

Phony Claims About Syria Retaining Chemical Weapons

By <u>Stephen Lendman</u> Global Research, July 24, 2015 Region: <u>Middle East & North Africa</u>, <u>USA</u> Theme: <u>Intelligence</u>, <u>Militarization and</u> <u>WMD</u>

Since Obama began waging proxy war on Syria in March 2011, numerous false charges about Assad using chemical weapons followed – discredited by verifiable facts on the ground.

Clear evidence of imported takfiri terrorists using banned toxic agents was systematically covered up – even after Saudi Arabia was caught red-handed supplying sarin gas and other chemical toxins to anti-Assad elements.

Barrels containing banned chemicals were found marked "Made in KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia)." Protective masks were found. So were drugs used when inhaling chemicals.

On June 17, 2015, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) headlined "Disposal of effluents from neutralised Syrian chemical weapons completed," saying:

OPCW "welcomes the completion of disposal of effluents resulting from neutralisation operations aboard the US vessel Cape Ray."

"These operations governed the destruction at sea of almost 600 metric tonnes of sulphur mustard and methylphosphonyl difluoride (DF) from Syria's chemical weapons programme. DF is a key precursor chemical for manufacturing nerve agent."

On 12 June 2015, a OPCW team verified the disposal of approximately 335.5 metric tonnes of sulphur mustard effluents at the German Government facility, Gesellschaft zur Entsorgung von Chemischen Kampfstoffen und Rüstungsaltlasten MBH (GEKA MBH). This was a significant in-kind contribution by the Federal Republic of Germany.

"On 11 June 2015, Ekokem Riihimäki Waste Disposal Facility in Finland announced the disposal of 5,463 metric tonnes of DF effluents received from the Cape Ray."

"This process was part of a commercial contract, which included destruction of other chemicals from Syria's chemical weapons programme. An OPCW inspection team will shortly deploy to Finland to verify completion of this process."

OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu called the above efforts

"yet another milestone on the path to eliminating chemical weapons stocks from Syria – one that was achieved in a safe and efficient way, thanks to the valuable support provided by the German Government and Finnish industry."

"Of the 1,328 metric tonnes of chemical weapon agent declared by the Syrian Arab Republic, only 16 metric tonnes of hydrogen fluoride remain to be destroyed at the facility of Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C. at Port Arthur in Texas in the United States. The destruction of the 12 former chemical weapons facilities is also underway."

A feature Friday <u>Wall Street Journal</u> article headlined "Mission to Purge Syria of Chemical Weapons Comes Up Short."

The dubious source: US intelligence agencies complicit with the administration, State Department, other Washington agencies, Congress and go-along media scoundrels in vilifying Bashar al-Assad irresponsibly – spreading Big Lies about his activities, ignoring his responsible campaign to rid Syria of imported Islamic State and other terrorist groups operating as US proxies to oust him and his government, replacing it with a pro-Western puppet regime.

The Wall Street Journal outrageously called Assad's full cooperation with OPCW inspectors "a ruse part of a chain of misrepresentations by President Bashar al-Assad's regime to hide the extent of its chemical-weapons work."

"...US intelligence agencies have concluded that the regime didn't give up all of the chemical weapons it was supposed to."

Despite evidence otherwise, they claimed Assad "controlled where inspectors went, what they saw and, in turn, what they accomplished...according to the inspectors and officials."

The above OPCW comments contradict these assertions. The only restrictions involved securing the safety of inspectors operating in a war zone. Their statements say nothing about restricted or impeded activities in any way. They suggest precisely the opposite – Assad's full cooperation.

The Journal repeated the exposed Big Lie about Syria using sarin gas in Ghouta "kill(ing) some 1,400 people." A British report suggested one-fourth this number.

Former UK ambassador to Uzbekistan, Craig John Murray, called John Kerry's accusations about the Ghouta incident "sheer lies." Independent evidence confirmed it.

The Journal cited US intelligence claiming (with no verifiable evidence) Assad "hid caches of even deadlier nerve agents, and that he may be prepared to use them if government strongholds are threatened by Islamist fighters."

US intelligence claims it "tracked the regime's increasing use of chlorine-filled bombs" earlier this year – despite no evidence proving it. Takfiri terrorists are known to have access to chlorine gas. They've shown willingness to use it. Incidents are wrongfully blamed on Assad.

The new US intelligence report is the latest propaganda effort to vilify Assad – perhaps prelude to greater efforts to oust him.

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