



السفارة السورية
في دولة قطر
Embassy of Syria in Qatar

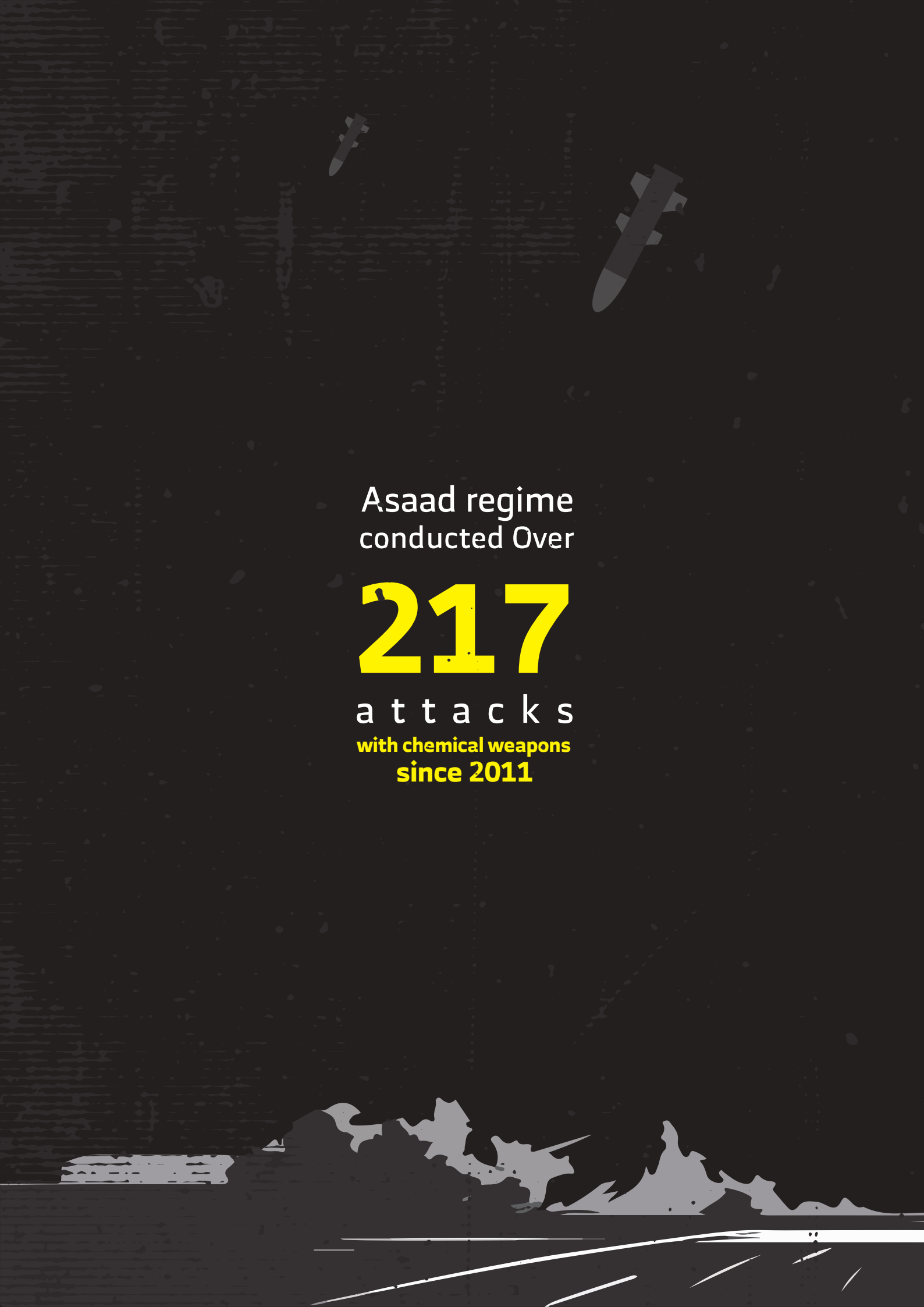
11 Years of Impunity

Chemical Attacks in Syria



A report released on the 11th anniversary
of the largest chemical massacre of the 20th century

21 August 2024



Asaad regime
conducted Over

217

a t t a c k s

with chemical weapons
since 2011



Due to these attacks
m o r e t h a n

1,400

c i v i l i a n s

were killed

Injured over

11,000

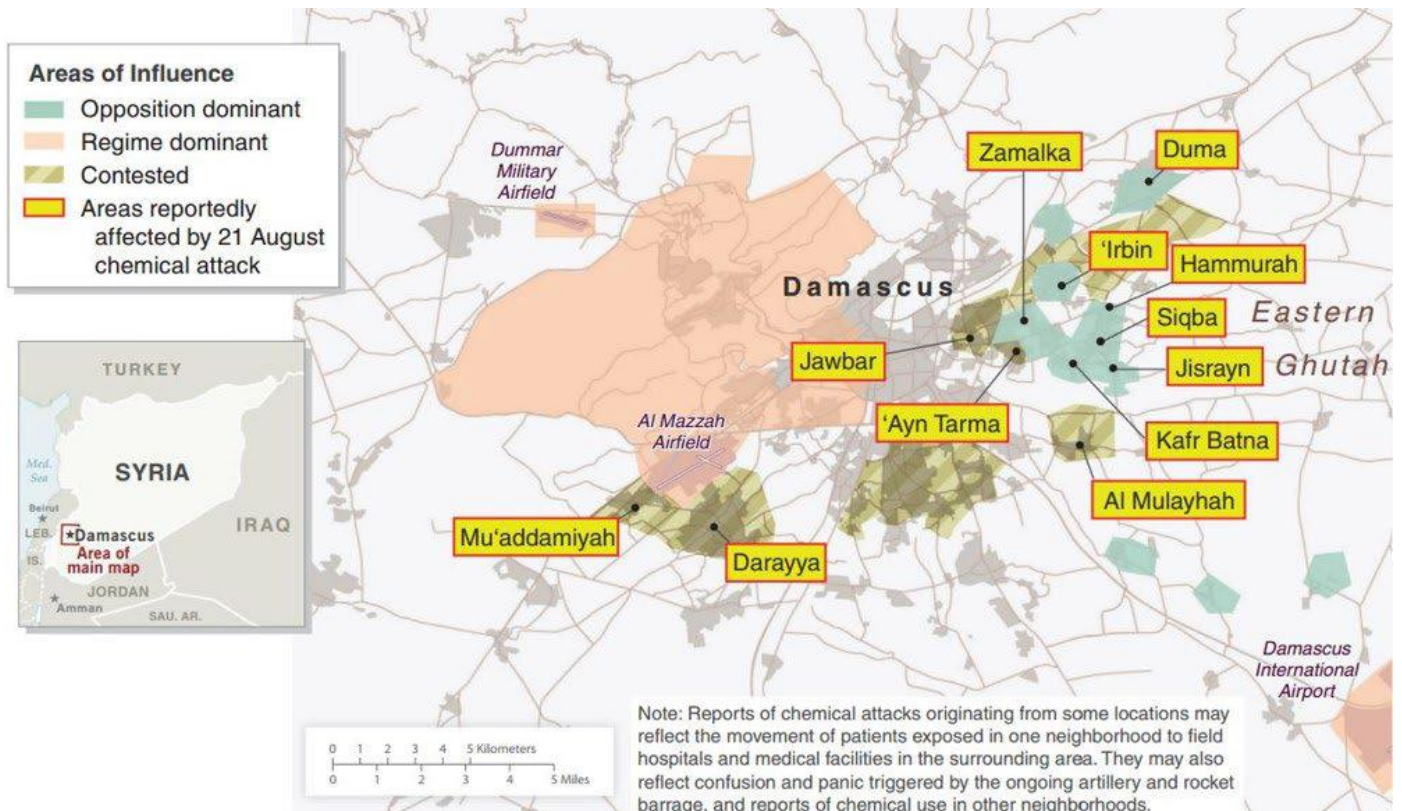
civilians



Ghouta Chemical Massacre

21 Aug 2013

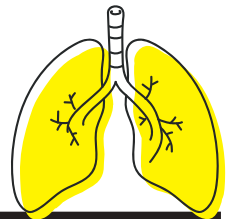
- The Assad regime forces imposed a siege on Ghouta since April 2013, but failed to gain control.
- The attacks occurred between 01:20 and 02:40 am, as 8 to 12 rockets fell on Zemelka and Ein Tarma neighborhoods in eastern Ghouta, and at least 7 fell on Moadamiya in western Ghouta.
- The type of weapon used were possessed only by the **Assad regime**.
- Affected individuals had symptoms that are consistent with exposure to Sarin gas.



Death of **1199** civilians 

from the attacks, out of which

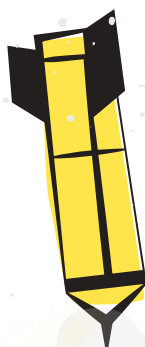
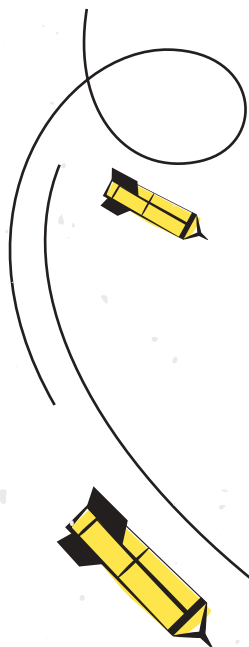
194  women **99**  children



In addition, nearly **6000** civilians suffered from suffocation and respiratory syndromes.

- The **Assad regime** had conceived a deliberate and meticulously orchestrated plan before that night to exterminate as many of the Syrian people as possible in one coordinated attack.
- The only 'crime' committed by those targeted was to have called for **FREEDOM** and for an end to the regime's despotic hereditary rule, and to have **dared to reject its iron-fisted control** and to disobey the orders of its security apparatus

**Attacks
a i m e d
to cause
maximum
number of
casualties**



BUT

Lack of accountability for
Ghouta Massacre turned the
RED LINE into a **GREEN LIGHT**





Carrying out chemical attacks is one of great complexity, while the Assad regime has a highly centralized operational structure. As such, none of these attacks could have been carried out without the knowledge and approval of regime head Bashar al Assad.

Using chemical weapons is a calculated policy for the regime based on a central, executive decision, in which the institutions of the military and intelligence are incriminated, in particular the leaderships of the General Military Intelligence Directorate, Air Force Intelligence Directorate, the National Security Bureau, and the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center.

Reports shows that no fewer than

387 

individuals, who are high-ranking military officers, security officials, and civilian and military personnel, were involved.



ASSAD IS

The IIT¹ of OPCW issued three reports identifying **Assad Regime Air Forces** as perpetrators of several chemical attacks in 2017 & 2018

The OPCW-UN JIM² repeatedly reported the responsibility of **Regime Armed forces** for multiple attacks in 2014, 2015, and 2017

The COI³ issued reports the **Assad regime** responsible for 22 chemical attacks at least from 2013 till 2017



RESPONSIBLE

The OPCW's Fact-Finding Mission (FFM)⁴ has issued a report that thoroughly debunks the Assad regime's claims regarding the chemical attacks it alleged its forces suffered in 2017. The report concludes that the information obtained and analyzed was "insufficient to provide reasonable grounds" to substantiate the occurrence of these attacks.

The Paris Court has affirmed the international arrest warrant issued on June 26, 2024, against Bashar al-Assad, his brother Maher, and two generals for complicity in crimes against humanity, including the chemical attacks in 2013.

⁴ FFM: Fact - Finding Mission in Syria





UN Security Council 2118

Upon the attack in 2013, the UNSC adopted resolution 2118 unanimously, condemning the attacks and calling on accountability.

Post UNSCR 2118, the Assad regime persisted in its deliberate violations, **carrying out over 160 attacks**.

A decade past the resolution, it was obvious that the Assad regime has yet to fulfil its pledge to cooperate with OPCW technical secretariat, showing careless behavior toward the UNSC and total disregard for international law.



Fernando Arias

OPCW director general

**The world now
knows the facts**

It is up to the international
community to take action, at the
OPCW and beyond



Thus; the Question is NOT

whether the Assad Regime is cooperating or not!

The Question is

Why those responsible for the attacks haven't
been brought to justice yet





Image source: National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces www.etilaf.org

Disinformation Attempts

By Assad Regime & its allies

The regime and its allies waged a disinformation war aiming for impunity, taking the following forms:

- 01- Persistent Russian Veto
- 02- Denial !
- 03- Manipulating investigations outcomes
- 04- Conspiracy Theorists



01 - Persistent Russian Veto

Throughout the investigation of the Assad regime's CW program and its chemical attacks, Russia consistently vetoed any efforts under the UN Security Council to identify and hold the perpetrator accountable.



Russia has used veto

17

times at the Security Council to block action targeting its ally.

The use of chemical weapons in Syria, and the international community's failure to intervene appropriately, have dangerously weakened the norm against the use of such arms.

02 - Denial !

Senior officials of the Assad regime and Russia endeavoured to disregard the truth through illogical and nearly absurd justifications. In a bid to safeguard the Assad regime, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov contended that Russia believes the sarin used originated from a "homemade" source!! Subsequently, Bashar al-Assad asserted that sarin "can be prepared in the kitchen!!" Despite their feeble attempts, none of them presented any evidence to support these implausible theories or elucidated how chemical barrels were deployed from aircraft exclusively owned by the Assad regime and Russia.

Representatives of both Russia and the Assad regime have been offering chaotic "alternative explanations" for the chemical attacks.

Nonetheless, this deliberate obfuscation was not due to ignorance about reality; instead, it was a component of their defensive strategy. The objective was not to present a credible account to the public, but rather to disseminate an abundance of fake information in order to sow uncertainty regarding the events, even though reality is crystal clear.

03 - Manipulating investigations outcomes

To manipulate the investigations outcomes, Russia tried to discredit the OPCW's reports. However, OPCW issued statements refuting all Russian allegations. Then they tried to present false "witnesses" but it was easy to detect their lies.

The Assad regime continues to flagrantly obstruct the work of the OPCW teams by all means possible.

04 - Conspiracy Theorists

A network of deniers emerged, who are eager to blame someone other than the Assad regime. Their claims were not supported by credible evidence.

Those claimers convinced themselves that one of the Middle East's most oppressive regimes was the innocent victim of a plot to discredit it.

A Guardian report exposes Russian-backed campaign to support those conspiracy theories to cover for Assad crimes.

Victims are not mere numbers in reports; each digit is a human being, a child, a mother, or an entire family that has lost everything.

When internationally prohibited chemical weapons are used, it is not only an assault on life; It is an assault on all our shared human values





To the Ambassadors of Humanity,

The time has come for justice to prevail,
and we must unite against injustice.

The message is clear:



**These atrocities will not go
unnoticed, and all criminals
will be held accountable "**

Silence aids Crime

Raise the Voice of justice

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