

SYRIA REGIME CHANGE: United Nations Duplicity, Kofi Annan and Diplomats Wives.

By [Felicity Arbuthnot](#)

Global Research, April 26, 2012

26 April 2012

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [SYRIA](#)

"Their wives run round like banshees
Their children sing the blues
They've got expensive doctors
To cure their hearts of stone ..."
(Maya Angelou, 1928 -)

If destabilization, duplicity, insurgency and mass murder could surprise yet again, with blame of the victim adding to the "shock and awe", after Libya, Syria would certainly be a case in point.

America's decades long plan (i, ii) for another puppet government and quasi client state status for the country is well underway. Any observer of the shenanigans within the US Embassy in Damascus would be forgiven for mistaking it for a covert operations centre rather than a seat of diplomacy.(iii) Michel Chossudovsky gives graphic life to Ambassador Ford's - surely coincidentally - eminently pertinent and relevant qualifications.(iv)

Of course no plan for a country's ruination is complete without the help of the UN. Think Libya and Resolution 1973, the green light for a "humanitarian" blitzkrieg, regime change, razed towns, murder from air and ground on an industrial scale, including that of most of the country's leading family, with small grand children and the butchering of Colonel Quaddafi, the country's sovereign leader, his body still unaccounted for.

Lynch-law ruled, under UN mandate.

Who then, better to be appointed "Peace Envoy" to Libya than Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General (1997-2006) who silently acquiesced to the average deaths of 6,000 children a month in Iraq from "embargo-related causes", throughout the hundred and nineteen months of his tenure, bowing to the US-UK driven UN embargo

Inevitably, for his silence, the man who one diplomat described to this publication, as: "like Pontious Pilate, he washes his hands", was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in 2001, jointly with the UN, for amongst other delusional rubbish, his: "emphasizing its obligations as with regard to human rights."

Presumably this "emphasis" also applied to his deafening muteness as America and Britain, illegally, bombed Iraq for his entire tenure, often daily, routinely re-destroying vital infrastructure and erasing lives in uncounted numbers.

The UN's Baghdad cabal, with its fine restaurant and barbecue parties, ensconced at the Canal Hotel, at Iraq's expense, were in a perfect position to visit these sites, record and account. They never bothered.

That was yesterday. Apart from Annan, the UN has another weapon for Syria: UN diplomat's wives.

The wives of the German and British Ambassadors to the UN, Frau Huberta Voss-Wittig and Lady Sheila Lyall Grant, have released a video appeal and an online petition to President Assad's wife, Syria's First Lady, Asma al Assad. A performance of skin crawling, patronizing, head patting, treacled trash, which reflects nothing but the UN's duplicity and its representatives privileged, reality- removed lives in its ivory tower.(v)

The "initiative", the pampered pair stress, is entirely independent, theirs alone, and nothing to do with their husbands.

Of course, ladies.

Frau Voss-Wittig's involvement, it might be surmised, lies in: "The German 'no' to the US about Iraq", in 2002.(vi) "Historically this was the deepest ever division between the White House and any post-cold-war German Chancellor."

Additionally, in August 2002, Germany and France agreed the "Declaration of Schwerin", named after the German town where their representatives had a working dinner, resolving that they: "had to oppose the war ... and that they had to do it in public and as forcefully as possible." An overt collision course with the US and UK.

Only when Angela Merkel took office were links tentatively repaired formally, but "shock-waves" remained. Two wives have clearly taken delivery of bricks and tools and set about erecting bridges, never mind demolishing those of others.

Sheila Lyall Grant is the wife of Sir Mark Lyall Grant, former political Director General of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, a post with wide responsibilities including for Iraq, 2007-2009 and also line manager of post-invasion UK Ambassadors to Iraq.

He was senior policy adviser to the Foreign Secretary on various strategic Foreign Office priorities regarding Iraq, in which capacity he attended major European, G8, UN, OSCE and NATO meetings.

Sir Mark clearly went through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's rigorous and scrupulous selection process as to suitability for key posts:

"I was not an Arabist. I haven't been posted in the Middle East", he told the Chilcot Inquiry on Iraq (20th January 2010.)

However: "It naturally fell to the Foreign Office to look at where Britain's long-term strategic interests were in Iraq and in the wider region ..."

The Iraq priority for Sir Mark had been: "a strong economy."

Whilst: "Abundance of human rights and better social conditions, better social delivery to the people (were) highly desirable, I don't say it is absolutely essential in the near future", he told the Inquiry. (Emphasis mine.) "Let them rot", comes to mind.

Given that Nuri al Maliki's Iraq is now firmly allied with Iran, and a disaster on every level,

with economy, health, malnutrition and social conditions worse than the embargo years, it might be thought that the Foreign Office and Sir Mark would think twice before stepping aside, as his “independent” wife became another regional unguided missile.

The wives petition, which is pretty much the same as their toe curling video reads, in part:

Dear Asma, Some women care for style and some women care for their people. Some women struggle for their image and some women struggle for their survival. Some women have forgotten what they preached about peace and some women can only pray for their dead. Hundreds of Syrian children have already been killed or injured. One day, our children will ask us what we have done to stop this bloodshed. What will your answer be, Asma? That you, Asma had no choice? Every single child had a name and a family. Their lives will never be the same again. Asma, when you kiss your own children goodnight, another mother will find the place next to her empty. These children could all be your children. They are your children. Stand up for peace, Asma. Speak out now. Stop being a bystander. No one cares about your image. We care about your action. Right now.” Lady Lyall Grant, has been a diplomat since 1980. Her most recent post was Head of VIP Visits at the Protocol Directorate in the heart of government, Whitehall. Clearly her induction course in protocol did not include instructions on how to address the wife of a Head of State. Incidentally, Sir Mark apparently cares as little about the UN as he did Iraq. Asked at the Inquiry about the current role of UN in Iraq, he replied that they were no longer there, after the bombing of their building in, he hesitated, then: “ 2005, was it?”

The bombing of the Canal Hotel, which killed seventeen, including the Head of Mission, Sergio de Mello, and injured scores, was on 19th August 2003.

Corrected by the Chairman, Sir Mark responded: “2003, was it? I apologise”, apparently as sanguine about his colleagues being blown to bits as in assessing that basic provisions to sustain Iraqi lives were not “absolutely essential.”

Now, for Syria, in a crisis so clearly manipulated from without, as Kofi Annan ratchets up the number of “UN Observers” from ten to three hundred – surely as Iraq, many will be meddlers, spies and worse, Sheila Lyall Grant writes: “One day, our children will ask us what we have done to stop this bloodshed.” Every child: “had a family and a name.”

The child victims of Afghanistan, decimated by the invasion also had names – but the Taliban was blamed. As did their small counterparts in Iraq since that illegal takeover, the 4,5 million orphans, 600.000 of whom live on the streets, are still somehow the fault of Saddam Hussein – and their traumatized little global siblings in Libya are still somehow the fault of Colonel Quaddafi, who brought the country the best welfare and highest living standard in Africa.

Perhaps the diplomatic duo have not noticed that Syria, generous host country to two million Iraqis, fleeing their “liberation” now have their own nationals fleeing in fear, over the border to Jordan, Syrians now joining the near similar number of Iraqis there, now refugees themselves. Iraqis in Syrian have no where to run.

The ladies have seemingly also missed the media coverage of senior, experienced Al Jazeera journalists, who have walked away from their livelihood in protest and disgust at the media distortion and manipulation of Syria’s plight, the portrayal, of course, that it all blame lies with President al Assad.

Further, “Peace Envoy” Kofi Annan has already let slip that both he and the “truce monitors”: “should help pave the way for much needed political process”, presumably he means with those insurgents with foreign passports. Read: “Regime change.”

And no planned destruction, overthrow and general catastrophe would be complete without hidden weaponry and hardware with which the leader “oppresses his own people.” Syria, say – as ever – unnamed “activists” is hiding tanks and weapons in government compounds.

The media faithfully repeats the mantra. None seem to have mentioned that one of the “Peace Envoy’s” stipulations, to which Bashir al Assad agreed, was to take tanks and weapons off the streets. Where rebel violence is such that government troops are not forced to respond, they have been withdrawn – back to government compounds. Mr Annan, seemingly has not thought to point this out.

China’s Ambassador, Li Baodong seems to be watching more closely than most. He expressed the hope that: “the Supervision Mission will fully respect Syria’s sovereignty and dignity, act in strict accordance with the authorization of the Security Council, adhere to the principles of neutrality and impartiality ...”(vi.) Quite.

If Lady Lyall Grant cares about children, which could equally be “her” children, she should ponder on, and tell her humanity-deficient husband of just one, which represents the trauma of every child, in every street, in every country targeted by an unholy Western alliance – and the UN.

It is an Iraqi boy of about five, in an orphanage, asleep. He has drawn a huge picture, depicting his mother, on the floor, her arms outstretched. He is curled up on it. Every night he goes to sleep the same way, on the floor, between her arms.

Well past time for the powerful to grow the hell up. Those children could be your children,

i. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=29234>

ii. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=29126>

iii. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=29596>

iv. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=26873>

v .

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2012/04/18/asma-assad-must-help-end-syrian-bloodshed-un-wives-release-youtube-petition-_n_1433624.html

vi .

<http://www.europeaninstitute.org/February---March-2010/dieter-dettkes-germany-says-no-to-the-iraq-war-and-the-future-of-german-foreign-and-security-policy.html>

vi. <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=30499>

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

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Felicity Arbuthnot](#)

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