

Trump's Punitive Air Strikes against Syria. No Evidence that Assad was Behind the Alleged Chemical Weapons Attack

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Global Research, April 14, 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)
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On Friday night ET, in the early hours of the morning in Damascus, the US, UK and France launched airstrikes allegedly (yet to be verified) against three military targets, according to Trump's TV address.

The attacks were intended to "punish Bashar Al Assad" for an alleged chemical weapons attack in Douma. "Assad is killing his own people" with chemical weapons. The strikes were scheduled to coincide with the arrival of the OPCW investigation team, which was scheduled to start its investigation into the alleged CW attack on April 14th. Will that investigation be allowed to proceed? According to Tony Cartalucci, there is Zero Evidence:

To date, all supposed evidence comes from Western-funded militants and their auxiliaries including the US-European government-funded front, the so-called "Syria Civil Defense," better known as the "White Helmets." Unverified photographs and video of apparent victims have been the sole sources cited by the US.

It was a political lie from the start and then it became a media lie, which was used as an instrument of war propaganda.

The war criminals in high office blame the victims. Trump accuses Assad: "Persistent violations of international law", by whom? What is the legality of Trump's punitive bombing campaign?

Britain and France joined the United States in the strikes in a coordinated operation that was intended to show Western resolve in the face of what the leaders of the three nations called persistent violations of international law. Mr. Trump characterized it as the beginning of a sustained effort to force Mr. Assad to stop using banned weapons, but only ordered a limited one-night operation that hit three targets.

"These are not the actions of a man," Mr. Trump said of last weekend's attack in a televised address from the White House Diplomatic Room. "They are crimes of a monster instead." (Guardian, May 13, 2018)

It is worth noting that there were divisions within Trump's war cabinet. According to an earlier statement, Defense Secretary Mattis was hesitant regarding the conduct of the air

strikes.

Earlier on Friday, President Trump had intimated that “a final decision on possible military strikes against Syria ... could happen “very soon or not so soon at all” following warnings by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis that “such an attack carried the risk of spinning out of control, suggesting caution ahead of a decision on how to respond to a [chemical weapons] attack against civilians last weekend [in Douma].”

Killing the Truth

Hours before the decision to strike Syria, there were hesitations. Acknowledged by the war cabinet, there was no firm evidence that the Syrian government was behind the chemical attack. The OPCW team arrived on the 13th to undertake this investigation. It was slated to start its work on the 14th. The air strikes have been instrumental in totally disrupting the conduct of the OPCW investigation.

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Trump To Discuss Syria Retaliation With Allies As Mattis Warns Of Risks Of Strike

The National Security Council discussed options with the president for responding to the attack, but the administration was still syncing up with allies Thursday evening.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told lawmakers he believes a chemical weapons attack occurred in Syria last weekend, but the Trump administration was still assessing conclusive evidence and deciding how to respond, including, whether to attack Syria with U.S. military strikes, as of Thursday.

The world has been on high-alert for a punitive U.S. missile strike on Syria, and Trump **said** in a tweet on Wednesday that Russia should “get ready,” missiles “will be coming.” The president appeared to soften that threat on Thursday morning, when he said in a new tweet that an attack “**could be very soon or not so soon at all,**” and “**we’ll see what happens.**”

Mattis told the House Armed Services Committee on Thursday that the administration had practical concerns about collateral damage and getting entangled in a larger conflict. But he

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