

Anti-Syrian Blame Game Escalates: Who is Behind Killings of Civilians?

By [Stephen Lendman](#)

Global Research, June 06, 2013

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
Theme: [Crimes against Humanity](#), [US NATO War Agenda](#)
In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

Since early 2011, ongoing blame game strategy holds Syria responsible for Western-enlisted death squad crimes.

In August 2011, the Human Rights Council (HRC) appointed a so-called Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria (COI). Paulo Pinheiro heads it.

His mandate is pro-Western propaganda. Credibility isn't his long suit. His reports bear testimony to his bias. He wrongfully blames Assad for insurgent crimes. He's done so throughout his tenure.

Washington calls the shots. Pinheiro and other COI members salute and obey. So do HRC officials. Truth is verboten. False reports up the stakes for full-blown US-led NATO intervention.

On June 4, 1,000 US marines arrived in Jordan. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel approved them along with deployment of F-16s, Patriot missiles and other weapons.

Operation Eager Lion 2013 is pretext. Eighteen countries will participate. Exercises begin later in June. They'll last two months. According to US Central Command spokesman Lt. Col. TG Taylor:

"In order to enhance the defensive posture and capacity of Jordan, some of these assets may remain beyond the exercise at the request of the government of Jordan."

Jordan needs no enhanced defensive posture. Deploying US troops and weapons near Syria's border is provocative. Perhaps COI timed its new report release with their arrival. More on that below.

Pinheiro admits anti-Assad forces commit violations and abuses. They pale, he says, compared to government wrongdoing. He lies saying so. He's paid to lie.

On June 4, COI issued its [latest report](#). It covers the period January 15 - May 15, 2013. Three others preceded it.

The [UN News Centre](#) headlined "Independent UN panel calls for diplomatic surge to end 'daily reality' of war crimes in Syria."

Syria was invaded. There's nothing civil about ongoing conflict. COI persists in

characterizing it that way. Doing so distorts reality on the ground. COI's report states:

"War crimes and crimes against humanity have become a daily reality in Syria where the harrowing accounts of victims have seared themselves on our conscience. Referral to justice remains paramount."

COI discussed "systematic imposition of sieges, the use of chemical agents and forcible displacement."

According to Pinheiro, "Syria is in free-fall. No one is winning and will not win the war. More weapons will only lead to more civilians dead and wounded."

He stops short of truth and full disclosure. It's not his mandate. Syria was invaded. It's victimized by Washington-initiated aggression. Obama bears full responsibility.

Pinheiro urges dialogue to end conflict. How can it when Obama prioritizes war? So far, proxy foot soldiers wage it.

Ending hostilities requires calling them off, halting all funding, arming, training and directing, as well as telling complicit allies to cease and desist all anti-Syrian activities.

Pinheiro's a willing co-conspirator. "We ask that States exert influence over the parties to the conflict to compel them to protect civilians," he urges.

Only one state matters. Washington calls the shots. What it says goes. As long as Obama prioritizes regime change, expect conflict to continue.

COI ignores the grim reality. It was formed to do so. It's a pro-Western tool. So-called findings were based on 430 interviews and "other collected evidence."

Who was interviewed wasn't explained. Clearly anti-Assad elements were featured at the expense of government loyalists. More on Pinheiro's report below.

On June 2, [Al Manar](#) reported a recent NATO study. Western organizations conducted it. The World Tribune said it shows Syrian forces winning decisively.

On June 4, Western media reported Syria in full control of Qusair. It's a strategic town bordering Lebanon. It's part of an insurgent supply route. According to General Yahya Suleiman:

"Whoever controls Qusair control the center of the country, and whoever controls the center of the country controls all of Syria."

Syrian state television said "Our heroic armed forces have returned security and stability to all of the town of Qusair."

NATO said 70% of Syrians support Assad. They do so for good reason. They're alarmed about Al Qaeda, Al Nusra, and other extremist elements waging war, committing atrocities and other crimes.

According to an unnamed Western source, "Assad is winning the war mostly because the people are cooperating with him against the rebels."

He omitted explaining why. They want no part of foreign invaders. They reject US-led belligerent intervention. They want Syrian sovereignty respected. They want no outside force deciding who'll rule their country. Above all, they want peace and stability restored.

According to COI, government forces and affiliated militia committed "murder, torture, rape, forcible displacement, enforced disappearances and other inhumane acts."

Pinheiro calls ongoing conflict part of Assad's systematic attack on civilians. He lied saying so. Assad's doing his job. He's battling foreign invaders. He's obligated to do so. Syrians express gratitude.

Pinheiro admits anti-government forces commit crimes of war and against humanity. According to COI's report:

"The violations and abuses committed by anti-Government armed groups did not, however, reach the intensity and scale of those committed by Government forces and affiliated militia."

At the same time it says:

"Anti-Government armed groups have committed war crimes, including murder, sentencing and execution without due process, torture, hostage-taking and pillage."

"They continue to endanger the civilian population by positioning military objectives in civilian areas." Government soldiers and noncombatant civilians were executed in cold blood "without due process."

Gruesome videos revealed brutal anti-Assad atrocities. Western media largely ignore them. Big Lies substitute. Syrian forces are blamed for insurgent crimes.

Pinheiro suggests Assad's forces target internally displaced Syrians. Chemical weapons have been used by both sides, he said. Assad bears most responsibility, he claims.

COI's report cites four attacks. They include March 19 on Khan Al-Asal, Aleppo, March 19 on Uteibah, Damascus, April 13 on Aleppo's Sheikh Maqsood's neighborhood, and April 29 on Saraqib, Idlib.

"There are reasonable grounds to believe that limited quantities of toxic chemicals were used" in these incidents, said COI.

Precise chemical agents used, their delivery systems or perpetrators aren't clear, it said. Other incidents remain under investigation.

No evidence whatever links Syrian forces to toxic chemical attacks. Plenty shows insurgents used them. In late May, Turkish forces arrested 12 suspected Al Nusra fighters.

They were seized in southern Turkey. They were caught red-handed with a two gm cylinder of sarin nerve gas.

Initial Turkish media reports said four and a half pounds of sarin were seized. US media

scoundrels said nothing. They largely support aggressive war on Syria.

Along with sarin, Turkish police found handguns, grenades, bullets and various documents. A planned Al-Nusra bomb attack in Adana was foiled. Many Alawites live there. They're Assad loyalists.

On May 5, COI said testimonial evidence indicates "rebel forces" used sarin. A day later, it suggested "no conclusive findings."

Other reports confirmed anti-Assad elements using chemical weapons. Syrian forces confiscated two cylinders of sarin used by insurgents in Hama.

It bears repeating. No evidence whatever shows Syria's military or other pro-government elements used sarin or other toxic agents.

False reports claim otherwise. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius accused Assad of using them. He did so based on alleged tests France conducted. Results were sent to the UN, he said.

On June 5, the [Syrian Arab News Agency](#) (SANA) headlined "Syria: UNHCR Committee Insists on Exaggeration, Ignores Crucial Events," saying:

Syria's permanent HCR representative Fayssal al-Hamwi addressed the body. He accused it of premeditated exaggerations. It paid little attention to vital information too important to ignore.

"In spite of our warnings against using sectarian expressions," he said, "basically rejected by the Syrian society, the committee used such terms and ignored in its conclusions and recommendations the causes of deteriorating the social and economic situation, including the unjust unilateral sanctions imposed by some Arab and western countries on the Syrian people."

Russia's permanent Geneva-based UN representative Alexei Borodavkin said COI's report stopped short of "honest positions."

It downplayed or ignored insurgent "terrorist acts." It omitted explaining the harmful effects of unilateral economic sanctions. It's "politically biased."

False anti-Assad accusations persist. Repeatedly he's been accused of foreign death squad atrocities. Eye witnesses point fingers the right way. Western media ignore them.

Recent White House and State Department comments suggest Obama appears heading for full-scale intervention.

With marines, other US forces and heavy weapons on Syria's border, anything may happen any time. If Libya 2.0 is launched, expect Israel to be involved. Israeli air attacks may initiate it.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book is titled "Banker Occupation: Waging Financial War on Humanity."

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

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network.

It airs Fridays at 10AM US Central time and Saturdays and Sundays at noon. All programs are archived for easy listening.

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

<http://www.dailycensored.com/anti-syrian-blame-game-escalates/>

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [Stephen Lendman](#), Global Research, 2013

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Stephen Lendman](#)

About the author:

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

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

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca