dan Kaszeta article "Anatomy of a Sarin bomb explosion (Part I)" published by Bellingcat.<sup>32</sup> The statement refers to a photo of the White Helmets that shows the crater close to the bakery with a wet edge. With the help of the electric box on the roadside, it is easy and quite precise to determine when the photo was taken. The shadow has an angle of about 107°. This corresponds to the azimuth of the sun in this place and this day at 9:00 am.

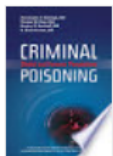


<sup>32</sup> <https://www.bellingcat.com/resources/articles/2017/04/13/anatomy-sarin-bomb-explosion-part/>



In other words, the photograph was taken about 2.5 hours after the release of sarin in that area. At 9:00 am the sun shone directly on the road, the air temperature was 21°C and it blew a light wind of about 0.5 m/s.

### Criminal Poisoning: Clinical and Forensic Perspectives - Seite 110



<https://books.google.de/books?isbn=1449671527> - Diese Seite übersetzen

Christopher P. Holstege, Thomas Neer, Gregory B. Saathoff - 2010 - Vorschau - Mehr Ausgaben

An official announcement by the police that **sarin** had been identified came to the hospitals via television news, reportedly 3 hours after the release. ... **Sarin is the most volatile of the nerve agents, possessing a volatility similar to that of water.**

Sarin has approximately the same volatility as water and this is one of the particularly deadly 'qualities' of sarin. How many liters of the alleged 60% sarin mixture are needed to wet the street in a way that 2.5 hours of direct sunshine on a summer morning wouldn't dry it? And given the needed amount of that mixture, why would the street dry first while the edge of the hole is still wet?

As mentioned, Orient News was already filming at the hole before the White Helmets took their photo. Of course, the cameraman stood right in the center of the deadly zone.



While the North of the crater in the White Helmet photo is almost dry, the South side of the crater in the White Helmet photo was apparently newly wetted.

Water would make sense, since sarin rapidly disintegrates into less toxic components in water. It has not been reported whether someone has watered the hole with same intentions. It must be assumed, however, that it was a large amount of liquid, because at about 10:00 clock and despite the sunshine the edge of the road was still wet up to about 15 meters far from the hole.



Drone footage taken two days later show a very similar watering of the street.





The same day right after the watering the white helmets collected soil samples from a puddle some meters south of the crater.



The same group collected the dead birds and hair from the dead goat that without a doubt was dragged into its final position.



Another reason for wetting the crater's edges, however, would be exactly that which was picked up by Dan Kaszeta and the HRW: the appearance of a chemical agent. If the wet edge of the hole indeed was liquid sarin drying in the sun then the fate of the cameraman of Orient News would probably have gone through the press. Furthermore, at 8:30am some worker already drove a tractor right next to the crater without any protective cloth. Even the missing asphalt was already thrown on the sandhill. This work took place before 8:30 a.m. or maybe days before.



At 8:30 a.m. the scene was already cleaned up in every respect.

## Hexamine & Intelligence

That the wet edge of the crater was mentioned by Dan Kaszeta (Bellingcat) should come as no surprise. He is the main proponent of a theory, according to which the Syrian sarin production - uniquely worldwide - uses the widespread hexamine as an acid scavenger. He thereby refers to Åke Sellström and an alleged part of a CBRN interview, which was never published probably for some good reason.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <https://web.archive.org/web/20140828034558/http://ciceromagazine.com/features/the-chemical-fingerprint-of-assads-war-crimes/>

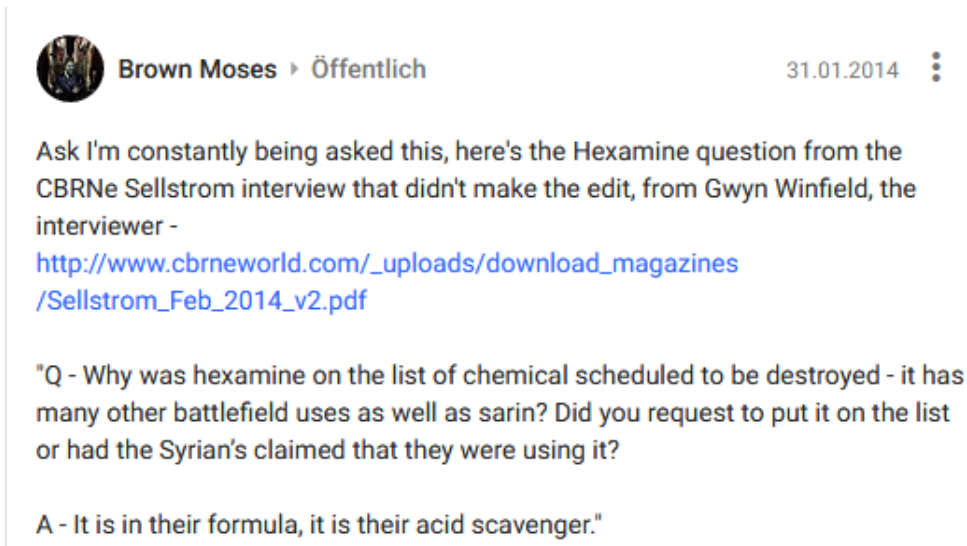
At a later date, Mr. Gwyn Winfield, editor of **CBRNe World** magazine conducted an interview with Dr. Sellstrom, which included this exchange:


*Winfield - Why was hexamine on the list of chemical scheduled to be destroyed it has many other battlefield uses as well as Sarin? Did you request to put it on the list or had the Syrian's claimed that they were using it?*

*Sellstrom - It is in their formula, it is their acid scavenger.*

Although various detractors have claimed that this quote is fabricated, the author has confirmed it generally with Dr. Sellstrom and specifically with Gwyn Winfield, who has a recording of it.

His hexamine-theory is supported by Eliot Higgins aka Brown Moses (Bellingcat)<sup>34</sup>:



 **Brown Moses** › Öffentlich 31.01.2014

Ask I'm constantly being asked this, here's the Hexamine question from the CBRNe Sellstrom interview that didn't make the edit, from Gwyn Winfield, the interviewer -

[http://www.cbrneworld.com/\\_uploads/download\\_magazines/Sellstrom\\_Feb\\_2014\\_v2.pdf](http://www.cbrneworld.com/_uploads/download_magazines/Sellstrom_Feb_2014_v2.pdf)

"Q - Why was hexamine on the list of chemical scheduled to be destroyed - it has many other battlefield uses as well as sarin? Did you request to put it on the list or had the Syrian's claimed that they were using it?

A - It is in their formula, it is their acid scavenger."

In January 2014 Brown Moses aka Eliot Higgins cited Kaszetas Cicero article but linked to the CBRN Interview that never included that part. A quick full text search will reveal that words like "hexamine" or "formula" or "acid" can't be found in the entire interview.<sup>35</sup>

However, at the Key Capitol Hill Hearings, Sellström and his colleague Scott Cairns sounded quite different. The question alone conjured up a grin on Sellströms lips.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://plus.google.com/108344897173120412718/posts/62vsHPVJPua>

<sup>35</sup> [http://www.cbrneworld.com/\\_uploads/download\\_magazines/Sellstrom\\_Feb\\_2014\\_v2.pdf](http://www.cbrneworld.com/_uploads/download_magazines/Sellstrom_Feb_2014_v2.pdf)





>> i will send it to my chemical colleagues. the first one, the allegation, and some witnesses reporting that we could not corroborate the statements of -- we could not corroborate the statements of the plastic cylinders, it is not verified by us. this is in places we never saw the munition in its primary state, in its native state. so again the missions are reported on, but we have not been able to verify it. as it comes to the -- what is the significance of that? >> the significance of hexamine some allege the hexamine is used as an acid stabilizer.

others have alleged it is a remnant from an artifact of reduction of rdx, which is a high explosive. it is also used as a heating element for homemade stoves. it has a number of uses. you will see in the final report a much more comprehensive detailing of some of the chemicals that were found, particularly in one incident. and in the samples you will see that hexamine is found. >> was that the 11th than where it was found -- was that the only incident where it was found? >> those were the only samples we were able to take. it is clear in the report what types of samples we were able to take. >> matthew lee.

Meanwhile, M.I.T. Professor Ted Postol has published the chemical formulas which, for quite rational reasons, make a use of hexamine as an acid scavenger pretty unlikely.<sup>36 37</sup>

Nevertheless, the Atlantic Council, a Soros-funded thinktank, now cites the wrong Sellström quote and invokes the CBRN interview. The link, however, doesn't lead to a Sellström interview including the quoted sentence but to Higgins' Moses Brown Google+ page including the link to the wrong interview. The author is Eliot Higgins himself (Bellingcat / Moses Brown).<sup>38</sup>



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Apr 30 · 5 min read

## Uncovered Chemical Weapons

New evidence from an official French report points to Assad's repeated chemical weapon usage in Syria

The presence of hexamine has been a point of debate since the sarin attacks in Damascus on August 21, 2013, which triggered the disarmament of Syria's chemical program, and resulted in an on the ground investigation that produced more details about the sarin used. In many of the samples examined by investigators, hexamine was identified, and in a later interview with Ake Sellstrom, head of the inspection team, by CBRNe World magazine, hexamine is described by Sellstrom as "in their formula, it is their acid scavenger." In addition to this, 80 tonnes of hexamine were declared by Syria as part of its chemical weapon program during its destruction.

<sup>36</sup> <https://cryptome.org/2014/08/postol-debunks-kaszeta.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.washingtonsblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Postol-The-Flawed-Chemical-Analysis-in-the-French-Intelligence-Report-of-April-26-2017-Alleging-a-Syrian-Government-Sarin-Nerve-Agent-Attack-in-Khan-Sheikhoun-of-April-4-2017-April-30-2017-PQ.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> <https://medium.com/@DFRLab/uncovered-chemical-weapons-c7832860915b>

Why does Dan Kaszeta (Bellingcat / Atlantic Council) insist on the use of hexamine since 2014 using unproven quotes and wrong links and repeating it over and over? First, because hexamine was found in all samples from sarin attacks in Syria, which in reverse is meant to automatically blame the Syrian government. This startling conclusion is nourished by the fact that the OPCW in the destruction of the chemical weapons in Syria also had 80MT of hexamine on the list. Again, the twisted logic says that the Assad regime would not have given the 80MT hexamine if they would not use it exclusively to produce sarin. Apart from the missing logic of the hexamine-argument, the list of the OPCW also included 3MT of methanol, which is best known as paint thinner.<sup>39</sup>

7	BUTAN-1-OL	71-56-5	5
8	METHANOL	67-56-1	3

OPCW/CDB/EOI/01/2013

1

21/11/2013

There is, however, a significant source that Kaszetas theory now – 3 years later - confirms: the French Intelligence Report (FIR).<sup>40</sup> This report says in the first words:

Moving on now to how the chemical was manufactured: we are reliably informed that the manufacturing process for the sarin, which was sampled, is typical of the method developed in Syrian laboratories. This method bears the hallmarks of the regime and is what allows us to establish its responsibility in the attack.

We know this because we kept samples from other attacks and were able, in what were obviously the relevant laboratories, to compare them. We are in a position to confirm that the sarin used on 4 April is the same sarin used in a grenade attack in Saraqeb on 29 April 2013, from which one of the grenades was retrieved and analysed by our services.

The presence of a specific chemical in particular – hexamine – is characteristic of sarin manufactured by the Syrian regime. This substance, typical of the manufacturing process developed in the regime's laboratories, is present in both the samples from 29 April 2013 and those of 4 April 2017.

The UN got a report in 2013 and wrote<sup>41</sup>:

70. The French Government presented a report containing results of environmental samples testing positive for Sarin. The United Nations Mission studied the report but could not independently verify the chain of custody for the sampling and the transport of the samples.

According to witnesses, three improvised bombs were dropped from a helicopter of the Syrian army on 29 April 2013. These improvised bombs were apparently made from a cinder block with improvised plastic hand grenades inserted in its cavities.

A video<sup>42</sup> shows Al Qaeda activists in Saraqeb who present such a hand grenade in front of the camera using rubber gloves. One of them, however, has no problem touching the inside of the plastic bag in which they transported this grenade.

<sup>39</sup> [https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ADM/PSB/Tender/Request\\_for\\_EOI\\_OPCWCDB\\_EOI012013.pdf](https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/ADM/PSB/Tender/Request_for_EOI_OPCWCDB_EOI012013.pdf)

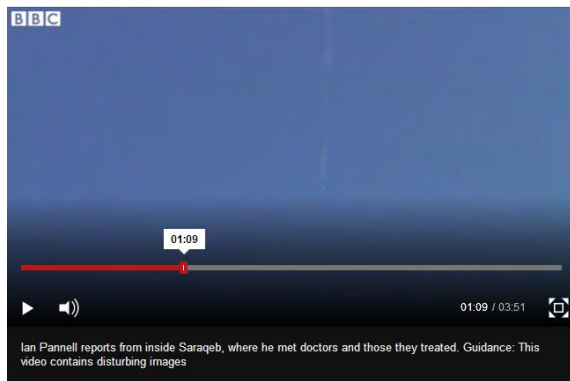
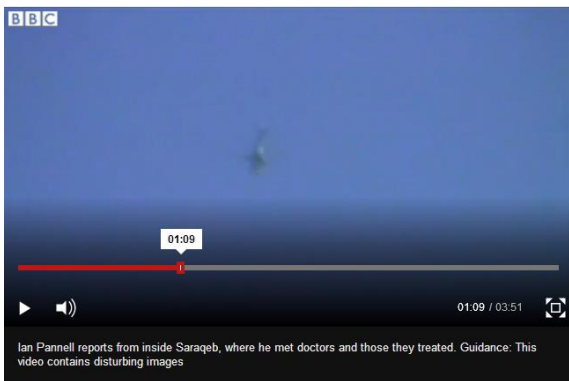
<sup>40</sup> [http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration\\_en\\_cle8faf9b.pdf](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/declaration_en_cle8faf9b.pdf)

<sup>41</sup> <https://unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/report.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDZ66mHIWNQ>



Another piece of the puzzle is a BBC video<sup>43</sup> by Ian Pannell, which is intended to show the helicopter and “2 or 3” improvised bombs. This video is edited right in the decisive moment, so you first see a helicopter in front of blue skies – cut - and then a smoking bomb in front of blue skies.

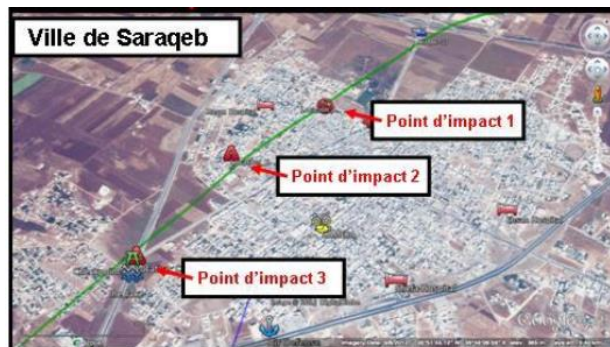


The French Intelligence report<sup>44</sup> says:

**France Diplomatie**  
Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité  
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

d) This intelligence on the process used by the regime, which is a sign of its responsibility in the attack on 4 April, is based notably on the analysis of the content of an unexploded grenade which was used with certainty by the Syrian regime during the Saraqib attack on 29 April 2013. That mid-afternoon, a helicopter arriving from the north-east flew over the city of Saraqib at high altitude. Three unidentified objects, emitting white smoke, were dropped on neighbourhoods to the west of the city, on a north-south trajectory.

A map shows the three impacts in timely order:



<sup>43</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-22551892>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/syria/events/article/chemical-attack-in-syria-national-evaluation-presented-by-jean-marc-ayrault>

The BBC video shows the point of the 2nd impact of such a smoking device in the garden of victim Mariam Khatib two days after the attack. Obviously, the scene was cleaned up after the attack.



It is noticeable that every trace of a white powder is missing in the hole. Nevertheless, the missing white powder is interesting in connection to another evidence: the 3rd impact of the unexploded grenade obtained by the French Intelligence.<sup>45</sup>



According to the images the cinder block completely disintegrated into powder due to the impact of  $> 60$  m/s (140 mph). At the same time, the munition shows no mechanical damage.<sup>46</sup>



*Munition found at third point of impact and an x-ray of it*

The chemical analyses carried out showed that it contained a solid and liquid mix of approximately 100ml of sarin at an estimated purity of 60%. Hexamine, DF and a secondary product, DIMP, were also identified. Modelling, on the basis of the crater's characteristics, confirmed with a very high level of confidence that it was dropped from the air.

The modelling of the crater's characteristics as claimed by the FIR sounds interesting. Based on which data? The topography of that dirt track prior to the impact isn't known. The size and shape of the "cinder block" object itself is unknown just like it's purpose. So, a shovel full of plaster waste in a trough would probably give a very similar impression.

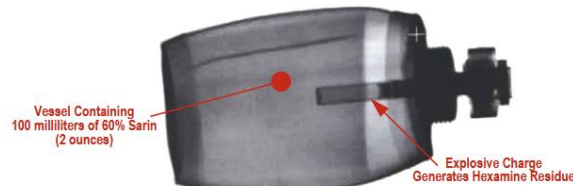
However, it is striking that this undamaged and unexploded grenade is not the same model as the one presented by the activist in front of the camera. The body has about four times the height of the outer part of the ignition mechanism, while the body of the grenade of the activist is only half as

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIUyZA44qM0>

<sup>46</sup> [http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/170425\\_evaluation\\_nationale\\_anglais\\_final\\_cle0dbf47-1.pdf](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/170425_evaluation_nationale_anglais_final_cle0dbf47-1.pdf)

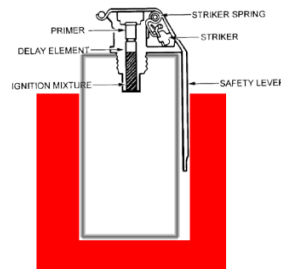
high. The holes in the side of the body are missing but maybe this version has a hole in the bottom (not shown by the report) like a military smoke grenade.

Professor Ted Postol<sup>47</sup> suggests the simple design without a hole in the body.



Hand grenade designed to disperse about 2 ounces of sarin using a small explosive charge to burst the container.

But there is a problem. The fuse of a hand grenade has usually a delay of 3 – 5 seconds. The BBC video shows 5 unedited seconds of the fall allegedly of such a device but without beginning and without ending. Therefore, a simple design would explode at an unknown altitude and maybe 100 meters above ground. The solution would be a kind of cinder block (red in the image below) that fixes the safety lever and crushes when impacting the ground.



Such a device wouldn't smoke while falling and at each impact side only one grenade was found.

In addition, a simple bottle of glass would have done the same job, especially when it comes to a fluid like sarin dropped from a great height onto random victims. The remains of a bottle are unsuspecting. The bottle itself would hardly be visible for witnesses and handy cameras. So, what's the meaning of the smoke? It means that the cinder block makes no sense at all.



With the use of his hands the nephew of a victim describes the “container” that landed in the garden. A google search for the Arabic word for container shows what حاوية means.

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<sup>47</sup> <http://www.washingtonsblog.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Postol-The-Flawed-Chemical-Analysis-in-the-French-Intelligence-Report-of-April-26-2017-Alleging-a-Syrian-Government-Sarin-Nerve-Agent-Attack-in-Khan-Sheikhoun-of-April-4-2017-April-30-2017-PQ.pdf>



A closer look shows that all information about a hollow concrete block refer to that third point of impact. The only source is the already mentioned BBC article. It says:

One device was said to have landed on the outskirts of Saraqeb, with eyewitnesses describing a box-like container with a hollow concrete casing inside.

In another video, a rebel fighter holds a canister said to be hidden inside the devices. Witnesses claim there were two in each container.

Another video shows parts of a canister on the ground, surrounded by white powder.

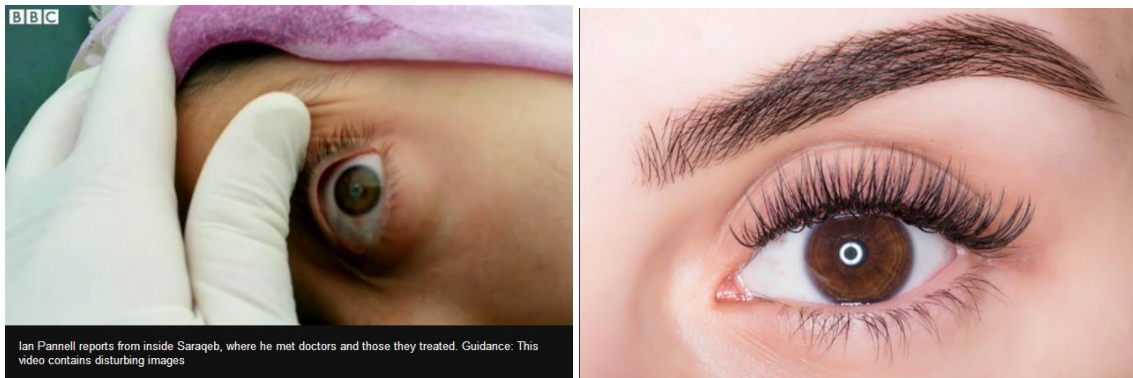
The question arises as to how someone could describe that powdered plaster as a “hollow concrete casing inside” an opaque box?



Let's summarize: Most witnesses saw two smoking containers that were dropped from a helicopter. There are, however, some witnesses who speak of a third impact and can also describe exactly how the pulverized inner life of a carton has looked before the impact. From this third impact on the outskirts of the city but 120m from the next house is the unexploded piece of evidence, which is now the conclusive proof of the unique production method of Assad's sarin.

But there is more evidence:

The BBC video then shows a photo of the unconscious Mariam Khatib in bright light, while the commentary indicates the narrowed pupil as evidence of a nerve gas.



A photo of narrowed pupils in bright light is not proof of a nerve gas, because a healthy iris also contracts in the bright light of a lamp. And that lamp seems to be reflected in the eye around the pupil, which can distort the impression (as in the right image). A wide white edge of the brown iris appears unlikely.

Furthermore, the BBC video shows the eyes of the son of Mariam Khatib while the commentary again points to constricted pupils. Again, in the eye reflection, one recognizes a bright light, presumably a flashlight, but the pupil appears to be normally dilated.



The victims of the Saraqeb attack were sent to Turkey after the administration of oxygen and atropine for further treatment. In Turkey, blood samples of the injured were examined especially for sarin. The Turkish laboratory, however, could not find anything unusual. In May 2013, Pri.org reports<sup>48</sup>:

Medics tested the blood samples — which were taken from some 13 victims of an attack that included white powder in the northern village of Saraqeb on April 29 — at the Reyhanli hospital on the same day, **but did not find anything unusual, they said.**

They tested the blood specifically for sarin gas — a nerve agent — and also ran regular bloodwork.

Half a year later in December 2013 a surprise followed. The UN report stated that in the organs of Mariam Khatib, sarin was found.

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.pri.org/stories/2013-05-05/turkish-doctors-say-no-nerve-gas-syrian-victims-blood>

*Information concerning biomedical samples*

72. During an autopsy that was observed by members of the United Nations Mission, samples of several organs from the deceased woman's body were recovered for subsequent analysis. The results from most of these organs clearly indicated signatures of a previous Sarin exposure.

She is the only victim who died after this attack, and, according to the description, came into contact with the agent when she approached the object in her yard. There were other family members and helpers in the yard, which also had to be treated with symptoms like her son with allegedly constricted pupils. It is unclear why no sarin was found in the blood of her son or any other of the 20 injured.

What kind of munition was found?

In the case of the plastic hand grenades, which are described as sticking in the dropped container, it seems to be an improvised smoke or CS-gas grenade, as it has been seen only in the use of al-Qaeda. A photo taken by [Jeffry Ruigendijk](#) in Ras Al Ayn / Serekaniye shows an Al-Qaeda fighter (see image below right) with such an improvised hand grenade on April 21, 2013, eight days prior to the Saraqeb attack. Ras Al Ayn is the Syrian part of the divided city Serekaniye. The Turkish part is called Ceylanpinar and known for Al-Qaeda training camps.<sup>49</sup>

However, the BBC witnesses are Al-Qaeda. One of these witnesses are known from Idlib, one obviously showed insider knowledge, which can hardly be explained by the finding of a gypsum pile. According to the dress code, the same witnesses had access to such improvised hand grenades and were strongly interested in pushing the Assad regime over Obamas "red line". They had access to the victims, the impact locations, the hospitals.



Of course, it is possible that the Syrian army has got possession of some of those hand grenades. Nevertheless, the benefit of dropping it in a mid-afternoon sarin attack involving smoke grenades for highest visibility of the red line crossing crime is not comprehensible.

<sup>49</sup> <http://www.dw.com/en/al-qaedas-turkish-base/a-17097437>



It would be naïve to rule out that the organization behind these “witnesses” does not have contacts to a range of Intelligence services.<sup>50</sup>

The intelligence community behind the Obama administration could not categorically rule out that Al Nusra/al-Qaeda has or had access to sarin.<sup>51 52</sup>

WND EXCLUSIVE

## U.S. MILITARY CONFIRMS REBELS HAD SARIN

Classified document shows deadly weapon found in home of arrested Islamists

Published: 09/11/2013 at 8:16 PM

On the other hand, it can be ruled out that the caution of the American intelligence community was based on the hastily arrested judgment in Adana.<sup>53</sup>

The General Prosecutor in the Turkish city of Adana opened a criminal case, and an indictment stated “chemical weapons components” from Europe “were to be seamlessly shipped via a designated route through Turkey to militant labs in Syria.” Erdem cited evidence implicating the Turkish Minister of Justice and the Turkish Mechanical and Chemical Industry Corporation in the smuggling of sarin.

### The Operation

According to Erdem, the 13 suspects arrested in raids carried out against the plotters were released just a week after they were indicted, and the case was closed — shut down by higher authority. Erdem told RT that the sarin attack at Ghouta took place shortly after the criminal case was closed and that the attack probably was carried out by jihadists with sarin gas smuggled through Turkey.

The evidence presented by Erdem was not disproved by court, but “the case was closed — shut down by higher authority” and president Erdogan has accused Erdem of “treason.”

The FIR also shows a photo of the grenade, which impacted the ground in the garden of Mariam Khatib and caused about 20 injured. Mariam Khatib was killed but none of the injured was exposed to sarin. Apparently, however, this grenade could not be obtained and analyzed. Instead the French Intelligence analyzed biomedical and environmental samples allegedly confirmed by the UN.

At the first point of impact, there were no victims. At the second point of impact, one person was killed and about 20 injured. An exploded grenade was found in the wreckage. Analysis of biomedical and environmental samples collected by the French services revealed the presence of compounds consistent with exposure to sarin. [This analysis was confirmed by the United Nations in December 2013.](#)



*Exploded grenade found at second point of impact*

The mentioned UN report confirms that sarin was found in the organs of Mariam Khatib but neither confirms the environmental samples taken at impact location 2 nor the source of these samples:

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<sup>50</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/10415935/Al-Qaeda-recruits-entering-Syria-from-Turkey-safehouses.html>

<sup>51</sup> <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/may/6/syrian-rebels-used-sarin-nerve-gas-not-assads-regi/>

<sup>52</sup> <http://www.wnd.com/2013/09/u-s-military-confirms-rebels-had-sarin/>

<sup>53</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/coleen-rowley/calling-again-for-proof-r\\_b\\_8880064.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/coleen-rowley/calling-again-for-proof-r_b_8880064.html)

70. The French Government presented a report containing results of environmental samples testing positive for Sarin. The United Nations Mission studied the report but could not independently verify the chain of custody for the sampling and the transport of the samples.

Finally, there is no reason to doubt that a helicopter has dropped smoking containers in at least two locations. According to the publicly known evidence, however, it does not seem compelling that these containers contained the sarin-hexamine mixture. It seems rather implausible that an attack with sarin was combined with highly visible and heavy smelling smoke bombs. It also seems implausible that the smoke bombs contained the sarin at the same time. First, the sarin grenade obtained by the French Intelligence service does not show drillings in the vessel and secondly, the drillings would not prevent the toxic agent from evaporating.

Therefore, it is not safe to say that the undamaged and unexploded sarin grenade was actually dropped by the helicopter. Nor can it be said with certainty that the impact point 3 was actually caused by a dropped cement block in a container.

The only known image of the improvised sarin grenade from impact location 2 seems to show some deformation due to heat exposure. The image cannot confirm any mechanical damage due to the collision with the pavement plates on the ground. Apparently, no safety lever was found but the lack of the lever makes a “hollow concrete casing” inside a container superfluous.

## Two theories & withheld facts

### **HRW report:**

*Two theories have been presented to provide an alternative explanation to the allegation that a Syrian government warplane dropped a chemical bomb in Khan Sheikhoun: that an explosive bomb hit a chemical weapons production facility or depot in a warehouse; or that armed groups detonated a chemical weapon on the ground. Human Rights Watch has not found any evidence to support either theory.*

There are, in fact, more theories that HRW intentionally does not name. The fundamental problem of this HRW report is that here without knowledge and without knowing the circumstances, a purposeful pre-selection of statements was made, which were then enriched with false statements. This makes this report a dangerous propaganda piece whose intention is not to bring light into the darkness of this day.

Some missing statements<sup>54</sup>:

Ziad Bkour, one of those who hurried to the impact site in order to rescue the injured, spoke separately about that day:

*“On April 4, 2017, we heard explosion sounds, as usual, and we are used to hurrying to the targeted area immediately in order to rescue the injured. On that day, in the very early morning at about 6:20 am, after the dawn prayer, I got out of my house and then I heard the sound of an aircraft. As usual, I took precautions. After that, the aircraft carried out the strike. I opened observatory grip (Hoky Talky - Radio communications), and one of them immediately alerted me that it was poisonous gas attack. I got prepared. I put on the medical mask, then I went to the targeted site. I transferred four men with my car to the medical center where I saw children with symptoms of foam coming out of the mouth, runny eyes, nerve shivers. I myself saw many people die.”*

Ziad Bkour heard the explosions first. He witnessed the airstrikes prior to the gas warning and rescue efforts.

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<sup>54</sup> [https://www.stj-sy.com/uploads/pdf\\_files/A%20Special%20Report%20on%20the%20Chemical%20Attack%20in%20Khan%20Sheikhoun%20-%20%20ldlib.pdf](https://www.stj-sy.com/uploads/pdf_files/A%20Special%20Report%20on%20the%20Chemical%20Attack%20in%20Khan%20Sheikhoun%20-%20%20ldlib.pdf)

Osama Mostafa al-Khalid, 33, a chemistry teacher, lost his brother and his brother's family in the attack. He told the research team<sup>12</sup> about what he witnessed during the rescue operations:

*"While we were sleeping at about 6:40am, we heard an explosion. Soon I got up and went to the top of my house to see where the explosion was, as it was not in my neighborhood. I was shocked when I realized that the explosion is in my brother's neighborhood. Immediately I went there accompanied by my sister's husband. On the way, we saw dead animals as well as a man's body lying on the road. When we got there, we found the whole family lying on the ground in front of the house. My little niece was sitting still with her hands up and showed symptoms of her eyes bulging. She was not talking at all. Meanwhile, my sister's husband went to call for a car and I went to the bathroom and to bring a glass of water. After noticing the symptoms of shortness of breath and wheezing, I told my sister's husband that it was a chemical attack."*

Osama Mostafa al-Khalid obviously describes a scene of dead people and a shocked child was sitting next to them. It appears to be impossible that the family died due to a gas attack while the child survived. Pressure and dust can explain the shortness of breath but the chemistry teacher immediately suspected a chemical attack.

Dr. Hazim stated that his wife's aunt, identified as Yusra Ahmed al-Yousef, was also injured. After been questioned, al Yousef stated:

*"The attack occurred along the west part of our house, we immediately went out to see the site of the strike, but another strong strike with a very huge sound occurred. I saw a yellow-orange cloud. Immediately, my daughter, 13, fainted as she inhaled the gas and died on the spot. My daughter already had fever, when her uncle came to rescue her; he was also affected by the gas and died, as well."*

Yusra Ahmed al-Yousef went out of the house after the airstrike and observed a yellow-orange cloud. Since the video footage is known, there is no doubt that she refers to one of the three mushroom clouds. She survived while her daughter died on the spot. Probably the daughter didn't die because she inhaled the gas that the mother inevitably inhaled too.

Concerning the nature of gas used, Dr. Hazim added:

*"The next day, April 5, 2017, a committee, including me, from Khan Sheikhoun, with a committee from the province, went to the site where the rocket landed, samples for analysis were taken and sent to laboratories in Turkey. They informed us that it was Sarin gas, with cyanide and intensive chlorine. We still have parts of the samples and we are ready to receive any inquiry committee."*

Finally, the laboratories in Turkey obviously found a mixture of all kinds of toxic substances. It would be very unlikely that all these substances were deployed by one silent bomb. It seems also unlikely that a Syrian fighter jet dropped 5 bombs filled with black oily sarin. There is not a single known victim in the south of Khan Sheikhoun and somewhere near to that mushroom cloud an unexploded bomb is still missing.

The facts contradicting the HRW theory are:

- The crime scene was cleaned and manipulated before any evidence was secured.
- The remnants of the bomb apparently do not fit a suitable weapon to deliver sarin.
- Wrong wind direction to draw sarin vapor from the crater to the homes of the victims.
- wide dispersion of victims, concentrated near conventional bomb strikes
- impossible flyover narrative to cover all 4 craters during two passes from East to West
- manipulative handling of aural and visual evidence
- only one witness of the first "silent" bomb with an impossible shadow story
- reports of white smoke rising prior to conventional airstrike in either a secret or in a falsely attributed video
- constructed and deceptive motif for the Syrian Government
- false and unusable plot of aircraft movement despite radar surveillance
- Cui bono? The Syrian government could not have expected any benefit of such a use of highly toxic sarin while radical opposition forces had to expect all benefit from it.

## U.S. priority on Syria no longer focused on 'getting Assad out': Haley



FILE PHOTO: U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley speaks in Washington, U.S., March 27, 2017. REUTERS/Joshua Roberts

Meanwhile it is an old-known scam to pin the opposing party on suspicions of a first opinion or statement, to easily question the veracity of the statements in general.

Today the OPCW released its final report on Khan Sheikhoun without ever been there. I expect about 100 pages stating, “the weapon is sarin”. So, the murder weapon is clear. The motif? Again, all evidence will rely on the “enemy” of the accused party in a war. Probably, we will need to trust “Intelligence sources” that never reveal their sources or how they arrived at any conclusion. Once again, we are asked to pretend that there is no such thing like Intelligence services. And some moderate journalist will ask Assad: How the hell could a moderate rebel ever get to poison gas or even transport it? Do you miss some gallons? At this point it doesn’t matter what Assad will say. He will be always wrong or accusing someone without evidence. Now, he needs an own NGO.

Meanwhile, the Russian response to the accusation that the Syrian army is preparing the next use of poison gas can even explain the alleged preparations:<sup>55</sup>

Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova has called America’s bluff in naming two possible locations in northwest Idlib Governorate where a possible chemical weapons false flag attack could occur. She named Saraqib and Ariha as two probable locations where terrorists could stage a false flag attack. Idlib is one of the few places west of the Euphrates where terrorists still occupy and control a considerable amount of Syrian territory.

Zakharova stated,

” *Indeed, there is new intel. We believe that this staging, this provocation is being prepared.*

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<sup>55</sup> [https://astutenews.com/2017/06/30/zakharova-russia-aware-of-possible-locations-for-false-flag-attack/?utm\\_content=buffer0c5a5&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://astutenews.com/2017/06/30/zakharova-russia-aware-of-possible-locations-for-false-flag-attack/?utm_content=buffer0c5a5&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)