

Obama Lies: Syrian Rebels, al-Qaeda Do Have Chemical Weapons

by Edward Spannaus

Sept. 3—One of the big lies coming from the Obama Administration, is the claim that only the Syrian government has access to chemical weapons. For example, Michael McFaul, the U.S. Ambassador to Russia, wrote on his Facebook page Aug. 26, that “the Syrian regime has chemical weapons. The opposition does not.” Vice President Joseph Biden said on Aug. 27: “We know that the Syrian regime are the only ones who have the [chemical] weapons.” White House spokesman Jay Carney said it would be “fanciful” to think that anyone other than Assad’s forces was behind the chemical attack.

In fact, there are a number of instances in which the Syrian opposition and/or al-Qaeda forces in the region have been found with chemical weapons. And these reports come not just from the Syrian government, but also from the governments of Iraq and Turkey, both U.S. allies. Here are some of those incidents, reported just during the Spring of this year:

March 19: Syrian rebels reportedly used chemical weapons in the village of Khan al-Assal, near Aleppo. Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi said that this use of chemical weapons by the militants was the “first act” of the so-called opposition interim government. He also said that Turkey and Qatar bore “legal, moral, and political responsibility” for the deaths of 25 and injury of more than 80 others, when militants fired rockets containing “poisonous gases.”

The Russian Foreign Ministry said: “According to reports from Damascus, the use of chemical weapons was registered in the Aleppo province early in the morning of March 19,” killing 16 and injuring about 100 others.

March 20: The Assad government asked UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to form an international mission to investigate the use of chemical weapons by terrorists in Syria.

March 23: The London *Telegraph* re-

ported that a “trusted and hitherto reliable” senior Syrian Army source had given British Channel 4 reporter Alex Thompson all the circumstances of the al-Nusra’s group’s apparent firing of a chlorine-carrying rocket against a Syrian Army checkpoint near Khan al-Assal the week before.

April 27: Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi accused Turkey of allowing rebels to transport chemical weapons across its border into Syria.

May 6: A member of the UN Commission of Investigation on Syria, Swiss Judge Carla Del Ponte, charged that the Syrian rebels used the nerve agent sarin gas, adding that there was no evidence of the Syrian government using chemical weapons. “According to the testimonies we have gathered, the rebels have used chemical weapons, making use of sarin gas,” Del Ponte, former chief prosecutor for two UN international criminal tribunals, for the former Yugoslavia and for Rwanda, said in an interview with Swiss radio. “Our investigators have been in neighboring countries interviewing victims, doctors, and field hospitals and, according to their report of last week, which I have seen, there are strong, concrete suspicions, but not yet incontrovertible proof, of the use of sarin gas, from the way the victims were treated,” Del Ponte said in an interview with Swiss-Italian television. “This was used on the part of the opposition, the rebels,



Jean-Marc Ferr

UN Commissioner Carla Del Ponte at a press conference on Syria, Feb. 18, 2013.

not by the government authorities,” she said.

May 24: Farhan Haq, a spokesman for the UN Secretary General, announced that Russian journalists had presented evidence to the UN proving that chemical weapons were used by “armed terrorist groups” [i.e., the rebels] in the Khan al-Assal area last March, according to Anastasia Popova, correspondent of the Russian State Television and Broadcasting Company. The materials included videotapes taken from the site, and testimonies of eyewitnesses, doctors who treated the patients, and experts from Aleppo University.

May 29: Seven members of the Syrian al-Nusra group were detained in Turkey, after police found sarin gas, which was reportedly going to be used in a bomb attack, during a search of the their homes, according to Turkish media. A 2-kg cylinder with sarin gas had been found in the homes of the suspects detained in the southern provinces of Adana and Mersin.

The reports said that the al-Nusra members had been planning a bomb attack for May 30 in Adana. Along with the sarin gas, the police seized a number of handguns, grenades, bullets, and documents during their search. U.S.-trained, retired Lebanese Gen. Hisham Jaber said that this is “not the first time” that the deadly chemical weapons were found in the possession

of the insurgents. “When we are talking about two kilograms of sarin,” General Jaber stated, “we have to remember that one single gram can kill a person and 2 kg can contaminate and kill a lot of people if they are used in a closed area and against civilians or even the Army.”

June 2: The Syrian Army seized two cylinders of sarin during an operation in the city of Hama, according to Syrian and foreign media reports. The operation was carried out against a militant hideout.

June 2: Iraq’s Defense Ministry said that it had broken up a five-person al-Qaeda cell that was working to produce poison gas for attacks in Iraq and nearby countries, as well as in Europe and North America. The group had built two facilities in Baghdad to produce sarin and mustard gas, using instructions from another al-Qaeda group, government spokesman Mohammed al-Askari said, adding that the members of the cell had been prepared to launch attacks domestically, and also ran a network that smuggled the toxins to neighboring countries. The Iraqi operation was reportedly carried out in cooperation with an unnamed foreign intelligence service.

BBC quoted Askari as saying that remote-controlled toy planes were also seized at the workshops, which were to have been used to release the chemical agents over the target from a “safe” distance of 1.5 kilometers.

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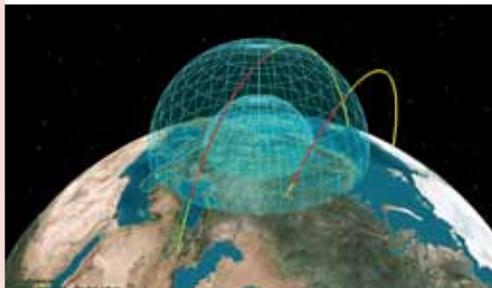
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