

Russian Forces Have, most likely, Supported the Syrian Regime Forces in Khan Sheikhoun Chemical Attack

“We were Gasping for Air”

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



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I. Introduction

The OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which was established by the Human Rights Council, have declared the Syrian regime responsible for using chemical weapons, and breaching the three relevant Security Council Resolution in multiple reports. Nonetheless, no serious deterring actions have been taken to ensure that the Syrian regime won't use chemical weapons again. In this context, an attack such as Khan Sheikhoun attack was to be excepted from the Syrian regime. However, the attack was supported this time by Russian forces. After the Syrian regime, the Security Council and the Former American President Barack Obama administration, with his famous "red line" remark that wasn't followed by any steps, are responsible for the chemical attack.

According to 25 reports published by SNHR on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, the Syrian regime used chemical weapons as follows:

- 1- Before Security Council Resolution 2118, which was adopted on September 27, 2013: 33 attacks
- 2- Since Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on September 27, 2013: 169 attacks
- 3- After Security Council Resolution 2209, which was adopted on March 6, 2015: 100 attacks
- 4- After the United Nations established its mechanism and Security Council Resolution 2235, which was adopted on August 7, 2015: 44 attacks.



We noted in detail the story of chemical weapons in Syria and its relation to the Security Council's Resolution and the Joint Investigative Mechanism in a [past report](#) that we released on 20 of last February.

SNHR team noticed that most of the Syrian regime's chemical attacks were carried out using a gas that evidently was chlorine. These attacks were carried out through helicopters that dropped chlorine-loaded barrel bombs, while, on other occasions, grounded shells and hand grenades loaded with poison gases were used.

We recorded two attacks after the Two Ghoutas Attack, August 21, 2013, in which the Syrian regime seemingly used a different gas instead of chlorine, which we believe was a nerve agent:

- 1- Eastern Hama suburbs attack on December 12, 2016
- 2- Khan Sheikhoun attack on April 4, 2017

In total, these attacks resulted in the killing of no less than 1420 individuals, as follows:

- 1356 civilians, including 186 children and 244 women (adult female)
- 57 armed opposition fighters
- 7 captives from Syrian regime forces who were being kept at an opposition prison.

Additionally, 6634 individuals at least were injured.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:

“Even after al Shayrat Airbase was bombed by the current American administration, the Syrian regime used chemical weapons again in al Qaboun neighborhood in Damascus the capital merely a few hours after the strike. We learned, by experience, that the Syrian regime will test its afforded limits, and will use chemical weapons again as soon as the international community stopped deterring them.”

It has become clear to us, through investigating the Syrian regime's chemical attacks, that these attacks were in the service of making progress on the ground in order to take over areas that were targeted, as we pointed out in a past report, where we recorded no less than eight attacks using chemical attacks between mid-November 2016 and 31 December 2016 by Syrian regime forces during their battle to take over Eastern Aleppo's neighborhoods. The same scenario came to be in southern suburbs of Idlib and northern suburbs of Hama in the period of time leading to Khan Sheikhoun attack – between March 25, 2017 and April 4, 2017.



II. Khan Sheikhoun Chemical Attack

Located 70 kilometers from Idlib city, Khan Sheikhoun city follows administratively Ma'aret al Nu'man area in the southern suburbs of Idlib. Armed opposition factions took control of the city in May 2014, and it is currently under the joint control of armed opposition factions and Fateh al Sham Front (formerly al Nusra). It is populated by more than 85,000 people including IDPs from Hama suburbs.

In late-February 2017, the Syrian-Russian alliance forces launched a military campaign in the northern suburbs of Hama and the southern suburbs of Idlib in retaliation of armed opposition factions' advancement in these areas. We recorded, through [daily news](#), bombardment operations by fixed-wing warplanes on tens of areas including civilian, residential areas, in addition to the artillery shelling by the artillery stationing in the Alawite-majority Ma'an city, which is located in north of Hama city, that targeted Khan Sheikhoun city in particular in order to pave the way to raid and take over the city. We believe that Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack was carried out in this context: to terrorize the residents and drive them to flee. Therefore, it was as a weapon of war.

Initially, the Syrian regime denied carrying out any military strikes on the city using chemical weapons, while the Russian Ministry of Defense stated that the Syrian air arsenal targeted a warehouse for manufacturing landmines which contains poison substances, where the warehouse, according to the Russian ministry of defense, was affiliated to Fateh al Sham Front (formerly al Nusra), and that the bombardment occurred at 11:30 AM, so clearly the allies' accounts are contradicted.

Summary

Based on the evidences at hand, this report will shed light on three stages of attack:

First: The chemical attack by Syrian regime Su-22 fixed-wing warplanes that bombed al Shamali neighborhood in Khan Sheikhoun city on Tuesday morning, April 4, 2017, killing 91 civilians who suffocated to death, including 32 children and 23 women (adult female). Additionally, no less than 520 others were injured.

Second: bombing the roads leading to Khan Sheikhoun to hinder the aiding efforts:

We recorded a number of airstrikes that shortly followed the chemical attack, where several roads leading to Khan Sheikhoun city were targeted, which heavily impeded the aiding efforts and the transportation of critical cases to medical hospitals and centers on the Turkish borders.

Third: warplanes, which we believe were Russian, trying to kill off the people who were injured in the chemical attack



We recorded a number of strikes by fixed-wing warplanes, which, we believe, were most likely Russian, following the Syrian regime warplanes' chemical bombardment, that targeted a medical center, a base for the Syrian Civil Defense, and two centers that were fully occupied at the time of the bombardment on account of the number of injured who were rushed there in the wake of the chemical attack for treatment. This doesn't only show that Russian forces were aware of the Syrian regime's chemical attacks, but also that they were shamefully involved.

Methodology

We relied mainly, in this report, on interviews with survivors who were injured in the chemical attack, doctors who treated them, paramedics, eyewitnesses, and Civil Defense members. Also, accounts by observers who work on pinpointing warplanes radar signals and tracking the communication between the pilot and the airbase from which the warplanes took off were included in the report. These observatories try to announce the news of warplanes taking off from military airbases and track their movements to notify the residents living in armed opposition-held areas, in order to impart to them the urgency to hide in the shelters, in the areas that will potentially be targeted.

This report includes 12 accounts. We have explained the purpose of these interviews for the eyewitnesses who gave us their permission to use the information they provided in this report, without offering or presenting any incentives. Furthermore, SNHR tried to spare them the agony of remembering the violations, and guarantees were given to conceal the identity of any eyewitnesses who preferred to use an alias. This report doesn't cover the social, economic, and psychological ramifications. Present circumstances prevented us from taking and testing blood or soil samples. The eyewitnesses' account consisted with the analyze of pictures and videos, which helped us reach a high degree of credibility.

SNHR analyzed the pictures and videos that were published online, or those we received from local activists via e-mail and Skype, or on social media. Some of the videos posted by activists shortly after the attack show injured suffering from suffocation and heavy breathing symptoms, in addition to muscular disease, foaming, and severe constriction of the pupils. Other pictures showed the nozzle of the missile after it hit the ground, an external shell, and the cover of its loading slot.



Details

Around 06:49, fixed-wing Su-22 Syrian regime forces warplanes fire four missiles, where one of the missiles was loaded with a poison gas which was evidently a nerve agent. The missile fell in al Shamali neighborhood in Khan Sheikhoun city on the main road in front of the siloses and less than 100 meters in front of Khan Sheikhoun Automatic Bakery, while the three other missiles fell in different locations in the vicinity of the neighborhood.

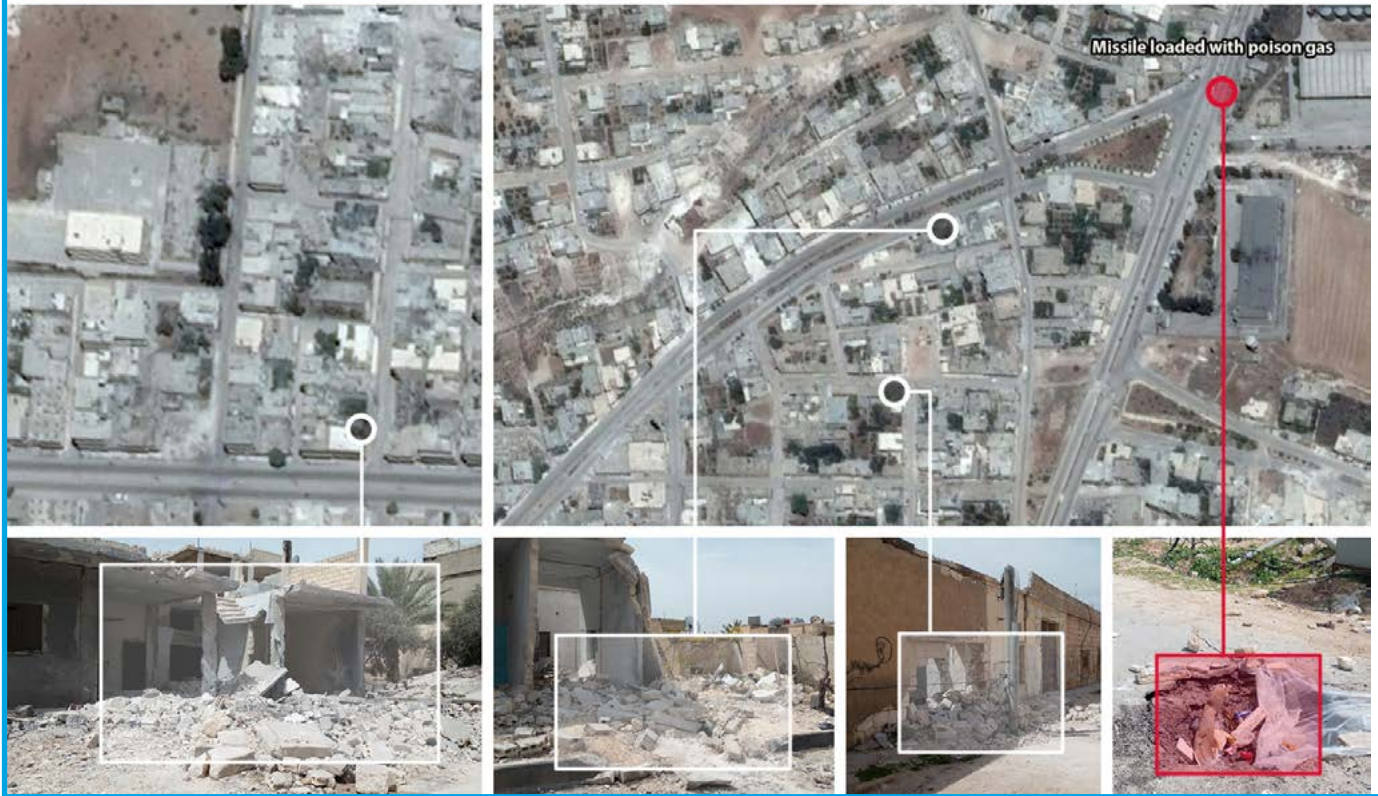
A map showing the points of impact for the four missiles that targeted Khan Sheikhoun city, April 4, 2017



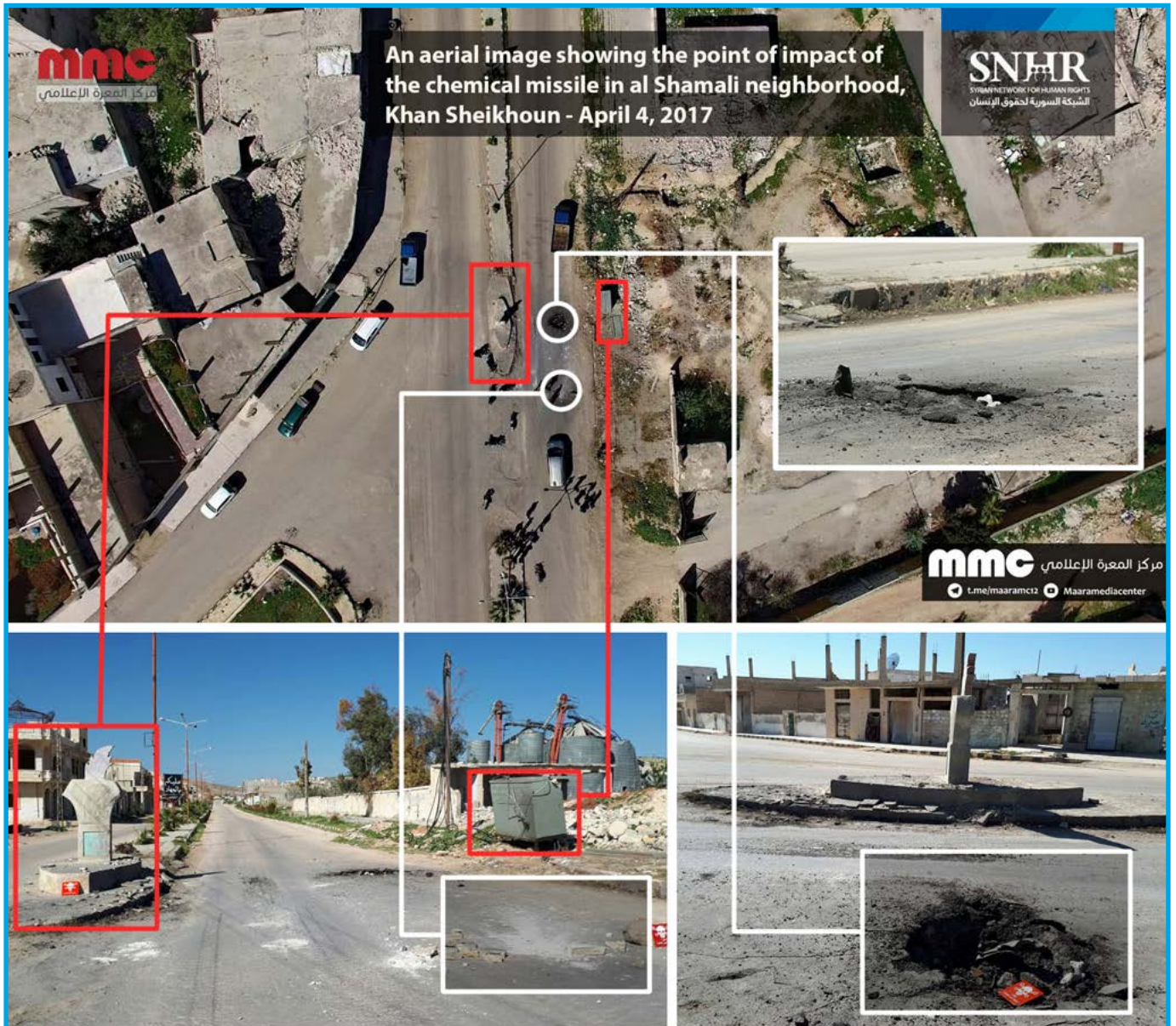
A map showing the points of impact for the four missiles, and the destruction in Khan Sheikhoun city, April 4, 2017

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An aerial image showing the point of impact of the chemical missile in al Shamali neighborhood, Khan Sheikhoun, April 4, 2017



Most of the [injured](#) inhaled [the gas](#) as they were asleep at home. Also, [tens of paramedics](#) and [Civil Defense members](#) were affected by the gas as they were transporting the injured to [the medical centers](#). The injured exhibited symptoms such as [suffocation](#), [heavy breathing](#), muscle spasms, [pupils constricting](#), in addition to some injured who were [foaming](#). This was supported by the pictures that we received from activists and paramedics.





One of the injured in Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack with white foam coming out of his mouth



Injured people being aided by pouring water over their bodies after they were exposed in Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack



Mahmoud al Hasna, who works at one of the armed opposition's observatories, told us that he observed on the morning of April 4, 2017 two Su-22 warplanes being prepped in al Shayrat Military Airbase in Homs suburbs. One of the two warplanes had the symbol "Quds-1" written over it, while the other reads "Quds-6". After they took off, the Quds-1 warplane entered Khan Sheikhoun city from the west side of Hama suburbs:

"The warplanes were prepped at the military airbase at 06:26. The Quds-1 warplane conducted its airstrike around 06:48, while the Quds-6 warplane carried out multiple airstrikes in the vicinity of Khan Sheikhoun to cover the airstrikes of Quds-1 which was the one that conducted the chemical attack."

Mahmoud told us that he was surprised by the warplanes that took off from al Shayrat Airbase at such an early time, considering that he monitored the warplane with the symbol Quds-6 taking off at a similar time before in late-March and targeting a hospital in Hama suburbs with poison gases at that time:

"I suspected that the warplanes was carrying poison gases, because it took off at an early time when the weather is calm and suitable for bombing poison gases, where it would be easy for the warplane to strike its target at a time like this. After the airstrikes, I notified the Civil Defense centers to head for the bombed site, and I learned that a number of Civil Defense lost consciousness after they arrived at the scene."

Doctor Hazem al Najm from al Rahma Hospital in the city told SNHR, who contacted Doctor Hazem via WhatsApp, that he headed to the place where the sound of the missile explosion came from in al Shamali neighborhood a few minutes after he heard the sounds, as he thought it was the target. This was at 06:40 approximately:

"I saw a Civil Defense member 300 meters away from where the missile landed. He was heavily panting, and suffocation symptoms were clear on him. He told me that the missile might be loaded with poison gases. I tended to him and took him to al Rahma Hospital where cases started arriving. There were many injured including tens of paramedics who rushed to the site without knowing the nature of the bombing. The symptoms seen on the injured were nearly identical such as pinpoint pupils, breathing difficulties, and profuse salivation in the mouth. Also, some of them were suffering from movement difficulties, and muscle paralysis. We didn't have enough atropine to treat these symptoms, so all we were able to do is to take their clothes off to prevent them bodies from absorbing the gas, and to wash their bodies with water to reduce the effects, and then refer them to nearby hospitals in Saraqeb and Binnesh cities."



We contacted Alaa al Yassin, via WhatsApp, who is a nurse at al Rahma Hospital in Khan Sheikhoun. Alaa's was on-duty at the time of the bombardment, and he described to us the panic and terror that struck the Civil Defense members and paramedics who went to al Shamali neighborhood, where the missile landed:

"They were screaming and urging the other paramedics to come to the place and pick up the victims. The injured started arriving at the hospital, and they exceeded 500, while the medical staff and paramedics were no more than 10. The injured exhibited symptoms such as muscle spasm and twitching, vomiting a white substance, shaking, convulsions, and blue lips. We received tens who died in their houses and we couldn't do anything to them. All the injured were in the hospital yard, and fire trucks started spraying them with water. At first, we thought it was chlorine gas, but the symptoms I saw on the injured are entirely different from those caused by the chlorine."

Abu Tammam, a paramedic at al Rahma Hospital, told SNHR, we contacted him via WhatsApp, that he counted two airstrikes on Tuesday morning, and was getting ready along with his colleagues to aid the injured as they were used to after every airstrike. However, hundreds were injured, and no wounds or bruises were to be found:

"Hundreds started arriving at our hospital. Nearly all of them were twitching, convulsing, and suffocating. Their eyes were popping out, and their pupils were contracting, and some yellowish white things were coming out of their mouth. A few minutes later, the symptoms started to show on the Civil Defense teams and the paramedics after they inhaled the gas from the clothes the injured were wearing."

Hala, 26-year-old, described to us what she saw on the day of the incident:

"I heard a distant explosion, so I thought the bombing is far away from our house, before I heard another explosion that was stronger than the first, and then I heard the neighbors screaming for help. Our neighbor was hit with one of the shrapnel, so my cousin went out to aid him. A few minutes later, the screams grew louder and people were screaming "Chlorine... chlorine". I left the house and I found my cousin laying on the ground and severely shaking before he fainted, and foam came out of his mouth. I washed his face without knowing what got into him. No more than 30 meters away from me, I saw people falling down including children."



Hala headed for al Karama Camp on the Turkish borders one hour after the bombardment, and told us that she started suffering from suffocation symptoms, and her muscles were twitching on her way to the camp. She went to Orient Hospital in Atama Camp, where she received first-aid remedy:

“The wind sent the gases away from our house, which reduced the concentration of the gases in our house area, as the effects on me and my family were less severe compared to other areas. However, I was affected suffered from gas symptoms.”

Doctor Osama Al Shami from al Rahma Hospital city told us, via WhatsApp, that all the injured that were rushed to the hospital were suffering from agitated mucus membranes, tearing, and a burn in the nose and eyes:

“The symptoms are completely different from the ones caused by the chlorine gas, which we bombed with multiple times before; most recently in al Habeit town 12 hours before this massacre. Tens of the injured died, and we couldn't do anything for them. Some of them fainted, some of them suffered from acute bronchial secretaries, constricted pupils, twitching, vomiting, and severe headaches with itchy skin.”

Doctor Osama added that a number of the injured weren't in a close proximity to the bombed site, but inhaled the gas from the clothes that were on the injured who were rushed to the hospital, as many of them exhibited the symptoms subsequently:

“Less severe symptoms manifested on the people who visited the injured at the hospital, and on the medical staff after a stinky smell spread in the hospital with each batch of the injured arriving in. I suffered from a headache for days. The number of the injured was huge, and the medical capabilities were very poor, which prevented us from providing the proper treatment, and taking the necessary precautions.”

According to SNHR's records, roughly 520 individuals were injured in Khan Sheikhoun chemical attack, including 12 Civil Defense members and six media activists.



Mohammad Hussein al Dgheim, a local media activist, told us, via WhatsApp, that he went along with two of his colleagues to a residential neighborhood in the middle of the city where one of the missiles landed, and then to al Shamali neighborhood, where the chemical missile landed:

“I arrived at the site over an hour after the airstrikes. I saw the hole created by the missile, which was one-meter deep. The smell was awfully nasty, and it was like the smell that come out from the petroleum derivatives even though it has been an hour or more. We left the site after a few minutes, but my friend started feeling dizzy, so we headed to the medical point, where first-aid remedies were provided.”

[Ahmad Islam](#), a local media activist, exhibited breathing difficulties symptoms, before he lost consciousness, as he visited the site where the missile loaded with poison gases landed. We contacted Ahmad via WhatsApp:

“I couldn’t breathe anymore, and I started feeling dizzy like I was about to vomit. I couldn’t recognize my surroundings anymore. My friends took me to the medical point. The injury effects lasted for a week after the bombing, where my sight was blurry, in addition to a tightness in my chest, heavy breathing, and stomachache.”

Hamoud Qutaini, a local media activist who works at the Syrian Civil Defense organization, told us that a Civil Defense group rushed to the site without knowing the nature of the bombing. After they arrived, they sent out distress calls, and poisoning symptoms started manifesting on them:

“A support group went to help the first team who were suffering from breathing difficulties, and some of them lost consciousness’. The civilians who were near the bombing site, however, exhibited more severe symptoms including twitching, muscle spasms, and foaming cases.”

Less than five hours after the chemical attack, between 11:45 and 12:30, fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian carried out a number of airstrikes, targeting al Rahma Hospital, which alone took no less than 300 of the injured and the Civil Defense center that was aiding the injured. Over the course of the six hours following the chemical attack, a flock of fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian carried out a number of airstrikes that targeted the roads leading to Khan Sheikhoun (Khan Sheikhoun – al Habeit road, and the highway east of Khan Sheikhoun) which hindered the aiding of the injured who were transported to hospitals out of the city.



Al Rahma Hospital was built inside a mountain cave in east Khan Sheikhoun. The continued bombing heavily damaged the hospital which was rendered out of commission for a number of days. At the time of the bombing, the hospital contained a number of the injured and the victims of the chemical attack.

The Civil Defense center that is located near al Rahma Hospital was bombed as well, as its building was heavily destroyed.

SNHR spoke to the doctor Mohammad Abdullah Diyab, who works at al Rahma Hospital, and was present at the time when the hospital was bombed:

“A few hours after the bombing, and after we provided treatment for no less than 300 injured, while the critical cases were transferred to the hospitals on the Turkish borders, I had to conduct a bone surgery on one of the patients. When I was at the operation room, along with doctor Mohammad al Naser, the hospital was targeted in two consecutive airstrikes that bombed the roof, before a third airstrike followed a few minutes later at the entrance of the hospital, damaging the equipment. The hospital building is inside the cave, which averted a serious catastrophe, and no one died because of the bombing. However, tens of the sarin victims’ dead bodies were still in the hospital hall.”

The symptoms the injured exhibited, which checked out with the accounts acquired by SNHR from the doctors and paramedics we spoke to, suggest that the symptoms are consistent with those caused by a nerve agent. In contrast, the symptoms differ from what we had documented previously [in attacks carried by Syrian regime forces](#) in Idlib, Hama, and Aleppo governorates that probably involved the use of chlorine gas.



Doctor Ihsan from a hospital in Binnish city examined a number of the injured who were at the site of the chemical attack in Khan Sheikhoun, and described the symptoms exhibited by the injured:

“Most of the cases that arrived at al Mujamma’ al Islami Hospital involved symptoms such as vomiting, headache, blurry vision, fatigue, muscle weakness, and general pain. All the cases shared one symptom, namely severely constricted eye pupils. We sent two of the injured to the Turkish hospitals, one was a youngster who suffered from a blood disease, and the gases complicated his situation, and the other was an ill elderly woman who went into a cardiac catheterization. I examined a woman who was affected by the sarin, as she suffered from hypoxemia and cardiac ischemia. She left the hospital five days later after her health improved. Most of the cases that arrived at the time left the hospital two and three days later, but they still suffered from muscle pains and blurry vision. We used atropine and oxygen for the treatment. However, we didn’t manage to secure pyridoxine.”

SNHR team was able to document the killing of 91 civilians who suffocated to death, including 32 children and 23 women (adult female). All of them suffocated after inhaling poison gases which caused cardiac arrests on account of paralyzing the respiratory muscles. We didn’t record any victims who were killed in the missile bombing that was simultaneous with the chemical attack, or in the attacks that targeted al Rahma Hospital and the Civil Defense center.

A deliberate criminal intention by the Syrian regime to inflict the greatest possible harm

Certainly, Khan Sheikhoun attack wasn’t the first attack carried out by the Syrian regime following Security Council Resolution 2118- adopted on September 27, 2013- as we documented [169 attacks using poison gases](#) which resulted in the killing of 223 individuals, as follows:

- 170 civilians, including 72 children and 36 women (adult female)
- 46 armed opposition fighters
- Seven captives from Syrian regime forces that were being kept at an opposition prison

Also, we [documented](#) no less than four attacks that involved poison gases in the ten days prior to Khan Sheikhoun attack, between March 25, 2017 and April 4, 2017. Of those, three were in Hama and Idlib suburbs.



Through the investigations, the evidences at hand, and analyzing the information, we have perceived a deliberate criminal intention by the Syrian regime to carry out the chemical attack and inflict the greatest possible harm:

1- Choosing to bomb at dawn – a time when the air is still, and the temperature is low and suitable for the spread of gas over the widest area possible.

2- Fixed-wing warplanes we believe were Russian, carried out a number of airstrikes that targeted Ma'aret al Nu'man hospital, the largest hospital in southern suburbs of Idlib suburbs, on April 2 - 48 hours before the chemical attack – which had a catastrophic impact on the medical situation in the southern suburbs of Idlib in general. Also, more airstrikes by Russian warplanes targeted al Rahma Hospital and the Civil Defense center in Khan Sheikhoun city on April 4 which were providing first-aid for the injured.

3- Fixed-wing warplanes, Su-25, we believe were Russian carried out multiple airstrikes, targeting the roads leading to Khan Sheikhoun, which hindered the transporting of the injured from the city.

The tactic adopted by the Syrian regime in the Khan Sheikhoun attack is similar, to a great extent, to the same tactics used on the day of the [Two Ghoutas Attack](#)- Eastern Ghouta and Western Ghouta- on August 21, 2013 in terms of timing and attack strategy.

Initially, the Syrian regime denied carrying out any military strike on the city using chemical weapons, while the Russian ministry of defense stated that the Syrian air arsenal targeted a warehouse for manufacturing landmines which contains poison substances, where the warehouse, according to the Russian ministry of defense, was affiliated to Fateh al Sham Front (formerly al Nusra), and that the bombardment occurred at 11:30 AM. However, this contradicts all the accounts we acquired which confirmed that the time of the bombing and the symptoms manifesting on the injured was hours before that.

[On Thursday, April 6](#), Walid Muallem, the Syrian Foreign Minister, revealed an account that consist with the official Russian account in a press conference.

The premises that Syrian regime forces targeted a warehouse for manufacturing chemical landmines, which was the official account, aren't supported by any evidences on the ground, considering that al Shamali neighborhood is a civilian neighborhood. Also, the videos show residential houses. Our investigations didn't reveal any chemical weapon warehouses in the area. Furthermore, the process through which binary chemical weapons are produced is based on mixing the components before weapon is used. For example, sarin is the acquired



by processing the outcome of the chemical reaction between isopropyl alcohol and Methylphosphonyl difluoride. Assuming that the warehouse targeted by the Syrian regime's airstrikes, as per the Syrian and Russian claims, did contain the binary mixture for sarin, directing a bomb at these substances wouldn't result in the spread of sarin, or all of these victims and injured. Moreover, the explosion would produce an alcoholic compound – isopropyl, which, in turn, would result in a huge fire breaking out. Nonetheless, the pictures and videos didn't show any fires, nor any eyewitnesses or survivors talked of any fires.

[Video](#) showing four smoke plumes that resulted from the airstrikes on Khan Sheikhoun city

The [French](#) and [Turkish](#) government, as well as the [OPCW](#), determined that the sarin gas was the nerve agent used in the Khan Sheikhoun attack.

Additionally, [the American government](#) published a flight path charting the route the Su-22 warplanes used from al Shayrat Airbase on April 4. According to the flight path, the warplane flew twice over Khan Sheikhoun.

There were also pictures that showed the site where the [poison gas](#) missile landed, the [external shell](#) of part of [the missile](#), and the cover for the loading slot, while other pictures showed the hole created by the missile which was no more than half-meter deep according to the accounts of the people who visited the site.

Our colleagues at [Human Rights Watch](#) determined the type of munition used in the attack based on the pictures and the videos. The munition type was KhAB-250

III. Additional attachments

Victims' names



[Videos](#) showing people saying that they were gassed, and telling their account of the [chemical attack](#) in Khan Sheikhoun

Videos showing some of the injured who were [evidently affected](#) by the poison gas in Khan Sheikhoun attack. [The injured](#) exhibit suffocation and breathing difficulties symptoms

Video showing a [civil defense member](#) describing the people injured in the chemical attack

A video showing a doctor, who introduces himself as “[doctor Mohammad Mansour](#)”, talking about the symptoms on the people who were injured in the chemical attack

IV. Conclusions and Recommendations

Through the use of chemical weapons, the Syrian regime has violated the customary international law, which prohibits the use of chemical weapons no matter the circumstances. Secondly, the Syrian regime has unequivocally breached the “Chemical Weapons Convention” (CWC) which the Syrian government agreed to in September 2013, where the CWC provides for the cease of chemical weapons use and the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles. Thirdly, the Syrian regime has breached the relevant Security Council Resolution – especially Resolution 2118 in 2013, 2209 in 2015, and 2235 in 2015. Furthermore, the use of chemical weapons constitutes a war crime according to the International Criminal Court’s Rome Statute.

The CWC, which the Russian government had agreed to, strictly prohibits any form of assistance or encouragement on the contribution to any prohibited activist on any state party. Many evidences have suggested that the Russian forces were involved in providing a preliminary and subsequent assistance for the Syrian regime forces.

Security Council

The Syrian regime have violated three Security Council Resolutions, although all of these Resolutions refers to Chapter VII.

The four permanent members have to apply pressure on the Russian government in order to stop its support for the Syrian regime who uses chemical weapons, and expose their involvement in that regard.



Russian government

Cease the use of veto for the sake of protecting the Syrian regime who has been involved in perpetrating crimes against humanity and war crimes, and using chemical weapons.

Launch an investigation with regard to the support provided by Russian forces in Syria for the Syrian regime in Khan Sheikhoun attacks.

Cease the hindering of the referral of the case in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

Commission of Inquiry

Directly investigate this incident, the preceding bombardment instances, and the ones that followed, and determine the perpetrator party.

Human Rights Council

Shed more light on the use of the chemical weapons by the Syrian regime.

European Union and the United States of America

Support the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism that was established in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 71/248, which was adopted on December 21, 2016, and activate the courts that enjoy a universal jurisdiction, and work on the war crimes that were perpetrated in Syria.

Friends of Syria Group

Provide the areas that might be targeted with poison gases (in light of the Security Council's inability to end these attacks) with protection masks- SNHR estimates that 20,000 masks at least are needed in these areas at least- in addition to the necessary equipment for the removal of the effects of the chemical contamination.

Acknowledgment and Condolences

Our most heartfelt condolences for the victims' families. We also would like to thank the families and activists who effectively contributed to these investigations.





@snhr



Info@sn4hr.org

www.sn4hr.org

