

Russia: Ghouta Chemical Attack Was a Saudi ‘Black Op’

Special to EIR

Oct. 5—As an advance team of United Nations staffers and disarmament specialists on chemical weapons arrived in Syria yesterday in advance of inspectors from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the Voice of Russia posted a blockbuster article saying that the Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack in Ghouta, a Damascus suburb, was done by a Saudi Arabian black operations team.

“Based on data from a number of sources, a picture can be pieced together. The criminal provocation in Eastern Ghouta was done by a black op team that the Saudis sent through Jordan and which acted with support of the Liwa al-Islam group, a source in the diplomatic circles said,” according to the VoR article.

The new evidence and assertions by Russian, Syrian, and other sources, including members of the Syrian opposition, are being presented to governments around the world, not only to present the evidence of rebel chemical weapons attacks, but to prevent the Saudi-controlled rebel terrorists in Syria from destroying the work of the OPCW in removing the government’s chemical weapons arsenal. Sources quoted in the Russian

media believe that the rebels are preparing attacks, even a false-flag chemical weapons attack, in order to destroy the U.S.-Russian agreement that is the basis for a diplomatic solution for Syria.

While *EIR* has not confirmed these charges, they are coherent with highly qualified reports coming from U.S. and other intelligence experts, as well as *EIR*’s detailed knowledge of the British-Saudi nexus responsible for the vast majority of terrorism worldwide.



Until the Saudi role in 9/11 is fully revealed, there is no stopping Anglo-Saudi terrorism.

Bandar's Army

At the same time, Saudi intelligence chief Prince Bandar bin-Sultan, who is referred to in media reports as “Prince of the Jihadis,” “Chemical Bandar,” and “Bandar Bush,” is reported by international news services to be behind the creation of a jihadi “Army of Islam” in Syria. This Army, made up of about 50 Islamist organizations that announced a split from the Free Syrian Army (FSA) on Sept. 24, is an attempt to keep the ultra-radical neo-Salafis in positions of power within the opposition to the Assad government, by creating a phony “new” organization, separate from the organizations that the United States has named as “terrorists.” This Saudi effort to create a “non-terrorist” band of jihadis is similar to British intelligence’s “counter-gang” tactics used in Africa in the 1950s: to create an intelligence-service-controlled organization that would serve as a puppet “opposition.”

One immediate purpose of the Saudi maneuver is to distance Liwa al-Islam from Jabhat al-Nusra and the

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the two allied groups that are openly connected to al-Qaeda and its head, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and which have been put on a terrorist list by the United States.

But this move is completely phony. According to an Oct. 4 article by investigative reporter and blogger Steve Lendman, Liwa al-Islam is headed by Zahran Al-loush, the son of the Saudi-based Salafist cleric, Abdullah Mohammed Alloush. Lendman and others report that it is well-known that Zahran Alloush, who rejects negotiations with President Bashar al-Assad, conducts joint operations with Jabhat al-Nusra. Lendman highlights the Voice of Russia story, which implicated Saudi Arabia and Jordan in the Ghouta chemical weapons attack. “The Saudi black ops teams were based in Jordan,” Lendman wrote. King “Abdullah II ibn al-Hussein’s Hashemite Kingdom is complicit.”

A well-informed Middle East intelligence source told EIRNS that Liwa al-Islam is one of the major assets in the Islamist network selected and financed by Ban-

Bandar's Terror Links In Syria Exposed

Since 2011, Bandar bin Sultan began a spectacular rise to power by deploying his international jihadi army of Wahhabi footsoldiers into Syria. As chief of Saudi intelligence, Bandar became the centerpiece of the Obama-Saudi-British Empire effort to bring down Syrian President Hafez al-Assad by building up al-Qaeda and its spinoffs as a major multinational terrorist force.

In the last several months, however, with Bandar’s jihadis revealed as murderers, cannibals, and wielders of deadly chemical weapons, Bandar’s dirty deals have been exposed as never before. The following articles are some of the leading investigative reports on Bandar’s activities.

“Saudi Black Op Team Responsible for Damascus Chemical Attack—Russian Diplomatic Source,” [Voice of Russia](#), Oct. 5, 2013.

“Iran-Contra Redux? Prince Bandar Heads Secret Saudi-CIA Effort to Aid Syrian Rebels, Topple

Assad,” Democracy Now, [Interview](#) by Amy Goodman with Adam Entous, national security correspondent for the *Wall Street Journal*, Sept. 6, 2013.

Mahdi Darius Nazemroaya, “Saudi Arabia’s ‘Chemical Bandar’ behind the Syrian chemical attacks?” [Russia Today](#), Sept. 5, 2013.

Peter Nealen, “Bandar Bin Sultan and the House of Saud’s Hand in Syria,” SOFREP Situation [Report](#), Sept. 5, 2013.

Peter Lee, “Chemical Weapons, False Flags and the Saudis’ Hard Line—We Need to Talk About Prince Bandar,” [Counterpunch](#), Sept. 4, 2013.

James Corbett, “Bandar Bush and the Syrian Subversion,” The Corbett [Report](#), Sept. 3, 2013.

“EXCLUSIVE: Syrians in Ghouta Claim Saudi-Supplied Rebels Behind Chemical Attack—Rebels and local residents in Ghouta accuse Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan of providing chemical weapons to an al-Qaida linked rebel group,” [Mint Press](#), Aug. 29, 2013.

Adam Entous, Nour Malas, and Margaret Coker, “A Veteran Saudi Power Player Works To Build Support To Topple Assad,” *Wall Street Journal*, Aug/ 25, 2013.

Pepe Escobar, “Bandar Bush, ‘Liberator’ of Syria,” [Asia Times](#), Aug. 13, 2013.

dar's Saudi operation. Among its notorious actions during the Syrian civil war, Liwa al-Islam claimed responsibility for the bombing of the July 2012 secret government meeting in Damascus that killed a number of top Syrian officials, including Defense Minister Dawoud Rajiha, his deputy Asef Shawkat, and Assistant Vice President Hassan Turkmani, reported *Russia Today* on Oct. 4. Liwa al-Islam is one of the 11 jihadi groups that issued a Sept. 24 statement disassociating themselves from the Syrian National Coalition.

Propaganda Machine in Action

Already this Saudi maneuver to create a jihadi army that is *not* on the U.S. terrorist list has gotten its propaganda wing in motion. On Oct. 1, writer Hassan Hassan welcomed Liwa al-Islam in a *Foreign Policy* article called, "The Army of Islam Is Winning in Syria." The article is subheaded: "And that's not necessarily a bad thing."

Hassan says that Liwa al-Islam "is the central player in the Army of Islam, [which] now dwarfs both the FSA and radical militias such as Ahrar al-Sham and Jabhat al-Nusra, which long played a prominent role in the region. . . ."

In the aftermath of the action of Sept. 24, when 11 of the rebels' most powerful Islamist groups left the umbrella opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, there has been a scramble over who will be recognized as the official opposition. Then on Sept. 29, "at least 50 groups operating mainly around Damascus merged into Jaish al-Islam ('the Army of Islam'), thus undermining the Free Syrian Army's dominance" in that part of Syria where the FSA had been considered the strongest rebel force, according to Lendman's analysis.

Such a sanitizing of the neo-Salafis is a necessary step for the Saudi-led Sunni backers of the rebels, since Bandar's role in helping the terrorists is exposed as never before. Since the Aug. 21 chemical attack in Syria, dozens of articles have appeared internationally identifying Bandar as the "godfather" of the jihadi killers that *are* the armed rebels in Syria. These revelations come at the same time that there is mounting pressure in the United States to declassify and release the redacted 28 pages of the 2004 findings of the 9/11 Joint Congressional Inquiry, pages suppressed by both the Bush and Obama administrations for strictly political reasons. The release of the classified 28 pages would be a critical flank in exposing the Anglo-Saudi role in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and the international jihadi terrorist threat today.

Until the story of the role of Saudi Arabia and then-Ambassador to the U.S. Prince Bandar bin-Sultan is exposed—starting with the release of the 28 pages—there will be no way to stop the jihadi terror wave which has swept over the last year from Benghazi, Libya to Algeria to Mali and Kenya; which is ripping apart Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan on a daily basis; and has intensified in Central Asia.