



Consejo de Seguridad

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Cartas idénticas de fecha 26 de abril de 2017 dirigidas al Secretario General y a la Presidenta del Consejo de Seguridad por el Representante Permanente de Francia ante las Naciones Unidas

El ataque cometido el 4 de abril de 2017 en Jan Shaijun (Siria) causó la muerte de más de 80 personas, de las cuales 50 murieron en el acto, y heridas a más de 500. En vista de la gravedad de ese ataque, Francia ha decidido desclasificar algunas de las conclusiones de sus investigaciones en curso.

Nuestros servicios de información sobre seguridad llegaron a la conclusión expresa de que el agente químico utilizado en el ataque del 4 de abril era gas sarín. Inmediatamente después de ese ataque, se recogieron en Jan Shaijun muestras sobre el terreno, incluidas muestras humanas, así como restos de municiones. Gracias a que nuestros servicios habían conservado muestras químicas desde el comienzo del conflicto, pudimos realizar análisis comparativos con las muestras tomadas en el lugar del ataque de Jan Shaijun.

Nuestros servicios determinaron que el gas sarín utilizado en el ataque del 4 de abril era el mismo que se había utilizado en un ataque similar en Saraqeb (Siria) el 29 de abril de 2013. La presencia de una sustancia denominada hexamina es característica del sarín que produce el régimen sirio, derivada del proceso particular de fabricación utilizado en el laboratorio sirio ESRB. Esa sustancia se detectó en las muestras tomadas el 29 de abril de 2013 y en las del 4 de abril de 2017.

Nuestros servicios también confirmaron que un avión Sukhoi había partido de la base de Al-Chayrat la mañana del 4 de abril.

Francia transmitió esa información a la Organización para la Prohibición de las Armas Químicas (OPAQ) el martes 25 de abril y el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Sr. Jean-Marc Ayrault, la hizo pública el miércoles 26 de abril.

Francia está sumamente preocupada por esas conclusiones, que confirman, una vez más, que Siria no ha respetado sus compromisos internacionales, ha seguido utilizando armas químicas en repetidas ocasiones y ha mantenido un programa clandestino de armas químicas.

Más allá de Siria, esta situación debilita el régimen internacional de no proliferación de armas químicas y pone en peligro nuestro sistema de seguridad colectiva. Es nuestra responsabilidad garantizar el desmantelamiento del arsenal químico sirio e impedir de una vez por todas que el régimen sirio siga utilizando armas químicas.



Francia aguarda con interés el informe de la misión de determinación de los hechos de la OPAQ, un mecanismo profesional, técnico e imparcial que debe gozar de toda nuestra confianza y nuestro apoyo.

Le agradecería que tuviera a bien hacer distribuir la presente carta y su anexo* como documento del Consejo de Seguridad.

(Firmado) François **Delattre**

* El anexo se distribuye únicamente en el idioma en que fue presentado.

**Anexo de las cartas idénticas de fecha 26 de abril de 2017
dirigidas al Secretario General y a la Presidenta del Consejo
de Seguridad por el Representante Permanente de Francia
ante las Naciones Unidas**

[Original: francés e inglés]

Evaluación nacional

Ataque químico del 4 de abril de 2017 (Jan Shaijun)

Programa sirio clandestino de armas químicas

This document is based on declassified intelligence from France's own sources.

On 4 April 2017, air strikes against civilians in the city of Khan Sheikhoun killed more than 80 people. According to our experts, the symptoms observed immediately afterwards (pupil contraction, suffocation, bluing of lips, white foam on faces, convulsions), the high number of deaths, and the fact that certain responders and medical staff suffered secondary contamination are consistent with the use of a highly lethal neurotoxic agent. This has now been confirmed scientifically.

These strikes come in the context of continuous use since 2013 of chemical weapons or chemical agents in Syria, particularly during air strikes, including after the Syrian regime committed to dismantling its chemical weapons arsenal on 25 October 2013. France has collected biomedical and environmental samples and munitions and pieces of munitions in Syria on several occasions, and has been able to confirm the use of chlorine and sarin several times. The attached table lists France's evaluations.

1. – Technical analysis of the chemical attack on 4 April

a) France has deployed the required resources to obtain its own samples from the alleged sarin attack on 4 April 2017 in Idlib Governorate.

b) The analyses carried out by French experts on the environmental samples collected at one of the impact points of the chemical attack at Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April 2017 reveal the presence of sarin, of a specific secondary product (diisopropyl methylphosphonate – DIMP) formed during synthesis of sarin from isopropanol and DF (methylphosphonyl difluoride), and hexamine. Analysis of biomedical samples also shows that a victim of the Khan Sheikhoun attack, a sample of whose blood was taken in Syria on the very day of the attack, was exposed to sarin.

France therefore independently and categorically confirms that sarin was used on 4 April. The United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey and the Director-General of the OPCW have also established that sarin was employed on the basis of analysis of biomedical samples.

c) According to the intelligence obtained by the French services, the process of synthesizing sarin, developed by the Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC) and employed by the Syrian armed forces and security services, involves the use of hexamine as a stabilizer. DIMP is also known as a by-product generated by this process.

d) This intelligence on the process used by the regime, which is a sign of its responsibility in the attack on 4 April, is based notably on the analysis of the content of an unexploded grenade which was used with certainty by the Syrian regime during the Saraqib attack on 29 April 2013. That mid-afternoon, a helicopter arriving from the north-east flew over the city of Saraqib at high altitude. Three unidentified objects, emitting white smoke, were dropped on neighbourhoods to the west of the city, on a north-south trajectory.

According to France, only the Syrian armed forces had helicopters and could therefore be responsible for dropping these three objects.



Timeline of the dropping of three unidentified objects by helicopter.

At the first point of impact, there were no victims. At the second point of impact, one person was killed and about 20 injured. An exploded grenade was found in the wreckage. Analysis of biomedical and environmental samples collected by the French services revealed the presence of compounds consistent with exposure to sarin. This analysis was confirmed by the United Nations in December 2013.



Exploded grenade found at second point of impact

At the third point of impact, an unexploded grenade was found in a crater on a dirt track. This munition was very similar in appearance to that found at the second point of impact.



Crater at the third point of impact where the grenade was found

3. – Analysis of the presence of armed groups in Hama and of their capabilities

a) While it has been confirmed that mustard gas attacks have been carried out by Daesh in Syria since 2015, France assesses that the theory of an attack by the armed groups using a neurotoxic agent on 4 April is not credible. France has no information confirming the possession of sarin by these groups.

1. Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) was born from the merger of several radical factions with the Al-Qaeda movement Jabhat Fatah al-Sham after the fall of Aleppo. Pragmatic coordination between HTS and other armed groups present in the Hama sector was observed in late March. To the knowledge of the French services, none of these groups has the capability to employ a neurotoxic agent, or the air capacities required.
2. The theory of an attack perpetrated by Daesh is not plausible either, as Daesh is not present in the sector of Hama. Moreover, the French intelligence services have not observed that Daesh has sarin or air capacities.

b) Neither do the French services assess that the theory of a staged attack or manipulation by the opposition is credible, particularly because of the massive influx in a very limited time towards hospitals in Syria and Turkey, and the simultaneous, massive uploading of videos showing symptoms of the use of neurotoxic agents.

4. – Continuation since 2013 of a clandestine Syrian chemical weapons programme

a) In a previous declassified national report in 2013, the French services laid out their knowledge of the Syrian chemical weapons programme and chemical attacks perpetrated by the regime. They noted that sarin was principally used in binary form: a mixture of methylphosphonyl difluoride (DF), a key precursor in the manufacture of sarin, and isopropanol produced just before use.

France informed the OPCW that Syria's explanations on the quantities of DF declared – approximately 20 tonnes – as having been used in tests or lost in accidents were exaggerated. Moreover, France has observed since 2014 Syrian attempts to acquire dozens of tonnes of isopropanol. The Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) from the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW has been unable to obtain any proof of the veracity of Syria's declarations. The OPCW itself has identified major inconsistencies in Syria's explanations concerning the presence of sarin derivatives on several sites where no activity relating to the toxin had been declared.

b) On the basis of the conclusions of the DAT and its own intelligence, France assesses that major doubts remain as to the accuracy, exhaustiveness and sincerity of the decommissioning of Syria's chemical weapons arsenal. In particular, France assesses that Syria has maintained a capacity to produce or stock sarin, despite its commitment to destroy all stocks and capacities. Lastly, France assesses that Syria has not declared tactical munitions (grenades and rockets) such as those repeatedly used since 2013.

c) The Damascus regime has continued to employ chemical weapons against its population since Syria's accession to the CWC on 13 October 2013. There have been over 100 allegations of such use, concerning chlorine as well as sarin.

Since 2014, the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) has published several reports confirming the use of chemical weapons against civilians in Syria. The UN-OPCW Joint Investigation Mechanism (JIM) has investigated nine allegations of chemical weapons employment. In its reports in August and October 2016, the JIM attributed three cases of employment of chlorine to the Damascus regime and one of mustard gas to Daesh.

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Based on this overall evaluation and on reliable and consistent intelligence collected by our Services, France assesses that the Syrian armed forces and security services perpetrated a chemical attack using sarin against civilians in Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April 2017.

ALLEGATIONS OF USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA SINCE 2012

Table legend:

Allegations of use of chemical weapons that the French services have not been able to confirm with great reliability	Use of sarin proven by France through the collection of biomedical and/or environmental samples Attack attributed to the Syrian regime	Strong presumption of use of sarin by the Syrian regime	Strong presumption of the use of chlorine by the Syrian regime	Mustard gas attack attributed to Daesh
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CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Kafr Takharim Salqin	60km west of Aleppo	14 October 2012	
Harasta	East Ghouta	19 November 2012	
Homs		23 December 2012	
Khan al-Assal	Aleppo	19 March 2013	Suffocation
Al-Otaiba	30 km east of Damascus	19 March 2013	Pupil constriction, convulsions, muscle spasms
Baba Amr	Homs	20 March 2013	

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Darayya	South-west of Damascus	28 March 2013	
Al-Otaiba	30 km east of Damascus	9 April 2013	
Jobar	East Ghouta	9 April 2013	Epidermal inflammation and burns
Aleppo		13 April 2013	Hallucinations, vomiting and mucositis
Sheikh Maksoud	Aleppo	13 April 2013	Uncontrolled movements, hypersalivation, pupil constriction
Jobar	East Ghouta	Mid-April 2013	Breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, dizziness, pupil constriction
Darayya	South-west of Damascus	25 April 2013	
Saraqib	Idlib	29 April 2013	Tremors, breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, pupil constriction
Adra	North-east of Damascus	23 May 2013	
Harasta	East Ghouta	26 May 2013	
Al-Bahariya	East Ghouta	10 June 2013	Suffocation and partial paralysis

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Zamalka	East Ghouta	24 June 2013	Tremors, muscle contractions and pupil contraction
Sayyidah Zaynab	South of Damascus	7 July 2013	
Douma	North-east of Damascus	4 August 2013	Breathing difficulties, convulsions and oral mucositis
Damascus		21 August 2013	Pupil contraction, convulsions, respiratory distress, hypersalivation, running noses
Jobar Zamalka	East Ghouta	12 September 2013	Breathing difficulties and hypersalivation
Kafr Zita	Hama	11 April 2014	Suffocation, coughing and disorientation
Jobar	East Ghouta	3 April 2014	
Kafr Zita	Hama	20 April 2014	Coughing and suffocation
Tall Manis		21 April 2014	
Al-Tamanah	Idlib	23 April 2014	Coughing and suffocation

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Arbin	East Ghouta	5 June 2014	Breathing difficulties, nausea, headaches, loss of consciousness, eye reddening, facial inflammation and total loss of feeling
Jobar	East Ghouta	12 August 2014	Reduced consciousness, breathing difficulties and eye irritation
Daraa		19 August 2014	
Hatita al-Jarsh	East Ghouta	14 September 2014	
Adra	North-east of Damascus	24 September 2014	Breathing difficulties, convulsions
Deir ez-Zor		27 September 2014	
Tel Bisseh		3 November 2014	
Nawa	25km north-west of Homs	24 February 2015	Coughing
Qminas Sarmin	Idlib	16 March 2015	
Sarmin	Idlib	23 March 2015	
Binnish	Idlib	24 March 2015	No visible symptoms
Sarmin	Idlib	26 March 2015	

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Idlib Governorate		31 March 2015	
Ghab Plain	Idlib	3 April 2015	
Douar Al Mihrab Karaj al-Bolman	Idlib	16 April 2015	
Feliyon Korin	Idlib	16 April 2015	
Tamana'a Kafr Najd	Idlib	17 April 2015	Suffocation
Edles	Idlib	24 April 2015	
Sahen	Idlib	24 April 2015	
Aleppo		24 April 2015	
Sahl al Ghab		25 April 2015	
Nirab	South-east of Aleppo	25 April 2015	
Hama		26 April 2015	
Kafr Oued	Idlib	26 April 2015	Suffocation
Al-Hawash	Idlib	26 April 2015	

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Al-Mansoura		26 April 2015	
Jabal Zawiya	Idlib	26 April 2015	
Al-Marjeh	Aleppo	27 April 2015	
Al-Mastouma	Idlib	27 April 2015	
Karsaa Kansafrah	Idlib	28 April 2015	
Saraqib	Idlib	29 April 2015	Suffocation
Al-Hawash	Hama	29 April 2015	
Sahl al Ghab Qastoun	Hama	29 April 2015	Suffocation
Saraqib	Idlib	2 May 2015	
Kansafra	Idlib Governorate	2 May 2015	
Kafr Battikh	Idlib	6 May 2014	
Al-Janudiyah	Idlib	7 May 2015	
Al-Bashiriya	Idlib	10 May 2015	
Al-Sarmaniya	Idlib	10 May 2015	

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Aqrab	Hama	14 May 2015	
Mashmashan	Idlib	15 May 2015	
Sarmin	Idlib	16 May 2015	
Al-Kostan	Idlib	17 May 2015	
Mashmashan	Idlib	17 May 2015	
Jisr al-Shughur	Idlib	18 May 2015	
Mashmashan	Idlib	19 May 2015	
Aleppo	Aleppo	13 June 2015	
Jobar	East Ghouta	13 June 2015	
Al-Janoudiah		8 June 2015	
Jisr al-Shughur	Idlib	7 June 2015	
Aleppo	Aleppo	7 June 2015	
Al-Hasakah		28-30 June 2015	
Al-Zobdani		5 July 2015	
Al-Rashidin neighbourhood	Aleppo	7 July 2015	Suffocation

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Marea		21 August 2015	
Saqba	East Ghouta	23 August 2015	Convulsions
Marea		1 September 2015	
Moadamiyeh	East Ghouta	22 December 2015	Heavy bleeding, breathing difficulties, eye irritation
Al-Nashabiyah	East Ghouta	23 January 2016	
Moadamiyeh	East Ghouta	31 January 2016	
Qaboun	East Ghouta	3 April 2016	
Handarat	North of Aleppo	8 April 2016	
Handarat	North of Aleppo	14 April 2016	
Al-Amqiyah	Hama	18 April 2016	Suffocation
Ein Tarma	East Ghouta	Early July	Suffocation
Saraqib	Idlib	1 August 2016	Breathing difficulties, suffocation, eye irritation, vomiting, headaches
Aleppo	Aleppo	2 August 2016	Breathing difficulties
Aleppo	Aleppo	10 August 2016	Breathing difficulties

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Ein Terma and/or Jobar	East Ghouta	Late August-early September 2016	Suffocation
Aleppo	Aleppo	6 September 2016	Breathing difficulties, eye irritation, dizziness, vomiting
Kafr Naya	North of Aleppo	16 September 2016	Breathing difficulties
Jobar	East Ghouta	19 September 2016	
Aleppo	Aleppo	25 September 2016	
Kafr Zita	Hama	1 October 2016	Breathing difficulties, eye irritation, dizziness, vomiting
Aleppo	Aleppo	2 October 2016	
Latamneh	Hama	17 October 2016	
Latamneh	Hama	25 October 2016	Breathing difficulties, eye irritation, dizziness, vomiting
Western Aleppo	Aleppo	30 October 2016	
Western Aleppo	Aleppo	2 November 2016	Breathing difficulties
Khan al-Asal	South-west of Aleppo	11 November 2016	Breathing difficulties
Eastern Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	18 November 2016	Suffocation

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Eastern Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	20 November 2016	Suffocation
Eastern Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	21 November 2016	
Eastern Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	22 November 2016	Breathing difficulties
Eastern Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	23 November 2016	Breathing difficulties, eye irritation
Eastern Aleppo	Eastern Aleppo	28 November 2016	Suffocation
Southern Aleppo	Southern Aleppo	8 December 2016	Suffocation
Southern Aleppo	Southern Aleppo	9 December 2016	Suffocation
Southern Aleppo	Southern Aleppo	10 December 2016	
Uqairabat	Hama	12 December 2016	Pupil contraction, convulsions, respiratory distress, hypersalivation
Wadi Barada valley	North-west of Damascus	3 January 2017	
Bassimeh	North-west of Damascus	5-6 January 2017	Irritations
Al Midaani	East Ghouta	Late March 2017	
Al-Majar	East Ghouta	30 January 2017	Breathing difficulties, eye irritation
Arbin	East Ghouta	7 February 2017	

CITY	REGION	DATE	SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS
Arbin	East Ghouta	9 February 2017	Breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, foaming at the mouth, irritation
Arbin	East Ghouta	10 February 2017	
Housh Aldhawahra	East Ghouta	20 February 2017	
Harasta	East Ghouta	26 February 2017	Breathing difficulties
Latamneh	Hama	25 March 2017	Breathing difficulties
Latamneh	Hama	30 March 2017	Breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, foaming at the mouth, irritation
Khan Sheikhoun	Idlib	4 April 2017	Breathing difficulties, loss of consciousness, foaming at the mouth, irritation
Latamneh	Hama	6 April 2017	