

# Media Blackout over Syria

By [Brad Hoff](#)

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## Media Blackout of New Syria Revelations

On April 6, The London Review of Books published in its online journal Seymour Hersh's ["The Red Line and the Rat Line."](#) Hersh continues to expose details surrounding the staged August 21 chemical attack incident in Syria, which apparently pretty much everyone in Washington's intelligence bureaucracy suspected was carried out by the rebels as soon as it happened.

Seymour Hersh is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist whose 40+ years career includes the exposing of the [My Lai Massacre](#) and its cover-up, as well as the [Abu Ghraib prison scandal](#). His December 19 report, ["Whose Sarin?"](#) -was his first report to expose the Syria chemical attack hoax based on close contact with US Intelligence officials. While "Whose Sarin" was originally prepared for the Washington Post, the [newspaper rejected it](#) and a media blackout followed in American press. Currently, Hersh's newest investigative findings are going unacknowledged in mainstream US media.

[Hersh's report](#) confirms the following:

- Obama's push for attack on Syria was halted last minute when evidence that the Syrian government had nothing to do with the August 21 chemical attack became too overwhelming
- It had been well known to US government officials throughout the summer of 2013 that Turkish PM Erdogan was supporting al-Nusra Front in attempts to manufacture Sarin
- US military knew of Turkish and Saudi program for bulk Sarin production inside Syria from the spring of 2013
- UN inspectors knew the rebels were using chemical weapons on the battlefield since the spring of 2013
- As a result of the staged chemical incident, the White House ordered readiness for a "monster strike" on Syria, which included "two B-22 air wings and two thousand pound bombs" -and a target list which included military and civilian infrastructure targets (note: most of these are in densely populated civilian areas)
- Full military strike was set for September 2
- UK defense officials relayed to their American counterparts in the lead up to planned attack: "We're being set up here."
- CIA, MI6, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey set up a "rat line" back in 2012 to run Libyan weapons into Syria via Turkey, including MANPADS; the Benghazi consulate was headquarters for the operation
- Obama OK'ed Turkish-Iranian gold export scam (that went from March 2012 to July 2013) which erupted in a Turkish scandal that nearly brought down the

Erdogan government

- US Intelligence community had immediate doubts about Syrian regime responsibility for Aug. 21 attack, yet “reluctant to contradict the president”
- US government will not expose continued Turkey support of terrorism simply because “they’re a NATO ally”

In addition, last Thursday freelance Middle East journalist Sara Elizabeth Williams broke the story of a CIA/US Military run training camp for Syrian rebels in the Jordanian desert. VICE UK ran her story, [“I Learned to Fight Like an American at the FSA Training Camp in Jordan,”](#) yet it too failed to make it across the Atlantic into American reporting. International Syria experts thought her story hugely significant, but it got little attention. Top Syria expert in the US, Joshua Landis, announced on his Twitter account Thursday: “Sara Williams gets the scoop on the top secret FSA Training Camp in Jordan.” This courageous young freelancer revealed, with [photos](#), the ins and outs of this secretive facility -yet the mainstream carefully shielded Americans from knowledge of the explosive report.

In email conversation with her this weekend, Williams told me: “The access was tough to get, but I think it was worth the effort: to my mind, it’s important that people know what their government is doing in their name, with their tax dollars.”

According to her [investigative report](#):

- Confirmed: “US-run training camp” for Syrian rebels in Northern Jordan
- Rebel recruits go “off the grid” while in secretive training camp
- Rebel fighter: “The Americans who taught us wore military uniforms I did not recognize. We called them by their first names and they spoke English to us.”
- Camp awash with “American food and American dollars”: recruits eat Kentucky Fried Chicken and live in temporary “pre-fabricated housing” units
- Recruits sent through intense 40 day program, which includes exercise, training in anti-tank missiles, and boot camp style atmosphere with orders given by US military instructors
- Upon graduation, US trained insurgents slip back across Syria’s southern border
- Experts say there are more camps like this one
- American trained rebel insurgent says: “America is benefiting from the destruction and the killing in order to weaken both sides.”

*Brad Hoff served as a Marine from 2000-2004 at Headquarters Battalion, Quantico. After military service he lived, studied, and traveled throughout Syria off and on from 2004-2010. He currently teaches in Texas.*

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