Murder in the SunMorgue

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A Critique of the Sarin Myth and a Cyber-Investigation of the Ghouta Massacre

Denis R. O’Brien, PhD
Dedicated to the memory of “Bunny” and her playmates.

They shared a doom against which virtue was no defense.
– Truman Capote, *In Cold Blood*
Acknowledgments

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THE PRIMARY CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY

The primary conclusion of this study, based on a pharmacological analysis of the video and photographic evidence, is that the Ghouta Massacre near Damascus on Aug21.2013 was not a sarin rocket attack carried out by Assad or his supporters. It was a false-flag stunt carried out by the insurgents using carbon monoxide or cyanide to murder children and use their corpses as bait to lure the Americans into attacking Assad.

THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In this paper I review the standard US Government/mainstream media (USG)/(MSM) assertion that those loyal to the government of Bashar al-Assad perpetrated a chemical weapons (CW) attack against Syrian civilians on Aug21.2013 in areas adjacent to Damascus, Syria, areas collectively referred to as “Ghouta.” More specifically, I examine what has become, by means of incessant repetition, a demotic myth that the Ghouta Massacre was carried out with an organophosphate neurotoxin, specifically sarin. I present two alternative hypotheses that the toxin employed was carbon monoxide or cyanide. I then test all three hypotheses with the available evidence, and by “available” I mean visual evidence to which anyone in the world with an Internet connection has access.

This study is designed as an interactive investigation – interactive in the sense that tools and evidence are provided to allow you to make your own observations and come to your own conclusions. I encourage you not to read this work just to see if I have anything interesting to say, but to join in, look at this evidence, probe my assertions of facts and my logic and conclusions, and say something interesting yourself.

The subject-matter – a crime against humanity for which blame has yet to be determined – is worthy of your attention. This is a mystery in real life that unfolds on your computer screen in near real-time, and I am convinced that concerned citizens of the world can go a long way in solving it with what evidence is available online. I provide you with links to all of the evidence I rely on and links to tools for analyzing that evidence. I would like to think of this work as initiating a new genre of cyber-literature for the 21st century: crowd-sourced real-life murder investigation.

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1 Sarin often goes by the NATO moniker “GB,” which I use in the tables. Carbon monoxide is abbreviated “CO” and cyanide “CN” throughout.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FACTS

• A few days following the Aug21.2013 Ghouta Massacre the Obama Administration released a suite of 13 videos as “authenticated proof” that the massacre was a CW attack perpetrated by the Assad regime. These 13 videos were packaged into a DVD by Senator Dianne Feinstein for distribution to Congress and uploaded to the internet. They are referred to herein as the “DiFi package.”
• Videos #2, #7, and #11 of the DiFi package show two rooms in a building complex in Kafr Batna (“KB”), which is one of the neighborhoods in Ghouta that was allegedly attacked.
• Eight additional videos that are not a part of the DiFi package show two more rooms and a patio area of the same building complex, the “KB complex.” These additional eight videos are all connected to videos #2, #7, and #11 of the DiFi package. These 11 videos are referred to collectively as “the KB videos.”
• The parts of the KB complex that are visible in these KB videos and in numerous photographs comprise two distinct areas: one at ground-level, the other subterranean.
• The ground-level area is a large room filled with scores of bodies of children, women, and men. Because it is shown bathed in strong sunlight, I refer to it as “the SunMorgue” or “SM.”
• The subterranean area of the KB complex is a hell-hole that comprises – so far as we can see – a number of hallways, three small, dimly lit rooms, and a patio. It also contains numerous bodies and a smaller number of victims who were alive when they were videoed, but not by much. I refer to this area as “the DarkMorgue” or “DM.”
• A total of 120-125 victims are shown in the KB videos. A precise count is not possible because many victims are covered and it is not always possible to tell whether the same victims are shown in different views and in different rooms.
• With few, but dramatic, exceptions, the victims in the KB complex, like the Ghouta victims as a whole, do not display traumatic wounds. As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has concluded, it is clear that they did not die as a result of burns, gunshots, shrapnel, or explosive devices. The most likely cause of death of such a large number of people without obvious trauma is poisoning. The evidence from the KB complex supports that widely held conclusion: these people were poisoned.
• Organophosphates such as sarin produce a number of unmistakable clinical symptoms. Among these are fecal and urinary incontinence, grand-mal like seizures, copious watery salivation, copious tearing, bluish skin (cyanosis) in victims who are alive, and a dark blue or dark purple staining of the skin post-mortem.
• Not one of these symptoms is unequivocally present in any of the scores of victims in the KB complex.
• The toxins carbon monoxide (CO) and cyanide (CN) have become
conspicuous agents of choice in the history of modern warfare and capital punishment for executing individuals and for exterminating groups of people. Both agents are easy to obtain and are relatively easy to handle. Neither CO nor CN are considered CWs and they are not used in military-style attacks. Both of these agents are also well known to be “rubigenic” – that is, they can cause the skin color of victims to become bright pink or red, and to cause bright pink or cherry-red staining of the skin post-mortem.

- Many, if not most, of the living victims seen in the KB complex display very noticeable, and in some cases shockingly, red skin. In those cases where post mortem staining of the skin can be seen, it, too, is cherry-red or brick red.
- The KB complex is virtually empty of any furniture. There are no examination tables or other indications that the KB complex was a clinic or medical facility.
- Various views of the SunMorgue show it either empty, nearly empty, or completely full of bodies. Unlike the DM, no living victims are shown in the SM videos.
- Many videos/images of the SM show it being littered with syringes, some of which contain blood or a straw-colored fluid presumed to be plasma. One video shows two phlebotomists taking blood samples from children’s corpses.
- Two videos of the SM taken in bright light clearly show the corpse of an adult male lying on the floor. Analysis of the videos establishes that he was hemorrhaging profusely from the throat shortly before the videos were taken, or, possibly, while the videos were being taken. The videos show that none of the workers in the SunMorgue attempted to care for or assist the bleeding man.
- Videos of the DM show numerous bodies. Many, but not all, of those bodies are also seen in the SM at a later point in time. Timeline analysis establishes that the videos of the DM were taken at night and precede the daylight videos taken in the SM.
- The DM contains numerous gas cylinders of about 44 liters in volume, mostly scattered randomly about on the floors of different rooms. There are no protective valve caps on the cylinders; there are no valve handles. No flow meters, masks, or medical devices are attached to the cylinders. It appears that the contents of the cylinders were released directly into the air.

CONCLUSIONS

- Contrary to the assertions of the USG/MSM, it is virtually a pharmacological certainty that the victims seen in the KB videos were not poisoned with sarin or with any organophosphate neurotoxin.
- The victims shown in the KB videos were poisoned with a rubigenic toxin, most likely CO or CN, neither of which are used as CWs, and both of which are well known historically to have been used in mass-
executions.

- Because the Ghouta area, including Kafr Batna, was under the control of the insurgents on and prior to Aug21, 2013, only the insurgents could have carried out a mass-execution in that area.

- Consequently, the Obama administration’s assertions that the Ghouta Massacre was carried out by Assadists using sarin are factually flawed and verifiably false on the basis of the same video evidence the administration itself has described as “authenticated.”

- The totality of the evidence virtually requires the conclusion that the victims of Kafr Batna, and, by extension all of Ghouta, were poisoned by the insurgents using CO or CN. In other words, the Ghouta Massacre was a mass-execution perpetrated by the insurgents.

- This conclusion is supported by numerous pieces of indirect or circumstantial evidence. One example is the man who was hemorrhaging profusely from the throat on the floor of the SunMorgue. The evidence indicates he was murdered after he was brought into the SM and placed on the floor. There is additional evidence of another body in the SM with a slit throat.

- Based on timeline analysis and sequencing the video and photo evidence, the DM may have been area where victims were poisoned with CO or CN and then their bodies were removed to the SM in order to be videoed and photographed for PR reasons.
PART A

Two Axioms, Three Hypotheses, and a Caveat
Chapter One

The Pooh Corner Caveat

I am Salvadoran. I don't know why a Salvadoran has to be fighting a war in Iraq when no Salvadorans are dying there.

-Winnie-the-Pooh

This is an odd study about an odd story about a mass-murder of scores of women, men and children. The study is odd because it is written by an ex-pharmacologist/retired lawyer sitting at his desk day after day, week after week, for six months, looking up from his computer screen now and then to stare blankly at the distant Canadian Rockies half a world away from where the murders he is writing about took place. And yet the evidence he is seeing is so clear and so fresh he can almost smell the blood on the morgue floor. He sees the victims gasping for breath, he hears the children crying, and he plays the scenes over and over, looking for clues.

Had the Ghouta Massacre of Aug21.2013 not been a biological event, and had I not been trained in neuropharmacology, the Ghouta story would never have become such an obsession for me. After all, verdant, peaceful British Columbia is about as far away from the deserts and death of Syria as you can get. But when I saw those initial videos flooding out of Ghouta juxtaposed with the USG's allegations that Bashar al-Assad had "gassed his own people" with a neurotoxin called "sarin," my ears pricked up. And my first impression was that the sarin allegations could not possibly be right. I was certain that the victims I was seeing in the Ghouta videos – the same videos that the USG was presenting as proof of their allegations – had not been poisoned with sarin or any other organophosphate. And so, I decided to have a closer look.

Six months later, I'm still looking, but here's well over 250 pages worth of what I have found so far. And it ain't pretty.
The DiFi Package

Back in late August and early September of 2013, during the USG’s initial knee-jerk-reaction phase to the Ghouta Massacre, Barack Obama’s administration provided Congress with 13 Ghouta videos as “authenticated” proof that Assad was responsible for the massacre. The videos were meant to serve as a justification to Congress and the public for why the US should attack Assad. Senator Dianne Feinstein, chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who, like a lot of us, had been whipped up into a right-rage at what was in those videos, ordered all 13 of them packaged into a DVD and distributed to every congressperson. That video-package was also uploaded to the Internet via the Senate’s servers. I refer to these 13 videos as the “DiFi Package.” Soon thereafter the administration also released an anonymous, undated intelligence assessment and Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry began pounding the war-drum for a retaliatory attack on Assad. (See, for instance, Kerry’s Aug30.2013 address and Obama’s Sep10.2013 address.)

Of those 13 videos in the DiFi package, at least three depict scenes from a building in the town of Kafr Batna (“KB”), which is a part of the Ghouta region adjacent to Damascus and one of the areas alleged to have been attacked. These three KB videos form a sort of evidentiary kernel around which the present study is wrapped.

One of those videos stands out as being more surreal than the rest, but it is also more valuable from an evidentiary point of view. It has been viewed on YouTube far more times than most of the others. Although this video is only 1 minute and 22 seconds long, I have spent hours reviewing it in excruciating detail because it contains so much information and so many oddities, all of which constitute evidence of what happened there. I have labeled this video “SM-a.” It shows a bright, sun-filled room somewhere in KB, according to its source. The room is filled to capacity with dead people – women, men, children. Men wander up and down the room in the aisles formed by the rows of bodies.

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1 http://www.thejournal.ie/us-senators-syria-videos-chemical-weapons-1074178-Sep2013/

2 The DiFi Package of 13 Ghouta videos is listed as Video 000 in my Table of Videos., but it is easier to watch them as individual units, which are given in the Table as Videos 001-013.

3 http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-08-30/world/41606688_1_chemical-weapons-damascus-suburbs-syria

4 http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/09/10/remarks-president-address-nation-syria

5 My labels for all of the videos relied on in this paper and links to those videos are given in Table I, below.
But that’s not the surreal part, for if the devil is in the details, then he is deeply embedded in these KB videos. Look closely at that video and you’ll see that the room is filled with syringes – heaps of syringes, some containing blood, some containing what looks like plasma, some empty. And there is more weirdness. One body has a coin lying directly over its heart in some, but not all, images. Gunshots can be heard periodically. One body is bloody and looks like the last step the person took was into a puddle of blood judging from blood on the sole of his shoe – and his throat may have been cut. There is another corpse bleeding profusely from his throat – incredibly bright red blood spilled out onto the white morgue floor moments before the cameraman arrived. That’s the sort of the macabre weirdness going on in this sunny room of death, to which I have applied the most ironic term I could come up with: the “SunMorgue,” or “SM.

Later I found a second video (SM-b) of the SM, which was, as I demonstrate, shot a short while after the first, but still in bright sunlight. This video is 1 minute and 28 seconds long. These two videos together are referred to as the “sun-videos” and they form the bulk of the evidence evaluated in this report.

Eventually a much longer, third video of the SM emerged – SM-c. This video was taken late at night and informs us that the SM is a part of a larger complex, which I call the “KB complex.” In addition to these three SM videos, numerous still shots of the SM are found on the Internet that were taken over some indeterminable period of time, but presumably all in the day following the massacre. These photos show the SM in various phases of being filled and then emptied of bodies from dawn to late afternoon or evening.

I kept digging, and eventually I realized that two other videos in the DiFi Package were uploaded from Kafr Batna. While it is immediately obvious that both of these videos were shot in the same room – an eerie, windowless, stygian place filled with both dead and suffering people – there was no immediate way to realize that this dark place, which I call the “DarkMorgue,” or “DM,” is in the same complex as the bright SunMorgue. But as I perused the wider collection of Ghouta videos and still images on the Internet, I began to see these same places, and people, and bodies from different angles and at different times, and it started to come together.

[0003] Initially it was all more than just a little confusing. It was like being inside one of the old-time Southern county fair fun-houses that were contained in a single 30' trailer, but once you got inside it seemed like miles to the exit door. How could anything so simple on the outside be so vast and complicated on the inside? For weeks I looked at images from the SM and the DM before it struck me that these two morgues are not just both in KB, they’re in the same building! By the time I sat down to start writing up what I had found, I had almost a dozen videos and even more still shots showing various rooms and hallways of this place, the KB complex. I was able to deduce the spatial
relationships between these rooms and map those parts of the KB complex shown in the videos and still shots. By juxtaposing these different views of the KB complex, a timeline – and a very troubling picture – emerges. A troubling picture that is a 180-degree reversal from what we are being told by the USG and the MSM about the Ghouta Massacre.

[0004] The end result of my online sleuthing is a set of conclusions about how the KB victims were killed, what toxin was used, and who was responsible; conclusions that are diametrically opposed to the allegations of Obama, Kerry that the Ghouta Massacre was the result of a sarin rocket-attack by Assad – allegations parroted by most of the Western MSM. In Part C I explain the biology of chemical asphyxiation so you can see where I am coming from when I conclude this could not possibly have been a sarin attack.

But I am not offering this report as the final word on any of these issues. I am offering it as an invitation to you to look at these videos and images with your own eyes, and to follow this evidence through to your own conclusions. I am hoping that you will spot details I have missed and any errors I have made (including dozens of typos), and that you can tighten up on my logic and deductions and offer better ones of your own. This report, large as it is, barely scratches the surface of what could be accomplished by an Internet community dedicated to solving the mystery of this horrible crime of infanticide and pedicide, and to seeing that the guilty parties – whoever they may be – get adequately punished. An online discussion page can be found here.  

The Caveat

[0005] But I have to warn you that this paper will not be felicitous, recreational reading, and if you find it to be so, you seriously need to book some overtime with your shrink.

There are many emotionally difficult issues here: there are biological details about how toxins asphyxiate people; there are awkward forensic points about bodies changing color; there are bodies with their pants pulled down; there is blood pooling on the floor and a ghastly blood-soak rag. And there are waaay too many unpleasant images of dead and dying people, mostly children. In other words, this ain’t Pooh Corner. And the graphics you are about to see are not exactly E. H. Shepard’s drawings of Pooh, Tigger, and Eeyore. In fact, Ghouta could easily be considered the emotional antipodes of Pooh Corner.

No, this material is not rated PG; it is disturbing adult-only stuff. Please proceed with that understanding. And if you are not an adult, please stop reading right here. You’ve got better things to do: go out and

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shoot some hoops or hang with your friends . . . and try to understand what a privilege being a kid is even though the adult world fails so many of you so badly so often.

[0006] The evidence I rely on to make my points is ghastly and gruesome because, well . . . what happened in Ghouta was ghastly and gruesome. This is reality-YouTube, as much as I wish for the people of Syria that it wasn’t. The bodies are real; the blood is real; the dead children are real. A. A. Milne probably did not have a single thought in his entire lifetime the likes of which make up the bulk of this report.

So, while I don’t want to overly spook you right from the get-go, if bodies and suffering people viewed up close and analyzed in detail make you queasy, it’s probably best to just stop now. The Executive Summary lays out my main points without the background information, the science yada yada, and the grisly graphics. But then, relying on the Executive Summary defeats the interactive objective of this paper, which is to allow you to look at the evidence and come to your own conclusions.

[0007] The report is organized into four nominated parts and a very significant collection of appendices:

• **Part A** presents information of an overview or background character that is necessary for understanding how the evidence was collected, where it came from, etc. I present a geographical description of Kafr Batna and the KB complex, or at least as much as I know. I discuss the logic and philosophy relied on throughout this paper, including the postulates underlying my arguments. I justify focusing on just Kafr Batna out of a dozen Ghouta communities the US State Department says were attacked. I briefly identify three working hypotheses regarding what drugs were used to poison the victims seen in the KB videos.

• **Part B** focuses on the KB complex. I present a series of schematics and maps to pull together the KB videos into a coherent picture of the physical lay-out of the KB complex. I show how the SunMorgue is physically connected to the DarkMorgue and how the three rooms of the DM that are visible to us are connected to one another and to a patio area. I also introduce a number of victims that play important roles in understanding what happened. Just as important as the spatial relationships, I propose a rough idea of the temporal relationships of the events shown in the KB videos and photos.

• **Part C** gets into the science. I present the biological basis for interpreting the evidence the way I have. I explain the pharmacological basis of how sarin, carbon monoxide (CO), and cyanide (CN) each produce their own unique chemical asphyxiation. More importantly, I explain how the pharmacology of these toxins predicts what symptoms will be displayed and – just as important –
what symptoms will not be displayed by people poisoned with them. Then I closely scrutinize the video evidence from Kafr Batna and inventory what symptoms are seen and what relevant symptoms are not seen, and I use this information as a basis for testing the three hypotheses and for excluding one.

• **Part D** presents circumstantial evidence that the Ghouta Massacre was a mass-execution. I present what I call “The 5-Step Pathway to Who,” which is a set of deductive steps that begin with the unproven USG allegations that Assadists carried out the Ghouta Massacre with sarin and lead to the fact-backed conclusion that the Ghouta Massacre was a mass-execution carried out by the insurgents. Having turned a contextual corner as to what really happened in Kafr Batna and, by extension, all of Ghouta, I look more closely at the KB videos for details that support the mass-execution theory. Specifically, I present clear evidence that one adult male victim shown in the SM was murdered by having his throat cut or stabbed as he lay on the SM floor. I also present less conclusive evidence that a second adult male victim had his throat cut prior to being brought into the SM. I conclude that the evidence is not consistent with the KB complex being used to provide assistance and succor to victims of a sarin attack.

• **Epilogue** In this concluding section I summarize the evidence and present my closing arguments, pretty much what I would argue if I were trying this case to a jury. There are really four cases here. First, there is the case against the Sarin Myth – a virtually irrefutable case proving that sarin was not used to kill the people we see in the KB videos. The second case is nearly as strong: the people in the KB videos were victims of a mass-execution carried out, most likely, with CO or CN. The third case is more circumstantial: that a murder was committed in the SunMorgue by cutting or stabbing one of the victims in the throat and letting him bleed out. The fourth case is that most Westerners don’t really care about the other three cases, and don’t really care about what happened in Ghouta. I express my concern that a number of governments, including the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, are using the Ghouta Massacre – and the entire Syrian civil war – to help them achieve their geopolitical goal of regime-change in Syria, and in achieving that goal they are content to support the same insurgents who are willing to execute children in a false-flag PR exercise to draw America into the conflict.

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**Kafr Batna Background**

[0008] Kafr Batna is an insurgent-held neighborhood that shows up on Google Earth as being about 6 miles east of downtown Damascus.
Wikipedia\(^9\) gives the population in 2004 as 22,500. That was a decade ago and things have gone seriously downhill since then. Mother Superior Agnes-Mariam, whom we will meet in Chapter Seven, is a Carmelite nun who has lived in Syria for over 20 years. She claims that the whole Ghouta region had become a ghost-town prior to Aug21 because of intense fighting there. The map below, which was produced by the US State Department, locates Kafr Batna with respect to the other communities alleged to have been attacked on Aug21. There are a dozen of these communities, lying south and east of Damascus in a band that runs SW to NE. This band extends well beyond what is technically recognized as Ghouta, but to simplify the discussion, the USG and the MSM use the word “Ghouta” to refer to these 12 communities, and I follow that practice. Looking at that map, I have no idea how anyone gets from the airport into downtown Damascus without a Kevlar vest and helmet.

Fig. 1. US State Dept. map of neighborhoods attacked in the Ghouta Massacre. Source\(^10\)

[0009] To be honest, I’m not even sure where this KB complex is located, precisely, other than in Kafr Batna, and I say Kafr Batna only because that’s what the videos say. I would not be able to point the actual building out to you on Google Earth. I mean, for all I know of my own personal knowledge and from what I can see in the videos, this KB complex could be a suite of vacated medical and dental offices being foreclosed on in Trenton, New Jersey. However, three of the eleven KB

\(^9\) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kafar_Batna

\(^10\) https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2013/08/30/syrian-governments-use-chemical-weapons
videos that I rely on are a part of the DiFi package that has been authenticated by the USG, and, as you will see, I am able to conclusively tie the rest of the eight KB videos to those three. And so, on the whole, it is not unreasonable to accept that we are looking at a building complex in Kafr Batna.

Furthermore, there is a guy named Petri Krohn at the website A Closer Look On Syria (ACLOS) who is a wizard at looking at a place shown in still images and videos and finding the place on Google Earth. In this case Petri has seized upon a view in one of the videos where you can see through a window of the SM to the adjacent buildings, and he has deduced that the morgue is precisely at $33^\circ30'55.24"$ N $36^\circ22'25.13"$ E. I'm not sharp enough to follow Petri's complex geo-location process, and so I can't confirm or certify his results, but he's good at this, and so I throw these coordinates out there in case you want to have a look. At the very least Petri's analysis pinpoints the Kafr Batna neighborhood so you can use Google Earth to have a look around.

What is more important than the street address of the KB complex, assuming it's not in New Jersey, is that the videos filmed in the complex form a self-contained, homogenous body of evidence pointing toward a very ugly truth. The building and its morgues could be in Moadamyeh, or Irbin, or Duma, or any of the other neighborhoods alleged to have been attacked and it would make no difference as long as what happened there is a part of the larger massacre, and I don't think there is any doubt about that. After all, the USG has provided three of these videos as authenticated proof of the attack.

Kafr Batna Players

Victims I use the term “KB victims” in this report to mean the dead and suffering children, women, and men we see in the videos and still images of the KB complex. I use the term “Ghouta victims” to mean the entire population of people killed and injured in the Damascus area on the night of Aug 21, 2013.

I cannot provide a precise figure for how many KB victims there are because of the way victims are moved around and are covered with cloths or otherwise obscured, but a good estimate would be 120-125. About 100 of them are dead. What living victims there are are seen only in the DM, and these are all men and children – I believe only one woman victim is alive in the videos or photos, which is, perhaps, an observation with its own cause for concern. Gender-distinctions are found in a number of respects in the KB complex, and I hit this point pretty hard later in the report.

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11 http://acloserlookonsyria.shoutwiki.com/wiki/Main_Page
12 http://acloserlookonsyria.shoutwiki.com/wiki/Talk:Alleged_Chemical_Attack,_August_21,_2013/Locations
Many of the victims in the KB complex appear in multiple images that were obviously taken at different times and in different places, and this allows timelines of events to be deduced. I use the term “body continuity” to indicate the ability to connect two distinct rooms to each other because the same bodies are seen in both rooms.

There have been a number of erroneous claims online to the effect that bodies in KB are also seen in other communities. I believe this report is the first time the various rooms of the KB complex have been tied together and mapped so that it becomes clear that all of these different rooms are not in different communities, they are in the same building. However, I have no doubt that on examining other Ghouta videos carefully, bona fide examples of inter-community body-continuity would be found. There is only one example of a living victim shown in more than one part of the KB complex, and that “victim” is also shown in another community as well, Zamalka.

I hate having to resort to ID numbers to refer to these victims, but, of course, I don’t know their names. I wish I did. I provide a Victim Locator Table in Appendix I that will help you keep track of which rooms and which videos many of the KB victims are seen in.13

Perpetrators  As for referring to the perpetrators of these crimes, I rely on a simplifying “binary-suspects axiom,” which is to say that I consider it indisputable that the Ghouta Massacre was carried out by either Assadists or insurgents. Just two possibilities. I formally define the terms “Assadists” and “insurgents” below.

These are painfully non-specific terms, but that’s as far as I am willing to take it in this analysis because it is not possible, yet, to lay the blame at the feet of any individuals, or even individual groups. The best we can hope to do with what evidence we have is to point a finger in one direction or the other – toward the Assadists or toward the insurgents – and, hopefully, the UN or the International Criminal Court will be able to assign guilt to the depraved individuals are responsible.

And that much we do know: whoever pulled off this stunt was depraved, and they had to have acted in concert with other many other depraved people. This massacre was too large in terms of number of victims and geographical area to have been carried out by one or a few individuals. It was too well coordinated. If the Assadists committed this crime, then it was likely a military-style CW attack, and a couple dozen individuals with the right military gear might have been sufficient. If the insurgents are the guilty party, then it was likely a mass-execution, possibly of Shia or Alawite prisoners captured in northern Syria, and it would likely have taken 100 or more individuals, not counting the PR people taking all of the videos and photos.

Here is how I define the potential perps.

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13 The ID numbers used throughout this paper relate to a series of tables of victims I have compiled that contain information on the wider population of Ghouta victims. These tables can be found at my blog-site. Here.
I use the term “Assadists” to mean combatants in the Syrian civil war who are supporting the Assad government, including the Assad government itself; the Syrian Arab Army (SAA); local militias that are loyal to the Assad government such as the National Defense Force and Shabiha; foreign elements such as Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards. And, of course, Bashar al-Assad. The party that is guilty of the Ghouta Massacre could be one of these pro-Assad elements or it could be a combination of them. Maybe it is none of them. As I say, the best I can do is refer to the general class of pro-Assad entities. Generally, these Assadist groups are Shia and Shia-related sects/political groups such as Alawites and Ba’athists.

I use the term “insurgents” to refer to the second half of the binary-suspects axiom: a complex, poorly defined but well organized and well funded collective of 20-60 distinct Sunni organizations, according to media reports. Some of these groups have openly been trying to bring down the Assad government for over two years, others joined the fray just weeks or months before the Ghouta Massacre.

I refer to these people collectively as the “insurgents” because presently the sectarian extremists originating from outside of Syria are dominating the consortium of anti-Assad groups. I admit that “insurgents” is not 100% technically correct since a lot of these people are Syrians and thousands are even ex-SAA guys. But the tag is more accurate than the ones used by the MSM and various governments seeking regime-change in Syria, who apply much more generous labels, such as “rebels,” or “the opposition,” or “the good guys,” although there is precious little about these people that could be considered good even by the devil himself. Even if “insurgents” does not accurately describe every anti-Assad fighter, the term is sufficiently accurate for my purposes. Besides, a minor semantic inaccuracy like that does not deter the USG from labeling its indigenous enemies in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan as “insurgents,” so I won’t let it bother me here.

These Syrian insurgents are now predominately Sunni/Wahhabi extremists and include ultra-violent al-Qaeda spin-offs like the al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (“ISIS” or “ISIL”). They are, in fact, among the most brutal and blood-thirsty collection of humans on the planet. They seem to get off on executing civilians en masse, amputating and decapitating victims, eating hearts they have cut out of their enemies’ bodies and uploading the videos to YouTube.
And the reason I note the insurgents’ public displays of violence is that when the Ghouta Massacre took place, the UN Mission to investigate CW attacks in Syria had just arrived in Damascus, and it seems most likely that the timing was not coincidental, but that the massacre was designed to be a public display of gratuitous violence for the benefit of the UN and their press entourage. To the extent this speculation is valid, each side’s history in engaging in such displays has to be a clue as to which side is more likely to be guilty.

I mean, just in terms of which side has shown a penchant for employing public brutality as a PR tool, the insurgents would have to be viewed hands down as most likely to be the guilty party even before we start looking at the Ghouta evidence. For, unlike the insurgents, the Assadists do not seem to take delight in cutting people’s heads off and uploading mp4’s of such events to YouTube. That is not to say I expect any of the Assadists groups or Assad himself to be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Assad’s predilection for brutality and repression are well documented even if videos of his brutality are not constantly played on YouTube.\(^{14}\)

Although the present report concludes that the Assadists were not responsible for the Ghouta Massacre, I would not want my readers to take that conclusion as an endorsement of Assad or his style of “leadership.” I am simply following the evidence relative to this particular massacre. I have no interest whatsoever in the outcome or conclusions of this work other than that they be as close to the truth as I am able to get.

It is also helpful to keep in mind the larger picture, both geographically and theologically. Syria’s “civil war” was never a civil war in the sense of the American Civil War. Americans tend to look back

\(^{14}\) See, for instance, the Jan20.2014 de Silva Report on torture and executions by the Syrian regime.
romantically on their civil war as an unfortunate, but understandable, conflict between virtuous white guys fighting and dying for their principles. Even the word “rebel” has a certain romantic cachet, which is why the USG uses that term for their allies, the Syrian insurgents. The American Civil War was fought over limited and well-defined issues, it lasted barely four years, and it ended as suddenly as it started, at which point everybody kissed and made up (at least figuratively) – and the country got back to the business at hand, which was finishing off or displacing millions of Amerindians.

In contrast, the Syrians’ war – including the Ghouta Massacre – is one more chapter in the Shia-Sunni sectarian bloodbath that has dominated Islam since Muhammad died almost 1400 years ago. I mean, these people are still killing each other in retaliation for insults and lost battles that happened 30 generations ago. This long-term hatred between Shia and Sunni must be kept in mind as we try to grapple with the brutality of the Ghouta Massacre, not in order to excuse what happened, but in order to comprehend what happened.

When trying to understand contemporary, violent, sectarian disputes between Muslims, particularly in the Middle East, and in trying to understand who is killing whom and why, it helps to do what I call a “balance of the hatreds analysis,” because it is often more complicated than just Shia vs. Sunni. If, for instance, a first Shia group hates a second Shia group more than it hates a Sunni group, and if the Sunni group hates the second Shia group more than it hates the first Shia group, then the first Shia group and the Sunni group will likely team up to brutalize the second Shia group. After the second Shia group is eliminated, then the remaining Shia group and the Sunni group will turn on each other. It’s the way things have been done for 1400 years, and particularly in Syria where many of the most brutal Muslim-on-Muslim atrocities have occurred, such as the Abbasids extermination of the Umayyads in Damascus in the 8th century CE.

And within Syria today, with scores of Sunni extremist groups squared off not just against Assadist Shia and Alawites but also against each other, the whole thing can seem just too complex to understand. None of us have the time or inclination to keep track of scores of insurgent extremist groups and who is killing whom and why. On the other hand, those who over-simplify will likely miss the truth by a desert mile. They will conclude that Ghouta was controlled and occupied by the insurgents – i.e., Sunni – therefore, the Ghouta Massacre must have been carried out by Assadists – i.e., Shia. But that over-simplified assessment ignores the reality that the Sunni extremist groups in Syria are turning on and butchering other Sunnis. And so, even if the people who were massacred in Ghouta were Sunnis, that says nothing about which side of the Shia/Sunni divide their killers were on.

Given this confusing situation, it is helpful to have in mind at least a basic picture of the geo-sectarian distribution of the Assadists and insurgents. Such a simplified picture is provided in Fig. 3.
Fig. 3 is an abbreviated and simplified pastel representation of the complex distribution of major religious sects that are relevant to the Syrian civil war. For those who, like me, see Syria as being pretty much liver-shaped, then Fig. 3 is the closest cartographical analogy to fatal hepatitis you'll likely ever see, and during the autopsy it very well may end up being dissected as shown.

The two lilac bands in the north represent two main concentrations of Syrian Kurds, who are playing what is now a minor role in the conflict. The dark pink area along the west coast and north into Turkey represents the Alawites, who are a sub-sect of Shia. The lighter pink finger extending south to Damascus represents non-Alawite Shia. Not explicitly indicated on the map are the Sunni because they represent everything else, except for a few pockets of Christians and Druze, also not shown. Of course, most of what is not in pink or lilac is dirt, so the Sunni are not in as good shape as their over-sized portion of the map suggests.

The largest city in Syria, Aleppo, lies right in the overlap area of Sunni, Alawites, and Kurds, which helps to explain why it has been the bloody focus of the war. It is also close to the Turkish border, where large numbers of insurgents and arms have been flowing in, especially before the Benghazi fiasco when the CIA cut off their so-called “Rat Line” arms smuggling operation from Libya through Turkey. 15

The eastern edge of those pink areas is a pretty good approximation where most of the carnage has occurred up to now, and it runs through Ghouta. The farther west one goes from that edge, the safer it has been to be a Shia or Alawite; the farther east one goes the safer it has been to be a Sunni. The area marked “Latakia” is the Alawite stronghold and the home of Basahr al Assad. And so, as for my Assadists vs. insurgents nomenclature, the Assadists are represented by pink and the insurgents are the rest of Syria, save the relatively small areas of Kurds, Druze, and

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Murder in the SunMorgue  ~ The Ghouta Massacre

– 23 –
[0018] **Workers and loafers.** Sometimes it seems that the KB videos show almost as many non-victims as victims. For want of better terms, I call these non-poisoned people “workers” and “loafers.” Since Ghouta is entirely held by the insurgents, and because KB is an insurgent stronghold, one presumes that the workers and loafers are insurgents.

Watch the videos carefully – not just the KB videos, but all of the Ghouta videos. Even those workers who appear to be tending to victims are doing so in the most superficial way. Most of them are moving dramatically from victim to victim, but *doing* nothing helpful. In some cases they just stand there and watch victims withering in apparent agony. I do not see anyone who appears to be doing anything that makes sense within a medical context, much less within a context of treating sarin intoxication. For instance, the world has been told that thousands of doses of the sarin antidote atropine were administered that night but there is not a single example of evidence of any atropine administration in all of the KB videos that I have seen. Most of the syringes and syringe wrappers are seen in the SM, which is filled only with the dead, who are far beyond needing atropine.

What we see are repeated examples of desultory people futilely squeezing ventilator bags twice or thrice and then moving on to another gasping victim and repeating the same, whereas it would probably require hours of constantly ventilating a sarin victim in order to do him or her any good. We see two phlebotomists drawing blood samples . . . from corpses, which could have neither a therapeutic nor palliative objective. There is an armed guard patrolling the bodies in the SM. There is an army of workers who have access to an endless supply of green plastic bottles containing water, which they use to dramatically douche any victim who is right in front of the camera lens. All of these folks I refer to as “workers.” Kerry calls them “heroic first responders.” Kerry and I differ on a number of points related to Ghouta.

[0019] The loafers are even less helpful. They just seem to be loitering about without any apparent objective or purpose. They are so ubiquitous that you almost mentally stop seeing them as they wander through the morgues slowly, looking at bodies, chatting, as if in an art gallery. These videos are taken mere hours after the alleged deadly attack. One would think that in the hours after a horrible “sarin attack” that killed up to 1700 of their family, friends, and neighbors, every single one of those who survived would either be running in the direction of fresh air or pitching in to help treat or comfort those who have been poisoned (or pitching in to help dig their graves) rather than standing among the corpses making small-talk. These are the “loafers.”

[0020] **PR jocks** These people are distinct from the workers and loafers. If you watch the edges of these videos carefully, now and then you will get a glimpse of members of the insurgent PR press-corps going
about their task of recording the gruesome scenes in still images and videos for immediate uploading to the Internet. For the most part these cameramen and videographers take care to keep each other out of their shots, but even when you can’t see the PR people themselves, often their camera flashes going off tell you they are there.

In Appendix II, More Oddities from the SunMorgue, I document the curious case of two of these PR people recording each other for prosperity, and maybe prosecution.

Of course, the person holding the camera that is recording what you are seeing is also one of these PR people, and what you see is what he wants you to see, and nothing more, which is why they rarely show the faces of Kerry’s “heroic first responders.” But whether they know it or not, they are all busy making an evidentiary record that will, hopefully, some day – perhaps with your help – be entered into evidence and will lead to large numbers of convictions.

0021 The insurgents’ PR network is impressive. It includes numerous organizations operating both inside Syria and outside, and I can’t think of anyone who could use some PR help more than a pack of blood-thirsty hyenas who persist in showing the world videos of themselves killing old women and beheading prisoners, and then asking the world to support them.

Some of this PR machinery is inside Syria sending images, and videos, and information to the PR machinery on the outside. Wittingly or not, virtually the entire Western MSM has become a part of this external insurgent PR apparatus – particularly the biggies like the Guardian, Washington Post, and New York times, who rely on their insurgent sources for virtually all of their Syria reporting.

Eliot Higgins (aka Brown Moses) in London is a good example. He has become internationally acclaimed for his Syrian-conflict website and, judging from his family contacts with Turkey and his anonymous contacts with the insurgents, he appears to be a part of the insurgents’ PR organization. He lists hundreds of these local insurgent PR teams on
his website. Another outlet for the insurgents’ propaganda is the website Syria Observatory on Human Rights, which is run by Rami Abdulrahman, an anti-Assad Sunni who escaped to London after serving three terms in a Syrian prison.\footnote{It is pro-insurgent websites like these that the MSM rely on for information about what is happening inside Syria. Because so many journalists have died in the conflict, I don’t believe there are any Western journalists currently reporting from inside Syria, and certainly not from inside the combat zones.}

But for better or worse, the propaganda groups, aka “coordinating committees,” inside Ghouta are our eyes and ears in Kafr Batna, for they had access to morgues, and emergency clinics and, perhaps, even gas chambers, and they videoed part of what was going on in those places on the night of the massacre.

\[0022\] As I say, we rarely actually see the PR people themselves, but we will get to know one videographer and one photographer in particular because most of the visual images of the KB complex were produced by these two individuals.

The videographer is a man in charcoal trousers and black shoes who has produced at least five of the 11 KB videos. His feet make brief, alternating cameos as he walks briskly through the SM and DM videoing the chemical carnage on the wet floors. His images get constantly photo-bombed by his errant camera strap that swings in and out of the video frame. He strikes me as a latter-day Minnie Pearl, whose signature price tag dangled from her hat, conspicuous to everyone except, apparently, her. I refer to him affectionately as “Mr. Minnie.”

For someone who is trying to focus on every detail in this guy’s videos, the intrusive camera strap is annoying in that it seems to be timed to block exactly the thing you are trying to see, but it, too, has information. It identifies which videos were shot by Mr. Minnie for one thing and that helps us stitch seemingly disparate videos together into a sequence. The dangling strap also tells us he’s using a camcorder and not an iPhone, and that means that videos were not sent directly from the recording device to YouTube through a wireless network but were perforce transferred to a computer to be uploaded, and, therefore, those files are more amenable to editing.

\[0023\] Mohammad al-Abdullah is the photographer who seems to have taken the bulk of still shots from Kafr Batna. All of the al-Abdullah photos of the Ghouta Massacre I have seen that were taken in strong noon light are of street scenes. It appears that he arrived at the KB complex in the late afternoon of Aug21 and photographed the SM in waning light a near-empty state. Much of his work is published by Reuters. When I mention al-Abdullah photos, I’m talking about these late-in-the day shots of the SM.
Chapter Two

The Logical and Philosophical Groundwork

How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?
– Sherlock Holmes, The Sign of the Four

Assumptions, Axioms, and Philosophy
Underlying This Study

Nobody knows how many people were killed in Ghouta on Aug21.2014. Even now, many months after the massacre, there is no good guess. The Syrian nun, Sister Agnes-Mariam, said that her people reviewed the videos in the DiFi package and counted over 500 dead victims. Obama’s “intelligence assessment” said there were 1429 fatalities. In other words, we have a massacre without known scope. The bodies disappeared so fast we will likely never know how many there were. When the UN Mission went into Ghouta four days after the massacre to find evidence of sarin, they did not take a single sample from a single body – so far as I know, not a single DNA sample remains from a single victim. Not even from a dead pigeon or cockroach. But for the YouTube videos, this massacre never happened.

Yet the number of videos is enormous. Hundreds. And out of those hundreds of videos and images showing hundreds of victims I limited this study to just the evidence that I could connect to the KB complex. The whole was just too much to deal with, the boundaries too uncertain. But once I understood that there was this KB complex that comprised a single physical location, then I realized that the KB videos document a coherent, fairly large sub-population of victims who were all connected in time and space and manner of death in an inescapable tragedy in the same sense that the victims in the North and South Towers were.
By concentrating on just this part of the larger Ghouta Massacre I felt that perhaps I could avoid being swamped by the YouTube deluge coming out of Syria. If I could come to some understanding of what happened in KB, I would be close to the truth of what the Ghouta Massacre was all about in the same way that if you could prove what brought down the North Tower, you’d have a pretty good idea about what happened to the South Tower, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93. After all, there is no reason to think that Kafr Batna was any different than any of the areas in Ghouta that the USG said were attacked, and there is no reason to think that the event – whatever it was – was not homogenous across the whole of Ghouta.

But more important, the video evidence pointing to the cause of the suffering and demise of this sub-population is the clearest and the most comprehensive I have. By the time you finish Part B, I believe you will agree that the KB videos tell a cogent and coherent story that is complete in and of itself.

Some may argue that by focusing on a single, sub-population of victims this study is too narrow to draw any conclusions about the massacre as a whole and, therefore, is of little value. I couldn’t disagree more. Even if the evidentiary scope is limited to just one building complex and ten dozen victims, the tragedy we see in that complex is quite extraordinary and more than sufficient to justify a close look and to demand an explanation.

We can be pretty certain from the video evidence shown and discussed below that over 100 souls lost their lives in KB that night, including dozens of infants and children. With careful, patient, detailed observation and by applying logic, common sense, and a few pharmacological principles, we can conclude that the sarin attack story that was initially published by the insurgents and echoed by the MSM and USG cannot possibly be true. Not for Kafr Batna, anway. And if something else killed the people in the KB complex, then the entire sarin story must go out the window.

And so, resolving what actually did happen in a particular building complex in KB has value as a story in search of the truth, and stands on its own as a worthwhile research project. Furthermore, because there is compelling evidence that these people were the victims not of a CW attack but of a mass-execution, and because there is compelling evidence that at least one person’s throat was cut as he lie on the floor of the SM, there is value in this story as a mystery story of enormous proportions – a crime against humanity that can be witnessed by the entire world. That is worthy of the telling, hopefully as a first step in bringing the killers to justice.

But as with any crime, we’re going to have to know what happened before we’ll be able to say who did it. If we can deduce who was responsible for the murders of the people we see in the KB complex then, by virtue of a second axiom – the unitary agency axiom, discussed below – we’ll know who was responsible for the entire Ghouta Massacre.
My first axiom – the binary-suspects axiom – is that either the Assadists or the insurgents are responsible for the Ghouta Massacre. I am limiting the universe of potential perpetrators to just this binary choice because 1) that simple postulate is supported by virtually everything we know about the Syrian crisis, 2) it is obvious, 3) it comports with common sense, and 4) it simplifies the analysis. I mean, anyone who would suggest that the Syrian Christians or Druze or Kurds are likely candidates as the guilty parties would be way, way out there. There well may be subsidiary or third-party actors such as the USG, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and/or other governments or groups supporting the people who carried out these crimes, but as for the primary actors, all bets must be on either the insurgents or the Assadists. Eliminating one as the potential perpetrator automatically implicates the other, and I think we can do that quite convincingly.

My second axiom is that of a unitary agency, which is to say the postulate that whoever killed the scores of people in KB are the same people responsible for the entire Ghouta Massacre. Again, this axiom is based on simplicity, plain common sense, and lack of alternatives. For it would be laughably irrational to propose that the Assadists attacked the people in KB while the insurgents attacked the people in Irbin or Douta, at the same time and on the same night, and then they both upload hundreds of videos to YT simultaneously.

The power and purpose underlying these two axioms is that they allow us to generalize in a limited way from KB to the whole Ghouta Massacre, and yet they are simple, straight-forward and virtually beyond dispute: either the insurgents or the Assadists are responsible for the KB deaths on Aug21.2014, and whichever one it is, they are also responsible for the entire Ghouta Massacre.

But note that these generalizing axioms do not extend to the means by which the people were poisoned. I cannot, and do not, assume that any toxin that was used in KB, also had to have been used in the other communities. Such an assumption would not be supported by any evidence I have, nor would it be demanded by common sense or logic.

However, if the evidence forces us to reject the idea that sarin was used in KB, then that conclusion would be sufficient to shift the burden of proof to those, such as Obama and Kerry, who allege that Assad attacked all of Ghouta with sarin-loaded rockets. Let’s look more closely at their syllogism and logic.

The official USG “logic” set forth by both Obama and Kerry is based on the following syllogism:

• Premise #1: Only the Assadists had access to sarin and the means of using sarin to attack Ghouta.
• Premise #2: Sarin-loaded rockets were used to attack Ghouta.
• Conclusion: Ergo, the Assadists were the ones who attacked Ghouta.
The sleight of hand here is that the Obama administration states Premise #1 as a fact when it is not a fact – at best it is an assumption; at worst, a prevarication. And the logical flaw inherent in the premise is that no one can ascertain the negative fact that the insurgents did not have access to sarin, least of all when “insurgents” comprises over 150,000 jihadis divided into 20-60 undefined, spooky groups. Misrepresenting assumptions as facts is precisely the con-game that GW Bush and his neocon buddies used to gin up their war in Iraq. It would be a travesty if Obama was to employ the same type of dishonesty to gin up a war in Syria.

Like Bush’s assertions about Saddam, Obama’s Premise #1 had all the patina of pigeon poop on the pump handle right from the get-go, and it has become even more dubious since the get-go. For as soon as the allegations were out of his mouth, contrary reports started surfacing alleging that these insurgent groups had been seeking components to make sarin in Turkey

More damning still was Seymour Hersh’s London Review of Books piece, Whose Sarin?, published on Dec08.2013, which virtually flattened Obama’s Premise #1 by bringing to light evidence that not only did the insurgents have both access to sarin and the capability to synthesize it, but Obama’s administration knew that at the time Obama was asserting the opposite.

Obama’s Premise #2 is the subject of the present work, except that I don’t address the rockets issue. My background limits my comfort zone to biological issues, like examining the truth of the USG’s assertion that the neurotoxin sarin was used. And I think that turns out to be more than sufficient.

[0029] The greatest advantage of focusing just on Kafr Batna is, of course, that by picking one community as a representative sub-population of all of the victims of the Ghouta Massacre, I can greatly reduce the volume of evidence that must be reviewed and the amount of analytical effort required to come to an initial conclusion about what happened. There are hundreds of videos online of the Ghouta Massacre.
and, as you will see, the amount of evidence that can be gleaned from even a 30 second clip can be very, very substantial. It would take a small army of people willing to subject themselves to hours of strabismus-inducing video-gazing in order to come to a conclusion based on all of the Ghouta videos. In fact, one reason so much information was dumped onto the Internet may have been to discourage this sort of detailed analysis.

Once I realized that the SM and the multiple dark basement rooms of the DM were all a part of the same complex, I began to understand the gravity of what I was seeing, and what I was seeing was a process. The KB videos show a single, coherent population of about 125 victims who were exposed to some poison. Some of them are dead, others are suffering and, presumably, dying. Bodies initially seen at night in the DM are later seen packed into the SM near noon, laid out in neat, tight rows. Then the SM is shown later in the day, almost empty as bodies are being carried out. And so you can almost see in this one building complex a process unfolding – a process that should be understood by the world to be a crime against humanity.

Of course, all of the Ghouta videos taken together could properly be characterized as evidence of a crime against humanity, and so there is nothing special or unique about the KB videos in that respect. But the whole of it is too much to comprehend. The videos are so chopped up into 30-second segments that repeat themselves two or three times within a single video that it would take one person years to sort them all out. But here in one physical place, in one manageable collection of a dozen videos is a representative microcosm representing all of those who died in that larger, horrible event.

A Triad of Testable Toxin-Hypotheses

With respect to Ghouta there is one huge, over-riding, universal observation that immediately eliminates many hypotheses from consideration: the obvious lack of trauma to the bodies. As Kerry put it in his Aug30 speech, “not a scratch, not a shrapnel wound, not a cut, not a gunshot sound.” While he overstated the actual video evidence somewhat, he makes the point that the absence of trauma to the great majority of the bodies must mean that the cause of death of most of the victims in Ghouta was a chemical, or biological, or nuclear agent of some sort. Where Kerry really over-reached was with his outrageously illogical conclusion that since a chemical agent was used, it must have been sarin and, consequently, Assad must be guilty. That sort of “logic” is just plain blue-bonkers crazy, as I have suggested above and as I demonstrate below.

But then, blue-bonkers crazy pretty much describes the universal party line from the USG and MSM as far as the Ghouta Massacre goes. Prior to the present paper there has been, for all I am aware, only one
hypothesis as to what toxin was used in Ghouta: sarin. In fact, the sarin-hypothesis is so dominant that when the UN Mission went into Ghouta to collect evidence, the only thing they were looking for was, apparently, sarin. There is not a word in the UN Mission’s Report on the CW attack near Damascus, 21 aka the Sellstrom Report, about sampling for any other possible toxin. In fact, no other toxin is even mentioned. For one whose background is science and law, I find the UN’s method of using preconceived conclusions to generate not just a report but an entire investigation that could be used to justify killing a lot of people and possibly igniting a regional or global war both infuriating and frightening.

And so what I’m doing in this paper is trying to breathe some sanity into this mess and some discipline into the analysis. Instead of assuming for a fact that the toxin was sarin and then sending the UN guys in to look for sarin and only sarin, I suggest that we propose that sarin is one possibility. Then package that possibility as a formal hypothesis and see what we can do to verify or discard that hypothesis. It seems like the least we can do. After all, a lot of people’s lives could be at stake if Obama plays this thing the way Bush played the yellow cake-hypothesis. Or the aluminum tubes-hypothesis. Or the mobile biological agents production facility-hypothesis.

Better still, borrowing a page from the play-books of the best scientific labs, we should propose multiple hypotheses and test them against each other to see which ones can be eliminated and which ones cannot.

And that’s what I’ve done in this investigation. I present and test three competing hypotheses about the toxins that were used to poison the victims we see in the KB complex.

But . . . what’s a hypothesis? Even those of us who have spent most of our working lives in science will disagree about what a correct answer to this question looks like. The best I can do is give you the answer I have used with reasonable success in my life and research, and continue to use in this investigation: A hypothesis is an educated guess about what is possible that is stated as an assertion of fact – i.e, stated in such a way that it has the potential to be disproved by logic or evidence. The emphasis here is on “educated” and “potential to be disproved.”

Being an educated guess is what distinguishes a valid hypothesis from a wacko conspiracy theory. An educated guess is one that is not merely pulled out of thin air, but has a solid basis in what is already known. There must be a factual starting point.

The other defining characteristic is that the hypothesis must be

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formally stated in such a way that the statement can be examined logically and tested empirically by field observations, experiments, or other forms of fact-based analysis. A man much wiser than myself warned me when I was a graduate student that a hypothesis is a powerful tool, but if you don’t organize it properly, it will bite you in the bum for sure. What he meant is that it is important to state the hypothesis in a way that it can be ripped to pieces if it’s properly tested and if it’s wrong. If you do your best to put the hypothesis to the test and it cannot be shot down, then it might be pointing you in a worthwhile direction. It tells you what is possible, and if it fails, it tells you what isn’t. And if there is only one hypothesis standing when you have tested them all, then that one is the equivalent of the county fair Kewpie doll.

[0034] There are basically two ways to test a hypothesis: trying to burn holes in it with laser-logic (a priori arguments) and trying to blow it to pieces with dynamite-evidence (a posteriori arguments).

Testing a hypothesis with logic means first identifying the necessary consequences – the ramifications – of the hypothesis and then asking whether those necessary consequences are possible. Take the Santa Clause Hypothesis, for instance. One necessary consequence that follows from the SC-H \(^0\) \(^22\) is that a fat man has to be able to visit the home of every boy and girl in the world in a single night. By the time a kid gets old enough to see that this consequence has to occur if the SC-H \(^0\) is true, then he/she is also old enough to realize that even with GPS and radar guidance systems it just ain’t going to happen. That’s when, and that’s why, the SC-H \(^0\) eventually goes out the mental window of every kid who once bought it. It doesn’t matter how much evidence the kid has supporting the SC-H \(^0\) or how strong that evidence is, like a plate of half-eaten cookies on Christmas morning, the logic itself trumps the evidence. The point is that when defeating a hypothesis with such a priori arguments, you don’t have to collect one iota of evidence; the hypothesis essentially rejects itself by virtue of the impossibility of its ramifications.

But note I said “impossibility.” One rejects a hypothesis on the basis of laser-logic because the consequences of the hypothesis are impossible, not because they are improbable. Probability has little or no role to play in this analysis. Sherlock Holmes said it best in that quote above: once you have rejected every explanation but one as being impossible, then that sole remaining explanation has to be the answer regardless of how improbable it is.

It is rare in the public world of academic science for hypotheses to be rejected purely with logic. And that’s because the people presenting scientific hypotheses are usually smart enough to see any necessary but impossible consequences of their hypotheses, and so they save themselves

\(^{22}\) I would like to express my appreciation to Dr. D.J. Longley, who, 40 years ago, introduced me to the superscript “o” as a tool for abbreviating just about any term in science. It works especially well with “hypothesis.”
a lot of embarrassment by not putting logically flawed hypotheses “out there.” The MSM and the US government are, apparently, far less concerned with their appearances.

[0035] The second way to test a hypothesis is empirically, which is to say with experience or experiments or other sources of facts that come to us through our senses, not through pure thought processes. This is the way we will go about testing the three KB toxin hypotheses. Our evidence will be the videos and still images of the KB complex that have been uploaded to the Internet.

[0036] Let me state this triad of hypotheses formally:

- The sarin-H°: The victims shown in the KB complex were poisoned by sarin.
- The CO-H°: The victims shown in the KB complex were poisoned by carbon monoxide.
- The CN-H°: The victims shown in the KB complex were poisoned by some form of cyanide.

I did not simply snatch these hypotheses out of the air. As I state above, to avoid being properly considered a wacko conspiracy theory, a hypothesis has to be an educated guess – there has to be some accepted knowledge backing it up before it’s even proposed.

Given this point of view, the sarin-H° is problematic because there is no valid, educated basis for it. In fact, I would not even consider sarin as one of the competing hypotheses based on what I have seen from the Ghouta videos. But sarin has been hyped by the insurgents, by Obama, and by the world’s MSM as the agent that was used. And the UN mission went into Ghouta looking for sarin and, not surprisingly, came out with sarin in hand. Consequently, the sarin assertion has to be dealt with and I do that by including it as one of the hypotheses to be tested.

As for CO and CN, they are included because they are toxins with a nasty history of being used to kill large numbers of civilians incident to military campaigns, and because they both are well known to produce peculiar symptoms that are widely seen in the Ghouta victims. I explain all of this in detail when I describe the pharmacology of all three toxins in Part C.

[0037] And so we have three competing hypotheses: the sarin-H°, the CO-H°, and CN-H°. The primary task, then, is to determine whether any of these hypotheses are so inconsistent with the evidence that they must be rejected. If more than one hypothesis cannot be reasonably rejected, then the secondary task is to attempt to determine which of the remaining hypotheses is most likely a true statement of fact. This is referred to, not coincidentally, as the “competing hypothesis approach.” No stronger method for getting to the truth of a matter is known to science. While other possible agents other than these three
could have been used in Ghouta – and, hence, other possible hypotheses exist – the unique symptoms caused by CO and CN make them far and away the most likely alternatives to sarin for reasons that will become evident in Part C.

Given the pharmacological context we are working in, the way we go about trying to reject these hypotheses is straightforward. Each of these three toxins produce specific syndromes – arrays of symptoms – that can be ascertained by studying the clinical and research literature. These syndromes will overlap to some extent between two agents, and a few symptoms, like convulsions, are caused by all three agents. On the other hand, each agent also produces symptoms and biological signs that the others do not.

And so, the evidence will fall into two categories with respect to each of the three toxins. First, there is the positive evidence. That means seeing symptoms that we know a toxin must produce or seeing symptoms that we know the toxin cannot produce – either way the evidence consists of what is actually seen. Second, and equally important, is negative evidence, which means failing to see symptoms that we know a toxin must produce. For instance, if sarin is well known to turn corpses blue and the corpses we see in the KB videos are pink, then that would be negative evidence that sarin must be rejected as an explanation.

The value of this pharmacological approach to sorting out what happened in Ghouta is that biology is not driven by polemics, or politics, or neocon agendas, or sectarian hatred. It doesn’t matter whether a victim is Sunni or Shia or Simba the Lion King, if his lips and ears and fingertips are blue, then he almost certainly was not poisoned by CO. In other words, biology doesn’t give a flip who you are, how you worship, or which dictator you support.

* * *

Techniques and Sources of Information

There are many free tools on the Internet that facilitate citizen forensic adventures like this one, and there is an enormous amount of visual evidence on the Ghouta Massacre that has been digitally passed from street-level right into the lap of anyone who wants to have a go. I cannot think of another example in human history where ordinary people have tools that give them access to the scene of a crime, much less a crime of these proportions, so they can do their own investigation.

There is nothing unique or innovative about my methods and nothing spooky about my sources – everything is open sourced, both the evidence and the tools. Although this paper has grown so large that I had to edit out significant amounts of redundant evidence that supports individual points, all of the evidence I do present is accessible to anyone who wants to have a look. I give the links to all of the videos and try to provide the precise time-point in the videos where each relevant image is seen. Unlike many government allegations and MSM articles, this report
The dates recorded on YT uploads are Pacific time zone dates. Most of the videos have a YT upload date of Aug20, which means they had to be uploaded prior to 10am Aug21, Damascus time, which is midnight on Aug20, YT time.

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is not based on the ubiquitous “Anonymous Source,” who is relied on to control the message with information that can’t be verified.

I encourage you to download the tools, look at these videos yourself, check my facts, and form your own conclusions rather than relying on me, or relying on Barak Obama, John Kerry, Lindsay Graham, the NYT or any of the other overt hawks who have pushed for an attack on Assad in retaliation for the Ghouta Massacre.

Following this analysis of the KB complex and what happened there, and testing the hypotheses will be a relatively challenging task, but it will be much easier if you actually see the evidence for yourself as I discuss it. In both Chapter Three and Appendix I, I present a table of links to all of the videos I rely on, with annotations as to what part of the KB complex each video shows. All of the still photographs I rely on are provided with links to the sources.

Ideally, to examine the videos you will have a media player that allows you to move around in a video easily, including stop-frame, frame-by-frame, and reverse. I have found the free media player, VLC, to be more than adequate. The methods and software (with links) I used to download the videos, analyze them, capture screen-shots and highlight areas of interest are provided in the methods appendix, Appendix III.

The evidence I rely on in this report essentially comes down to 11 videos and several still images. Most of these videos were uploaded from Ghouta just a few hours after the massacre, which is said to have taken place from about 2am to 5am on Aug21.2013, Damascus time. That was 4pm to 7pm, Aug20, Pacific Daylight Savings Time, which determines the date marked on YouTube uploads.23

Above I mentioned that the DiFi Package comprises 13 videos, which can fairly be thought of as Obama’s evidence for going after Assad. These 13 videos represent only a tiny part of all of the videos that the insurgents uploaded to YouTube in the hours and days following the Ghouta Massacre, but because Obama, Kerry, and Feinstein have presented these 13 videos as “authenticated” by US intel services, they have a particular gravitas as evidence. For instance, should the evidence gleaned from the DiFi videos not support Obama’s sarin allegations, having signed off on the videos as being authentic, the USG would not be able to cover itself by asserting that the DiFi videos must have been faked. Videos #2, #7, and #11 of the DiFi package were shot in the KB complex and are used extensively as evidence herein. Under my nomenclature they are videos Rm3-a, Rm3-b, and SM-a, respectively.

I am aware of a number of videos and still shots purporting to be of KB that are not included in this report. These videos are of buildings with marble walls and floors that do not appear to be a part of the KB

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23 The dates recorded on YT uploads are Pacific time zone dates. Most of the videos have a YT upload date of Aug20, which means they had to be uploaded prior to 10am Aug21, Damascus time, which is midnight on Aug20, YT time.
complex, at least I have not been able to make the connection. If the connection is there, I would be grateful if someone would point it out to me. While I cannot connect these other scenes to the KB complex, what I can say is that, so far as I have seen, all of the observations I make regarding the victims in the KB complex apply to the victims in these other buildings purported to be in KB. In fact, with a couple of fairly clear exceptions, all of the conclusions I make with respect to the KB complex apply to all of the Ghouta videos I have seen.

[0041] In wading through these KB videos – or any of the Ghouta videos – for evidence, it is critical to keep a number of caveats in mind. Foremost, one must not lose track of the obvious: these videos were all produced by insurgents and uploaded by local insurgent PR committees who support the insurgency and are trying to take down Assad. In other words, like virtually all of the evidence in this mystery, these videos are tainted by virtue of their source, and this opens all sorts of problems and possibilities.

For instance, videos can be staged, and some of the Ghouta videos obviously are. Some of the things seen in these videos will strike any normal person as being really weird, given the context, and alarm bells should go off.

For instance, when you see the same “victims” suffering or dead in different places miles apart, it has to make you pause. And there is no way to know that an image or video is what it is advertised as being. At least one widely disseminated image of the Ghouta attack turns out to be an image from the Egyptian uprisings of a year earlier.

Sometimes in these videos you see people acting in ways you would not expect of someone in the dire, tragic situations that the videos are supposed to show. The screen-grab in Fig. 5 is from a video that is a good example of such suspicious behavior. That video shows a couple of kids goofing around and laughing in the background of an otherwise hyper-dramatic scene of a crowd solemnly staring at a pile of very neatly dressed “dead” boys. This is especially bizarre because the “dead” boys – no girls – look to be the same age as the kids who are yucking it up. Presumably, these laughing kids were (or are) all school friends of the “dead” ones. It’s hard to avoid the suspicion that these laughing kids are witnessing not a horrible loss of their schoolmates but, rather, a big joke that the insurgents are putting over on The Stupid Americans to get them to pull the trigger on Assad.
Another potential problem with the Ghouta video evidence is that these videos are heavily edited to make the most dramatic impact possible and to exclude information that may conflict with the insurgents' intended message, which is that the Assadists killed the people in the videos with sarin. The problem with doing an online forensic investigation from 6500 miles away is that you cannot analyze what isn’t in the video, which is frustrating when you know the person, or body, or blood you want to see is just barely to the left or right of where the camera is pointing. Nor can you control the lighting. This is particularly frustrating because much of the biological evidence I rely on is skin color, which is notoriously dependent on lighting. But those frustrations are minor compared to the ones arising from knowing that the people making the videos may well be intentionally pointing their cameras away from what we really need to see.

Nevertheless, these videos are a powerful source of information. For instance, videos of the same room have been produced at different times by different PR people. You can tell that by the YouTube upload information and the logos embossed on the videos, and, often, by the angle of the sun. The people who are in one room – including the dead people – change from video to video. The same bodies show up in different rooms. A specific body may be associated with one group of bodies in one video, but with a different group of bodies in a different room in a subsequent video, thereby tying the two groups of bodies and the two rooms together – i.e. “body-continuity.”

The children’s bodies are easier to track because of their brightly colored, distinctive clothing.

For morgues, the SunMorgue and DarkMorgue are incredibly dynamic places, and by keeping track of who is where and with whom, you can begin to build timelines for individual victims and rooms. And those timelines imply that a process – a very sinister process – is taking place.

Another interesting aspect of the video-evidence is that as YouTube videos come increasingly under scrutiny in online discussions, those videos become more likely to disappear. My guess is that by now 20% of the original videos have disappeared. And it is not just the videos, entire
YouTube channels of the insurgents are disappearing. Virtually all of the evidence once on Facebook has been removed. This destruction of the evidence is in itself suspicious. In Chapter Three and Appendix I, I provide mp4 versions of all of the videos in my KB video-stable. If you find that a YouTube channel has been taken down, the mp4 is there as a back-up.

[0044] One last point regarding sources of information and evidence: the present paper pretty much ignores the Sep15.2013 UN Report on the CW attack near Damascus, aka the Sellstrom Report, as a source of evidence. One would have hoped that the Sellstrom Report would have been the ultimate source of objective and scientifically sound information on the issue, but to the contrary, as I have already described in detail, all of the evidence that the Sellstrom Report is based on is tainted because it was all provided by the insurgents. The Report was not the product of an independent inquiry; it was the product of a collaborative effort between the UN Mission and the same insurgents who may very well be the guilty parties. Not a single piece of data and not a single conclusion of the Sellstrom Report is beyond suspicion, and according to the principle that no proof can be stronger than the evidence used to support it, it would be an act of inexcusable intellectual myopia for me to rely on evidence I know is tainted.


26 http://logophere.com/Syria/Syria%20Docs/Ghouta%20Final%20ver01a.pdf
PART B

The Kafr Batna Death Complex:
A Tale of Two Morgues
Chapter Three

The Sun

You can avoid reality but you cannot avoid the consequences of avoiding reality.
– Ayn Rand

Gamers develop a special mental skill that is not at all unlike a lab rat’s ability to find their way around a maze in the dark. I think it’s one part spatial instinct and two parts finely developed short-term memory. Back in my short but intense gamer period I honed that special mental skill to a sharp enough edge that I could descend into the bowels of Level I of the 1990’s favorite, Descent, find the red key, rescue the hostages, blow the reactor, and (sometimes) find the escape hatch in time to get out before the expanding fireball scorched my tush.

But I’ve lost my edge. The schematics of the KB complex you will find in this Part B represent months of effort that probably would have taken a mediocre gamer an day or two. Even now I’m not sure that I’ve got it all 100% right and that I won’t get my tush scorched by a bunch of bright gamers or maze-busting lab rats with iPads and Facebook accounts who are a lot better at sussing out labyrinths than I am.

Assembling the various views from a dozen videos into a coherent picture of the KB complex was not that difficult. The difficult part was first determining which of scads of Ghouta videos were showing the same complex. What you see in most of the videos is just a few seconds of suffering or death without any narrative or context – you have to add both. When a cameraman moves through dim hallways from one room to another, you can be sure that the room he left is spatially connected to the one he arrives at, but most of the videos are shot entirely within the confines of a single room. For instance, all you might see is a single individual lying on a wet floor next to the wheel of a cart, and that wheel is all you have to connect that video to another one of the same room. And rooms change from one video to the next – bodies are moved around, bodies come, bodies go, 44 liter gas cylinders appear and disappear. In other words, in this version of Descent the whole
I have developed headaches and slight nausea running these videos on two screens simultaneously while trying to establish spatial congruence. I’ve experienced wee, tiny panic attacks thinking I’ve gotten myself lost in that DarkMorgue and may end up on the floor – dead, cherry-red, and with my hands bound on my stomach – like the rest of them. And then there is the unpleasant experience of repeatedly getting jerked out of faux-gamer’s mode and back into reality by periodic spasms of recognition that these videos are not subsequent levels of a computer game; they are videos of hundreds of real, poisoned people who are suffering, and hundreds more who stopped suffering forever sometime before the PR people arrived with their camcorders to make a final, digital record that they ever existed.

After months of looking at these victims daily trying to figure out what really happened to them, they have almost become friends, in the saddest way. Friends without names, mostly, only my victim ID numbers. And I feel an odd sense of being privileged to be the one to introduce them to you, and to tell you what I have deduced about the story of their final moments – a story that is really a pretense for getting the word out that these unknown friends of mine, these kids particularly, existed, not just as victims, but as people. But for that story to make sense, you have to know something about the place where they died.

The schematic in Fig. 6 shows the spatial relationships between four areas that comprise the KB complex as deduced from the various videos and still shots that have been uploaded to the Internet. Most conspicuous in the schematic and in the videos is a large, bright, ground-level room filled with bodies – the SunMorgue. The SM is connected by an external walkway to a subterranean area – the DarkMorgue, which comprises at least three rooms and an outdoor patio. The DM is likely a lot larger than what I show, but what I show is all I have. Many of the schematics I present look a bit disjointed because the videos they are derived from don’t show every wall, hallway, and doorway. I have excluded walls I cannot see in the videos or that I cannot fairly deduce must exist.

I have color-coded the video-views in the schematic with video links in Table 1. In referring to these videos throughout this paper, when I wish to draw your attention to a particular scene, I place an approximate time marker following a slash. All of the schematics in this paper are oriented the same as Fig. 6. The indicated direction north is entirely arbitrary but is consistent from one schematic to the next. It has nothing to do with magnetic north; I merely use “north”, “east”, “west,” and “south” to facilitate descriptions of movements through and between these rooms. If you get disoriented, Fig. 6 will get you re-oriented.
Fig. 6. Schematic of the KB complex indicating the areas shown in each KB video. Not drawn to scale. “North” arbitrary.
Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vid ID</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time of day</th>
<th>Upload date</th>
<th>mp4 link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SM-a †</td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>~ Mid-day</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4²⁷</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Afternoon or evening</td>
<td>Aug22</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-c †</td>
<td>SM → DM</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4²⁹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Room #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm1-a</td>
<td>DM Room #1</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm1-b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm2-a †</td>
<td>DM Room #2</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4³²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug21</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm3-a</td>
<td>DM Room #3</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm3-b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug21</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm3-c</td>
<td></td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat-a</td>
<td>DM Patio</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† The YouTube links to these videos have been taken down or access denied. Please access the mp4 links.

²⁷ http://logophere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20011a.mp4
²⁸ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7bIOBuNlfw
²⁹ http://logophere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20031.mp4
³⁰ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzW5tKCXrqg&list=PLO_yQ_Y4lJ5Bl1D1kCN-PRDm9A7aLeSkX&index=2
³¹ http://logophere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20011a.mp4
³² https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbmKPfIFozU
³³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWhuHM2KiFM&list=PLO_yQ_Y4lJ5Bl1D1kCN-PRDm9A7aLeSkX&index=2
³⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzpLeXcfNJk
³⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5Vby7TdnL8
³⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpPLeXcfNJk
The sunlight flooding the SunMorgue figures large in understanding the KB videos. Not only does it light up the evidence in the SM, it gives us a clue as to the time of day and how much time passes between videos. In addition, because it is so bright, the SunMorgue serves as a psychological home-base or anchor point. Compared to the DarkMorgue it is a virtual oasis — it is above ground, it opens on to the street, it is almost cheerful. Its occupants are past their final suffering.

I have three videos of the SunMorgue: SM-a, SM-b, and SM-c.\textsuperscript{38} They all show the same room at different times. Video SM-a is particularly important because it is video #11 in the DiFi package. Fig. 7 below is a schematic of the SM showing the paths taken by the three videographers as they wandered through the SM taking their videos. I have added four screen-grabs taken from the three videos. What I know about the SunMorgue comes from these three videos and a hand-full of still images, most of which were taken by Mohammad al-Abdullah. The videos have a aggregate running time of approximately 3:40. That’s it: three minutes, forty seconds, and much of it repetitive, but what an enormous amount of evidence is there, as you are about to see.

From bodies lying on the floor, I estimate the floor-tiles of the SM to be about 17 inches square. This gives a rough guess of the dimensions of the SM as 28 feet x 50 feet. It has four large windows in the south wall, a main entrance to the east, and a side entrance to the north — all directions are diagram-directions, not geographical. There is a foyer adjacent the side entrance. There may also be a foyer adjacent the main entrance as shown above, but you can’t see it well in the videos. The main entrance opens onto a sidewalk adjacent a street.

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{itemize}
\item[\textsuperscript{38}] Because a lot of the Ghouta videos are being taken off of YT, if you hit a dead link, try the mp4 link given in Table I.
\end{itemize}
\end{footnotesize}
[0051] Image A above is from video SM-c. This video was obviously shot at night, presumably between 2AM and sun-up on Aug21, local time. It was shot by Mr. Minnie and is an extremely important video for a number of reasons, the first one being that it shows what the SM looked like before it was completely filled with bodies.

The video starts off outside of the building in a dark, ambiguously chaotic street scene. Children are crying and clinging to adults. People carrying green plastic bottles scurry around; others are hosing down the sidewalk. Three people lying or sitting on the wet sidewalk are being tended to.

And yet the chaos is not homogenous. In fact most of the people are milling around without showing any angst or anxiety at all. A few of them are sitting nonchalantly on a low wall, watching the action around...
them. A few cars can be seen moving in the background. People are chatting. Still, other people look sincerely panicked.

After sweeping this sidewalk scene with his camera a couple of times, Mr. Minnie goes through the main entrance, past the foyer, and into the SM. Of course, at night there is nothing sunny about it, but it is brightly lit with overhead fluorescent lights, and I find that a bit queer, too, at least within the context of a nocturnal sarin rocket attack. For I have had my share of terrifying nights sitting through rocket and mortar attacks, and, as I recall, the first thing one does when the explosions and sirens start screaming is to turn the lights off. And you leave them off until the sun comes up because experience and common sense suggest that incoming rounds at night naturally gravitate toward light because that’s were the people – i.e. targets – are. And yet here we see recorded in SM-c the chaotic dark hours during or immediately following an alleged rocket attack by Assadists intent on raining down death on Ghouta . . . and the SM is lit up like a Wal-Marts during a midnight special in the ladies' department.

But what is most striking about the SM in SM-c is that it is virtually empty, save a half-dozen or so young people of both genders sitting around on the floor. One of them is supine, but is being ignored by the rest. They don’t look traumatized, injured, or poisoned – not even excited. They hardly look like people who have just been through a sarin-rocket attack, or any rocket attack. Mostly they just look tired and bored, as if they just finished a really long shift at Arby’s and are hanging out at the local morgue, waiting for it to fill up. One would think that if people were dying all around them from sarin, these kids would be at least a little worked up about it and looking for their folks. And if sarin was waiting in the late night breeze, they would probably be dying gruesome deaths themselves. A window is open, suggesting they are not trying to escape from a poisonous gas outside.

There is not a single piece of furniture in the SM, and no indication there ever was. And what is equally striking if you have seen the videos of the incredible destruction Ghouta has sustained in the 18 months prior to the attack, is that this building appears perfectly OK. The windows, walls and floor are in excellent repair. The lights have bulbs and power. This seems odd when you consider that the percussive effects of an artillery round can blow out windows a hundred yards away.

As shown in the schematic above, the SM has two pillars placed along the midline of the room; they serve as important landmarks for our analysis. The room has a generic rubbery greyish beige baseboard. The tiles are probably ceramic, off-white. In some views the tiles look like they are single squares, but in other views the tiles reflect the light in a way that makes them look like each one is made up of three rectangles.
Another conspicuous feature of the SM in SM-c is the mess the floor is in. It looks like it has just been jet-sprayed, leaving muddy pools. A window is open, suggesting rain could have come pouring in, but the weather in Damascus that night was clear. Fig. 8a is a foot-selfie taken by Mr. Minnie wading through the SM puddles, his camera strap dangling.

Fig. 8a. Mr. Minnie's foot-selfie, camera strap, and the muddy SM floor. SM-c/00:48

Mr. Minnie, like all the other PR people filming the KB morgues, is careful to keep his camera pointed toward the ground when moving from place to place. Although he shows a number of young people sitting on the floor as he enters the SM, he is careful to keep his camera pointed straight at his feet as he leaves so that we don’t see the young people again. But what we do see is the dazzling, fru-fru thong and salmon-pink toes of his companion. (Fig. 8b.) Upon emerging from the SM Mr. Minnie descends into the DM where we will catch up with him and his friend once we have completed our tour of the SM.

For comments on the many pink toes and fingers seen in the SM, see Appendix II, More SunMorgue Oddities.

The Sun-Videos: Bodies In, Bodies Out

[0055] The other two SunMorgue videos – Vids SM-a and SM-b (collectively, the sun-videos) – were taken in bright daylight, which has to mean they were taken quite a number of hours after SM-c, and, more importantly, quite a few hours after the “sarin attack.” The floor appears clean and mostly dry in these later videos. As the schematic in Fig. 7 shows, the two cameramen who recorded the sun-videos took very
similar paths as they moved through the SM from east to west and back again.

But there are differences in these two sun-videos that suggest that a significant amount of time passed between them – the change in the strength of the sunlight, for instance. Here are two similar views of the western wall of the SM as shown in SM-a (Fig. 9) and SM-b (Fig. 10).

Figs. 9 & 10. Difference in sunlight between the two sun-videos suggests the passage of time, but which view is earlier?

The sunlight is obviously much stronger, direct, and at a higher angle in the view from SM-a, Fig. 9. Note, for instance how sharp the shadow is of the body in the lower left corner. Given that the weather data for Damascus on Aug21.2013 indicate 0% cloud cover all day, we can dismiss passing clouds as the reason for the softer light of SM-b. It looks to me that SM-a was taken at about noon, with the sunlight streaming straight in the window from a high angle. And so, I use SM-a as a temporal reference point for other videos and still shots of the SM.
The main limitation of this analysis is that we can’t tell whether SM-b was shot earlier or later than SM-a. Fig. 10 could show the room in the softer light of morning or evening. In other words, while differences in the strength of the sunlight may give us some feel that a considerable amount of time passed between the two videos, it doesn’t tell us the sequence of the videos. Deducing that sequence is vital, but will require additional evidence.

The bodies in the SM have been segregated as indicated in Fig. 7. My best attempt at taking a body count yields 86 bodies shown in video SM-a, and 80 in SM-b. SM-a shows the room filled just about to capacity; in SM-b you can see openings in otherwise closely packed rows. But, of course, not knowing the sequence of the two videos, we don’t know whether the video with the fewer bodies was taken before or after the SM was at full capacity.

The children’s corner is the SE corner of the room, as shown in image D of Fig. 7. The bodies of 18 colorfully dressed infants and children, mostly girls, are lying beneath the window closest to the main entrance. Other than a couple of older boys who might be considered children but who are laid out in the men’s section, all of the children are in this corner, at least in these videos. Unlike the men and women, the number of children does not change between SM-a and SM-b.

Image C of Fig. 7 shows a portion of the 37 men’s bodies that fill the remainder of the south half of the SM, adjacent the windows. All but four of the men are arranged in six rows. I have not found a shot of the

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– 50 –
men’s section that shows it in its entirety. Two shots are shown in Figs. 9 & 10, and here is another partial view showing four of the six rows:

Fig. 12. Another partial view of the men’s section of the SM. SM-b/00:33

For the most part a wide path separates the men and women – the body with the blue leg-covering in the photo above is a woman; the women’s area is out of frame to the right. Like the children, no attempt has been made to cover the men’s faces, with two exceptions.

The women’s section is also well organized into rows, as shown in image B of Fig. 7. I count approximately 31 women organized in five rows along the “north” wall in video SM-a, and approximately 29 women in video SM-b. I’m hedging with “approximately” because unlike the men and children, the women are wrapped or covered with blankets and it’s difficult to interpret all of the lumps.

If you look closely at image B, which was taken from SM-b, you will note the gaps – one each in the second and third rows from the front. These gaps are filled in SM-a, which accounts for the difference in 2 women’s bodies. The other major difference between the women in the two videos is that in SM-a all of the women’s faces are covered whilst in SM-b most of the women’s faces can be seen.

[0057] In sum, I count six more bodies in SM-a than in SM-b – four men and two women. Another way to say this is that there are six gaps in SM-b that do not appear in SM-a. All of the children in both sun-videos are the same and in the same place. In fact, all of the bodies that are seen in both videos are pretty much in the same position, and, largely, in the same pose, so far as you can tell, but it’s difficult to say with 100% certainty because somebody was swapping blankets around, which confuses the issue.

The differences in the body counts and the differences in the lighting between SM-a and SM-b suggest two possible sequences: 1) SM-b was shot first, in the morning while the room was filling up and the six gaps were not yet occupied, or 2) SM-b was shot second, in the evening while the room was being emptied and the six bodies had been removed, leaving the gaps. With additional information we will be able to sort out the sequence, but for the moment all that is beyond doubt is that SM-c shows the SM in an empty, nocturnal state while SM-a shows the SM at mid-day, near capacity state. All of the rest of the videos and stills show the SM in softer light and in intermediate states in which the room is
It is worth noting that many of these KB shots are credited to insurgent PR photographer Mohammed al-Abdullah, who sells to Reuters. I refer to these soft-light SM photos as “the al-Abdullah” photos even though not all of them carry credits. We will return to Mr. Abdullah in Part D.

![Fig. 13](source) ![Fig. 14](source) ![Fig. 15](source)

Figs. 13-15. The children’s corner, intermediate stages. Fig. 13 [Source](http://www.independent.ie/photos/syrian-gas-attack-massacre-29519765.html) — Fig. 15 [Source](http://www.aa.com.tr/en/mod/photo-gallery/8202)

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![Fig. 16](source) ![Fig. 17](source) ![Fig. 18](source) ![Fig. 19](source)

Figs. 16-19. The women’s section, intermediate stages. Fig. 16 [Source](http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/08/21/syria-crisis-paris-idINDEE97K0FK20130821) — Fig. 17, source has been taken down — Fig. 18 [Source](http://acloserlookonsyria.shoutwiki.com/wiki/File:CW_821_KafrBatna_6.jpg) — Fig. 19 [Source](http://acloserlookonsyria.shoutwiki.com/wiki/File:Kafar_Batna_girls_removed.jpg)

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40 It is worth noting that many of these KB shots are credited to insurgent PR photographer Mohammed al-Abdullah, who sells to Reuters. I refer to these soft-light SM photos as “the al-Abdullah” photos even though not all of them carry credits. We will return to Mr. Abdullah in Part D.


42 Photo credit: Mohammed al-Abdullah.

43 Photo credit: Mohammed al-Abdullah.


46 Ibid
Figs. 20 & 21. The men’s section, intermediate stages. Please note that the young man in Fig. 21 is in the distance in Fig. 20, beneath the window. He is also seen in the lower left corner of Figs. 9 & 10. Fig. 20. Source 47 — Fig. 21. Source 48

[0058] Figs. 16 and 17 exemplify the odd dynamics of the SM. The body of the young man designated M-011 is indicated in these figures for reference. He is sort of a “constant” because he is seen in many of these SM shots in precisely the same position and pose. We will see him again when we get to the DarkMorgue. The woman in Fig. 16 wrapped in the colorful cyan and pink cloth whom I have labeled W-001 is rarely seen in the still shots and not at all in the videos – or at least her cyan cloth is not seen, we can’t see enough of the body to be sure it is not one of those under another cloth. Indeed, she is missing from Fig. 17. Her feet can be seen in Fig. 20. One might surmise that W-001 is so rarely seen in the SM images because she was only in the SM for a very short while, and was not there when the sun-videos were shot. This is the only body seen in any of the videos or still shots whose head is toward the east end of the room.

Unlike the rare appearance of W-001, the two women in Fig. 16 labeled W-002 and W-003 are present in almost all of the still photos of the SM and both sun-videos. However, both women are missing from Fig. 16. In Fig. 17, W-003 is covered with a black cloth, but in other views, it is W-002 that is covered with the black cloth, and in at least one view they both are.

[0059] What do these dynamics suggest about the purpose of the SM? Of course, all we can do at this early stage of the analysis is speculate, and the problem with speculation is that it requires context and we don’t have enough information yet to determine the overall context of what the KB complex is all about. We are just scratching around for the moment, trying to get a preliminary sense of what we see.

It looks to me like these photos show the SM being emptied late in the afternoon. There came a point rather late in that process when most of the bodies were gone, but before W-002 and W-003 were taken out, at

47 Photo credit REUTERS/Mohamed Abdullah
http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/worldviews/wp/2013/08/21/five-reasons-the-u-s-doesnt-act-on-syria-chemical-weapons-reports/

which time the photo in Fig. 17 was taken. Subsequently, these two bodies were removed from the SM, perhaps one of them is on that stretcher in Fig. 20. After W-002 and W-003 were removed, W-001 was brought in and the photo shown in Fig. 16 was taken. In other words, this is not a first-in-last-out situation in which bodies were brought into the SM until it was full, and then bodies were taken out in reverse order until it was empty again. Rather, it looks like bodies are coming and going out more or less randomly and simultaneously. The gaps in the rows suggest the same thing: bodies were not merely brought in, laid on the floor at the west end working toward the east end, and then the ones closest to the door taken out first. The random gaps suggest that certain bodies were selected to be removed before other bodies.

[0060] And so my initial impression is that the SM appears to be some sort of dynamic staging area – bodies are brought into it and held for a while before being taken out, perhaps for burial before the sun sets. But it’s more complicated than that. Why would they be bringing a body – W-001 – into a morgue they are emptying? Why not take that body directly to the burial site? Why wouldn’t they have been more efficient – removing the last bodies in, the ones nearest the door, first rather than stepping over bodies and leaving gaps in rows? Why would they have removed 14 of the children’s bodies and left those four in Figs. 13 and 14, three of which are right in the middle of the room and nearly blocking the entrance? The way the children’s bodies were removed gets even more odd when we look at the syringes left behind, below.

And where would these bodies be coming from? Were they victims that died in their beds (fully clothed), or on the street fleeing the alleged sarin attack? No, the evidence I will present below shows that many of the bodies, and virtually all of the children, were brought to the SM from the DM, where they probably died.

But the present speculation presumes, among other things, a timeline that we have not yet established. I mean, for all we know, the still photos may have been taken in the morning when the room was being filled and before either of the sun-videos was taken. Indeed, any explanation of what is going on in the KB complex is not going to be much use without a timeline. The clearest way to suss out this timeline is by following the action with the syringes.
Chapter Four

The Syringes

Although I have handled thousands of pre-packaged syringes, I am embarrassed to say that even after searching the Internet for images of syringes, I cannot make a call on the size and volume of the ones seen in the videos.

Love children especially, for they too are sinless like the angels; they live to soften and purify our hearts and, as it were, to guide us.

– Fyodor Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov

In this section we begin examining individual bodies in the SunMorgue closely. As we do please take note of their color. We can tell by the sunlight that SM-a was shot near noon, which is to say at least 9-10 hours after the “sarin attack” was supposed to have happened, according to the insurgents’ sarin scenario. And, as I demonstrate in this section, video SM-b was shot after SM-a. So all of these people in the sun-videos have been dead for many hours, at least according to the sarin scenario. But what you are going to see is bodies with such incredibly fine natural color that one would be hard-pressed to distinguish them from sleeping individuals. Figs. 22 and 25, below, are examples.

This is very important and I am going to discuss it in detail in Part C, but I am alerting you to this healthy coloration – called “rubicundity” – now because it is the most important clue in this entire mystery.

Partial Inventory of the SunMorgue Syringes

Syringes are almost as much a feature of the SM as the sun and the bodies are – syringes and their packages are everywhere in videos and still images of the SM. In fact, I initially considered calling it “The Sunny, Syringe Morgue.” The syringes are of the plastic disposable type, probably 3 ml. or 5 ml. They have a Luer-type screw connector for the needle. The needle is not pre-attached. Given that there are no other medical supplies, or instruments, or indications that the KB complex is a

Although I have handled thousands of pre-packaged syringes, I am embarrassed to say that even after searching the Internet for images of syringes, I cannot make a call on the size and volume of the ones seen in the videos.
medical facility, one wonders how these people came by all of these syringes, but I guess the answer to that depends on who these people are.

Here are a few examples of the dozens of syringes seen in the sun-videos:

![Figs. 22-27. Syringes in the SM, some of which can be seen in both sun-videos, help establish the timeline.]

[0063] At least two dozen syringes can be seen in the sun-videos, but it is hard to keep count because the syringes do not appear at the same places in both videos and often the loafers wandering around in the SM prevent clear views of some of the victims. Whilst one can see numerous syringes in SM-a they are mostly in their wrappers or empty and lying on the floor, as in Figs. 26 & 27, whereas in SM-b the syringes are more prominently seen containing blood and lying on the bodies’ stomachs. If the syringes are 5 ml., it looks as though 2 ml or so of blood was collected. In a few examples, even though the quality of the video is not sufficient to see the blood, you can see that the syringe plunger is pulled back and the black rubber stopper at the front end of the plunger is positioned away from the tip of the syringe, as opposed to a fresh syringe right out of the package, where the plunger will be pushed all the way into the barrel and the black stopper will be evident at the front end of the barrel.

The syringes in Fig. 24, for instance, obviously contain blood, but in other cases it’s difficult to say. For instance, the victim in Fig. 22 is M-006. He is seen in a number of these videos and still shots, both in the SM and the DM. The syringe on his chest is difficult to interpret. It could be one that has not been used (yet?). On the other hand, it could be one of a few of these syringes that do not contain blood, but rather contain a clear, yellowish fluid that is probably plasma.
Fig. 28. Most of the children in SM-b – but not SM-a – have syringes on their stomachs. SM-b/00:10

[0064] Fig. 28 shows how prevalent the syringes are on the children in SM-b. On close inspection, most of them have blood in them. By contrast, Fig. 29, below, is the same view from SM-a and there are no syringes on the children, with a single exception; however, there are numerous packages of unopened syringes to the right of the girl in the orange shirt, G-004. This indicates that blood was drawn from these bodies after SM-a was taken but before SM-b. You will note the lady in white working on the “Bunny,” the girl in cranberry. We will come back to them.

Fig. 29. In SM-a only one child’s body has has a syringe on it. SM-a/00:06

In Fig. 28 above I have highlighted the syringe on the girl in purple because on closer examination it looks as if that syringe is larger than the other syringes. 20 ml? Also please take note of the syringe on Bunny on the far right. That syringe will help us determine beyond any doubt the sequence of videos SM-a and SM-b. I’m just getting you oriented here.

[0065] Although many of the men and children have syringes on or near them, victim W-003 shown in Fig. 30 is one of only two examples I found of a syringe associated with a woman. This screen shot is from SM-b, which is also the only imagery I have found of the SM where the women’s faces are uncovered. This syringe implies that blood samples were drawn from the women’s bodies, too, but that the syringes were not generally placed on the women’s bodies like they were with most of the men and children.
[0066] The little girl in the orange top and white tights, right in the middle of Fig. 28, G-004, is conspicuous in many views of the SM, both when it is full and when it is nearly empty. Either she was one of the first bodies to be brought in or one of the last ones taken out, or both. The photos below (Figs. 31 & 32) of her and the infant next to her were taken when the SM was nearly empty. Although most of the bodies have been removed, a number of syringes remain on the floor, and this raises an interesting point. Good research procedures, forensic procedures, and medical procedures require one to always label a container before putting a sample in it. This is true for test tubes, plastic evidence baggies, syringes . . . whatever. A million times I must have said to my students in various lab classes: Label your tubes first. If samples are put into unmarked containers, it is too easy to get things scrambled before the labels are applied. But in the SM none of the syringes – empty or full – have labels. When you look at the syringes on the floor with blood in them left behind after the bodies have been removed, there is no way to associate those blood samples with the bodies from which they were drawn. Here is an example:

Figs. 30. The only instance of a syringe associated with a woman. SM-b/01:22

Figs. 31 & 32. Two views of syringe containing clear fluid, likely plasma. The source of these images at Shaam.org has been taken down.
There are several still shots online of the infant shown in Fig. 31 and of G-004, shown in Fig. 32. Her head is adjacent to the infant’s left calf. (c.f. Figs 28 & 29) That is the same syringe you see in both photos, shown from two different angles – you can tell by the way it is positioned across the corner of the tile in both shots. The syringe is capped, and you can see it has been used because the black plunger is not seated in the forward part of the barrel. It looks like there is no blood in the syringe, but look closely and you’ll see that this is one of the syringes containing a yellowish fluid, which is almost certainly plasma.

Several views of the syringe make it obvious that, like all of the other syringes that can be seen closely enough, there is no label. Is that plasma from the infant, or from G-004, or some other victim? Who knows? Apparently, no one cares.

Evidence of sloppy blood-handling work like this is all over the SM. The photos below are taken from the same collection as Figs. 31 & 32 – i.e., same scene and same children. Look at Figs. 13-15, above, to see the whole scene and the arrangement of these children’s bodies when the SM was near full. They were in the same positions in Figs. 33-35.

Figs. 33-35. Empty SM syringe lying on the floor with exposed needle. Fig. 33. Source: CLOS — Source for Fig. 35, Shaam.org, has been taken down.

In Fig. 33, G-004’s right arm is on the right of the image. The girl in pink whose left shoulder is on the left is G-010. Fig. 34 is a close up of Fig. 33 showing the empty, unused syringe lying on the floor between the two girls. You can tell it has not been used because the black plunger is seated all the way to the front end of the barrel. Also note the lack of a label. But what is particularly odd is that there is no cap on the needle. There is a cap, however, lying on the floor on the other side of G-004, next to her left elbow as shown in Fig. 35.

There are at least half a dozen photographs of this scene on the Internet taken from different angles and at different times, and they all show that same syringe with the bare needle lying on the floor. Look closely at Figs. 13 -15, for instance. Blow them up, you will see the bare needle.

For techniques for acquiring and magnifying images, see Appendix III.
Now, I am not a phlebotomist but I have worked in an ER and I have drawn blood a few times under the supervision of a phlebotomist, and I have watched it being drawn hundreds if not thousands of times. Leaving bare needles lying around is definitely not an accepted practice. As I recall the process of drawing blood, having screwed a capped needle onto a syringe, most people would then grab the needle cap with their teeth, pull the needle out of the cap, and hold the cap in their teeth until ready to put it back on the needle.

The problem is that you don’t want to lose sight of the needle cap while you draw the blood or you’ll end up searching for it for the rest of your shift. Of course, if you have a surgical mask on or if the boss is watching, the teeth option is out, but at the very least you would keep the needle cap close at hand so you don’t lose it and so you can immediately put it back on the needle after you have drawn the sample. Some digitally dexterous phlebotomists can hold the needle cap between their little finger and ring finger while they draw the blood. I have seen one stick the needle cap in his ear.

Whatever technique is used, it’s important not to lose that blinkin’ needle cap. This is important for a number of reasons, the most obvious of which is to avoid injuries and infecting people by accidental sticks. And once a syringe has been filled, the plunger is necessarily pulled part way out of the barrel of the syringe and is susceptible to being pushed back in accidently, spewing the contents everywhere. Having the needle capped helps prevent this by providing a resistance to the plunger being moved. It also prevents the contents from leaking out of the syringe through the uncapped needle. Getting the cap back on the needle is a virtually a necessity.

But in this case it looks like the syringe with the bare needle was dropped to the floor on one side of G-004 and the cap was dropped to the floor on other side – before the syringe was used. One can tell by the way the phlebotomists are moving around the SM (see below) that they are not under any stress or pressure. This is not like an ER in crisis-mode, it’s a morgue and nobody’s going to get any deader. It is anybody’s guess how the syringe with the bare needle ended up on the floor to the right of G-004 and the needle cap ended up on the floor to her left, but it certainly does not suggest we are seeing the work of people who know what they are doing, or who care.

It also seems that for all of the trouble the insurgents went to get that blood, they were awfully cavalier with it once it was out of the bodies and into the syringes. Figure 36 is a portion of Fig. 14 that has been magnified to show a girl in blue – G-005. She appears in both of the sun-videos but this image is one of the al-Abdullah still photos. A syringe with quite a bit of blood can be seen lying next to her right foot. Note the position of the syringe with respect to the tile-line – lying on the joint between the second and third complete tiles from the eastern wall, which is to the left.
Fig. 36. Victim G-005 and blood-filled syringe. Magnified from Fig. 14.

Fig. 37 is a view of the same corner of the SM; it is taken from Fig. 15 and magnified. Obviously, G-005 is not there; however, the syringe is in precisely the same position, judging by the tile-line it has not moved a millimeter. We cannot know whether these images show the syringe lying there before G-005 was placed on the floor next to it, or whether the syringe was left where it is when she was taken away. Either way, someone would have to have carefully stepped around the syringe without touching it when G-005 was brought in or taken out. Why? Not only why would they step around it, but why would it be there? The blood sample is not labeled and it does not seem possible that a blood sample lying in isolation on the SM floor could be properly identified to any victim. What is the point of blood samples that cannot be identified to the source?

Fig. 37. Victim G-005 is gone; the syringe remains. Magnified from Fig. 15.

The SunMorgue Phlebotomists

[0070] Video SM-a is particularly valuable because, whilst there are numerous videos and still shots of the Ghouta Massacre in which syringes can be seen lying around, this video shows the syringes actually being used. Let me walk through these sequences carefully because a lot of heat and confusion have been generated online over what is going on here. For instance, this pro-Assad site, Syrian Free Press Network, claims this video shows kids being killed by a lady in a white hijab

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injecting them with something. And there is the Syrian Carmelite nun, Mother Superior Agnes-Mariam, who published a very influential ISTEAMS Report soon after the massacre in which she speculates that the kids are being injected with a soporific so they will look dead for the cameras. I call this the “Juliet Hypothesis” and we will come back to it in Chapter Seven. I think the truth of the matter is quite clear from SM-a: The syringes are being used to take blood samples, not to inject something.

[0071] Mortia. In the opening seconds of SM-a you can see a woman dressed in a white coat, white hijab, white rubber gloves, green surgical mask, and blue pants. Let’s call her “Mortia.” In addition to the videographer there was at least one photographer in the SM at this time, for there are a number of still shots on the Internet of Mortia stepping amongst these bodies, or squatting down next to one of them: a little girl in a cranberry outfit with “Bunny” on the shirt. I have given this child the ID number, G-006, but I prefer to call her “Bunny.” As a personal aside, I would just like to note here for the record that for some reason I see Bunny’s body lying on the floor of the SM as a particularly palpable encapsulation of what is so terribly wrong with this world – the idiot adults.

The first thing to note is that in video SM-a there is no syringe on Bunny’s stomach. As the videographer proceeds through the SM and occasionally pans back toward the children’s corner, you can see Mortia in the background, always in the same position, bent over Bunny. At the end of the video, which is 82 seconds long, Mortia is still there, still hunched over Bunny. Mortia’s interactions with Bunny’s body are very informative.

Fig. 38. “Mortia” working on “Bunny.” Note syringe in Mortia’s hand. SM-a/00:05

[0072] The first point worth making about this woman, Mortia, is that she’s a woman. This is “newsworthy” because there are dozens and

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http://logosphere.com/Syria/Syria%20Docs/Mother%20Agnes%20-%20ISTEA
MS%20rpt%20Sep2013.pdf
dozens of workers buzzing aimlessly around in the Ghouta videos, and
dozens of loafers standing around looking down at victims struggling for
breath or dead on the floor, and virtually none of these healthy
insurgents are women. With the sole exception of Mortia, all of the
women we see in the sun-videos are corpses.

What's up with that? Why are all of these scenes so gender-tilted?
Were there no female doctors or nurses in Ghouta that night? Did only
men care enough about these poor people suffering from the alleged
“sarin attack” to come to their assistance? Did the women just all stay
home? How did so many children become separated from their mothers?
Did none of these children have mothers, or aunts, or grandmothers who
stayed with them? The gravitas of these questions will be fully
appreciated in the Epilogue when we discuss evidence that the victims we
see in KB may have been women and children kidnapped by the
insurgents 150 miles away in Latakia, days before the Ghouta Massacre,
in which case it was the insurgents who determined whether or not the
kids were with their mothers when they died.

[0073] Although Mortia is conspicuous in SM-a, she is not seen at
all in SM-b. But Bunny is, and there is a syringe on her stomach. There
is also what looks to be a dark hematoma on the inside surface of her left
elbow. This is where we really need to lean in.

Fig. 39. Mortia is not present in SM-b, but a plasma-filled syringe
has appeared on Bunny's tummy. SM-b:00:10.

[0074] There can be an awful lot of information in just a second or
two of video. First of all, look at this child’s color, how rosy her left
cheek, ear and neck are. But according to the insurgents’ story and
timeline, she was supposed to have been poisoned by sarin at least 9-10
hours previously. As I will explain in Part C, this obvious rubicundity
virtually eliminates any possibility that this young girl was poisoned by
sarin.

Look closely at the magnified view of the syringe. The cap is on the
needle and the plunger is pulled more than half way out of the barrel: it
has obviously been used. The syringe is half filled with a clear, yellowish
fluid – likely plasma. After all the time working on Bunny, as seen in
SM-a, apparently this was all Mortia could produce. No blood.

But what is most important is to establish unequivocally that this
used syringe with plasma in it is not seen in SM-a. And the reason it’s
important is because the plasma-filled syringe showing up first in SM-b
must mean that video SM-b was taken after SM-a. In fact, this video-
vignette is likely the best evidence we have to determine the sequence of SM-a and SM-b. Because the sequence of these two videos will turn out to be so important a little farther on down the trail, please bear with me as I step through what Mortia is doing, frame-by-frame.

First of all, please note that there is no syringe on the girl’s shirt in SM-a. Here:

![Fig. 40. Bunny at the point Mortia begins work on her. SM-a/00:10.](image)

If you watch the first 10 seconds of SM-a very closely, frame by frame, you can see Mortia put the needle on the syringe and then turn to begin work on Bunny. The camera angle doesn’t let us see whether she is working on the child’s left arm or on her left inguinal, or lower abdominal, area.

Below is an enhanced screen-grab taken nine seconds into SM-a as Mortia prepares the syringe. She takes the syringe out of the package. She does not label it or mark it. You can see her take the cap off of the needle and drop the cap on the floor near Bunny’s left leg. And then, with the needle bare, she turns to her right and dives in on Bunny like only a phlebotomist can.

![Fig. 41. Close-up of Mortia’s right hand with syringe. The panel on the right is the same image enhanced. SM-a/00:09.](image)

The image to the left above is the native screen-grab showing the fresh syringe being held in Mortia’s right hand. The contrast and gamma correction have been modified on the right to enhance the syringe. There is no question but that there is no cap on the needle and that the
black stopper end of the plunger is all the way toward the needle end of the barrel, as one would expect having just put the needle on the syringe. In other words, it's a fresh syringe.

The point of this yada is that in SM-a we see a fresh, unused syringe being opened next to this child’s body, and in SM-b we see a used syringe containing a straw-yellow fluid lying on the child’s stomach. We have every reason to presume it’s the same syringe. The only reasonable interpretation of this video-evidence is that in SM-a Mortia assembled the syringe, spent at least 82 seconds trying to withdraw blood and obtained only plasma. She then re-capped the syringe, put it on the girl's stomach, and left. Sometime thereafter – possibly hours, judging from the waning light – SM-b was taken and the plasma-filled syringe is seen, still on Bunny’s stomach.

For a more detailed look at the way odd things associated with Bunny, including the hematoma, contributed to the Juliet Hypothesis, see Appendix II, Evidence in Support of the Juliet Hypothesis.

[0075] Mort. The second phlebotomist in SM-a, is a pants-pulling phlebotomist, “Mort,” which is going to take some explaining.

The place to start is the observation that a great number of the bodies in many of the Ghouta videos, not just KB, have their pants pulled down and their shirts pushed up as if somebody weird was examining their belly-buttons. But watching Mort at work in SM-a (like Mortia, he doesn’t appear in SM-b) gives us a pretty reasonable idea of what is going on there.

In image C of Fig. 7 we see Mort bending over a body as the cameraman approaches from behind. In Fig. 42, below, we get a good look at him a few moments later when the cameraman is heading in the opposite direction – Mort has just dropped a packaged syringe and is squatting to pick it up. It is not very often in these videos that we see a worker’s face, but he squatted down right into the camera’s view. His co-worker, Mortia, can be seen over his left shoulder, working on Bunny.

Fig. 42. Mort and Mortia at work. SM-a/01:00.

Earlier in SM-a – from about 00:20 to 00:25 – when the cameraman is approaching Mort from the rear, we can just barely see over his
shoulder to see that he is working on a boy in navy blue nylon jogging pants. I list this boy as B-004. Mort has pulled the boy’s pants down and appears to be drawing blood from the kid’s lower right inguinal area. Fig. 43 is a sequence of screen-grabs from SM-a taken as the cameraman passes by. The yellow circles in panels A and C indicate syringes that have been placed on the stomachs of the two men to the right of B-004. From various views we can tell that these syringes both have blood in them. Neither of the two men to the left of B-004 have such syringes, although the man, M-015, directly to the left of the boy has a number of unopened syringe packages on his belly.

Later in SM-a the cameraman has gone all the way to the west end of the SM, turned, and come back toward the main entrance. That is when you can see Mort in Fig. 42, squatting down picking up a syringe he has just dropped. At that point Mort has moved away from B-004, and when the camera gets to B-004 – you guessed it – a blood-containing syringe is on his belly, just like his companions. (Fig. 44) Later, when SM-b was taken, nothing had changed. (Fig. 45.)
What’s going on with Mort? The only sequence of events that makes sense to me is that in SM-a Mort is working his way from his left to right – taking a blood sample from each corpse, placing the syringe with the blood in it on the corpse’s stomach, and moving on to the next corpse to the right. When the camera comes up behind Mort, he is just in the process of drawing blood from B-004’s inguinal area. After the camera passed, Mort finished that blood-draw, put the capped syringe on B-004’s stomach and moved on. When the cameraman came back a minute later, Mort had moved to the end of the row and we see him drop a fresh syringe on the floor.

Video SM-b was filmed later in time and the syringe was still lying on B-004. As noted above, given how much softer the light is in SM-b, a considerable amount of time must have passed between the two videos. The bodies and syringes were not disturbed during that inter-video period.

In summary, it looks like Mort is going through the same process with B-004 that Mortia is going through with Bunny, giving us additional, consistent evidence that SM-a was shot before SM-b.

These brief video-vignettes of Mort and Mortia resolve a peculiar question: why so many of the children and men had their pants pulled down and shirts pulled up? The action of Mort is particularly helpful in sorting this out. (Because all of the women are wrapped-up we don’t know whether their clothing was rearranged, too, but see the discussion of W-005, below.)

Here is one of the most extreme examples of what I’m talking about, it is a man against the western wall of the SM. He is shown in both of the sun-videos, but in SM-a (Fig. 46) his pants have been pulled down to his knees, whilst in SM-b (Fig. 47) they pulled back up. Knowing the sequence of the sun-videos allows us to deduce this sequence. The blood stain on his stomach may have been due to a syringe that leaked, given that a dozen or more of these victims had blood-filled syringes placed on their stomachs. Please take note how bright red the blood is, certainly
not what one would expect from a corpse 9-10 hours after death, as I explain in Part C. Also, look at clean the soles of his feet are, another piece of evidence we will return to - just flagging it for now.

And so the process seems to be that the phlebotomist would get the victim’s clothing out of the way in order to access the inguinal area. They would draw the blood, and then the phlebotomist might or might not replace the clothing. In fact, in SM-a it is only by a few seconds that we miss seeing Mort going thorough this pants-pulling process with one body – a process he apparently started and then stopped.

The man to the immediate left of B-004 I have labeled M-015. His pants are not disturbed in either of the sun-videos and he does not have a blood-filled syringe on his stomach, but he is a special case: he was murdered and his blood is all over the floor, so Mort might have given him a bye. More on M-015 in Part D.

To the left of M-015 is a man who shows up in a lot of these KB videos, including in the DM. I have labeled him M-014. Early in SM-a, when Mort is working on the boy, we can see that M-014’s belt is buckled. (Fig. 48, below) In all of the shots of M-014 in the DM, his belt is also buckled, so I think we can safely presume that he died with his belt buckled and it stayed buckled until he was moved to the SM and the pants-pulling phlebotomist came by.

The cameraman taking SM-a passes M-014 heading west while Mort is working on B-004. When the cameraman gets to the end of the room, he turns around and returns to M-014 almost exactly one minute later, when Mort is squatting on the left hand side of M-014 picking up the dropped syringe. That is the view you see in Fig. 42. As the camera gets closer, you can see that M-014’s belt has now been completely undone. The buckle is flipped open and the loose end is free. (Fig. 49)

Looking at SM-b, at about 38 seconds into it, M-014’s belt remains undone, providing even more evidence that SM-b was taken after SM-a. But there is no indication in either of the videos that M-014’s pants were opened or pulled down, and there is no syringe on his stomach as there is with the other victims. Apparently, Mort began to work on M-014 and then changed his mind. Who knows why. We know he didn’t run out of
syringes because we can see him dropping an unopened syringe package on the floor. The last we see of Mort – SM-a/01:10 – he is tossing a packaged syringe onto M-014, just 4 seconds before two gunshots are heard. Maybe he got distracted.

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**And the Women’s Blood Samples . . . ?**

[0079] One of the most interesting questions, which is totally unresolved in my mind, is what went on with the women in the SM? Was their blood drawn? There are about 30 women in the SM and only two of them have syringes lying on them, and of those two only one clearly has blood in it. What about the other 28 or 29?

And the reason it occurs to me to ask is because given Muslims’ strictures on modesty, even with respect to corpses, moving garments and under-garments around in a public morgue in order to get a needle into a woman’s lower abdomen would likely be a fundamentalist phlebotomist’s nightmare, certainly a male phlebotomist. Perhaps that explains the presence of Mortia – the only woman worker in all of the KB videos or still shots.

You have to scratch around for evidence on whether the female bodies generally were sampled, but I believe we can get some insight by observing very carefully a brown blanket that covers two of the women.

Here is the brown blanket as it appears in the sun-videos.

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52 Fig. 30 shows very clearly the woman W-003 with the blood-sample. The other syringe is almost impossible to see. In video SM-b at about 30 seconds there is a body to the right of the screen covered with a soft lime-colored blanket. A syringe is on her stomach. As with almost all of the syringes, it is not seen in SM-a. Please let me know if you find more.
But first, just a word about this blanket – a bit farther down the trail it plays a huge role in the analysis of Room #2 in the DM. In Room #2 the blanket covers this same woman's body, but it also covers a number of children’s bodies that are later shown in the SM. And so, the same bodies and the same blanket are all seen in two different places at two different times.

You can see in Figs. 50 and 51 that W-005 is the closest body to the main entrance of the SM. This suggests that she was the last body brought in, or one of the last. It is unlikely that the insurgents would have carried her body in first, dropped it right in front of the entrance, and then stepped around it to get the other 86 bodies in. And so, once again, knowing these facts and deducing a rough timeline, we get a very strong sense of the process that was going on in the KB complex. But at the moment we were looking for clues that blood samples were taken from more than just one or two women.

Figs. 50 & 51 show the brown blanket in the SM covering W-005, who is dressed in black with a rather conspicuous pink hijab. Fig. 50 is taken from SM-a and Fig. 51 is taken from SM-b. The view in both images is from the west end of the room toward the main entrance. Neither camera gives us a close enough view to be able to see the blanket’s complex pattern except for the checkerboard design along the closest edge. A similar blanket, likely the same one, is also seen above in
Figs. 15-17, taken when the SM was nearly empty.

Now, if you look closely enough you'll see something very interesting going on in Figs. 45 & 46. Recall, once again, that SM-a precedes SM-b, and note, once again, that in SM-a all of the women's faces are covered – as in Fig. 50 – and in SM-b all of the women's faces are exposed – as in Fig. 51. And so we know that sometime after Fig. 50 was taken, the blanket was pulled away from W-005's head, and then Fig. 51 was taken. Comparing the two images carefully, you can tell that there has been a major rearrangement of the blanket without it being completely removed: the edge of the blanket was not simply pulled down – the whole blanket was pulled down toward her feet and then raised back to her chest. Here's my reason for saying that.

First of all, by looking at Fig. 51 you can see that the blanket is actually covering two women – there is a small woman with a white hijab lying to the left of W-005. She's in Fig. 50, too, but you'd never know it without the other view. I suspect that the pointed clump of blanket at the far end of the bodies on the left is where the second woman's feet are. The shape of the clump and the design of the blanket that comprises that clump are constant between the two images, which indicates that the blanket was not completely removed from the bodies.

In Fig. 50 the left edge of the blanket is tucked in between the smaller woman and a third body, which is covered with a pink blanket. When the brown blanket was pulled away from the two women's faces, this left edge was pulled free and was then spread out a couple of feet over the third body and its pink blanket on the left. So we know the closest edge of the brown blanket was not merely pulled a few inches toward the women's feet. That entire end of the blanket was pulled free.

Furthermore, look at the dark brown diamond pattern in the blanket between W-005's spread feet in Fig. 50. It is no longer seen in Fig. 51, which suggests to me that the head-end of the blanket was pulled all the way down toward the women's feet and then pulled part way back up, leaving their heads exposed.

If you are wondering what I am blathering on about, it is this: We can't tell whether or not blood was drawn from any of the women except the one with the full syringe on her chest. Given that the women are wrapped up so tightly, drawing blood – especially from the inguinal area – would have been a difficult undertaking. This blanket analysis suggests that for some reason, between the time the two sun-videos were shot there was a very major rearrangement of the blanket covering W-005. The analysis is consistent with the top edge of the blanket being pulled down to or toward her feet before being lifted back to her shoulders. In other words, I see this likely scenario: When SM-a was taken, the blanket was covering both women's faces and the left edge was tucked in – that we can see. Sometime later someone pulled the edge of the blanket toward the feet of W-005 and her companion so that blood samples could be taken. Then the blanket was pulled back up, but not all the way to their faces. Sometime after that SM-b was taken.

Here's why it matters: If the same process was carried out on all of
the women – that is, if blood was collected from all of them – then somewhere there are dozens of blood/plasma samples in addition to the ones we can see lying on the floor and on the stomachs of the men and children. I mean, there could be 70, 80, or more blood samples from the SM victims. Why?

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**What The Syringes Tell Us**

[0082] To be honest, the syringes have me stumped. But here is an inventory of the facts we can take away from this analysis:

- Plastic disposable syringes were used to draw blood from these corpses. That seems dreadfully obvious after this analysis, but I point it out because some people have suggested that the syringes were used to inject something into the bodies, not remove blood from them. In fact, some people have suggested – as I originally also wondered – that these are not corpses at all but living people who are play-acting and being injected with soporifics. Given the blood and plasma filled syringes, that idea is no longer tenable. A closer look at these bodies in Part C will also demand rejection of the playing-dead idea.

- It seems reasonably clear from Mort and Mortia’s activities that the blood/plasma is being removed from the inguinal area of the bodies. This is consistent with the preferred forensic technique for drawing post-mortem blood, which is to access the femoral vein in the lower abdomen. This would require moving or removing clothes to expose this region of the bodies. My main grounds for hesitation in proposing this is that I have never seen a femoral vein blood sample taken, and I don’t know whether the needles we see in the SM would be long enough.

- However, the failure to label any syringes and the way some of them were left lying around on the floor – some empty, at least two with blood samples – speaks of incredibly sloppy technique that is inconsistent with professional forensic procedures or objectives. Additionally, if the samples were taken for DNA analysis, there are far, far easier ways to collect DNA from bodies than trying to find the femoral vein with a needle.

- In some cases plasma was collected. This is likely the result of red blood cells settling out of the blood hours after death, leaving the plasma as a supernatant in the large vessels. In a large vein, like a femoral vein, that is holding stagnant blood, one would expect separation of the cellular elements from the stagnant fluid. This would suggest that these people had, indeed, been dead for some time, in spite of their cherry-red cheeks and healthy appearance. I mean, look at Bunny. Her cheeks look like she is in perfect health and yet all Mortia could get out of her was plasma.

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• In a lot of these cases the victims’ clothes have not been put back into their proper place, and, given Muslim sensitivities for modesty, this almost suggests a disrespect toward these victims, particularly when pants have been pulled down or removed. My guess is that these workers would not treat their own people with such disrespect. This, in turn, suggests that the victims were enemies of the workers/phlebotomists – perhaps on the opposite side of the Shia/Sunni divide and/or on the opposite side of the conflict. Or perhaps the victims are not be Muslims at all – I don’t know what the customs of Syrian Christians and Druze are like with respect to wearing the hijab. Either interpretation would, of course, be completely inconsistent with the sarin scenario that these people were killed by Assadists and the videos show Assad’s victims being cared for by their own people.

[0083] But so what? I mean, why are these insurgents going to so much trouble to collect blood from these bodies and then, in some cases, leave the unmarked, blood-filled syringes lying around on the floor? I have no answers; all I can offer is speculation.

• Guess #1. The whole syringe thing could be for the cameras. In fact the entire Ghouta Massacre could be for the cameras. But going through this whole femoral vein thing for the sake of cameras would be extreme play-acting, particularly given how widespread the blood sampling practice is, judging by the dozens and dozens of victims in the Ghouta videos with their pants yanked down and their shirts pushed up. Would taking femoral blood samples really enhance any shock value of a false flag operation? Can’t imagine. Furthermore, if blood samples were obtained from the women’s bodies, it was done off-camera, which would have no PR value.

• Guess #2. The blood samples are taken for DNA analysis to identify the victims. I find that a bit hard to believe, too. I mean, you don’t need 5 ml of blood for a DNA analysis. And you don’t need to go to the trouble of finding the femoral vein, which can’t be easy. All you need is a cheek scraping or a snip of tissue from a fingertip. And besides, none of these syringes are labeled or marked in any way to identify from whom the sample came – gender, age, location, etc. If this drawing of blood is for DNA analysis, it is very sloppy and incredibly unnecessary work.

• Guess #3. Knowing that the UN Mission to investigate sarin attacks in Syria was staying just a few miles away, the blood samples were drawn to provide evidence to that mission that a sarin attack took place.

Now, this idea raises all sorts of red flags for a fair-minded skeptic. For what is very suspicious is that each one of these post-mortem blood samples – dozens of them – would contain absolutely conclusive evidence of a sarin attack, assuming there was such an
attack. Just days after these blood samples were drawn the UN Mission investigated clinics, and patients, and alleged rocket impact sites at Zamalka, which is just around the corner from the KB complex. If the Mission had been given just 0.5 ml. from those KB blood samples, they could have analyzed the b'jeezus out of them, and they could have dug up the bodies and taken tissue samples in order to confirm the source of the samples. And, if the blood tests came back positive for sarin and the if DNA in the blood matched the DNA in the exhumed bodies, then there would be no doubt whatsoever that sarin was used, and there would be huge, justified repercussions, and I wouldn’t be spending six months writing a 200 page paper that proves that sarin wasn’t used, and you wouldn’t be reading it.

But the UN Report says nothing about receiving any blood samples from dead victims. In fact, as the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, famously admitted, ³⁴ the UN Mission did not obtain a single sample from anyone who died that night – not a single sample of any type from a single deceased man, woman, or child. Obama claimed that over 1429 people died in a CW attack that was perpetrated by the Assadists and not a single one of those bodies was sampled. It’s a mind-boggler how those two videos – SM-a and SM-b – show dozens of syringes filled with blood that would provide absolute and unequivocal evidence of the sarin attack that the USG and the insurgents claimed happen, and not a single drop of blood was turned over to the UN and OPCW for analysis. It just beggars belief.

³⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcfIj6WLqRk

[0084] The meaning and purpose of these blood samples are obviously very significant; I wish I could come up with a viable explanation of why they were taken. But that’s why I have you on the line so you can help me figure this all out. Send suggestions. Please.
This is where things begin to get downright stygian. We are leaving the sunlight behind and descending into the stuff of nightmares. I mean, this DarkMorgue place is thirty degrees west of weird and well beyond the Twilight Zone. My guess is that if you ever happen to be in Ghouta and you fall into the wrong hands, a place like this DM is where you’ll end up for a brief, unpleasant stay before you are laid out in some sunny morgue to wait for your grave to be dug.

The schematic in Fig. 52 shows the basic physical relationships between three rooms and a patio area of the DM. This is about the extent of what I have been able to find of the DM in the Ghouta videos, but I suspect there is a lot more out there in cyberspace. I also suspect that there are other rooms in this DM that we will never see on videos. There is nothing spatially complex here, although the description that follows is bound to get somewhat difficult because there is just a lot going on. Stay with me as we move back and forth between these rooms and bodies, and pop back to this schematic if you get lost.
Fig. 52. Schematic of the (known parts of the) DarkMorgue. Not to scale.

The lay-out looks pretty straightforward on paper, but these videos are all just floating around in cyberspace, unconnected to each other or to anything else. It took a lot of staring at tile patterns, and scars in wallboard, and conspicuous clothing on bodies to tie these three crepuscular DM rooms together. I looked at videos of Room #2 and Room #3 for months before finding the key video that showed me they are right next to each other and connected by a doorway. And it took a while longer to catch on to the fact that the DM is in the same complex of buildings as the SM. But once I found SM-c things came together fairly quickly. I am grateful to Pitor and Adam at the Closer Look on Syria project for putting together an extensive collection of links to KB videos, which is where I came upon that important link between the SM and DM. Having made that connection, it became quite clear where the bodies in the SM were coming from – many of the bodies we saw in the SM are also seen in the DM.

[0086] As noted above, out of my collection of 11 KB videos, three are part of the DiFi package that has been “authenticated” by Obama’s intelligence services as being the real deal. We have just connected videos Sm-b and Sm-c to Sm-a, which is one of the authenticated DiFi videos. In the next few pages I will connect all 11 videos together in time and space, at which point they will all fall under the penumbra of the USG’s authentication. If the videos now prove that Assad did not kill these people, then it seems to me that the USG would have two options:
First, the USG could publicly withdraw its previous assurances that the DiFi videos are authentic, in which case those videos would no longer be the causus belli for attacking Assad. Second, the USG could admit that its assessment as to who was responsible for the Ghouta Massacre was 180 degrees wrong, in which case the retaliation demanded by Obama, Kerry, McCain, Graham and all of the other hawks must be directed at the insurgents, not Assad.

For the most part, the rooms and videos of the KB complex can only be inter-connected by deduction and by observing bodies and people who appear in multiple rooms in multiple videos – i.e., body-continuity. Mr. Minnie, easily identified by his grey trousers, black shoes and errant Minnie Pearl camera strap, graciously guides us through much of the DM. His five videos actually turn out to be 2 videos cut into five pieces, and that gives us some helpful continuity.

In an attempt to provide as much structure as possible to this difficult discussion, I will step through the four DM areas one at a time, video by video. Fig. 53, below, summarizes these DM videos. Nine of the eleven videos I have been working with are of the DM, but only the five most important ones are indicated in Fig. 53. Each one is color-coded to the room and area in which the video was taken. Links to all of the videos are provided in Table I, above.
Connecting the SunMorgue to the DarkMorgue

[0087] **Video SM-c** [Dark blue lines in Fig. 53.]

We have already looked at the first part of this video where Mr. Minnie makes a quick visit to the SM at night. When we left him, he was just exiting the SM and headed down to the DM.

Upon exiting the SM at 55 seconds into SM-c, Mr. Minnie turns sharply to his left (diagram north) and enters near total darkness for a few seconds. When he emerges from the darkness, he is descending a set of steps. At the bottom of the steps he passes a few people milling around taking a smoke-break. Odd. A couple of hours into a “sarin attack” massacre and these guys are shooting the breeze while lighting up in the stairwell.

Mr. Minnie doesn’t stop to chit-chat; he turns east into a lighted
hallway. He is in the DarkMorgue. He continues down the hallway for 10 or so steps and turns to his left through an open door into a second hallway, which is oriented north-south. It is shown in the schematics as Hallway A. (See Fig. 52.) Two men are lying prostrate in the middle of the hallway, as shown in image F, above. Two workers look like they are trying to find a vein in one man’s left arm. Unopened packages of syringes are scattered in the hallway.

Mr. Minnie stops in the hallway. There is a doorway into a room to his left. This is Room #2. Sticking out of this doorway is a leg in bright fuchsia pants – “Fuchsia Lady,” shown in image E, above. There is an empty black shoe on the threshold and, just beyond Fuchsia Lady’s leg, you can see a little bit into Room #2 where there is the bottom end of a blue gas cylinder lying on the floor. A different view of the gas cylinder shown in image H.

Hallway A outside Room #2 is short. There are more bodies in the doorway at the far end. In the very last frame of SM-c we can see blood on the floor in front of the entrance to Room #2. We can also make out the corner of a red rug in the upper left corner of the frame. The two suffering men are lying on a pink blanket. These will be reference points when Mr. Minnie approaches Room #2 from the opposite direction in a moment.

This is as far as Mr. Minnie goes in SM-c. He does not enter Room #2 at this point, and we can see only a couple of feet into it, and so this video doesn’t give us a lot of useful information about the DM per se, and virtually none about Room #2. But the video does connect Room #2 to the SM by way of a staircase and a couple of hallways. That is extremely important, for it means that this area is in the basement of the same complex that the SM is in. But more than that – thanks to Fuchsia Lady’s conspicuous pants, the dangling camera strap, and a few other reference points – we can also connect Room #2 to Room #1, thereby establishing a larger DM area and it’s connection to the SM.

DarkMorgue Room #1

When SM-c ended, Mr. Minnie was standing in Hallway A just outside of Room #2. I suspect, but can’t prove, that next he stepped over the two bodies and blood in the hallway and continued to the end of Hallway A, which is where Rm1-a begins – the junction of Hallway A and Hallway B in Fig. 52. At that point he had to step over two more bodies at the north end of Hallway A, but we don’t actually see them until he returns to the same spot in video Rm2-a, discussed below.

At any rate, video Rm1-a begins in dimly lit Hallway B with Mr. Minnie following a guy in a bright blue shirt. (Image C, Fig. 53) They
pass a green gas cylinder lying on the floor to the left, which becomes a landmark in the next video. They also pass two blue gas cylinders standing upright in the middle of the hallway. Keep track of these gas cylinders, they are all over the place in the DM.

Mr. Minnie steps past a bare-chested man lying supine on the floor – M-020 (Image B, Fig. 53) – and then he quickly passes two children, prostrate on the floor, as he enters a well lit room, Room #1.

Once in Room #1, Mr. Minnie breezes right past a few kids on the floor, but he pauses momentarily at a small boy, B-005, on a wooden desk. The boy is alive and is being tormented by a man who wipes mucus from the boy’s nose directly onto the boy’s bare chest. (Image A, Fig. 53.) The boy has exceptionally red lips. In fact, all of the children we see on the floor are in good color. An image of this boy has become one of the most iconic MSM images of the Ghouta Massacre.

There is a stethoscope lying on the same wooden desk the boy is on. There is a black rag on one side and a pile of white rags on the other. In the corner of the room there is a small, wheeled cabinet that looks like something you might see in a clinic. A yellow wastebasket next to the cabinet is over-flowing with white towels, one of which appears blood-stained. There is a very low, stainless steel foot-stool. All of the workers have their faces covered with white towels or surgical masks.

The reason I’m pointing out these details, is that unlike any other room in the entire KB complex, this tiny room has at least minimal indicia of a clinic of some sort.

Mr. Minnie proceeds out the other end of Room #1, does a sudden U-turn, and heads back toward victim M-020, the bare-chested man. When he reaches him, Rm1-a ends and Rm2-a begins. Like many of Mr. Minnie’s videos, one is a continuation of the other. In fact, it appears that videos SM-c, Rm1-a, and Rm2-a were originally a single video now chopped into three.

It is noteworthy how, as Mr. Minnie moves through the SM, the DM hallways, and Room #1, there is a guy with a green bottle of water following him and constantly reaching out to douse children in the face just as the camera gets to them. The guy with the fru fru white thongs in Fig. 8b is one such pediatric hydration specialist, but the one we see in Room #1 is different, judging by his stodgy brown sandals. He accompanies Mr. Minnie through Room #1, moving just ahead of the camera like a roving TV evangelist. He performs his green-bottle-John-the-Baptist routine for the camera, anointing at least three small, suffering children in Room #1, including the small boy, B-005. He does not help these children, he does not comfort them in what may be their last moments. Rather, he throws water in their faces and moves on.

I don’t want you to think that this stuff is getting my goat, but, yes, this really annoys me. It looks totally staged, and as I go back through other Ghouta videos, I see the same thing over and over: people with green 2 liter pop bottles keep throwing water on these suffering kids just
as the cameras get to them. They are not tending to the kids or helping them, they just splash them and move on with the PR guys and the cameras. I do not see a single example of any child actually being comforted, just as I do not see a single example of any women with these children. If I was a 2 year old kid suffering from some sort of poisoning, the last thing I would want would be some creepy guy in fru fru sandals pouring water down my nose. I would want my mom. There is something really wrong with this whole picture; it has to be a huge clue as to what was really going on here.

![Image](image.png)

Fig. 54. Water being poured down the nose of boy B-005 in Room #1. Rm1-a/00:35.

[0093] Video Rm1-b [Not indicated in Fig. 53]

This video is very short but just as disturbing as video Rm1-a. It shows the same boy, B-005, on the same wooden desk in Room #1. The stethoscope has not been moved an inch. There are two wadded white towels on the desk that were not there in video Rm-1b but I think we would have to presume that the two videos were shot very close together.

B-005 is in exactly the same position on the desk. He is coughing and still being tormented, but this time by a different guy: meet Mr. Cranberry.

Let's look at this guy. He's noteworthy because he's wearing a gas-mask, he's dramatically pissed-off, and he shows up dramatically pissed-off and wearing the gas mask in Room #2, too.

![Image](image.png)

Fig. 55. The only gas mask you'll see in the KB complex, and one of the few workers' faces. Rm1-b/00:03.
The man is very distinctive with his cranberry shirt, cranberry face, and ancient Soviet gas mask. In video Rm1-b he is shown in Room #1, momentarily ventilating boy B-005, tapping the boy on the chest, squeezing his head, and all the while engaged in a furious Arabic philippic for the camera. (Fig. 55)

I have learned that his gas mask is a second generation, black rubber Soviet GP5 style – the crown-type sealing ring makes this identification quite certain. It looks like an original cannister with a 40mm NATO-style fitting. If so, then the filter would be activated charcoal and at least 25 years old because the original masks and filters were only manufactured from 1970 to 1989. 

Activated charcoal, even if it was fresh, would be of little use against carbon monoxide, slightly better against hydrogen cyanide. If it was very fresh it would provide some protection against sarin gas, but, of course, not with the mask pushed back up on his head. Nor would the mask, even properly in place, protect against dermal absorption of sarin, which would be the main problem in a clinic or morgue setting treating patients with sarin in their clothes and hair.

And the reason I’m bringing this to your attention is that this gas mask is curious. It is the only gas mask seen in all of the KB videos/images; I’m not sure I’ve seen one in any of the other Ghouta videos, either. No one else in the DM is taking any precautions against sarin, all they have are ineffectual surgical masks and bandanas, presumably to hide their identities from the cameras. (Mr. Cranberry has no qualms about appearing in the videos.) Perhaps Mr. Cranberry was using the gas mask prior to when we see him in these videos. His red skin color is remarkable.

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DarkMorgue Room #2

[0094] Video Rm2-a [Cyan lines Fig. 53] (The YouTube video is now blocked unless you have a YT account. This link is to an mp4 version, that will require a media player.)

This video is the continuation of Mr. Minnie’s Rm1-a video. Having made a 360 degree circuit through Room #1, Mr. Minnie is now back at M-020, where Rm2-a begins. Image B of Fig. 53 is from this video and we see that the tiles around M-020 are blood stained and the man’s left hand is wrapped in a bloody cloth. There is some blood on his abdomen, very bright red blood. M-020 appears to be unconscious or

56  http://gasmaskandrespirator.wikia.com/wiki/Russian_GP_5_Gas_Mask
57  http://www.allerairsolutions.com/activated_carbon.html
dead, but other than his hand there is no obvious trauma. I cannot identify this body in the SM.

Mr. Minnie steps over M-020 and turns down the same hallway, Hallway B, where video Rm1-a began. He takes a few steps and, at 00:06 he steps over the green gas cylinder lying on the floor noted above, and then he steps over two more bodies as he turns right into yet another hallway: he’s back in Hallway A outside Room #2.

Having made a complete circuit to Room #1 and back, Mr. Minnie is now approaching Room #2 from the opposite direction than he did in SM-c. There are a number of ways to ascertain this. The two bodies in the doorway that Mr. Minnie steps over in Rm2-a are visible at the end Hallway A in SM-c. The two men lying on the pink blanket, the blood stain on the floor, and the red rug, all noted above, are seen in both videos. But the most reliable reference point is the bright fuchsia pant leg of Fuchsia Lady. (Image D, Fig. 53.) As Mr. Minnie, camera strap swinging in and out of the picture, enters Room #2, he steps right over Fuchsia Lady and walks past the blue gas cylinder that was barely visible in SM-c.

Room #2 is crowded with bodies, gas cylinders, workers squatting over victims, PR people, and lots of loafers just milling about. The noise is deafening. Having entered the room at its east end, Mr. Minnie works his way through the crowd to the west end, where we see a conspicuous brown blanket on the floor in the northwest corner – this is the same peripatetic brown blanket we examined in the SM. (See Fig. 50.)

Mr. Minnie stops, turns, and sweeps the room, which is shown in images H and J of Fig. 53. There are more than a dozen victims in the small room – a mixture of men, women, children. Some appear dead; some are definitely still alive; others you can’t tell. Camera-flashes bounce around the room as other insurgent PR-ghouls gobble up the photo-ops. While that gaggle of dudes that Mr. Minnie passed moments ago are having their smoke break and calmly shooting the breeze in the stairwell, numerous men – no women – appear to be dramatically trying to revive victims who are prostrate on the floor of Room #2 just a few feet away from that same stairwell. The incongruity of the nonchalance of the stairwell-nicotine junkies juxtaposed with the chaos of Room #2 would be almost funny if this wasn’t such a horrible scene.

Because many of the workers in Room #2 are squatting next to victims, they could not avoid having their faces in the camera’s frame. But they are not recognizable because they all have their faces covered with bandit-like bandanas or surgical masks – except one guy. You guessed it . . . Mr. Cranberry.

Watch Rm2-a carefully beginning at 00:20. This is Mr. Cranberry at his dramatic best. As Mr. Minnie approaches Cranberry at the west end of Room #2, Cranberry sees the camera coming. He pushes aside a man in a blue-striped shirt, and bends down and begins to roughly
handle the body of a girl on the floor. This girl is G-010 whom we saw in the SM with the bare needle next to her. (c.f. Figs. 13, 15, 29 & 33.) She can be identified by her red shirt with glittery figures on it, her pony tail, and her distinctive white hair band.

As Cranberry bends over G-010, at 00:22, we get a good look at the gas mask and its circular eye-holes, further confirming it’s a Soviet GP5, but, oddly, there is a surgical mask strapped to the outside of the gas mask. (Fig. 56a.) Mr. Cranberry dramatically rips the gas mask/surgical mask combination off of his head, tosses it on the floor, and launches into another loud tirade, gesticulating at G-010, lifting her, and placing the girl’s body back on the floor next to the brown blanket, just a few feet away from where she was lying originally and not bothering anyone. Flash bulbs go off, indicating other PR people in addition to Mr. Minnie are getting a piece of this DM drama. You almost expect to hear Rod Serling holler “Take!!” The Hollywood atmosphere in this room is palpable.

The flashbulbs seen in Mr. Minnie’s video suggests that he may have been caught in another PR guy’s image. I demonstrate this incogitant reciprocal iconography in Appendix II. See Mr. Minnie Caught on Camera.
Video **Rm2-b** is almost as difficult to understand as it is interesting, and it is a pivotal video in this collection because it connects a lot of stuff together. Except for the first 10 seconds or so, this video shows the western end of Room #2, which is where Mr. Minnie ended video **Rm2-a**. But unlike video **Rm2-a**, we do not see the entire length of Room #2, we only see the northwest corner as shown in Panel I in Fig. 53. The confusing part is that the scene looks almost entirely different in the two videos, mostly because there are two different populations of bodies.

With respect to **Rm2-b**, the body-continuity between Room #2 and the SM is very high – many of the children’s bodies seen in the sun-videos are also seen in video **Rm2-b**. Video **Rm2-a**, on the other hand, shows different bodies, almost none of which are seen in the SM. The only exceptions to this generalization that I can see is one girl, G-010, and woman W-005, both of whom can be seen in both of the Room #2 videos and in the SM.

I defer to Appendix II the rather complex analysis identifying Room #2 by means of videos **Rm2-a** and **Rm2-b**. See Room #2 Confusion and the Brown Blanket.

At this point we have reviewed five videos showing two DM rooms and the connection of the SM to the DM is complete. It’s a good place to briefly recapitulate.

The Minnie video sequence **SM-c → Rm1-a → Rm2-a** appears to be one video chopped into three. All three were shot by Mr. Minnie as he walked from the SM, down into the DM, past Room #2, to and through Room #1, and back to Room #2. When he got back to Room #2, Mr. Minnie entered at the east end and proceeded to the west end, where we saw Mr. Cranberry, G-010, and the brown blanket. G-010, is our first example of body-continuity; i.e., the same body seen in two different places. She is prominently seen in both Room #2 and the SM.

Video **Rm1-b** is a separate view of Room #1 and is not a part of the Mr. Minnie sequence. We know that because **Rm1-b** places Mr. Cranberry in Room #1, while Mr. Minnie’s **Rm1-a → Rm2-a** sequence places Cranberry in Room #2. Given that the positions of the toddler, B-005, and various items on the wooden desk barely change between **Rm1-a** and **Rm1-b**, it would be a safe bet that not much time passed between those two videos of Room #1, but the sequence can’t be determined with what we have.

Many of these video-sequence issues are discussed in more detail in Appendix II. See Timeline of the Videos.

There is only one more DM room and a patio to be connected to everything else to make this picture complete, but things begin to get a
little more squirrely.

**DarkMorgue Room #3**

[0099] Room #3 is long, narrow, and disturbing – the most disturbing of all of the KB rooms, in my opinion, because of what it implies about what is going on in whole KB complex. There is very high body-continuity between Room #3 and the SM – almost all of the dead men in Room #3 are also found in the SM.

The room is parallel to Room #2, separated from it by a wall. A doorway connecting the two rooms at their western end opens onto the brown blanket corner of Room #2. Like Room #2, Room #3 has no windows, but it does have an exit to the outside – a door on the west end that opens to a patio or court-yard area.

I have found three videos that were shot entirely within this room: Rm3-a, Rm3-b, Rm3-c. In addition, the first few seconds of Rm2-b contain important information about Room #3 before the cameraman moves into Room #2. A fifth video, Pat-a, begins in Room #3 and proceeds out the door to the patio.

No women are shown in Room #3 or the patio, and by that I mean no women’s bodies, no suffering women victims, no women workers, no women loafers. One video (and one only) shows a few seconds of a small girl, G-007, alive, lying near the doorway between Room #2 and Room #3, but other than her, all the victims in Room #3 are men. But then, keep in mind that we only have a few moments of video to which our observations are restricted in any of these places, compared to hours that passed after the alleged attack. Who knows what these rooms looked like, what went on in them, or what victims were in them a few minutes before or a few minutes after the cameramen were present?

I will quickly step through each of the Room #3 videos.

[0100] **Video Rm2-b** Although it is primarily a view of the western end of Room #2, the first few seconds of Rm2-b give us a brief, morbid look at Room #3. It also allows us to connect Room #3 to Room #2.

When Rm2-b opens, the cameraman is following a cortege of men as they enter Room #3 and then turn to their left and proceed into Room #2. Although we can’t tell it from just this video, the men are actually entering Room #3 from a patio that is adjacent to Room #3. We don’t see this external doorway in this video, but I will soon confirm its presence.

There are a couple of particularly disturbing aspects of the first 10 or so seconds of Rm2-b. One is a partial face-view of one of the guys in the group. You get the feeling he’s some sort of honcho. He’s wearing a shoulder-holster over a crisply starched white shirt. As he enters Room #3, he steps past five dead men on the floor and proceeds into Room #2, which is full of dead children lying on, under, and around the brown
blanket. The disturbing thing is that this guy seems to have a smirk on his face. And I'm thinking to myself, what could possibly be funny?

![Image](image.jpg)

**Fig. 57. Amused.**

[Rm2-b:00:05]

Over the last few months I have scratched around in my memory, trying to recall whether I have ever in my life seen anything less funny than the KB complex and this particular scene with these dead kids. And whilst the hard drive between my ears has packed into it a few unpleasant neuronal video clips that persist through one decade and into the next, including tragic scenes of children dying, I'd have to say that the children in Room #2 shown in Rm2-b is high on the list of the least funny things I have ever seen in my entire life. But this guy with the smirk seems to be just fine with it. Something tells me that if we could get hold of this guy who smiles when stepping over bodies and walking into rooms containing dead children, and if we asked him the right questions in the right way – like What's so freakin' funny? – he could give us a pretty good idea of who those children were and why they were killed.

[0101] If you look past or through the group of men passing through Room #3, you can get glimpses toward the eastern end of the room. It looks almost tranquil. The audio of Rm2-b, like all of the videos, is excruciatingly loud, but Room #3 looks eerily quiet. It is nearly empty. A large, utility table on wheels sits empty in the southeast corner.
Fig. 58. Room #3: empty, eerie, tranquil. Rm2-b/00:02

Unlike the other views of Room #3 we will see, here we see no chaos, no gas cylinders lying around, no victims foaming at the mouth and rolling in agony. There is, however, the residue of this chaos: the bodies of six men who appear in the more frantic Room #3 scenes, and all of whom appear in the sun-videos. One body, M-014, is lying on the floor next to the table, exactly where he is seen in the other Room #3 videos. He can be seen very, very briefly in Rm2-b.

Five bodies are neatly positioned near the entrance to Room #3. (Fig. 59) And it is these bodies, carefully arranged near the door to the patio, that suggest to us that Rm2-b was recorded after the other videos of Room #3 that we will examine. They look as though they have been moved out of the middle of the floor and into a neat pile where they are patiently waiting to be carried up to the SM. A blue gas cylinder is seen standing in a corner next to M-006. We will see a lot more of it.

Fig. 59. Five bodies waiting to be moved to SM. Rm2-b/00:08

All five of the victims seen in Fig. 59 are very conspicuous in the sun-videos. They are all found at the east end of the SM, near the main entrance, which suggests that they were added to the SM after most of the other adult bodies. This is consistent with and informs my view of the DM as being the area of the KB complex where people were actually dying, after which their bodies were carried up to the SM for photo-ops and staging pending burial. The bodies in Fig. 59 play a larger role in this
Room #3 story and in the murder case I will build in Part D when we will come back to them. We have already seen M-011. He is conspicuously seen in the SM as it was being emptied. (See Fig. 16.) And we have seen M-006 in the SM in Fig. 22.

[0102] Videos **Rm3-a, Rm3-b, Rm3-c** These videos do not exactly jump out at you as being taken in the same room, but they were. Videos **Rm3-a** and **Rm3-b** are both a part of the DiFi package. Video **Rm3-c** is another Mr. Minnie piece in search of a Pulitzer Prize. I will discuss them all together.

Fig. 60 below is a compilation of the three videos taken within Room #3. The diagram shows the paths the cameramen took as they moved through the room, and also shows the approximate placement of some of the bodies and the displacements of those bodies from one video to the next. The videos summarized are: **Rm3-a** (Box 1), **Rm3-a** (Box 2), and **Rm3-c** (Box 3). Once again, the lines are color-coded for each video. I have add a couple of still shots – H and I. **Source.** 58

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58 The still shots are found at –
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LzKqgpk_TA
As noted above and shown in Fig. 58, Room #3 has a large, belly-high table on wheels in the southeast corner. Above the table are some sort of unusual strips of silvery metal or tape that help distinguish this room from other similarly looking rooms. The table and silvery tape serve as our reference points. I have marked the table “T” in the schematics, including Fig. 60. The table has different people on it and around it in different videos. The bodies and suffering victims on the floor also change from one Room #3 video to the next.

The three videos of Room #3 are among the most distressing of all of the Ghouta videos because of the suffering they show, but they are also some of the most interesting from an evidentiary point of view. In contrast to the nearly empty view of Room #3 seen in Fig. 58, the videos summarized in Fig. 60 present a very different impression of this room.
The victims are all young men, with the exception of the small girl, G-007 (Image C). This girl, with “Baby” on her shirt is seen lying on the floor gasping right in front of the entrance to Room #2, which is full of dead children. (See Appendix II) As I explain in Part C, generally speaking, people who are gasping for air are also turning blue, and people who are gasping for air because they have been gassed with sarin are most definitely going to be turning blue. This girl seems to be gasping for air, but she is shockingly bright red, and that turns out to be a very important clue to this mystery. I have not seen G-007 in any other videos. She is the only child in the videos of Room #3, and she only appears in video Rm3-a. Her body is not seen in the SM. Maybe she’s OK.

Some of the victims in Room #3 are dead, the others, like G-007, are alive but in deep distress. One man seems to be exhibiting abdominal cramps. (Image E) Two men are foaming at the nose and/or mouth. One young man, M-014, is motionless, he is shown in exactly the same place and in the same pose in all of the videos of Room #3. (Image A) He is also very conspicuous in the SM, his head is lying in a pool of bright red blood and in exactly the same pose as in Room #3, with his head turned to his right and his hands on his stomach, bound with a beige cloth. If you look very closely at the first few seconds of Rm2-b, M-014 can be seen in the same pose at the east end of the otherwise empty room.

But M-014 is unusual in being so static. All of the other bodies in Room #3 are moved around from one video to the next. Images H and I in Fig. 60 exemplify this. They are photos of the same spot in Room #3 and yet the only victim that is common to both photos is the man in the black pants with gold trim. Room #3 was incredibly dynamic, both in terms of what the living victims were going through and the movement of the dead ones. The cacophony is deafening, especially with workers ranting into the camera. (Image F)

The one thing all of the Room #3 victims – living and dead – have in common is their incredibly healthy coloration: bright red ears, cheeks, skin. Forgive me for bringing this up over and over, but it’s very important evidence because, as I discuss in detail in Part C, the lips and ears of people who are gassed with sarin do not turn pink and red. They turn blue.

Many of the men in the SM have their wrists tied with their belts or rags. I presume this is done in anticipation of rigor mortis to make handling the body easier. The body M-006, which is moved from place to place a lot in Room #3, shows the transition from unbound hands to bound, thus helping to establish a sequence for the videos.
In video Rm3-c (Fig. 61) M-006’s belt is buckled, his pants are intact, and his arms are in a sprawled poise. (Please note how even in the dim light his color is excellent.) But in the Rm2-b view of Room #3 (Fig. 62) M-006’s hands are bound and resting on his stomach where they remain for all of the other videos in which he is seen. It is difficult to say with certainty but his pants do not appear to be opened in any of the DM videos, whilst in both of the sun-videos his pants are open and this hands are clearly bound with his belt (Fig. 63).

This timeline is quite clear. Video Rm3-c was taken first, when M-006’s arms were in the sprawled position in which he died. Video Rm2-b was taken next: his belt has been removed and used to tie his hands. And then, much later, the sunny video SM-a was taken clearly showing his hands bound with his belt, his trousers open, his shirt is pushed out of the way and a syringe on his chest. We know that the rearrangement of the bodies’ clothes was probably to draw blood. (See Chapter Four, The Syringes.)

What is almost as interesting as the way the bodies were moved around in Room #3 is the way the blue 44 L gas cylinder was moved around, as summarized in Fig. 64.

In the image compilation of Fig. 60, above, you can see the Room #3 blue cylinder in images B, G, H, and I. It is in seen in various states of lying on the floor, being dragged across the floor, standing in the middle of the floor, and being stored upright in a relatively safe position in a
corner against a wall – assuming, or course, that this is one and the same cylinder in all of the views. (If these views show multiple blue cylinders, then my points here are to be multiplied by whatever number of cylinders are shown.)

These various states and positions of the cylinder are summarized in the schematic below. As with the gas cylinders I have previously noted, this cylinder does not have a safety cap on it, its valve is exposed, there is no valve handle to open and close the valve, and there are no flow meters or devices connected to it. It appears that whatever was in the cylinder was released directly into the air when the valve was opened and then the valve handle was removed, and that bothers me for there would be no way to close a valve once its handle was removed.

The DarkMorgue Patio

[0108] Video Pat-a This leaves us with just one last video in our stable of KB videos, and one last DM area to connect to the others. This is the fifth video in our collection that was produced by Mr. Minnie, and, arguably, the least likely to win him an Oscar.

When Mr. Minnie completes his circuit of Room #3 in Rm3-c, he stops near the exit at the western end of the room and that video ends. Then video Pat-a picks up immediately from that point as Mr. Minnie exits the room to go out into the night where he has a miserable time trying to make a video-record of people suffering in almost complete darkness.

For the last fifteen pages I have been telling you that there is an external doorway that leads into Room #3 and that people are using that doorway to access the western end of Room #2; well, this is it. Fortunately, when Mr. Minnie cut his Room #3 video in two, he included in Pat-a a few seconds of the interior of Room #3 before he passed though the exit to the patio; otherwise, we would never have been
able to connect the Room #3 videos to the patio. Even so, someone who comes upon these Mr. Minnie videos randomly while perusing hundreds uploaded to YouTube might never realize that they are seeing one video cut into two.

[0109] What caught my eye was the white and black plaid pants of victim M-001, who is sort of glowing in Mr. Minnie’s poorly lit patio shots. M-001 is alive – so much so that he is even itinerant.

Fig. 65. Ghostly M-001 seen on the DM patio outside of Room #3. Image has been lightened digitally. Rm3-c/00:22

As it turns out, M-001 is a “victim” of considerable interest, particularly in view of a HRW report on the Ghouta Massacre, and so I want to focus on him for a moment. He is easily identified by his white/black plaid pants, a ring on his right hand, a scruffy beard, and being shirtless. Fig. 65 is a digitally lightened a screen-grab from Pat-a. M-001 is seen in better light and in dramatic throes in Room #3 in videos Rm3-a and Rm3-b, as indicated in the schematic in Fig. 60.\(^{59}\) For all of the drama associated with him, M-001 does not appear to me to be all that unwell in any of these three videos. Even the patio shot, once it is lightened up a bit, indicates his color is good. Here he is looking quite fit in video Rm3-a.

\(^{59}\) M-001 is not seen in Rm3-c, and that is because Rm3-c and Pat-a are continuous – after recording the inside of Room #3, Mr. Minnie went straight out the door onto the patio where he filmed M-001 lying on the patio, as shown in Fig. 65.
M-001 is also prominently featured in a number of still shots. The KB patio has tile that is easily recognizable and so other views of the patio are not too hard to spot online. The PR guys with the still cameras have the advantage outside in the dark with their flashes, and so these are much better views of the patio area than the videos.

Fig. 67 is a still shot of the DM patio, with M-001 prominently featured. This photo is one of the most iconic Ghouta photos on the Internet, but I have not found a photo credit for it. I don’t believe anyone has previously connected this patio or this photo to the SM videos or the DM videos – they all show the same KB complex.

The first thing one notices in this photo is M-001, on his belly,
propped up on one elbow – clearly alive and with sufficient strength to hold himself up, whereas in the view of him inside Room #3 he is twitching around like he is well on his way to another land. But the main point is that he is definitely at the DM in Kafr Batna, having been photographed multiple times there by multiple people.

[0110] In spite of the drama, none of these many images of M-001 would have rattled my cage had it not been for a HRW’s report on the Ghouta Massacre, dated Sep10.2013. [Scribd, pdf version] That report, whose author is not identified, focuses, in part, on the town of Zamalka, which is 2 km northeast of Kafr Batna. On page 9, the HRW report relates the experiences of an anonymous “member of the Zamalka media center” at a Zamalka field hospital the night of the “sarin attack.”

HRW, exhibiting zero skepticism, dutifully provided links to numerous videos of the Zamalka hospital this anonymous person uploaded to YouTube. (Footnote 18 of the HRW report.) Having seen M-001 in the KB videos appearing prostrate in both the supine and prone positions, I was shocked to see him in videos taken 2 km away in Zamlaka. But, sure enough, there he is, prominently shown on a black examination table in the two videos of the Zamalka hospital provided by HRW.

Fig. 68. A composite screen-grab from a video from a Zamalka field hospital showing M-001. Source.

[0111] Many similar situations have been raised online of dead or dying victims who seem to appear in more than one place during the Ghouta Massacre, thus raising a specter of fraud. And, indeed, it really is difficult to understand how or why living victims and bodies would move or be moved from one area of Ghouta to the other in the midst of a sarin attack and incoming rockets, because, let me tell you something: Anyone who has been gassed with sarin is not going to be traveling around a lot. Mostly they are going to be throwing up, defecating, convulsing, and dying.

But on a close examination, most of these one-person-in-two-places allegations don’t hold up. More often than not, it is not actually the same body or person appearing in different places.
For instance, in her ISTEAMS Report Mother Superior Agnes-Mariam claimed that she had found evidence of fraud because the same girl was seen in two different videos that were shot in two different communities. The nun thought the evidence was particularly damning because both videos are from the DiFi package, and so the alleged fraud in the USG's evidence made the USG look bad. Here is her evidence:

Mother Agnes-Mariam says that these videos show the same girl in Kafr Batna and in Irbin, which is over 3 km northeast of KB.

Well, I agree with the lady that the USG does look bad, but not because of this evidence. In spite of my absolute admiration of the woman, I must say that Mother Agnes-Mariam muffed this one. I agree that the two images are from Irbin and KB, according to the YouTube information. The image on the right is of one of our kids in the KB SunMorgue, no doubt about that. But these are not images of the same body, which is evident by comparing the shoulder areas of their shirts – one is grey, the other is yellow. There are other differences in the clothing that are evident when reviewing the videos carefully.

And the reason I'm raising this is to make the point that these goofs are awfully easy to make; I just hope I haven't made any myself. To avoid this sort of mistaken identity error, I try to find three distinct features – in addition to the person's looks and gender – before concluding I am looking at the same person or same body in two different places.

And by applying this criterion, I do not think there can be any doubt at all that M-001 appears in at least two videos of the Zamalka clinic as shown in Fig. 68 and he was also videoed in Kafr Batna numerous times in Room #3 and on the patio just outside of Room #3. The plaid pants are the same, the ring on his right hand is the same, the stubbly beard is the same.

And so, the question remains: If there was a sarin attack under way, how and why did M-001 go from one area to the other? And why? If he

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60 ISTEAMS Report on the Ghouta Massacre, Sep11.2013
http://logosphere.com/Syria/Syria%20Docs/Mother%20Agnes%20-%20ISTEA
MS%20rpt%20Sep2013.pdf
is supposed to have been gassed by sarin, then this is ridiculous. He would be long dead before he could get from Zamalka to Kafr Batna, he would not look like a paragon of excellent health, and his plaid pants would be full of feces.

There may be a very good explanation for what is going on with M-001, but once we have gone through a few biological principles in Part C, if you would come back to this discussion and review the video evidence of M-001, I think you will agree that this case makes one begin to suspect that not all of these Ghouta victims are victims.

[0112] Before leaving the patio scene shown in Fig. 67, I want to draw your attention to a couple of additional observations. The upper left corner of the main image A is magnified in B so you can see that lurking in the dark background is yet another gas cylinder – that’s seven of them in the DM, by my count. Seven times 44 liters is a lot of compressed gas. Also please note the pool of muddy water on the right side of the main photo, A, and note how the men are lying with their chests in the water. Recall that in SM-c as Mr. Minnie entered the SM he passed a number of men hosing down the sidewalk. Water was flying everywhere. So there is an obvious explanation for where all that standing water came from on a night in Damascus when there was no rain.

This is noteworthy because in video Rm2-a, as Mr. Minnie entered Room #2, you can see a man in messy white pants and shirt who looks as if he may have soiled himself.

Fig. 70. Victim seen in Room #2. Rm2-a/00:18.

The reason I’m raising this now is that in Part C I will point out that fecal incontinence is an expected symptom of sarin intoxication; consequently, the man in Fig. 70 could reasonably be seen as evidence for a sarin attack. And when I first saw that guy with the messy clothes I thought to myself: “Hello . . . there it is. Sarin. But why did he poop his shirt more than his pants?”

After seeing the DM patio scene, and the standing muddy water, and the men lying in the muddy water only up to their waists, I changed my
mind. We know now from putting all of these DM rooms together that this guy in Room #2 is just a few paces from where that muddy puddle on the patio is. Instead of feces on his shirt, it is far more reasonable to conclude that he, too, was lying in the mud up to his chest like the other men, which left his shirt a mess and his pants relatively clean.

[0113] Finally, if you look closely at the tiles in the still shot of the patio in Fig. 67, you will see faint traces of blood close to the left elbow of M-001. The muddy puddle tells us that this area has obviously been hosed down; consequently, there wouldn’t be much blood left even if there had been a lot. In Pat-a you can see a pool of bright red blood clearly on the patio in spite of very poor light. (Fig. 71, below.)

I agree with John Kerry on his point that the Ghouta Massacre was a chemical event because there is no evidence suggesting these victims were killed by bullets or bombs. There is not a lot of blood in any of these DM videos, and certainly not enough to suggest a bloody massacre, by any means. But there is enough blood that it is evident, and in Part D we will see two victims in the SM with very obvious bloody wounds – strong circumstantial evidence of both violence and murder in the KB complex. And so this might be a good time to review the blood evidence in the DM. In the end, the blood, however limited it may be, will be one of the clearest pieces of evidence suggesting that the Ghouta Massacre was not the result of a rocket-sarin attack, but was a mass execution. For now I just want to make a brief pictorial inventory of the spilled blood in the DM, not to argue that it is voluminous, but to note how red it is, particularly in view of the insurgents’ scenario that these victims were poisoned with sarin.
Figs. 71-74. Inventory of bright red blood stains seen in the DM
We have a pretty good idea – maybe even to excess – of what the KB complex looked like in the hours following the Ghouta Massacre. Although I have dropped numerous hints about my own conclusions of what happened there that night, I have not yet organized or presented any of this information as an argument as who killed these people and how. Now it is time to start pulling the evidence together.

But before closing this tour of the KB complex, let me just try and tie together my conclusions on how the videos tie the KB complex together. It’s a if-A-equals-B-and-B-equals-C-then-C-equals-A sort of thinking. If a first room can be connected to a second room and if a second room can be connected to a third, then the third is connected to the first. And so when we line up these videos and the rooms, it looks like this:

A. **SM-c** connects SM → Room #2 because:
   it is one video and both rooms are shown.

B. **Rm1-a + Rm2-a** connect Room #2 → Room #1 because:
   the videos are continuous and both rooms are shown.

C. **Rm2-b** connects Room #2 → Room #3 because:
   men are seen entering Room #2 through Room #3.

D. **Rm2-a + sun-videos** connect Room #2 → SM because:
   all three videos show W-005 & G-010 – i.e. body-continuity.

E. **Rm2-b + the sun-videos** connect Room #3 → SM because:
   all three videos show M-006, M-011, M-014 et al. male bodies;
   i.e. high body-continuity.

F. **Rm2-b + the sun-videos** connect Room #2 → SM because:
   all three videos show W-005, G-010, and numerous children’s bodies – i.e. high body-continuity.

G. **Pat-a** connects Room #3 → the patio because:
   it is one video that begins in Room #3 and proceeds to the patio.

H. **Pat-a + Rm3-a + Rm3-b** connect Room #3 → the patio because:
   they all show M-001.

I. **Pat-a + Rm2-b + the sun-videos** connect the patio → SM because:
   **Pat-a** connects patio to Room #3 (See G) and **Rm2-b + the sun-videos** connect Room #3 to the SM (See E).
Consequently, the KB videos establish that 1) there is a KB complex; 2) that complex comprises a SunMorgue at street level and a subterranean DarkMorgue; and 3) the DarkMorgue comprises Rooms #1, #2, #3, and a patio. Q.E.D.

[0116] We will let our faithful DM guide, Mr. Minnie, have the last word with respect to the KB complex, or the last 1,000 words if that is what a picture is really worth. Here is his own closing shot from the patio. Somehow, it just seems to epitomize this subterranean hell-hole in Ghouta, Damascus on Aug21,2013.

Fig.75. The face of the DarkMorgue. Pat-a/00:36
PART C

Read Their Lips:
The Ghouta Massacre as a Biological Mystery
Chapter Six

The Biological Basis of Chemical Asphyxiation

The Schoolboy, by Vincent van Gogh

Through the contrast of the delicate pink, blood red and dark red...
I've tried to convey the sinister power of such a place.

– Vincent van Gogh

[0117] We’ve seen enough of the KB complex to ask the obvious:
What is this horrible place? What the deuce can we deduce about the
purpose and function of these bare rooms, particularly the stygian
DarkMorgue?

We have a pretty good feel for the physical condition of the place.
Although we can’t see much of the exterior, the interior of the building is
in good repair. Walls are painted and floors are in good shape. The
electricity is on, light bulbs installed and working. Doors are on their
hinges, windows in place. The beginning of SM-c indicates the
SunMorgue floor had just been hosed down, suggesting it needed a good
cleaning before they began moving bodies in, but by the time the sun
came up, the floors had dried out and looked pretty good. Not
immaculate, but good. In sum, the building looks as if it has had regular
maintenance; it was certainly not one of those bombed-out shells
pounded into rubble by years of being shelled that one sees in many
videos of this area.

But the function of this complex, both before Aug21 and during the
massacre, are questions that are wide open. The KB complex is obviously
not a personal residence, nor an apartment complex. For instance, we
don’t see anything that looks like a bathroom or a closet in any of these
rooms. It doesn’t look like a building used for retail stores or a hotel. It
doesn’t look like a warehouse, the floor tiles are too fragile for that.
There are no counters or desks that might suggest a public bureau or
government building. No chairs. No telephones. Being empty is not
unusual, after all it’s in a war zone, but being both empty and so well
maintained as odd. If the KB complex had been stripped of both its
function and its furniture because of the war, why wasn’t the electricity
turned off? Who has been paying that bill?
Folks online have referred to some of these KB videos as showing a "hospital" or "clinic," but they don’t have much to support that speculation other than the presence of suffering people, and when you look at how all of the suffering people are lying on the floor, the idea that this is a hospital falls flat. The only thing we see that might indicate a medical facility is a portable suction machine in Room #2 – the one with its bottles pristine clean as if it had never been used. (See Appendix II, Room #2: Where the Devil Is.) There are no examination tables and hardly any furniture at all. In the entire area that is visible to us – one large room, three small ones, hallways, and a patio – the only visible furniture is the high, industrial-like table on wheels in Room #3, a small cabinet and foot-stool in the corner of Room #1, and a wooden desk, also in Room #1. (See Fig. 53.)

In Chapter Eleven I will discuss a still shot of the SM taken at about dawn. I found the photo on an insurgents’ PR website called The Weekly Report on Dignity Revolution’s Martyrs. Here. The English translation of the caption to that photo reads: “A picture taken on 21-8-2013 in ‘TB Hospital’ in Kafarbatna to which hundreds of injured and dozens of martyrs were taken.” [Internal quotes original.] Maybe, but it sure doesn’t look like a TB hospital.

Many of the Ghouta videos from other areas, such as Zamalka, show what are obviously medical facilities. You can see stainless steel carts and trays; you can see cabinet drawers open, over-flowing with cuff-pumps and medical-looking stuff; there are wall-outlets for oxygen and suction. But with the KB complex, if one were to photo-shop out all of the bodies and suffering people, what would be left is a bare, eerie, empty building in good repair with the lights on. And lots of syringes and 44 L. gas cylinders with their safety caps off, lying around on the floors. Why would a building with no furniture or medical equipment have so many gas cylinders in a state of desuetude, scattered on the floors? Now there is a “puzzler” worthy of Click and Clack, the Car Guys.

[0118] Because the President of the United States, and his Secretary of State, and his Secretary of Defense, and the New York Times, and virtually all of the Western MSM have joined together in casting the Ghouta Massacre as a sarin rocket attack carried out by Assad against the Ghouta insurgents, then, I guess, we should be asking these what’s-going-on-here questions within the sarin-attack context, at least initially. After all, videos SM-a, Rm3-a, and Rm3-b are videos Obama provided to Congress as part of the DiFi package in an attempt to convince Americans and Congress that the US should retaliate against Assad for this sarin attack. And those DiFi videos are now connected to all of the other eight KB videos we have been looking at. Does interpreting these KB videos through the filter of the sarin attack casus belli help us understand what the KB complex was being used for? What are the possibilities under that context?

Is the DM supposed to be a place people fled to when the sarin-rockets landed in the middle of the night, and then the insurgent paparazzi
who were somehow immune to sarin followed the poisoned people into the DM to video them dying? Did the sarin itself waft into the DM and poison people who were there trying to escape it? Is this where people who were exposed to sarin were taken to be repeatedly splashed in the face with water instead of being taken to the rooftops above the toxin where the air would have been fresh in the 8 mph wind that night? Were these people poisoned in their beds, as alleged by the insurgent PR machine, and then dragged into the DM fully clothed in street clothes, and left on the wet floors to flail around, gasping for their final few breaths because that’s where the light was best for taking YouTube videos in the middle of the night? Why else would they be brought there? There are obviously no medical resources that could be used to help these people – not even an examination table.

And what do the workers and loafers in the KB complex tell us? If the dead people were dead because of sarin, then their hair and clothes would be impregnated with the deadly toxin. This stuff passes right through the skin; all one has to do is touch it and serious consequences are going to follow. Bringing the victims inside where that toxin would have been concentrated and where the workers would have been exposed to it suggests that we should be seeing something a lot different in those videos than healthy workers running around with 2 liter water bottles or taking a smoke in the stairwell. After all, the workers are not protected at all. No gloves, no gowns, no hoods. The surgical masks and bandanas worn by some workers may be effective ways to hide their identities from YouTube viewers but would be no protection from sarin. Only one person, Mr. Cranberry, has a gas mask – an old Soviet gas mask with a filter that is probably decades past its “use by” date. One would think that he would be the only person in these scenes not throwing up and defecating, at least until he took off his out-dated Soviet gas-mask and tossed it on the floor.

What I’m trying to say is that this evidence, when viewed within the context of a sarin rocket attack, is just not making sense.

[0119] Ultimately, everything in this world makes sense, and if something doesn’t appear to make sense at the moment, it may be necessary to shift the context and have another look. With all due respect to Mr. Obama and the New York Times, there is just no rational explanation for what is going on here within the context of a sarin rocket attack. I mean, this is the type of situation the acronym “WTF?” was invented for – rooms void of furniture, ubiquitous gas cylinders, masked “first responders” tending to victims with ruby-red cheeks and ears.

It is time to turn a hard eye on the whole sarin “thing.” We need to look at the biological evidence objectively outside the sarin-box for clues of what actually happened. In this section I will argue that the resolution of this Ghouta Massacre mystery comes down to understanding how an oxygen-carrying, blood-borne, binary protein called “hemoglobin” works.
Unlike most senseless civilian massacres in war-torn areas, the Ghouta Massacre was, first and foremost, a biological event. More precisely, it was an act of pharmacological or toxicological barbarity. Different people or different groups of people might have been killed by different toxins in different areas of Ghouta, but the massacre as a whole was pharmacological. And the reason we know this is that it is evident from the videos and still images that these people did not die from physical trauma, burning, hemorrhaging, blunt force impacts to the head, or other physical causes normally associated with a military operation or attack. With few exceptions, the bodies show no sign of trauma whatsoever. Each person died their own personal, gruesome death, gasping for air as a result of being asphyxiated by some chemical agent. We can see some of them gasping in the videos.

And the reason I’m pointing this out is that since we are dealing with a biological event, then biology must be the starting point in figuring out what happened and who is responsible. Forget about identifying the rockets; forget which direction they came from; forget their payload or range. Forget the question of whether there were any rockets. The first and most important question is: What agent was used to poison these people? Once that is determined, then ask whether such a toxin could have been delivered by rockets. In other words: horse, then cart.

The power of the presidency combined with the power of the press to push the sarin scenario to the exclusion of any other explanation has dissuaded people from asking that most essential question: What toxin killed these people? While numerous experts have weighed in on whether the symptoms seen in Ghouta videos are “consistent with” sarin, that is a different issue than identifying what agent was used. For one thing these types of “consistent with” observations are both specious and useless because so many symptoms that are consistent with sarin intoxication are also consistent with a whole nasty menu of possible toxins. These experts look at a video of one individual with stomach cramps or mucus coming from the nose and conclude: “Yep, that’s consistent with sarin alright,” which the reporter translates that to “Sarin attack confirmed by expert.” This is equivalent to a situation in which a reporter asks a detective “Is the fact that she is missing consistent with homicide?” and, upon getting the obvious answer that any missing person is consistent with homicide, the reporter runs the headline “Homicide suspected.”

Jumping to politically inflammatory conclusions based on what is consistent with sarin is easy. The hard part is sorting through the possibilities in order to 1) reject those drugs that could not possibly have been used in view of the symptoms, and 2) come up with an educated best guess of what drug caused the symptoms. These are the two objectives of this Part C.
Here I will discuss the pharmacological mechanisms of action of sarin, carbon monoxide, and cyanide as a prelude to interpreting the meaning of the symptoms we see – and don’t see – in the KB videos. Using the paradigm of multiple, competing hypothesis-testing, I will explain why the KB videos suggest that mass-execution by CO and CN is a far more likely explanation for what happened than Obama’s sarin rocket attack allegations.

Two tables provided in Appendix I summarize this lengthy discussion. Table III is a comprehensive list of symptoms produced by sarin, CO, and CN, along with supporting citations. That table also indicates which of these symptoms are most useful in discriminating between the three hypotheses, given the type of evidence we have to work with. Table IV compares the sarin-H⁰, CO-H⁰, and CN-H⁰ side-by-side with respect to the symptoms expected for each toxin and the symptoms actually observed. But in order to get the drift of this analysis, it is necessary first to understand a few pharmacological principles, which is how we connect the effects a toxin is having inside a victim’s body with the symptoms we see on the outside.

[0122] One aspect of the Ghouta Massacre that I am confident will eventually lead to assigning responsibility to the guilty parties is, as far as I am aware, completely unprecedented: we have video evidence of large numbers of victims at the time of their suffering or soon after they died. In other words, we have a video record of the presence or absence of symptoms that can be used to determine what agent or agents were used. And I’m not talking about one or two individuals; I’m talking about a large enough population that we know we are not looking at one-off biological anomalies.

Some biological effects of toxins can be faked, and some can be mimicked with sub-lethal doses or with non-lethal analog agents. For instance, the weed killer malathion or the ophthalmic agents edrophonium or echothiophate could be used to mimic many of sarin’s effects. But other biological effects are extremely difficult to fake or mimic, particularly in the large numbers of victims shown in the videos – effects like the color of the corpses.

[0123] My point – the point of this study – is that when one understands the biology and pharmacology of the suspected toxins, and when one carefully observes symptoms in large numbers of victims, most of the pieces of this pharmacological puzzle will fall into place. On the other hand, by ignoring the evident biological evidence, any wild hypothesis – including sarin – becomes possible.

By analogy, let’s say you are given a video showing a group of 125 people, and you are told by the President, and the Secretary of State, and the NYT that the people in the video were all intoxicated with alcohol when they were filmed. You would have a pretty good idea what to expect: people wobbling around, some slurring their speech, some throwing up, some groping, some being groped, some passed out cold,
and a few with lampshades on their heads, particularly the ones groping others. Even if you were not told what was wrong with them, if you were told they all had the same problem, you would likely make a pretty good guess as to what that problem is, particularly once you saw the lampshades.

Drugs produce characteristic symptoms, and so the presence of those symptoms can constitute reliable evidence as to the presence of the drug, particularly when you have large numbers of subjects. This is positive evidence: when specific signs or symptoms that are expected to be seen as a result of a poisoning by a specific drug actually are seen.

But if you were shown a video of just one or two individuals walking funny and vomiting, but neither one was wearing a lampshade or twerking, you might or might not guess they were drunk. Lots of things make people vomit and stumble and slur their speech. Cops have been mistaking stroke victims for drunks for as long as there have been cops. It is by having large numbers of subjects that gives you confidence in what you are observing because the full range of expected symptoms comes to light.

That is the way biological research is usually done: enough subjects are used to allow the investigator to be confident that he/she is not observing some one-off, weird event. And that’s what I’m saying about the novelty of Ghouta – when has a crime of this magnitude ever been caught in hundreds of videos showing hundreds of victims as they are dying or shortly after they have died? It is totally unprecedented in the history of despicable crimes against humanity, which is what the Ghouta Massacre is. This is must be a dream come true for people who study the toxicology of mass-executions for a living, if, indeed, such people exist.

[0124] In addition to the positive evidence of seeing symptoms that are expected, there is the negative evidence of failing to see symptoms that are expected. Ironically, negative evidence can be even more powerful than positive. For instance, going back to our drunks video hypothetical, if the video shows 125 subjects doing such things as walking tightropes over 300 foot-deep canyons, or reciting the Gettysburg Address lucidly, or performing perfect pirouettes, or playing the Maple Leaf Rag without missing a note, and if Obama, Kerry, and the NYT told you that those people are seriously intoxicated with alcohol, you would wonder who the drunks really are. We all know that a group of 125 drunks is going to exhibit certain stereotyped behaviors and walking a tightrope isn’t one of them – falling over on flat ground is. If we view a group of people and don’t see any of the symptoms that are known to be produced by a drug, then those people were not poisoned by that drug. Period. Move on to the next hypothesis.

[0125] This is precisely the problem the public has with the Ghouta Massacre: most people are not pharmacologists or toxicologists, and, unlike alcohol, organophosphates are not the kind of drug the public comes into contact with on a regular basis. Consequently, the public
can’t know enough about what symptoms sarin causes to be able to decide for themselves whether or not the USG’s allegations of a sarin attack are bunk. Unfortunately, many people still choose trust over scepticism when it comes to their government’s allegations.

With respect to the sarin-H\textsuperscript{O}, specifically, what I’m saying is that you can find a thousand sarin-laced rocket pieces, and you can find “sarin signatures” in samples from window seals, and soil, and bedroom slippers until pigs do pirouettes – drunk or sober – but if the large numbers of victims shown in the Ghouta videos do not present the biological symptoms of sarin intoxication, then sarin is not the toxin, and all information to the contrary immediately becomes what is politely called in legal circles a “red herring,” and, possibly, an intentional deception. As I say, one of the most extraordinary aspects of the Ghouta Massacre is that there is a video record of the biological evidence – not just of dead victims, but of dying victims as well – and if people will only look at that evidence objectively, it is far more probative than an unsigned, undated USG “intelligence assessment” \textsuperscript{61} or a UN report that is based on tainted evidence provided by the insurgents. \textsuperscript{62}

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**Binary hemoglobin**

[0126] Back in the early days of biochemistry when hemoglobin (“Hb”) was discovered (1840), all proteins were classified in one of three groups: fibrous proteins, membrane proteins, and globular proteins. A globular protein is one that folds itself into a spherical or globe-like ball in an aqueous solution. The suffix “-globin” in a protein’s name denotes this spherical quality of its structure. Protein chemistry has gotten so complicated today that a simple 3-way classification is of no real use; however, most of the 19\textsuperscript{th} century names given to individual proteins have stuck, as in hemoglobin. The “heme-” (or British “haem-”) refers to a non-protein part of the molecule that contains an ion of iron; i.e. a charged atom of iron.

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\textsuperscript{61} http://www.scribd.com/doc/164269962/U-S-Syria-Intelligence-Assessment

\textsuperscript{62} See my critique of the UN Sellstrom Report – “Pigeon Poop on the Pump Handle.”

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Murder in the SunMorgue ~ The Ghouta Massacre

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A Hb molecule actually comprises four protein chains wrapped around four heme units. The heme units each contain a charged iron ion. Iron absorbs most colors of light, but reflects red light, and so if light can get to the iron ions in Hb, the Hb will appear red, which is what your blood has in common with the rusty-red surface of Mars and Conan O’Brien’s rusty-red hair — they all appear red because of iron. But unlike Martian dirt and Conan O’Brien’s hair, Hb is binary — it flips back and forth between a red form and a blue form, like an indecisive hydrangea in mid-summer. In the blue form the globin part of Hb protein hides the iron ions from the light, while in the red form the iron ions are exposed. This binary nature has both physiological and forensic implications. This binary quality of Hb, in fact, will help turn Obama’s sarin rocket attack allegations into a G.W. Bush-style faux casus belli. That may seem like a stretch, but follow me.

[0127] The most physiologically salient feature of Hb is that it can bind four molecules of O\textsubscript{2} that would otherwise just be swimming around in the blood. And because all of the hemoglobin is packaged in red blood cells, those rbc’s are really tiny canisters of O\textsubscript{2} bound to Hb. The benefit is that because of this O\textsubscript{2}-binding power of Hb, blood is packed with 70-times more O\textsubscript{2} than what it can carry if the rbc’s have been removed. Without this extra 70x carrying capacity, it would not be possible to get enough O\textsubscript{2} to all the tissues to keep them alive. In fact, if half of the Hb in the blood is knocked out of commission, a person becomes so O\textsubscript{2} depleted (hypoxic) that death is likely. Another way to put this is that if anything mucks up your Hb, you will be mortuary-bound within minutes.

[0128] Hemoglobin is not only binary in a chromatic sense of being blue or red, it is also physiologically binary, and for the same reason: it is when the iron ions are exposed, that O\textsubscript{2} becomes bound, and it is when the iron ions are buried that O\textsubscript{2} is released. And this is why Hb is so awesome, for the trick with O\textsubscript{2} delivery is to get Hb to flip back and forth between the state that binds O\textsubscript{2} and the opposite state that rejects O\textsubscript{2}.

\[ \text{http://www.masimo.com/hemoglobin/anemia.htm} \]
When Hb passes through the lungs, the chemical conditions there (low acidity, for instance) cause Hb to twist around so that its iron ions are more exposed for binding the O\textsubscript{2}. In this conformation, with four O\textsubscript{2} molecules are bound to it, the fully-charged Hb is referred to as oxyhemoglobin. This is the red form of the Hb binary.

![Oxy-Hb](image)

Fig. 77. Oxy-Hb, or red-Hb, carries four molecules of O\textsubscript{2} per molecule of Hb, all packaged in a red blood cell.

[0129] When the red-Hb gets to the tissues, the chemical conditions are a lot different than in the lungs. Oxygen levels are low, CO\textsubscript{2} levels are high, and the acidity is higher. These conditions cause the Hb to flip to the blue form, dumping all four O\textsubscript{2} molecules into the blood so they can be scarfed up and used by the cells. This blue form of Hb, without the O\textsubscript{2}, is referred to, logically enough, as deoxy-hemoglobin. The cellular waste-product carbon dioxide (CO\textsubscript{2}) binds to this blue conformation of Hb for a ride through the veins to the lungs where the Hb flips back to the red form and exchanges the CO\textsubscript{2} for O\textsubscript{2}. This is the reason venous blood is bluer than arterial blood.

![Deoxy-Hb](image)

Fig. 78. In the capillaries where the blood is more acid, Hb dumps the O\textsubscript{2} and contorts into a blue-form.

[0130] While each individual Hb molecule exists only in the red form or blue form, arterial and venous blood both carry a combination of red-Hb and blue-Hb, and so there is a red-blue spectrum of blood throughout the circulatory system. For over 500 years anatomical illustrators have been drawing the circulatory system as if it is half bright red and half bright blue, like a map of the US on election night. The truth is that while the arterial blood is strikingly red, the venous blood is also red, only less so. Having given up most – but by no means all – of its O\textsubscript{2} in the capillaries, the blood heading back to the lungs through the veins is not navy blue, it’s just a bluer shade of red. Check it out the next
time you get your blood drawn. And when the nurse puts one of those oxygen saturation clips on your finger, what that the device is doing, essentially, is not measuring oxygen, rather, it’s calculating the red/blue ratio of hemoglobin. Of course, I’m just talking about the “normal” situation without any of these toxins involved. Once sarin, or CO, or CN gets into the system, everything changes – and in different directions – which is why I’m going though all of this.

Cyanosis and rubicundity

Cyanosis and rubicundity are the clinical manifestations of a tilted blue/red ratio of hemoglobin. They are terms used to describe a person as being unexpectedly or pathologically blue or red, respectively.

Almost any agent or event that produces oxygen depletion (hypoxia) from the blood will cause more of the blue Hb to accumulate, and that produces a bluish hue in the skin – cyanosis. The word is derived from “kyanos,” the Greek word for blue, or dark blue. Initially, the blue color is seen in the lips, cheeks, ears, fingertips and toes – places where the capillaries are dense and close to the surface of the skin. Here are some examples of cyanosis:

![Examples of cyanosis](source)

If the red form of Hb accumulates in the blood, the person becomes “rubicund,” a word derived from the Latin word for red or ruddy, “rubeus.” Think “ruby.” “Rubicundity” is not used that much in the clinical literature, even by the most pedantic authors, but I find it to

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64 The vein in your forearm looks blue because the skin is absorbing most of the red light reflected by the iron. Your arteries would look blue, too, if you could see them from the outside but they are too deep, usually.

65 http://www.healthline.com/health/blue-lips#Overview


67. http://www.tinytickers.org/content/think-heart
Throughout this document I use the term “rubicundity” in a very narrow sense. I use it to mean pink or red skin color in lighter skinned people that is caused by an unusually high proportion of their Hb being in the red form. That is my working definition of “rubicundity” for the purposes of this paper, although it is probably not a definition that would be immediately recognized by scholars of toxicology. By being so functional, the term “rubicundity” deserves at least one derivative term. When I use the term “rubigenic,” I am referring to the ability of some drugs to produce rubicundity. That is, a rubigenic drug produces a red-shift in a person’s red/blue-Hb ratio, which causes the person’s skin to turn pink or red. We’re coming to the details of how this happens.

Of course, if the person is dark skinned, then never mind all of this cyanosis and rubicundity stuff because high concentrations of melanin in the skin block the light from getting to the Hb and so different colors are not easily seen. As it turns out, the Ghouta victims all have sufficiently light skin that these red/blue skin color issues are very relevant in the evidentiary sense.

By now you will have made the connection between all of this red-Hb talk and my obsession with the red toes and noses seen in the KB videos. Hang on for just a few more paragraphs and I will have you obsessing, too. At least now we have a vocabulary for dealing with a room full of rubicund corpses.

An important physiological-semantic point is that both of these terms, cyanosis and rubicundity, should only be used to refer to a person’s unusual blue or pink coloration caused by a shift of Hb to the blue or red state. And the reason I raise this point is because it is possible for people to turn pink or blue without a shift in the red/blue-Hb ratio, and that is a factor we have to keep in mind when analyzing the evidence.

Thermal effects on the skin are a good example. When a patch of skin gets cold, the body will attempt to keep the temperature of that patch normal by opening surface capillaries so that more blood gets to the very surface of the skin to warm it up. Of course, this turns the skin cherry-red – not because the blood has more O2 in it, or because of a shift in the amount of red-Hb, but because there is more blood flowing to the surface.

But too long in the cold and a person’s core temperature will begin to drop. Then the body will pinch the surface capillaries shut to stop blood flow to the skin in order to conserve heat. At that point, the person’s lips and fingers will turn blue – not because their Hb has shifted to the

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68 Throughout this document I use the term “rubicundity” in a very narrow sense. I use it to mean pink or red skin color in lighter skinned people that is caused by an unusually high proportion of hemoglobin being in its “red form.” In other words, I’m using “rubicundity” strictly as a physiological term, as I elaborate in Part C.
blue form but because the capillaries in their skin have all clamped shut and the red blood is no longer visible. Should this go on long enough, the O₂ deprivation in the distant parts like finger and toes could result in frost-bite and gangrene. But the point is cold-induced red coloration is not rubicundity, and the more severe cold-induced blue coloration is not cyanosis because those terms apply only to the red/blue-Hb status.

[0135] Given that all three of the toxins we are examining – sarin, CO, and CN – can alter the red/blue-Hb ratio (and, hence, skin color), and given that we have videos of a good-size collection of victims of some toxin, it seems that we would be in an ideal situation for taking a first step at figuring out what killed those people. But reality is never as clear as theory, particularly in biology, and the analysis of the KB evidence is potentially complicated by additional factors such as how fast a toxin’s blood levels rise and how high the levels go. While the drug itself will, for the most part, determine the color a victim’s skin can turn, details of how the drug exposure happened for each individual will play an important part in determining whether and how much each individual changed color. To add to the confusion, there are huge differences in normal skin color, even among people of the same race.

For instance, here are three images I got off of a news website recently – a couple of mug shots and a picture of a young girl who made international news for being white and living in a Roma gypsy camp. You won’t have any trouble guessing which ones are the mug shots.

Figs. 82-84. The red-blue spectrum of normal skin color.

I think most of us would not take any particular notice of the color of these individuals if we were to pass them on the street – they are within the range of what we subconsciously register as “normal.” But when the three photos are juxtaposed while someone is yabbering on about differences in skin color, those differences really stand out. Even looking at just their lips, the range of color is amazing.

The point is that where a person’s skin color falls on the spectrum will be a function of their genes, the lighting, their cardiovascular function, their blood oxygen saturation, the temperature, the amount of melanin in their skin, the time of year, their occupation, and . . . well, suffice it to say that there is a wide range of normal, healthy hues in human skin, ranging from blue-black, to purplish, to brick-red, to pinkish. Of course, this normal biological variation complicates efforts
to analyze the KB videos – most of which are shot in poor light of the DarkMorgue. Nevertheless, because the videos are so vivid and panoramic, and because the victims are ethnically homogenous, this sort of analysis can be done with a high degree of confidence in spite of what must ultimately be a subjective judgment-call.

Technicolor toxins

[0136] All of this yada about hemoglobin and cyanosis and rubicundity is meant to set the stage for understanding how sarin, CO, and CN kill and how they can change the victims’ skin color in the process. Let me quickly inventory the three toxins of interest with respect to their effects, especially on skin color, starting at the far red end of the spectrum and working toward the blue end.

[0137] Carbon monoxide. CO, the “silent killer,” has a very powerful effect on Hb. It binds to the protein at the same place that O₂ does, but it binds over 200x more tightly than O₂. Hemoglobin that has CO bound to it is called “carboxy-hemoglobin” or “CO-Hb.” We all have a little bit of CO-Hb because we generate a wee amount of CO internally. Smokers have more than non-smokers. I think the next few paragraphs will convince you that the less CO-Hb you have, the better off you are.

Carbon monoxide is not a cellular poison – it does not directly poison the tissues, not even the breathing muscles. This means that as a person initially becomes increasingly intoxicated with CO, they will be breathing alright and pulling O₂ (and more CO) into their lungs normally. That’s why it’s called “silent.” But as the CO accumulates in the blood and out-competes O₂ for Hb, the O₂ cannot find an empty binding site; and so, instead of transporting O₂ to the tissues, the rbc’s transport CO. And unlike O₂, the CO will not come loose from Hb when the rbc’s get to the tissues. In other words, as CO enters the lungs, it hijacks the Hb, forces O₂ off of the Hb, and the free O₂ accumulates in the blood. But recall that the blood cannot hold enough free O₂ to satisfy all of the tissues, particularly the brain. If more than about 50% of Hb is tied up with CO, the person’s immediate future is unlikely to be a happy one, and it will most certainly be dramatic. In cases of intentional poisoning, such as suicides or murder or mass-executions, CO-Hb can rise to 80% or more very quickly. Mere minutes and its over.
Fig. 85. Carbon monoxide displaces O$_2$ from Hb and holds the Hb in the red form.

[0138] Paradoxically, as the tissues are becoming O$_2$-starved, both the arterial and venous blood will become bright red. In other words, CO is rubigenic. That is because, like O$_2$, CO binds Hb in its red form, but unlike O$_2$, CO holds Hb in the red form virtually permanently. If you were to stick the finger of a CO victim in one of those digital O$_2$ saturation meters, it would likely register 100% saturation (or more) even while the person dies for lack of O$_2$. That’s because the meter “sees” red-Hb, not O$_2$. As CO-Hb builds up, the color of the blood moves more and more to the red end of the spectrum.

And here’s the kicker: a person will begin to turn pink and healthy-looking if the CO-Hb accumulates slowly enough. If CO-Hb levels rise too quickly, they can die before the color changes are evident. And so what we have is a window beginning at about when 20-30% of the Hb has been hijacked by CO, when the person begins to turn pink, to about 50-60% CO-Hb when the victim begins to turn dead. The literature varies a lot on these percent numbers but the important point is the concept of the window. Depending on how long that window lasts and how fast CO is accumulating in the blood, the victim may look super-healthy even as they suffocate, or they may die before the color changes occur. But even after they take their last breath, the CO in their blood continues to convert blue-Hb to red-Hb, and the corpse can become increasingly red even as it lies there on the floor growing cold. More on the post-mortem effects later.

[0139] As a striking example of how powerful and permanent the red-shift caused by CO is, it is worth noting that there is currently a consumers’ controversy over meat packers exposing meat to CO to keep it looking fresh longer. An unscrupulous butcher can take an old, grey piece of last week’s sirloin and re-invigorate it by gassing it with a little CO before putting it back on display with today’s date.
Keep these meat images in mind, because what you are looking at in Fig. 86 is the difference between a person gassed with sarin, on the left, and a person gassed with CO or CN, on the right. That “After” piece of meat on the right pretty well explains my obsession with the KB victims' pink cheeks.

[C0140] Cyanide. When a carbon atom and a nitrogen atom hook-up, the result is a piece of bad news called “cyanide.” It was bad news for Stephen Rakes, the Whitey Bulger extortion victim who was poisoned with CN during Bulger's trial in Boston. It was bad news for Urooj Khan, who won a $1m Illinois lottery and was poisoned with CN the day he got his check. Although Rasputin was famously rumored to be “immune” to CN, millions of victims of Hitler’s death camps – Jews, gays, and gypsies – weren’t. Most of the people executed by the Nazis were executed with CO or a CN formulation named “Zyklon B.” CN may have been bad news for the people we see in the KB videos, too.

[C0141] Toxic CN is available in many chemical and physical forms – solid, gas, or liquid – all of which I lump together as “CN” because it is the free carbon-nitrogen complex that does the damage regardless of how the CN is packaged chemically. Unlike sarin and CO, both of which are odorless, CN has a definite and peculiar odor, described as a very pungent almond smell. Not by coincidence, it is CN in almonds that gives them their odor.

[C0142] The direct biological effect of CN occurs not in the blood like CO, but inside the cells where CN blocks the enzymes that convert O_2 into high-energy compounds like ATP, which the cell needs to stay alive. CN is a cellular poison in other words. Because CN shuts down the cells' respiratory machinery, the cells are not able to utilize the O_2 that is delivered. The victim's cells will suffocate internally while O_2

hydrogen sulfide is a third known rubigenic toxin, but it is not considered as a likely toxin in the Ghouta Massacre because there is virtually no history of it being used as a CW or to execute people, whereas the use of CO and CN for the most nefarious mass executions in history is well documented. Furthermore, the effects of the intensely unpleasant odor of HS would have likely been obvious in the Ghouta videos.

For if CN accumulates quickly enough, it will poison the respiratory muscles before many of the other organs and tissues. If the respiratory muscles are compromised first, the O$_2$ levels in the blood will plummet as surely as if the person had been strangled. This will cause Hb in the blue form to accumulate. In these cases, a victim may exhibit cyanosis instead of rubicundity. Or a single victim may display both cyanosis and rubicundity, like rosy cheeks but cyanotic fingertips.

The point is that if a group of people are gassed with CN, most of them will become rubicund but any individual person could blue or a mixture depending on the circumstances of their own particular death. For instance, in a mass-execution, a person’s color may differ depending on whether they are under other people, or close to a gap at the bottom of a door, or right next to the source of CN. Consequently, after death some may retain the lingering blue hue of cyanosis, some may become rubicund, and others may exhibit normal coloration.

The picture the toxicological literature paints of CO and CN, then, is that they are both rubigenic but CO produces a more consistent and more intense redness while the symptoms produced by CN may vary from cyanosis to rubicundity depending on the vicissitudes of how the poisoning took place. The US Army says it this way:

> When seen, “cherry-red” skin suggests either circulating carboxyhemoglobin from carbon monoxide poisoning or a high venous oxygen content from failure of extraction of oxygen by tissues poisoned by cyanide or hydrogen sulfide. However, cyanide victims may have normal appearing skin and may even be cyanotic, although cyanosis is not classically associated with cyanide poisoning.

**US Army Medical Management Chemical Casualties Handbook**

**Sarin.** Before hemoglobin can play its magical O$_2$-transporter role, and before respiration can take place inside cells, mechanical breathing must occur, and that breathing is done by skeletal muscles that are under control of the nervous system.

During the course of a life lasting 75 years, at a normal average
The respiratory rate of 20 breaths per minute\textsuperscript{22} a human breathes on the order of 800 million times – round it up to an even billion to take into account all that hot and heavy petting when you were a teenager. It is amazing when you think about how few of those billion breaths are skipped over 70-80 years of an average life span. Maybe a few breaths were missed here and there as kids challenging each other in breath-holding; maybe you dropped a few when you forgot to breath during scary movies; and maybe a few more during the odd day snorkeling or spear fishing. But for most of us, once we take that inaugural gulp of air at the end of a long, primal scream while the umbilical cord is still attached, we will rarely go more than 30 seconds or so without taking a breath during the next 70, 80, 90, or 100 years. But that long sequence of successive breaths comes to a sudden halt if one is exposed to high enough doses of organophosphates, like sarin.\textsuperscript{23}

\textsuperscript{0145} Sarin works by hyper-activating the nervous system and skeletal muscles, virtually globally. Very few organ systems and tissues are not affected, and by “affected,” I mean “really screwed up.” Sarin turns on synapses that use the neurotransmitter acetylcholine (Ach). These Ach-neurons are all over the place – inside the brain and out. Intestines, bladder, eyes, heart – if it’s an organ in your body, it is probably controlled at least in part by Ach neurons. Sarin will goose them all.

Initially after exposure to sarin, Ach synapses outside the brain that control smooth and skeletal muscles are the most affected – muscles of the bladder, colon, iris, stomach, and lungs, for instance. Under the influence of sarin these muscles generally either go into a fixed, rigid contraction or they go into spastic cycles of contraction-fatigue-recovery-contraction. The tiny muscles that control the diameter of the pupil, for instance, contract so that the pupil is squeezed down to a tiny pin-hole – “miosis” it’s called. Vision can all but disappear, especially in dim light. Large skeletal muscles initially may sort of flutter in what are referred to as “fasiculations” if the sarin enters through the victim’s skin. If it is delivered to the muscles via the blood, they can go into spasms and furious, uncoordinated contractions.

Sarin also poisons the respiratory muscles, which are also skeletal muscles, and when it does, breathing stops. If the concentration of sarin is high enough, the body's access to O\textsubscript{2} is immediately cut off just as surely and just as quickly as if the person had been strangled with a jump-rope by Miss Scarlet, smothered with a pillow by Colonel Mustard, or drowned in the bath tub by Mrs. Peacock. Turning off the respiratory

\textsuperscript{22} The respiratory rate ranges from 12-40 breaths/min depending on age and activity.

\textsuperscript{23} Sarin is just one of many organophosphates, which is the generic or class name for a large group of drugs, mostly toxins, that have a similar chemical structure and produce effects by the same mechanisms I discuss here.
muscles is just one of a multitude of the effects of sarin’s interference with Ach synapses, but it’s generally the one that is fatal. If the victim lives long enough for sarin to reach the brain, they will likely go into intense grand mal-like convulsions as they suffocate.

[0146] The foregoing grisly picture is just sarin’s effects on skeletal muscles. It also produces a frightening cluster of symptoms known as "muscarinic syndrome" or "muscarinic storm." "Muscarinic" is the name of a type of Ach synapse that controls most organ-systems, and those systems go into high-gear if sarin is present. Many is the med-student who has used the mnemonic SLUDGE to remember the muscarinic effects of organophosphates.

S – Salivation as a result of stimulation of the salivary glands.
L – Lacrimation caused by overstimulation of the tear glands.
U – Urinary incontinence caused by stimulation of the bladder and ureter.
DG – Defecation and Gastric distress (fecal incontinence) caused by stimulation of the intestines.
E – Emesis (vomiting) primarily by direct stimulation of the gastric muscles.

Looking at that list of symptoms, you can see why of all of the ways there are to die, sarin would surely be one of the worse – covered in feces, soaked in urine, intense stomach cramps, possibly convulsing, virtually blind, disoriented, and suffocating all the while. The only “good” part would be that the dying would be relatively quick. This stuff is powerful, it’s potent, it’s fast. It’s nasty. And all of those points are relevant to sussing out this Ghouta mystery.

[0147] But returning to the subject at hand, skin color, the most important forensic point with respect to a sarin victim’s skin color is this: when the lung-muscles stop pumping air into and out of the lungs because sarin has caused them to become paralyzed, the blood becomes depleted of O₂, in which case the brain and other tissues will go from a hyper-activated state to dead. This means that – unlike the rubigenic agents CO and CN – with sarin intoxication the red-Hb declines and blue-Hb increases as the O₂ is used up. Consequently, the poisoned person begins to acquire a bluish tinge, particularly the lips, ears, finger tips, and other pieces that have a relatively large surface to volume ratio.

In other words, sarin causes cyanosis, and for the exactly same reason Miss Scarlet's jump-rope strangulation does: lack of O₂ in the blood causes a blue-shift in Hb. The slower the onset of hypoxia, the more obvious the cyanosis will be at the time of death, but even after death, the deep blue color will often be obvious. With slowly increasing concentrations of sarin as it wafted into a bedroom or sleeping area such as what was supposed to have happened in Ghouta, the cyanosis in most victims would have been very well developed by the time of death.
[0148] To summarize, what this means is that in a population of CO victims, some or most of them will be rubicund but none will be cyanotic. In a population of CN victims, most will be rubicund but some may be cyanotic. And in a population of sarin victims, none will be rubicund, but many or most will be cyanotic. There may be individual cases where cyanosis is obscured by poor lighting or where it is not fully developed at the time a video was taken, but in a population of scores of people gassed with sarin at high enough concentrations to cause large numbers of fatalities, there will be multiple cases of obvious cyanosis.

[0149] You now have a pretty good idea where we’re going with this cyanosis/rubicundity thing. Up to now I have been discussing the color of poisoned people who are still alive, but before we can begin analyzing the video evidence we need to examine one more morbid but colorful technical issue: the color of death.
Chapter Seven

The Color of Death

She wakes; and I entreated her come forth,
And bear this work of heaven with patience.
– Friar Laurence
Romeo & Juliet, Act V

The most unfortunate aspect of the KB video-evidence is that most of the victims are dead. Technically, the terms “cyanosis” and “rubicundity” do not apply to them for there is a different lexicon for colors the dead turn. But the biological principles are the same.

The Demise of the Juliet-H

First, I need to tell you about the epiphany I had a couple of months after the Ghouta Massacre. I have these epiphanies all the time, especially if I had anchovies on my pizza. Usually such late-night Eurekas! seem pretty dumb by the time I’ve had a shower and a cup of coffee, and so I tend to keep them to myself. But this one wasn’t so dumb. It was tagged onto the back-end of a serious Syrian nightmare.

I was dreaming that I was being chased through downtown Kafr Batna by a herd of goats with rigor mortis. They had pink cheeks and lips, and smelled of almonds, and they were gaining on me. Upon waking, I was staring up into the darkness, trying to catch my breath, and it came to me: “Cyanide!!” And then it hit me again: “Carbon
monoxide!! Yes!!!” This study is the result of that difficult night.

Fig. 87. Ghouta goats allegedly killed by sarin. Source.

For a closer look at the curious circumstances of this nightmare-evoking goat video, see Appendix II, More SunMorgue Oddities, Kitten Amongst the Goats.

What prepared me for my nocturnal cerebral emission, if you will, what made it inevitable, other than the anchovies, was that I had been reading up on the color of death – pallor mortis and livor mortis. For it is the cherry red skin color we see in these KB corpses that forced me to abandon my Juliet Hypothesis. This is going to take some Explaining.

[0152] Up until a few days before my Ghouta goat-dream, I was looking at the KB videos and desperately trying to find evidence that would prove that the “sarin attack” was faked – that it was a phony false-flag theatrical event designed to be dramatic enough to pull The Stupid Americans into the Syrian conflict on the side of the insurgents. For weeks I had been looking at corpses with rosy cheeks and lips and thinking: “They can’t be dead. They must be faking – this is an enormous production of the final scene from Romeo and Juliet, and when the cameras are put away, all of those crazy Syrians will get up and go home.”

And so I developed this Juliet Hypothesis, including, optionally, Friar Laurence’s chemically induced stupor – well, maybe not one that would last “two and forty hours” but at least long enough for the videos to be shot and uploaded to YouTube. It was more of a hope than a hypothesis, but it made sense.

After all, the insurgents, like the rest of the world, knew Obama did something really foolish when he made his red-line threat about the use of chemical weapons in Syria. As I wrote in my blog on Sep14.2013, as soon as those words came out of his mouth at that impromptu appearance at a WH news briefing on Aug20.12, it was a certainty that

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74 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Orw31LO_2o8
75 http://logosphere.com/Topics/13-09/13-09-04.html
somebody was going to die, for laying down a CW red-line to this crowd of violent extremists was an open invitation for them to gin up a false-flag CW attack by gassing civilians to make it look like Assad’s Syrian Arab Army was responsible.

As soon as Obama went on the record as a G.W. Bush-style tough guy, the Syrian insurgents must have figured that if sarin started getting splashed around, Obama would have no alternative but to take action against Assad the way Bush took action against Saddam. That’s what red-lines are all about. And if a fake CW attack included hundreds of dead children – a knee-jerk retaliation would be all but guaranteed.

And it durn near worked, too. And maybe it will still work once all of Assad’s CWs have been destroyed or he misses a deadline for getting rid of them. Recall how Saddam gave up his long-range Scud missiles and Gadaffi gave up his nuclear program to make nice with the West not long before the West took them both out. Making nice with the West is one thing, making nice with neocons is like trying to kiss a pit viper.

But if playing the knee-jerk suckers’ game was the insurgents’ plan, it went awry, at least in the short term, for they did not count on Obama putting the military attack on ice for months, maybe for good. They did not count on the blogosphere and hundreds or thousands of people having months to search through the evidence to try and make sense of what happened in Ghouta that night – evidence that the insurgents themselves uploaded to make knees jerk around the world. They did not count on a Carmelite nun going viral by speaking out against the USG/UN/insurgents highly-scripted sarin-storyline.

No, the insurgents thought the US government would do what it very nearly did do: attack Assad in retaliation for all of the dead babies and children the insurgents were showing the world on YouTube. They were counting on an idiot, instant re-play of Iraq. They were counting on The Stupid Americans not learning anything from Iraq. And if McCain’s and Graham’s shrill demands for immediate military retaliation and regime change in Syria hadn’t been deflected by public opinion and by a cooler mind’s second thoughts, brutal Sunni/Wahhabi fundamentalists groups like al-Qaeda and the al-Nusra Front would now be running all over Damascus beheading those who get in their way, and Assad would be swinging at the low end of a gallows for a sarin attack on civilians that he was likely not responsible for and, more to the point, likely didn’t happen at all.

[0153] And the reason I’m spouting off like this is that the evidence, some of which I’ve hinted at above, is reasonably strong that there was no sarin attack, or if there was, it was a very localized use of sarin as part of a larger insurgent false-flag program. That was the preliminary conclusion I came to in September based on the DiFi Package of Ghouta videos. For as I waded through those 13 videos that were “authenticated” by the USG, I kept saying to myself what I believe a lot of other people trained in pharmacology must have been saying: “This sure as hell doesn’t look like a sarin attack should look.”
I mean, it’s not like I know what a sarin attack actually looks like, nobody does – at least not at this scale. But knowing a little bit about how these drugs work and what they have done on a smaller scale, like the Tokyo subway attack . . . well, let’s just say if you’re a trained meteorologist, you’re going to have a pretty good idea of what a tornado looks like even if you’ve never personally had a Dorothy and Toto experience. The pharmacology textbooks, the research literature, and the clinical literature tell us a lot about what one would expect to see in hundreds of people killed by sarin, and it’s certainly not what one sees in the DiFi Package. The symptoms are wrong – all wrong.

And so I sent an open online letter to Congress, with a personal copy to Congressman Rand Paul because he’s an ophthalmologist, and ophthalmologists work with drugs that are similar to sarin and used to treat glaucoma. I mean, you can’t become an ophthalmologist without knowing the pharmacology of organophosphates, so I figured Paul, of all people, would know what I’m talking about. I warned Congress – and asked Paul to warn Congress – that before they authorize any bombs, they better have a closer look at the evidence from a pharmacological point of view. And I gave them some very strong pharmacological arguments as to why Congress were not looking at a sarin attack in those videos, regardless of what Obama and his intel people were saying.

Now that was a blatantly arrogant thing to do, I admit, and bloody futile as well, as I knew it would be. Predictably, the only thing I got for my efforts was being put on Paul’s weekly Email list, which I have not been able to escape from yet. But the problem I’m having trouble overcoming with these people who won’t look at the biological evidence is not that the evidence is pharmacological or all that complex. The problem is psychological. For the insurgents gained a huge psychological advantage by screaming “SARIN!!!” right from the get-go and punking the NYT and WSJ into taking up the sarin drum-beat without knowing what they were reporting about. By alleging as a fact that the cause of the massacre was sarin, the MSM automatically obviated all objective analysis by establishing a causation-vacuum problem. For if someone is now able to remove sarin as a possible cause of the massacre, then all that’s left is a causation-vacuum, which is, to say, the question: If not sarin, then what? The MSM and most politicians cannot tolerate a causation-vacuum – they would rather let the world fill up with their incorrigible blather than admit that they were wrong and that they really don’t have a clue.

And so, in the weeks before my anchovy-induced CO-epiphany tagged onto the tail end of a caprine-nightmare, I was scouring the Ghouta videos for signs of a false-flag because that was my best guess

77 http://logosphere.com/Syria/Syria%20Docs/Ltr%20to%20Congress.pdf
at the time of what was going on. I was not thinking in terms of CO and CN because to think that way you have to be thinking in terms of mass-executions, which is what these toxins are used for, and my mind just doesn’t turn that way. At least it didn’t before the goats started chasing me through Ghouta. Prior to waking up thinking “CO!!” I was just trying to fill the causation-vacuum. If not sarin, well then . . . the videos must be faked.

Of course, with fraud as my only working hypothesis, I began seeing – what else? – signs of fraud. Like the video of the laughing boy mentioned in Chapter Two. (See Fig. 5.) And then I began to build an explanatory context for the rosy cheeks and lips in people who were supposed to be dead or dying. I was naive, incredulous, and struggling to explain how a lot of these dead kids in the Ghouta videos are more rubicund than Josh and Walker, who are my ten-year old neighbors and who are very rubicund and – believe me – very much alive. And the irony within Obama and Kerry’s sarin scenario is that aside from the obvious weirdness of any corpse having rosy cheeks, of all the corpses in the world, the ones that got that way because of sarin are the least likely to have rosy cheeks because people who die from sarin do not turn pink. They turn blue.

And so I kept seeing these healthy looking corpses and thinking to myself: These people can’t possibly be dead. I started staring at the bodies in the Ghouta videos and looking for tiny finger movements that would give away a faux corpse. Sweat beading on the temples, the tremor of an eyebrow, the flutter of an eyelid. I kept waiting for flies to land on noses to see what would happen, but, oddly, there were no flies, which I took as additional evidence that the people weren’t dead.

And I wasn’t the only one hanging on to this Juliet-H. There was a lot of chatter on the websites speculating how the dead victims were really alive. For instance, Mother Agnes-Mariam came to this conclusion in her ISTEAMS Report. And there are weird things going on in the morgues, like a dead child’s leg bending and another dead child’s clothes clean in one image and smudged with dirt in another. There was an Email circulating online from a US Army colonel to his wife saying he had inside information that the whole thing was staged. A colonell!!

See in Appendix II Evidence in Support of the Juliet Hypothesis for a review of the lines of evidence that supported the Juliet-H.

The reason this Juliet-type ruse idea caught on was because, just as the MSM cannot tolerate a causation-vacuum, many people can’t accept


Murder in the SunMorgue ~ The Ghouta Massacre

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how incredibly cruel other humans can be – even though known psychopaths like al-Nusra inhabit this world with us. Rather than confront the reality that there are people in the world who would mass-murder children and infants to achieve their military/political/extremist objectives, some of us would bend over backwards to believe that dozens of bodies lying perfectly still in a sun-filled room were actually a Syrian stage production organized to pull a fast one on The Stupid Americans.

And the Juliet-H worked because they don’t look dead, and in the absence of cyanosis or any signs of the other biological effects of sarin, it’s pretty certain they didn’t die of sarin. Up to that point I was sleeping pretty well. And then someone over at A Closer Look On Syria brought up livor mortis, and all of my optimism and the Juliet-H pretty well had to go out the window.

* Pallor Mortis & Livor Mortis

[0157] You probably don’t want to know this, but soon after you die – beginning right after your heart has stopped pressurizing your plugged-up old circulatory system and your blood vessels have become inert and flaccid – your blood will begin acting like every other viscous fluid on the planet: it will begin slowly flowing to the lowest point in your body under the influence of gravity. Yes, blood in a cadaver sinks to the lowest parts just like oil in a junked car starts sinking ineluctably into the oil pan the second the engine is turned off. Leading the way to the bottom of your cadaver will be the heavy rbc’s, and they will carry your Hb and your red glow of health with them.

As the undertaker backs the hearse out of the garage and begins the trip over to wherever you were when you took your one-billionth breath, if you are lying on your back, your face will start turning pasty-grey, at least if your skin is white or light brown. Capillaries near the surface of your skin will close down rather quickly so that what pressure is left in your circulatory system will not be able to push blood into the skin where it can be seen. As the O₂ diffuses out of the blood trapped in you skin, your healthy color will wane even more, which is fair enough since you are no longer, technically, healthy. Your loved ones may think they are watching the life seep out of you, but the undertaker will know that they are watching pallor mortis develop, which is the early, post-mortem loss of color on the upper surface of a body. The term means the greyness of death. It is also called “post-mortem pallor” and “pallor of death.” Or just “pallor.” This initial change occurs quickly and is complete within about 30 minutes.

[0158] If you want to retain your blushing-red cheeks as long as
possible, die face down. For the blood that drains out of the upper parts of your body will begin to pool in the lower regions; it has nowhere else to go. In a few hours, this basement blood, so to speak, will accumulate to the point that it will become visible. Except for where your body is in direct contact with the surface you are lying on, the skin of your lower body will begin to turn a ruddy purple, as the skin of your upper body goes increasingly pale. This discoloration in the lower parts of a corpse is called “livor mortis,” or, “post-mortem hypostasis.” “Lividity,” for short.80

At first the lividity appears in patches, and then the patches coalesce into a fairly homogenous band of color. Because this blood is losing O₂, the lividity is normally purplish tending toward the blue, but it differs according to the situation, and the color will darken over time as O₂ diffuses away from Hb and the Hb goes back to its blue form. While development of lividity is not a precise post-mortem stopwatch, it can provide some rough indication of how long a person has been dead. In fact, livor mortis can tell you a lot about the person’s death.

Fig. 88 & 14 are a couple of examples of normal lividity. These photos were taken in drastically different lighting and demonstrate how important that factor is in assessing the color.

Fig. 88 Source & Fig. 89 Source.82

[0159] Once I was clued into this livor mortis thing and had read up on it enough to understand it, I began to see it everywhere in the KB videos and still shots. In most photos it doesn’t jump out at you, but here is a good example where it does. Fig. 90 is a now-iconic still shot that “Caustic Logic” at CLOS sent me the day before my CO-epiphany. Fig. 91 shows a wider-angle view of the same boy with a white belt. I believe the photos are from Kafr Batna, but not from the KB complex. For one

80 There are many sources of online information regarding pallor mortis and lividity. Here, Here, Here.
81 http://education-portal.com/academy/lesson/common-postmortem-changes.html#lesson
82 http://www.pathology.med.umich.edu/didactics/media/uploads/forensic_path_handout.pdf
thing the photo credits are to Mohammed al-Abdullah.

![Fig. 90](image1.jpg) Lividity on the child's right side is relatively high.

![Fig. 91](image2.jpg) Lividity on the child's left side is several inches lower.

There is a lot of information in these two photographs. For one thing, we can tell that the boy’s position changed between the two photos, not just the camera angle. In Fig. 91 he is lying parallel to the two smaller children; in Fig. 90 he is lying almost perpendicular to them with his feet pointing to the wall. The man’s arm is another sure reference point.

With respect to lividity, two things are immediately obvious. First, the discoloration in this child is not blue or deep purple; it is brick-red. We’ll come back to the colors in a moment.

Second, it is obvious that this livor mortis is homogenous. It forms a clearly demarcated line that runs the length of the boy’s chest, through his face, all the way to his hairline, but his nose and left cheek are pale. That distinct line of color gives us a clue as to how long he has been dead.

There is disagreement among authorities about how soon after death lividity first appears, but most of them seem to agree that it begins to be visible within 1-3 hours, it is completely developed in about 5-6 hours, and it lasts for 10-12 hours. The lividity in this boy is well developed, which is to say it is unmistakable and uniform, and that suggests that he

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85 http://www.dundee.ac.uk/forensicmedicine/notes/timeddeath.pdf

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has been dead for 5 hours or more. But that raises questions about the bright white foam that came from his nose. Surely after 5 hours the foam would have dried and become discolored as the fats in the mucus became oxidized.

Judging by the way the line of lividity in Fig. 90 is so high on his chest, he may have been tipped up onto his right side prior to being laid flat. Note how in Fig. 91 the line of lividity on his left side is much closer to the floor, indicating that side was a few inches higher than his right side while the lividity developed. In other words, since lividity forms in the lowest parts of a body, it can provide information about the position the person was in at the time of death and whether the body has been moved since death. That boy likely did not die flat on his back like that; he was likely tipped up on one side for hours after he died.

But getting back to my hopeful Juliet-H, the relevant point here is that livor mortis can’t be faked, and once I was aware of it, I saw it in many of the victims I had been hoping were play-acting or drugged. They weren’t. Of course, this doesn’t mean that none of the Ghouta videos were faked; no doubt some of them were. But there are enough examples of obvious livor mortis in this group of KB victims that I had to pretty well accept the unwelcome truth that these people really were dead, which led me right back to the question I started with – the causation-vacuum question: If they’re dead and they didn’t die from sarin, then what?

Filling the Causation-Vacuum

Once you know the foregoing, fairly simple biological principles, you start looking at bodies in a whole different way... I mean, should you want to look at them at all. To an enlightened eye like yours is now, a body lying in a sunny morgue in Syria becomes a rich source of information – a way to test a hypothesis, for instance, which is what we’re going to do. Given such clear videos of so many bodies in the SM, all of which presumably died from the same cause, we are in information heaven. Short of actually being there, we could hardly be in a better position for testing the three toxin hypotheses.

From what we now know about the different ways sarin, CO, and CN affect blood-color, it should come as no surprise that if a person is killed by one of these agents, the color of the resulting pallor and lividity in the corpse will likely reflect the agent that killed them. I mean what more could we possibly want? Even if humans had evolved a mechanism such that the words “carbon monoxide” or “sar in” automatically appear on our foreheads if we are killed by one of these agents, the evidence could hardly be any clearer.

A person who has been asphyxiated with sarin is going to have blue, O₂-depleted blood. Their face will be cyanotic before death.
and will change to a bluish grey as the blood seeps away post-mortem, assuming they are supine. Since all of the blood cannot drain out of the tissues, the little that remains will tint the normal gray pallor blue. And when the blood of a sarin victim settles to the bottom, the color of the resulting livor mortis is going to be an even darker blue because the blood becomes concentrated. On the spectrum of pink/red to purple to blue, the lividity is going to be way over on the dark purple/blue end. Dr Yasuo Seto, a pathologist who investigated the fatalities in the 2005 Tokyo sarin attack referred to the lividity as “intense.” I have searched the Internet for photos of sarin induced cyanosis and pallor mortis and can’t find any, which is good because sarin poisoning in humans is so rare.

[0163] On the other hand, the blood of a person who dies from CO will be noticeably red – many experts refer to it as “cherry-red.” Even when pallor mortis is complete, some of that cherry-red blood will remain in the face and fingers, and so they will retain some of that healthy pink hue for hours because CO is so tenacious in holding Hb in the red-form, and I’m thinking of that bright red hunk of meat in Fig. 86. And when that red blood settles into the oil pan, so to speak, the lividity that is produced will not be dull purple as in “normal” lividity, and it will not be deep purple/blue as in sarin toxicosis. It will be far to the pink/red end of the spectrum, as in the following example of lividity in a CO suicide case.

Fig. 92. Livor mortis in a victim of CO poisoning. Source.

[0164] What about CN? As noted above, intoxication with CN turns blood bright red in most cases, but in some cases it produces the opposite: cyanosis. In corpses the situation is much the same: the blood of a CN victim will most often be bright red because O₂ has accumulated and has saturated the Hb. However, after the CN victim stops breathing, the free O₂ in the blood will begin to diffuse out of the blood or be consumed by microorganisms and the O₂ that is bound to Hb will dissociate. This means that the red/blue ratio, which started out far to


87 http://koronfelzforensicmedicine.blogspot.ca/2012/05/postmortem-lividit monocarbon-monoxide.html
the red, will slowly move toward the blue.

This suggests a couple differences between the lividity in a CO victim and a CN victim. First, the redness of a CN victim will be less red – “brick-red” is the way it is often described in the literature. Lividity of a CO victim, on the other hand, is often described as “cherry-red.” Second, in the CO victim the red lividity will persist for a long time, whilst the red lividity of a CN victim will slowly turn more and more blue. In 2004 Gill et al. published a study of corpses of cyanide-suicide victims in New York City. They found red lividity was reported in only 6 out of 16 corpses that had visible lividity. Unfortunately, the authors did not reveal how much time passed between death and autopsy, but one might surmise that red lividity was seen if and only if autopsy was conducted fairly soon after death.

The take-away point for the present discussion is that fatal CN can produce a red or blue/purple lividity, even in the same body at different time-points after death.

[0165] I will leave this discussion of pallor and lividity with a caveat that is found in virtually all of the scholarly works I have consulted: One should not rely entirely on lividity to draw conclusions regarding cause of death or time of death. There are too many variables from one case to another, including the person’s normal skin color, ambient temperature, how much bleeding occurred.

But this caveat is made with respect to individual cases. When looking at ten dozen bodies of people all killed by the same method, at the same place, at the same time, and stored under the same conditions, the forensic utility of the overall color and intensity of livor mortis is very high. For instance, although biological variation and physical circumstances will conspire to defeat a completely homogenous display of livor mortis, if you see only dark blue livor mortis or only bright red livor mortis, then, clearly, you can confidentially eliminate from consideration toxins that cannot produce the color you see.

Even if the color of lividity cannot alone be used to deduce with certainty what the toxin was, it can be used alone to exclude toxins that could not have been used, at least when the toxins are known to have opposing effects on binary hemoglobin.

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88 http://www.hawaii.edu/hivand aids/Suicide_by_Cyanide__17_Deaths.pdf
Chapter Eight

Testing the Hypotheses

[W]e do not want to know what Darwin believes & is convinced of, but what he can prove.

– Richard Owen to Charles Darwin, Dec10.1859

[0166] Now we will finally get down to the task of testing our three hypotheses with the evidence we have; i.e., videos and still shots from Kafr Batna. Let me first recapitulate what the hypotheses are, and I emphasize yet again that in this initial analysis we are working within the limits of the KB complex and so the hypotheses are restricted to what happened there in the early morning of Aug21.2013. Generalizations to the wider massacre, to the extent they may be valid, will come later.

- The sarin-H°: The victims shown in the KB complex were poisoned by sarin.
- The CO-H°: The victims shown in the KB complex were poisoned by carbon monoxide.
- The CN-H°: The victims shown in the KB complex were poisoned by some form of cyanide.

If this were a scientific study, I would be trying to disprove each of the foregoing three hypotheses within some accepted degree of statistical certainty, usually 95%. But the evidence we have is not comprised of quantitative data and is not amenable to that kind of statistical treatment – the evidence is more akin to courtroom evidence. In addition, formal statistical analysis is not particularly helpful here because unlike political polling data or scientific data, in this analysis the

89 Cambridge U., Darwin Correspondence Project, Letter #2575.
http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/entry-2575

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judge – you – can see precisely the same evidence that the person evaluating the evidence – me – sees, and so you have everything I have and you can form your own judgments as to what the evidence shows or does not show.

How the Hypotheses Are Tested

I have taken a 5-step approach to testing the hypotheses. It goes like this:

**Step 1**: I list the symptoms known to be produced by the three toxins, but exclude those symptoms that would not differentiate between the toxins. A summary of these symptoms is set forth in Table III of Appendix I.

Some symptoms won’t differentiate because they are produced pretty much to the same extent by all three toxins. In other cases, symptoms that would differentiate can’t be reliably observed in the videos. For instance, sarin causes miosis, which would have high discriminatory value but for the fact that the KB videos do not permit us to see the eyes of any of the victims clearly enough to make a judgement call as to size of their pupils, and so this symptom must be excluded from the analysis.

After thus weeding out useless symptoms, I have settled on seven symptoms: five ante-mortem (victims alive) symptoms and two post-mortem (victims dead) symptoms, each of which I discuss in detail below. Organizing the symptoms as ante-mortem and post-mortem is helpful because that’s the way the victims are pretty much found in the two KB morgues. The people in the SM are all dead – 100%. Only these victims are used to evaluate post-mortem symptoms. Conversely, all of the ante-mortem symptoms are observed in victims in the Dark Morgue.\(^\text{90}\)

**Step 2**: For each of the three toxins and seven symptoms I set forth a short summary statement as to whether and to what extent one would expect to see that symptom in a population of people poisoned by that toxin. The emphasis is not on whether or not a symptom will be seen at all, but rather the emphasis is on the expected incidence at which a symptom would be observed in a group of people who have been exposed to the toxin. For instance, cyanosis would be expected to be seen in most victims of a group of people exposed to high concentrations of sarin.

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\(^\text{90}\) Some of the dead victims are found in both the SM and DM morgue. In order to avoid double-counting those victims, I do not include the dead victims in the DM in the analysis of post-mortem symptoms, with a couple of exceptions that I point out.
Rubicundity would not be expected to be seen at all.

Step 3: For each of the seven symptoms, I set forth a short summary statement as to whether and to what extent that symptom is actually observed in the victims shown in the KB videos.

Step 4: I compare the expectations set forth in Step 2 with the observations set forth in Step 3. On the basis of those comparisons I conclude whether the observations support each of the hypotheses.

Step 5: On the basis of the conclusions reached in Step 4, I determine 1) which of the hypotheses, if any, must be fairly and reasonably rejected as being contrary to the evidence, 2) which of the hypotheses, if any, are supported by the evidence, and 3) which of the hypotheses can neither be rejected nor supported because the evidence is insufficient or too contradictory to help us judge the hypothesis' validity.

[0168] Here are the 5 ante-mortem symptoms and 2 post-mortem signs that either have a reasonable potential to discriminate between the three hypotheses or that have been so emphasized by the media, USG, and influential NGOs that they require a place in the analysis.

- Ante-mortem symptoms:
  1. Ante-mortem color
  2. Fecal incontinence
  3. Watery salivation
  4. Bronchorrhea
  5. Convulsions

- Post-mortem signs
  6. Pallor mortis color
  7. Livor mortis color

[0169] There are several symptoms that I would have liked to have used to test the hypotheses but couldn’t. Let me briefly explain why I excluded some of these symptoms from the analysis.

- Urinary incontinence – This muscarinic symptom – the “U” in SLUDGE – is highly probative for sarin because it causes contraction and spasms of the bladder. This symptom would have been very useful but for the fact that the victims in the DM are almost all being doused with water and/or they are lying on floors that have standing water. The dead victims in the SM were, presumably, dead for many hours when the SM videos were shot; therefore, any urine soaking their clothes would have long dried before the videos were taken.
• **Vomiting** – Vomiting and GI cramping, often without nausea, are caused by a direct effect of sarin on the muscles of the gastrointestinal tract, and are symptoms strongly associated with sarin. However, nausea and vomiting can also be caused by CO and CN. In fact, virtually any toxin that gains access to a person’s blood will likely cause nausea and vomiting by stimulating a part of the brain that detects toxins in the blood – the chemo-triggering zone (CTZ). Consequently, the presence of signs of vomiting would not discriminate between the three hypotheses. Because there were no signs of vomiting and there is only one case that might be considered stomach cramping, by excluding this negative evidence I am making the sarin-H<sup>0</sup> look marginally stronger than it really is relative to CO and CN.

• **Lacrimation & miosis** – The stimulation of the tear glands by sarin to produce copious tears and the direct action of sarin on the sphincter muscle and/or nerve endings of the iris to produce miosis are two well known ocular effects of sarin that are not shared by CO or CN; hence, these symptoms would have high differentiating potential. However, a number of factors make these symptoms problematic. Lacrimation cannot be fairly judged because many of the victims are obviously crying due to fear or discomfort, which is a separate cause of tearing. Also, water is constantly splashed in the victims’ faces making it difficult to assess lacrimation. As for miosis, the cameras are too far away from the victims to even see their pupils much less determine pupillary diameter. Consequently, lacrimation and miosis must also be excluded for want of reliable and unambiguous observations from the videos.

 Test #1: Ante-mortem Color

[0170] Cyanosis and rubicundity have a very high potential for differentiating between the sarin-H<sup>0</sup> from the CO-H<sup>0</sup> and the CN-H<sup>0</sup>, given that sarin can produce cyanosis but cannot produce rubicundity, and given that CO and CN are both well known to produce rubicundity. Ante-mortem skin color is less powerful with respect to differentiating the CN-H<sup>0</sup> from the CO-H<sup>0</sup> because both toxins are rubigenic.

Predictions on the hypotheses as to ante-mortem skin color for each toxin

[0171] Here are the expected effects of the three toxins with respect to ante-mortem color.

• **Sarin** – Based on its mechanism of action, discussed above, and the clinical literature, the incidence of cyanosis in a population exposed to sarin is expected to be high, and such a finding would be strong evidence in support of the sarin-H<sup>0</sup>. To the contrary, sarin cannot produce rubicundity. Period. I have not found a single clinical
CO poisoning will produce rubicundity when about 20% of the Hb has been bound by CO, and convulsions and death will occur at about 50% and higher. See point [0020], above.

**Carbon monoxide** – CO is the mirror image of sarin: CO does not produce cyanosis, but it is highly known to produce rubicundity. In contrast, one would expect the incidence of cyanosis in a population poisoned by CO to be very low to non-existent. If the majority, or even many, of the victims displayed cyanosis, that would be taken as very strong evidence for rejecting the CO-H₃O.

While there is no disagreement in the literature that CO produces a pink/red lividity, there is some disagreement in the literature as to whether and to what extent living people who are intoxicated with CO will present with pink/red skin coloration. The problem is that much of the literature is written by and for practicing physicians who see patients in their office or in hospital; consequently, the CO victims they see are mostly those who have not been exposed to lethal doses of CO. Most of the people exposed to lethal doses of CO aren’t seen by a doctor, they’re seen by a coroner. When a person is exposed to high concentrations of CO, there’s not a whole lot of time between turning pink and dying, and so most people who accumulate so much CO that it kills them are dead before anyone can note what the color of their skin was before they died. However, if people are, say, being intentionally gassed with CO, and if PR guys with cameras are nearby, then those people in the process of dying from the CO will very likely – and probably intentionally – be shown in the videos, in which case rubicundity would be obvious. Essentially, whether and to what extent a person gassed with CO would have pink/red skin depends on how soon after exposure and how long before death the videos were shot.

**Cyanide** – CN is more difficult assess as to whether cyanosis or rubicundity would be expected in living subjects poisoned with this toxin. CN is generally expected to produce rubicundity because it causes the accumulation of red-Hb in the blood by blocking utilization of O₂ by the cells. Rubicundity is one of the most prominent symptoms of CN intoxication listed by the literature, which leads one to the expectation that there would be wide-spread rubicundity in a population of people who have been exposed to lethal doses of CN but who have not yet expired. However, CN can, in some circumstances, produce cyanosis in a subject, depending on the details of how quickly CN accumulates in the blood stream, as

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91 CO poisoning will produce rubicundity when about 20% of the Hb has been bound by CO, and convulsions and death will occur at about 50% and higher. See point [0020], above.
discussed above.

It is next to impossible to guess how often such unusual cases of cyanosis will appear without knowing the details of how each person in the population was gassed. Consequently, the expectation with respect to CN is that in a group of living victims who have been poisoned with large doses of CN, one would see predominantly rubicundity, but seeing some victims with cyanosis would not be unexpected.

**Observations with respect to ante-mortem color**

[0172] There was a very high frequency of rubicundity in the living victims in the KB complex. Even though the lighting in the DM where all the living victims were videoed was not optimal, their pink lips and cheeks are obvious in the videos. I observed no clear examples of cyanosis in any of the KB morgue videos or in any still-shots from the KB complex. Not one.

Here are examples of some of these victims. These are screen-grabs taken directly from the videos, nothing has been done but a cut and copy. In many cases the cherry-red, healthy looking coloration is absolutely stunning. Please review these videos for yourself to confirm this important point. Each image is identified as to which video from which it is taken. Links to the videos are provided in Table I of Appendix I.
Figs. 93-102. Examples of rubicundity in the KB victims.
Given that we are examining ante-mortem color, these victims were alive when videoed, except for victim M-014 in Fig 100. This image is from the SM, which had only dead victims. We come back to M-014 when we examine post-mortem color in detail below. The reason I present this image within the present section on ante-mortem color is not because of that victim but because of the pool of blood. As we will see in Chapter Eleven, that blood was bled by the man to the right of M-014, who may well have been still alive when the video was taken. The point that is germane to the present discussion is how incredibly red that blood is — it is so red it looks like someone spilled spaghetti sauce on the floor. A person gassed with sarin would not be expected to bleed blood that red, not even if they were somehow bleeding pure arterial blood. Because so little blood is seen in these videos, this clear view of fresh, extremely red blood is very helpful. How a corpse came to be bleeding in the first place is the subject of Chapter Eleven.

Test #1 conclusions

The conclusions regarding the ante-mortem color evidence are as follow:

- **Conclusion 1**: The very high incidence of pink/red skin color — some very striking — observed in the living victims in the KB complex provides more than sufficient grounds for rejecting the sarin-H₂O. These people could not possibly have been poisoned with sarin, and I say that because of 1) the striking degree of rubicundity in some individual victims; 2) the very high incidence of rubicundity in the group; and, 3) the complete absence of cyanosis in this population.

- **Conclusion 2**: The same high incidence of red/pink skin color strongly supports the CO-H₂O. Some might argue that this evidence points away from CO because levels of CO that produce such widespread and obvious rubicundity would be fatal, and yet these people are alive. Such an argument may be appropriate in “normal” cases of CO poisoning, but as discussed below, if these people were gassed, then it was most likely they were gassed by the insurgents for PR reasons. That means the insurgents would have manipulated the execution of some victims to provide the videographers with
prostrate and dying people to video and show the world. The CO levels in those dying people would almost certainly have been well above levels where the red skin-color would have been evident.

• **Conclusion 3:** The high incidence of rubicundity also strongly supports the CN-H⁰. It is very difficult to use ante-mortem skin color to distinguish the CO-H⁰ from the CN-H⁰ since both hypotheses predict a large proportion of victims displaying rubicundity. Had we observed a mixture of rubicund and cyanotic victims, that would have favored the CN-H⁰ over the CO-H⁰. However, we can’t fairly conclude that the complete absence of cyanosis is evidence against the CN-H⁰.

• **Conclusion 4:** The brilliant red blood on the floor of the SM strongly points to intoxication by either CO or CN, and strongly supports the rejection of the sarin-H⁰.

**Summary as to Test #1.**

[0175] The sarin-H⁰ must be rejected on the basis of the near-universal rubicundity displayed by the living victims shown in the KB complex. Because both CO and CN are known rubigenic agents, the CO-H⁰ and the CN-H⁰ both remain highly viable hypotheses and are supported by this evidence.

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**Test #2: Muscarinic effects:**

- fecal incontinence, watery salivation, bronchorrhea

**Predictions on the hypotheses as to the muscarinic effects for each toxin**

[0176] As discussed above I have limited the analysis to just three muscarinic effects: fecal incontinence, salivation, and bronchorrhea.

- **Sarin** – We know from the way sarin indirectly activates muscarinic receptors globally that the muscarinic effects in people poisoned with this toxin will be intense and universal – vomiting, urinary incontinence, and fecal incontinence should all be very prevalent in a population of people exposed to sarin.

  Sarin is the only toxin in the triad of hypotheses that is expected to produce **fecal incontinence** is sarin. Signs of fecal incontinence should be easy to detect in the videos, both in terms of stained clothing and the way workers and loafers act around the bodies. According to the insurgents’ timeline, these people were exposed to sarin at about 2-3 AM. At that time they would be well into a post-prandial state: their stomachs would be close to empty, their bladders
and their lower GI tracts close to full – if these people were exposed to sarin there should be very obvious and overt signs of fecal incontinence.

With respect to salivation, I emphasize that here we are talking about watery saliva expressed from the salivary glands and not foam or mucus expressed from the lungs. Of the three agents we are analyzing, only sarin is known to directly stimulate the salivary glands to release their contents, which would result in copious, uncontrollable, watery drooling. This is distinct from mucus secretion, or bronchorrhea, discussed next. Salivation is a clear and unavoidable symptom of sarin intoxication and the incidence would be high in a population exposed to levels of the toxin high enough to cause the prostration we see in the videos. Thus this symptom also has high evidentiary potential. It is easy to detect.

Bronchorrhea is the polite, medical way to say “mucus discharge from the mouth and nose.” Such mucus may be produced in the lungs and bronchi when muscarinic receptors are activated. When these mucus secretions are agitated by forced exhalations, as when gasping for breath, they can form a foam or froth.

From an evidentiary point of view, bronchorrhea is distinguished from salivation primarily by the consistency of the discharge. There is also rhinorrhea, which means runny nose and can be a part of bronchorrhea or can be caused by many other stimuli or events. While rhinorrhea is sometimes considered to be a separate symptom of sarin, microscopic analysis is often required to distinguish whether a nasal/oral discharge originates in the nasal passages or the bronchi. It is not possible with the evidence we have to do more than characterize a nasal/oral discharge as watery (salivation) or a thick mucus (bronchorrhea).

Bronchorrhea is not frequently listed as a symptom for any of these toxins, but there are clinical anecdotes that are promoting a growing awareness that in sarin poisoning the presence of mucus coming from the nose or mouth indicates the need to employ the antidote atropine. In the sarin attacks in Tokyo, whilst thousands of people were treated, only a handful died, which suggests that the attack was less intense than the one that was supposed to have killed scores or hundreds in Ghouta. At least one clinical report from the Tokyo attack describes bronchorrhea in some victims, but it was not a widely reported symptom.

From an evidentiary point of view one should keep in mind that so-called “foaming at the mouth and nose” requires that air be expelled forcefully enough through mucus in the nose and mouth to agitate the mucus and produce a froth. However, in the late stages of intoxication by sarin the breathing muscles are paralyzed and

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fatigued to the point the victim cannot breathe at all, much less force enough air through the nose or mouth to produce a foam. This leads to a plugging up of the airways and suffocation.\textsuperscript{93} Consequently, victims who are closest to death are the least likely to be foaming at the nose and mouth. The victims we see in the KB videos are prostrate, suffering, and, presumably, dying. These are the victims who may be producing the most mucus, but they would be the least able to expel it in a visible discharge.

This suggests that bronchorrhea will not likely be seen in seriously poisoned victims such as those of Ghouta. It also suggests that a sarin victim who is displaying foaming or bronchorrhea will have their airway clogged by the mucus, and that, in turn, would exacerbate cyanosis. A cherry-red victim expressing mucus or foam from the nose would be evidence against intoxication with sarin.

Another point to bear in mind is that foaming from the mouth/nose is one of the easiest symptoms to fake. As many school-kids know – at least the ones in my elementary school – in order to scare your friends into running away from you screaming “Rabies!!” all you have to do is hold a small amount of baking soda in your mouth and swig some sort of acidic beverage such as Coke and you will start foam like a mad, hydrophobic dog. With a little talent and practice, you can even force the foam through your nose.

Consequently, although the insurgent PR photographers and the mainstream media emphasized views of victims foaming at the nose/mouth, I consider bronchorrhea to be a symptom that is not necessarily indicative of sarin intoxication and not strongly expected in a population exposed to lethal doses of sarin, but it is certainly possible. It can also be easily faked.

\textbf{Carbon monoxide & cyanide} – Fecal incontinence is not expected for CO or CN, either on the basis of the clinical literature or the pharmacological mechanisms of these two toxins. Of course, under any hypothesis there is always the possibility of stress-induced fecal incontinence being seen in a few individuals of a group, particularly children; therefore, the mere presence of feces would not be evidence against CO or CN.

Neither CO nor CN directly stimulates salivary glands like sarin does and would not be expected to produce copious salivation, certainly not in the amounts or of the consistency as sarin would. Chronic, low dose, chronic exposure to hydrogen cyanide is reported to produce many of the symptoms of sarin, including salivation, vomiting, lacrimation, and muscle weakness.\textsuperscript{94} However, salivation is not generally listed as an expected symptom of high-dose, acute

\textsuperscript{93} Ibid

\textsuperscript{94} OSHA Guidelines on Hydrogen Cyanide, Methods Development Team, OSHA Salt Lake Technical Center, (2010)
CN toxicity.\textsuperscript{95} The incidence of salivation in the KB victims would therefore expected to be low if CO or CN was the toxin.

Whilst most of the clinical literature does not list \textit{bronchorrhea} as a symptom of CO, there are a number of anecdotal accounts of nasal or oral foaming in CO victims. (See \textit{Appendix I, Table III}) Given these reports, one would venture to state that any KB victims with bright red skin and foaming from the nose/mouth would constitute evidence supporting the CO-H\textsubscript{O} and disproving the sarin-H\textsubscript{O}. However, as with sarin, it is not possible from the literature to estimate an expected incidence of foaming in CO victims.

There are no reports or discussions I am aware of regarding CN producing or not producing bronchorrhea. Consequently, neither the presence nor the absence of bronchorrhea gives us a dependable basis to reject or accept any of the hypotheses even though it is quite dramatic and is emphasized by the insurgent PR people.

\textbf{Observations related to muscarinic effects}

\textsuperscript{[0177]} The observations with respect to muscarinic effects were as follow:

\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{Fecal incontinence} – No indications of fecal incontinence were seen. There was no soiled clothing on any victim of the KB complex that could be unambiguously attributed to feces, that includes both living and dead victims. As noted in Chapter Five one man is seen in Room \#2 of the DM that had a soiled shirt, (See Fig. 70.) but that is almost certainly explained by him lying with his torso in muddy water, probably in the DM patio region. There are no signs from the workers and loafers in either the SM or the DM that they are experiencing offensive odors even though they are in close contact with the victims in confined spaces.

\item \textbf{Salivation \& Bronchorrhea} – I see no cases in the KB videos of copious, watery salivation or uncontrollable drooling that would be expected with sarin intoxication. As noted above, the videographers, particularly Mr. Minnie, were accompanied by at least one man with a green bottle of water who splashed victims in the face just as the video was being taken. This maneuver, whatever it’s purpose, has the effect of obscuring whether or not there is any salivation or bronchorrhea in many or most victims. Bronchorrhea is conspicuously seen in two individuals in Room \#3, both of whom have very red skin. However, bronchorrhea in this population is by no means universal, or even wide spread.
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{95} See \textit{OPCW brief on CN}
Conclusions based on muscarinic effects.

The conclusions with respect to the evidence of muscarinic effects are as follow:

• **Conclusion 1:** Signs of fecal incontinence and excessive salivation are easy to detect; if these symptoms were present to the extent one expects on the sarin-H⁰, one would see them in the videos. The absence of fecal incontinence and salivation are the strongest pieces of evidence against the sarin-H⁰ in this category of symptoms. Because both of these symptoms are highly expected with sarin, their absence in the KB population strongly contradicts the sarin-H⁰.

• **Conclusion 2:** The fact that neither fecal incontinence nor excessive salivation is expected with CO and CN intoxication, and the fact that they were not observed is consistent with – but not proof of – the CO-H⁰ and the CN-H⁰. In other words, the mere absence of what was not expected is consistent with these hypotheses but by no means conclusive.

• **Conclusion 3:** Bronchorrhea is evident when it occurs and is disturbing, and so the Ghouta videos, including the KB videos, tend to over-emphasize it relative to how many victims actually display it – the PR guys and the MSM just really seem to get off on nasal mucus. But bronchorrhea is of minimal utility in trying to sort out what these people were poisoned with. It’s presence is not diagnostic.
of any single agent; it’s absence means nothing. The fact that bronchorrhea is seen in two victims and both of those victims are strikingly rubicund is far, far more consistent with the CO-H^0 than the sarin-H^0. One would expect foaming at the nose/mouth to be associated with cyanosis if the foaming were caused by sarin because mucus was plugging up their airways would exacerbate the cyanosis caused by sarin. The fact that they are rubicund suggests that we are seeing bronchorrhea produced not by sarin, but by CO. Either that or faked. I was not able to determine whether this symptom has any relevance to CN intoxication.

In the end, in spite of its “wow factor,” I place next to no evidentiary significance in the fact that bronchorrhea was observed in a few victims.

Summary as to Test #2.

This class of evidence fully corroborates the conclusions reached with respect to ante-mortem color evidence of Test #1. Hence, the bulk of the usable evidence is accumulative with Test #1 in virtually eliminating sarin as a candidate as the toxin responsible for the suffering and death of the victims shown in the KB complex. Because CO and CN do not produce strong muscarinic effects like sarin does, this test has less value in supporting or rejecting either the CO-H^0 or the CN-H^0.

Test #3: Convulsions

Predictions on the hypotheses regarding convulsions

The MSM has been awash with clips of Ghouta victims exhibiting all sorts of bizarre movements that reporters call “convulsions” and offer as “proof” of a sarin attack. But what is a convulsion, and what would we expect to see – both in terms of the expected incidence and the type of convulsion – in a group of people poisoned with sarin, CO, or CN?

- **Sarin** – The MSM and various NGOs who have weighed in on Ghouta have emphasized convulsions as proof that sarin was used. And they are correct in associating sarin intoxication with convulsions. The pharmacological literature I have reviewed emphasizes sarin’s convulsant propensities far greater than CO’s or CN’s, although all three toxins cause convulsions at high doses.

  What is confusing the issue is that the people writing the reports on Ghouta don’t know what a convulsion is or what type of convulsion sarin produces – any unusual muscle movement seems to suffice as a “convulsion,” and, hence, evidence of a “sarin attack.”

  For instance, the media often use the term “fasiculations” as if it is interchangeable with “convulsions.” Reporting like this indicates, first of all, the author’s lack of basic clinical understanding about what they are alleging and, second, their propensity to throw medical
terms around loosely. The problem is that upon close examination most of these allegations are baseless because the evidence used to back them up does not show either convulsions or fasciculations.

There are many dramatic videos of Ghouta victims displaying all sorts of weird arm and leg movements that are neither convulsions nor fasciculations. I'm not sure what they are. They may be properly referred to as some sort of hyperkinetic disorder such as chorea. I don't know that it's possible to make a diagnosis from the videos. But whatever it is we are seeing in most of these media videos, it is not convulsions and it is certainly not fasciculations.

As an example of this contorted reporting about convulsions, check out page 17 of the September 10, 2013 HRW report on the Ghouta Massacre where you will find a still shot from a video taken in an unknown location in Ghouta. The video shows a man on his back wildly flailing his legs in the air as if peddling a bicycle; the caption alleges that this is a convulsion and, therefore, evidence of sarin.

![YouTube screen-grab](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iSZlBnksc)

**Fig. 105.** Human Rights Watch provides this “evidence” of convulsions caused by sarin in Ghouta. See caption below.

The HRW caption to the YouTube screen-grab reads:

A still image from a YouTube video uploaded by opposition activists following the August 21 alleged chemical attack shows medical staff attempting to restrain a victim who appears to be undergoing fasciculations (involuntary muscle spasms or convulsions), a medical condition associated with exposure to nerve agents such as Sarin. Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iSZlBnksc

HRW’s caption is both wrong and confusing on a number of levels, virtually to the point of being characterized as misinformation. First, having watched the video, I can say with confidence that whatever else this man is displaying, it is certainly not properly referred to as “fasciculations.” The man’s flailing legs in an alternative kicking motion are muscle movements that have to be

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96 Here's a short Healthline article on chorea. http://www.healthline.com/symptom/chorea

97 Scribd, pdf version is found at: http://www.scribd.com/doc/167118023/Human-Rights-Watch-Syria
coordinated by the CNS. These movements look like they are coordinated at the highest level – the motor cortex. That is not a fasiculation.

The term “fasiculation” describes tiny involuntary contractions of skeletal muscle fibers that are visible as tremors only if enough fibers are involved. Fasiculations are definitely not coordinated muscle movements like those in the video. Most fasiculations are so minute they can only be detected with electronic equipment.

The man’s disorder, if it is, in fact, genuine, would likely be more accurately labeled “chorea.” I have never seen a laboratory report or a clinical report indicating that chorea or coordinated bicycling-like muscle movements are symptoms of sarin.

Second point: contrary to HRW’s implied assertion, fasiculations are not convulsions. The caption is, of course, correct in saying sarin produces convulsions – no argument there. And sarin also causes fasiculations – no argument there, either. But that doesn’t mean fasiculations are convulsions – they aren’t. A fasiculation is to a convulsion what your kid’s pet guppy is to a three-ton great white shark.

Which brings us to the third point (most important): even if one were to characterize the movements shown in the HRW video as a “convulsion,” it is not the type of convulsion one would expect from sarin intoxication. Within the context of toxic effects on the CNS caused by any of these drugs, a “convulsion” would be a major, uncoordinated grand mal seizure in which the voluntary (skeletal) muscles either go into a rigid contraction or contracts and relaxes in a totally random, uncoordinated manner. As I say, the movements displayed in the HRW video would probably be more accurately referred to as a “hyperkinetic syndrome,” which is not a symptom of sarin.

Sarin-induced convulsions would be violent, uncoordinated, spasms like the clonic phase of a grand mal seizure. There are research reports, for instance, describing how laboratory rats exposed to increasing doses of organophosphates first develop muscle tremors (fasiculations) and then “grand mal seizures” – and they use that term. Furthermore, as we’ll discuss in detail below, even if the HRW video shows a convulsion, which it doesn’t, it would not likely be proof of a sarin attack.

The reason for raising this HRW misinformation is that it is rather typical of what is out there. Dramatic footage of victims flailing around in various Ghouta videos, including the KB complex, may have excellent PR value, but such dramatic, coordinated movements are not convulsions and are not proof of a sarin attack. A grand-mal seizure is not easy to fake; bicycle movements while on your back are easy to fake.

Whatever is causing or motivating those people in various Ghouta videos to flail around with muscle movements that are obviously coordinated by the CNS, it is almost certainly not sarin. On the other hand, I have never seen a single individual in any Ghouta video that is in what appears to be a grand mal sort of convulsion that would be indicative of sarin intoxication. If you have ever seen a grand mal seizure you would immediately recognize the difference between what would be expected in a sarin victim and what the HRW video shows.

- **Carbon monoxide & cyanide** – Carbon monoxide and cyanide are both well known to produce convulsions of the same type that sarin produces. In fact, virtually any agent that produces hypoxia in the CNS is likely to produce convulsions in the moments preceding death and that is because the CNS generally exerts an inhibitory effect on skeletal muscles and when that inhibitory effect is removed, a convulsion is the result. Consequently, one would expect that convulsions would be seen in many victims who are close to death regardless of which of the three toxins they were poisoned with. However, the odds of catching such convulsions on video would likely be quite low because such convulsions would be of very short duration and close to the moment of death.

**Observations regarding convulsions**

[0181] All of the living victims in the KB complex that can be seen moving are displaying coordinated movements of large muscle groups; none are displaying what would be properly called a “convulsion.” For the most part the victims are prostrate and showing little or no movement, but no victim is observed having convulsions and certainly not grand-mal seizure type convulsions. There is a single individual – in Room #3 of the DM – who is displaying spastic movements of the legs. (See Rm3-b/00:05.) As noted, this is not a convulsion and is not indicative of sarin intoxication.

**Conclusions regarding convulsions**

[0182] The conclusions with respect to the evidence of convulsions are as follow:

- **Conclusion 1:** Convulsions is one of the least helpful symptoms in distinguishing between the three hypotheses because even though convulsions are a hallmark of sarin intoxication, all of these agents are expected to produce seizures at fatal levels. Consequently, even if we did see one or more victims with convulsions, that would not be reason to accept one hypothesis over the others. In other words, positive evidence here would have no value in discriminating between the hypotheses.

- **Conclusion 2:** Because of the nature of the evidence we have to work
with, we only see the victims for a few seconds; we have no information as to the course of their intoxication before or after those few seconds. Consequently, the negative evidence – absence of convulsions – in these videos provides no useful information.

Summary as to Test #3.

Allegations of convulsions is one of the points upon which a lot of misinformation is being spread about the Ghouta Massacre. It is curious that a number of similar insurgents’ stories have come out of Ghouta by way of the MSM, anti-Assadist bloggers, and NGOs in which a person claims that they were exposed to sarin, had a convulsion, and then got up and helped other victims. One such wild story is presented in the HRW report cited above. These stories are too ludicrous to even consider “evidence,” other than evidence of the insurgents’ are apparently relying on the gullibility of the Western media to promote their sarin scenario. We know from the Tokyo sarin attack that a few victims who had seizures survived, but they were hospitalized and/or disabled for weeks. Some had long term brain damage. Anyone exposed to levels of sarin sufficient to cause convulsions is probably not going to survive long enough to tell the tale, and is certainly not going to recover after a few minutes and jump into action to save others.

For this reason I am not sure that we could expect to see any victims having convulsions in the KB videos even if sarin was the agent used. For one thing, the cameramen would have had to have been exposed to sarin in order to record the victim between onset of the convulsion and death, so the cameraman probably would not have survived either. The convulsions are not like miosis that persists for hours or days. And they are not like fecal incontinence that would leave visible indications after death. Any sources that purport to be showing sarin-induced convulsions in Ghouta should be viewed with extreme skepticism.

Test #4: Post-mortem Color

Predictions on the hypotheses regarding the color of pallor mortis and livor mortis

The post-mortem color changes represent the strongest evidence with which to test our three hypotheses. The biological issues related to the color of pallor and lividity in victims dying from sarin, CO, and CN are precisely the same as with cyanosis and rubicundity, but in many cases the color of livor mortis will be more pronounced than ante-mortem color because the blood collects in a smaller volume and the hemoglobin is, therefore, more concentrated. Consequently, like cyanosis/rubicundity these post-mortem symptoms have very high potential for differentiating between sarin and CO, but lesser potential for differentiating between sarin and CN and between CO and CN.

Furthermore, the conditions for observing post-mortem color in the SM are good, and that is an additional factor that makes this class of
evidence valuable. The light is so much stronger in the SM videos where these victims are. This makes it easier to distinguish gradations of colors. Also, all of the dead victims in the KB videos have a natural skin color that is light enough that pallor mortis and livor mortis can be easily observed. There has been plenty of time for both pallor mortis and livor mortis to develop, for according to what the insurgents’ PR apparatus has told the world, the attack took place around 2-3 AM, and SM-a was shot about noon and SM-b sometime after noon, as I have demonstrated above. That is at least 9 hours by my calculator, and yet pallor mortis is nearly completely developed within 30 minutes and livor mortis within about 5 hours.

• **Sarin** – Victims who die from sarin will, almost by definition, have blood that is depleted of O₂. Many or most of them would have been cyanotic at the time of death and dying would not have changed the color of their blood – the Hb would still be in the blue form. The striking blue color would have left their lips and finger-tips as the O₂-depleted blood drained from their superficial capillaries. One would expect that by the time the PR cameramen showed up in the SM for the photo-op, if these people died of sarin, a ghastly blue pallor mortis would be evident.

    As the bluish blood settled into the lower parts of their bodies, a very obvious and intense blue/dark purple livor mortis would have developed, leaving no doubt, when the population as a whole is observed, of the existence of widespread livor mortis that is consistent with the sarin-H²O.

• **Carbon monoxide** – Again, CO would be expected to produce a 180 degree different effect than sarin. Recall that CO holds Hb in the red form. Carbon monoxide does not release Hb and dissolve out of the tissues like O₂ does. Whatever residual Hb remains in the skin after pallor develops, it will be red and it will stay that way for hours until the Hb breaks down. Carbon monoxide victims may have bright red skin at the time of death, and the intense redness may diminish as most of the blood drains into the lower parts of the body, but the residual blood will be red enough to impart a life-like color to the decedents’ pallor mortis.

    The pink/red color would be even more pronounced in the lividity, as the red Hb is concentrated in the lower parts of the body. In other words, with respect to both pallor and lividity, we could not possibly ask for a more striking and certain way to distinguish the sarin-H²O from the CO-H²O than the color of the dead victims’ skin 30 minutes or more after death.

• **Cyanide** – For the most part, in a population of many dozens of victims, the predictions made on the CN-H²O will be the same for the CO-H²O. Consequently, CN will also be easily distinguished from sarin.
However, there is the potential for important distinctions between CO and CN. For one thing, the post-mortem color of a CN victim is not expected to be as cherry-red as a CO victim, nor is the red color expected to last as long. Because the O₂ in the blood of a CN victim, unlike CO, dissociates from Hb, the blood slowly becomes less red and more blue, passing through stages of purple. And so, the post-mortem color situation of a group of CN victims would be expected to be more dynamic within the time frame we are analyzing, compared to either CO or sarin, and this complicates the expectations about post-mortem color.

Observations regarding post-mortem color

Pallor mortis – children and men  Let me begin with the most conspicuous observations: generally, the bodies of children and men in the SunMorgue exhibit good to very good color. Here are examples indicating the range of pallor seen in the men and children of the SM.

Fig. 106-112. Pallor mortis of the KB victims

Fig. 106. SM-b-00:56
Fig. 107. SM-00:06
Fig. 108. SM-b01:06

VictimM-014

Fig. 109a. SM-00:35
Fig. 109b. SM-a00:25
Fig. 109c. SM-a00:02

VictimM-006

Fig. 110. SM-a00:05
Fig. 111a. SM-a00:12
Fig. 111b. SM-a00:44
Fig. 112. SM-a00:10

Fig. 106-112. Pallor mortis of the KB victims
The images speak volumes: the healthy-looking color of the KB bodies is nothing short of amazing, particularly given the insurgents’ sarin scenario timeline. Victim M-014 (Fig. 109a-c) and Victim M-006 (Fig. 111a & b) are particularly important because both of these victims are shown in DM Room #3 at night, so we know they have been dead for hours. The same is true for most of the children, who are seen in Room #2 at night in Rm2-b.

With respect to M-014, Fig. 109a and 109c show him on the floor of Room #3. While the differences in lighting must be taken into account, nevertheless his color appears to have improved many hours later when he is seen in the SM (Fig. 109b). Likewise, Fig. 111b shows M-006 on the floor of the DM hours before he is seen in the SM videos, Fig. 111a. Both of these victims are seen in Mr. Minnie’s two-part video where he moves from Room #3 directly to the patio, which is pitch black. Hence, we know that the DM images of these victims were shot well before the sun came up on Aug21, and hours before the sun-videos were taken in the SM about noon. So not only is the pallor mortis red, it is persistent.

Livor mortis – children and men In contrast to the rubicund pallor mortis being so conspicuous, livor mortis is more difficult to find because, being at the bottom of the bodies, it is hidden by clothes. However, if one looks closely and enlarges the images, lividity can be seen in a number of victims, and it can be seen well enough in the bright light of the SM to judge its color. And there is a very considerable range of colors – but none of them are dark blue. The still images are easier to analyze because slight movement of video cameras blurs the edges of the
color. Here are just a few of about a dozen clear examples of lividity in the SM victims.

![Fig. 113. Indisputably pink lividity in Victim M-008. Source.](image)

In pallor mortis the color is lighter and is more diffuse, and there can be more subjectivity involved in ranking the depth of color, if not the color itself. But with well developed lividity, there is nothing diffuse about the color; it is very clearly demarcated by distinct boundaries, as shown in M-008, above. And there can hardly be any argument that the lividity is pink. People might disagree as to whether to call this “cherry-red” or “pink,” but I could not imagine anyone with competent color vision asserting that it is blue, or deep purple.

Here is another example of lividity in the SM that lies far toward the red end of the red-blue spectrum, a young boy, B-003. While this lividity is as pink as that of M-008, the border along the chest is not as well defined.

![Fig. 114. The more mottled edge of this boy’s lividity indicates that not enough time had passed since he died for the lividity to fully develop. Source](image)

The darkest lividity I have seen in the SM is of victim G-004, the girl in orange whom we have already met.

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100 There is a very interesting detail about M-008: in the sun-videos you can see that someone has placed a coin directly over his heart. The coin is not seen in other still photos, such as Fig. 113. I discuss this oddity in detail in Appendix II, More SunMorgue Oddities.

101 The source of this image at Shaam.org, has been taken down prior to publication of this study.
Fig. 115. Victim G-004 – one of the darkest cases of lividity in the SunMorgue. Source.

Upon magnification, one can see the lividity of G-004 on her torso, between her shirt and pants. While this girl’s lividity is well to the red end of the spectrum, it is more “brick-red” than “pink.”

Overall, the lividity ranges from brick-red to pink/cherry-red in this population of victims. I do not observe any lividity that is dark blue or deep purple. However, there are some examples where one would expect to see lividity, but there is none. Here are a couple of them.

Figs. 116 & 117. In a number of victims, particularly children, no lividity can be seen.

Initially one might guess that the lack of lividity in the lower parts of the extremities and torsos of these children in the SM at mid-day suggests that they had not been dead long enough for lividity to develop when the videos were taken; however, these same bodies are seen in

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102 The source of this image at Shaam.org, has been taken down prior to publication of this study.
Room #2 at night. (See Rm2-b.)

Pallor mortis & livor mortis – women  Finally, I want to end this section on observations of post-mortem color with another negative observation: the women. Because considerable care has been taken to cover the women – in SM-a they are completely covered – we do not have the luxury of aggregating several observations in order to get a quasi-statistical feel for the extent and color of pallor and livor mortis. In SM-b we can see about a dozen women’s faces well enough to note their color. Mostly, there isn’t any. They appear ashen grey, as one would expect of someone who died of “normal” causes rather than by a toxin that turns blood blue or red. There is certainly no striking red/pink coloration as is consistently seen with the children and men.

Here are representative examples to compare with Fig. 106-112, above:
Figs. 118-120. From what we can see of the women in the SM, they lack the striking post-mortem pink/red coloration of the children and men. Why?

Because of their unremarkable post-mortem color, the women in the SM do not provide any evidence – for or against – any of the three hypotheses. For instance, the woman on the left in Fig. 120 may be showing light purple lividity – her left cheek looks much lighter than her right one. But the color does not strike me as being either pink or dark blue/purple. Rather, this the color expected of “normal” lividity. And so there is no evidence here for or against any of the hypotheses.

In fact, that may be a most important point, for what this negative evidence does suggest is that the women were not poisoned by either sarin, or CO, or CN. But they surely died somehow. Why would they have died in a different way than the men and children?
There is only one example of a woman in the entire KB complex – living or dead, victim or worker – whose color could be interpreted as being evidence of exposure to a toxin, and that is victim W-006, seen in video Rm2-a. She was lying in the door of Hallway A of the DM, just outside of Room #2, and as Mr. Minnie stepped over her he caught her face for a fraction of a second. (Fig. 121) The color of her arms, cheek, and ear is a beautiful, soft, salmon-pink, like her blanket. She is motionless; she appears dead.

Fig. 121. Victim W-006 in Hallway A of the DM.

Women are rare in the DM videos, and so it is a mathematical certainty that most of the women in the SM are not also seen in the DM videos, contrary to the children and men, many of whom are seen in both the DM videos and the sun-videos. In Chapter Four I discussed one woman’s body, W-005, dressed in black with the pink hijab who is seen in both the DM and SM, but that is the only clear example of a woman’s body being taken from the DM to the SM that I am moderately confident of. (See Fig. 50 & 51, and Appendix II, Room #2 Confusion and the Brown Blanket.)

Victim W-006, above, may be a second example of a woman seen in both the DM and SM, but I am far less certain. Fig. 122 is a composite of two screen grabs from SM-b that may show W-006 in the SM, judging from the salmon-colored blanket. She appears very briefly in the lower left corner of the view and so it is not possible to ascertain with any certainty that this woman in the SM is W-006. This gender-difference in where bodies are seen and not seen may be very important. I return to the issue below.
Conclusions regarding post-mortem color

- **Conclusion 1**: The post-mortem color of the children and men in the SM being uniformly red/pink and the absence of any examples of dark blue or bluish-purple post-mortem color must be counted as additional strong evidence refuting the sarin-H\(^\text{3}\) and supporting either CO or CN as the toxic agent.

- **Conclusion 2**: With respect to G-004, one can reasonably conclude that she died considerably later in the day than 2-3 AM, probably closer to 7 AM. The al-Abdullah photo above (Fig. 115) was taken late in the day when the SM was almost empty, as discussed in Part B. As we have seen above, this girl is very conspicuous in both of the sun-videos and those videos show her lividity as not nearly as pronounced as it is in Fig. 115. So we know the lividity was not completely developed by noon. In SM-b which was the later of the two sun-videos, her right finger-tips are somewhat discolored, but her arms appear to be clear. Consequently, this evidence suggests, but does not prove, that the girl died less than 5 hours before noon and possibly very shortly before noon, whereas the attack was supposed to have occurred at 2-3 AM. Consistent with this conclusion, one notes that most of the children in the SM are seen in Room #2 in videos that we know were taken at night. G-004 is one of the few SM children not seen in Room #2 and so we have no timeline to estimate when she died.

- **Conclusion 3**: For the most part, the neutral grey pallor mortis that is visible in the women in the SM does not represent evidence for any of the three instant hypotheses. In fact, the lack of either bluish or pinkish pallor mortis is negative evidence against all three hypotheses, with respect to the women.

  This gender-distinction in both the post-mortem color and in the physical location of the KB victims is striking and suggests that most of the women seen in the SM were killed in a different manner and in a different place than the men and children. If all of the victims in the SM had been exposed to the same toxin at the same time and in the same place, then there should be no gender-distinctions in post-mortem color. More specifically, the bodies of men, women, and children would all be the same color in the SM images if they had all been exposed to a CW attack while home in bed or while running through the streets of Ghouta.

  Clearly, these gender-distinctions in post-mortem color cannot be explained within the context of a military style sarin-rocket attack. With respect to the one woman victim shown in the DM who has obvious salmon-pink coloration, W-006, it is significant that
not only is she unique in having rubicund post-mortem color, but she is unusual in being seen among men and children, who also have rubicund post-mortem color, suggesting that she died with the men and children and by the same means – a rubigenic agent. Unfortunately, the only woman that we know for sure was in both the DM and SM, W-005, cannot be seen clearly enough in any views to judge her color. If there are images in cyber-space that I have missed that show her clearly, they would be very interesting.

Let me just go ahead and say what I’m thinking here, and it’s not very nice. Women dying separately from men and children and by different means would be impossible if Ghouta was attacked by sarin-containing rockets. The sarin would have killed them all at the same time and at the same place. However, the gender-differences we see would be very possible if the insurgents executed these people, because from what we know about these insurgents they would likely have separated out the women for “special” treatment. Anyone depraved enough to execute children for PR purposes would certainly be depraved enough to rape their mothers and older sisters. Given that there are reports of at least two fatwas issued by extremist Sunni clerics claiming that the Koran endorses the raping of Alawite and Shia women captured by insurgents in the Syrian civil war, the present evidence that the women victims in the KB videos may have suffered different fates than the men and children is very, very troubling.

Summary as to Test #4:

There are enough cases of red or pink lividity in the KB complex, and they are seen clearly enough, to conclude that it is not biologically possible for these people to have been killed with sarin. While there is a range of post-mortem colors, as would be expected, the range is consistently within the red end of the blue-red spectrum, and in some cases the red coloration is very striking. On the other hand, there is not a single body in the entire collection of KB videos whose color is consistent with poisoning by sarin. These observations therefore must be taken as some of the strongest evidence refuting the sarin-\textsuperscript{H}\textsuperscript{O}. Once again, the observations are consistent with both the \textsuperscript{CO-H}\textsuperscript{O} and \textsuperscript{CN-H}\textsuperscript{O} but fail to distinguish between them.

Questions remain as to why a few children and men do not display any livor mortis and why the women, as a group, do not display a pallor mortis that would indicate intoxication by any of sarin, CO, or CN.

In summary, the biological evidence against the sarin-\textsuperscript{H}\textsuperscript{O} is not just strong, it is overwhelming. The victims we see in the KB complex were not poisoned with sarin. Period. Whether they were

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poisoned by CO or CN is still an open question, but there is a very strong case that one or the other of these rubigenic toxins was used. Consequently, the key to resolving the Ghouta mystery comes down to understanding what the deaths of these people by agents like CO or CN must mean.

But first we should go back and have a closer look at the origins of the sarin myth and ask how it could have been – and still is – propagated so effectively.
Chapter Nine

The Sarin Myth: Where did it come from?

And in the absence of facts, myth rushes in, the kudzu of history.
– Stacy Schiff, *Cleopatra: A Life*

Throughout this paper I have been referring to the “sarin-H°” not because I really think there ever was a hypothesis, but because I needed to give the concept a neutral name that would make dealing with it easier. The truth is that there is no sarin-H° and there never has been. Recall the standard definition of a hypothesis is an educated guess that is testable. However, there has never been anything educated about the assertion that sarin was used to kill hundreds of people in Ghouta on Aug21.2014. The sarin assertion was not proposed on the basis of an analysis of the biological effects seen in the videos. It was not proposed on the basis of a chemical analysis of reliable physical or biological samples collected in an objective manner according to unbiased procedures. There was scant expert testimony that was relevant or knowledgeable. There was never any real reason to suspect sarin, much less conclude that it was used. Even the evidence provided by the UN Mission was nothing more than what the insurgents themselves provided for testing, and they are the ones that wanted the world to believe Assad had gassed them with sarin.

I think it was Christopher Hitchens who said that what is asserted without evidence can also be dismissed without evidence. But we’ve gone well beyond that, we’ve taken a proposition for which there was no evidence and adduced a very substantial body of evidence disproving it. Now, in retrospect, when you reflect on the way this absurd sarin myth has been universally accepted, it beggars belief. Where did this kudzu come from?
The Sarin Myth: a PR fait accompli

The sarin-H\(^3\) was not proposed as a hypothesis at all; it was initially proposed by the insurgents’ PR people as a factual fait accompli with no evidence, no verification, and no factual basis for believing it. The “fact” that the Ghouta massacre was carried out with sarin was mass-distributed with the initial flood of videos that were circling the globe virtually while the “attack” was still going on in the early hours of Aug 21, 2013. It is a most striking example of Churchill’s famous before-truth-gets-its-pants-on quip, which can be re-phrased for the 21\(^{st}\) century: An Internet falsehood can circle the globe 20 times before the truth can boot its browser.

It should have been a huge red flag when the insurgents uploaded videos to YouTube within a few hours of the attack and claiming that Assad had gassed them with sarin – sarin, specifically. Examples.\(^{104}\)

This is an agent that is invisible as a gas, colorless as a liquid, and tasteless and odorless in either form. It’s not like you can stick you head out the window, take a sniff, and realize, just before you defecate and go into violent convulsions, that you’ve been gassed with sarin. How could the insurgent PR people “know” from the get-go this was sarin? Even under the best of circumstances it would take forensic scientists days or weeks to identify the agent responsible, and they would need gas chromatography gear, mass spectrometers, and large budgets. And it’s not like one guy in Ghouta took a wild guess about sarin and the meme went viral; the sarin myth was published simultaneously en masse in a concerted PR effort that had to have been planned before Aug 21. These videos were well organized from the get-go and were being uploaded from all over Damascus, mostly by an insurgent PR coordinating group called Shaam News Network.

With the insurgents screaming “SARIN!!!” the Western MSM picked up the drum-beat and next thing you know they were all screaming “SARIN!!!” not yet 24 hours after the “attack” happened. How could the press have known that this was a sarin attack at that point? They couldn’t. As I say, very few of the Western media even have reporters inside of the Syria, much less inside the Ghouta combat zone.

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\(^{104}\) Examples of insurgent PR videos claiming sarin, specifically, are not hard to find. Here are a few. The English translation obtained from Google Translate. Dates are YouTube time.

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*Aug 20 video* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c00e7Lqix0k
("Damascus | | Ein Tarma | | round between revive the town after the spread sarin gas 08/21/2013")

*Aug 20 video* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SHhTn6XXwS4
("Damascus | | Ein Tarma | | smothering the child as a result of the bombing gases sarin 08/21/2013")

*Aug 20 video* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUB8Q6oi34o
("DAMASCUS | | Ain Tarma | | raid warplanes After shelling gases sarin 8/21/2013")
All they had was hear-say.

But the sarin “fact” kept rolling, and within days Obama, Kerry, and Feinstein were all jumping up and down and screaming “SARIN!!!” And then all of Congress was jumping up and down and screaming “SARIN!!!” And the next thing you know F-16s were being rolled out of hangers and Obama was calling Bibi Netanyahu and telling him an attack on Assad was 24-48 hours away. 105

And yet only a handful of people in the world, and, apparently, none at all in Washington were asking the obvious: “So, like . . . how do you guys know it’s sarin?” In fact, so far as I know, to this day there has not been a public discussion by any politicians or journalists over the possibility that the Ghouta massacre was not pulled off with sarin. Even as skeptics like Robert Parry and Seymour Hersh began to turn parts of the sarin myth on its head, they, too, focused on who, not what, caused these deaths. 106 Fait accompli. The perfect PR blitz is when the whole world is looking right where you are pointing.

Execrable Editorial Tactics

[0193] After the Iraq debacle one would expect that a skeptical public would be revolted by the way the UN, OPCW, the NYT, Wall Street Journal, Reuters, HRW, and the entire Western MSM have relied almost solely on information from anonymous insurgent sources to conclude that the Ghouta Massacre was a sarin-rocket attack carried out by Assad. Even ignoring for the moment the biological evidence that the toxic agent could not have been sarin, it is both preposterous and frightening that the news agencies and politicians would almost get away with ginning up an attack on Syria on the basis of nothing more than ex parte “evidence” provided by anonymous insurgents who, for all the media know, are the guilty psychos who killed these children. Having the occasional writers like Hersh and Parry challenge the MSM for perpetuating the sarin party-line is so important because it at least gives one hope that the moral insolvency of the fourth estate is not yet total.

Although Hersh has not challenged the USG/MSM party line that the Ghouta Massacre was carried out with sarin, in a Dec19.2013 London Review of Book article Whose sarin? he put forth a strong case that the insurgents, not the Assadists, were responsible. Put another

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105 Raphael Ahren, US was so sure it was striking Syria it made ‘warning calls’ to Israel’s leaders Times of Israel, Oct05.2013. http://www.timesofisrael.com/us-was-so-sure-it-was-striking-syria-it-made-warning-calls-to-israelis-leaders/


107 http://www.lrb.co.uk/v35/n24/seymour-m-hersh/whose-sarin
way, with respect to the question I ask in the heading above “The sarin myth: Where did it come from?” I use “it” to refer to “myth” while Hersh uses “it” to refer to “sarin.” Hersh accepts the sarin myth so far as the identity of the toxin goes, but he pushes back on Obama’s assertions that the Assadists had to be the ones that carried out the attack because only they had sarin. Although Hersh’s chief target is Obama’s prevarications, along the way Hersh rightly upbraids both the NYT and Washington Post for manipulating available information in a way that leads to the conclusion that the sarin myth is true and that Assad government must be removed – the same tactic both papers employed in the run-up to the Iraq invasion.

A Dec20.13 Consortium News article by Robert Parry focuses more specifically on the NYT’s execrable war-mongering tactics. Parry’s work is particularly appreciated because he is enough of a scholar to include precise citations to the articles and journalists he cites as well as the ones he attacks. Parry and Hersh both complain – and make a durn good case – that the NYT had plenty of exculpatory evidence with respect to the case against the Assadists, and yet the NYT editors withheld that evidence from the public. If a prosecutor pulls that sort of crap in a criminal court and his dishonesty contributes to the conviction of an innocent man, that prosecutor could face a prison term himself. But if a journalist and his/her editor withhold exculpatory evidence from the public and by deceiving the public they contribute to an unprovoked and unjustified US invasion that results in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis or, in the present case, Syrians, that journalist and editor will face no criminal charges. Pulitzer Prize’s are awarded for what journalists tell the public; promotions are awarded for what they withhold. This is particularly worrying given that virtually all of the Western MSM reports and reporters are as unreliable as the insurgent PR machines, because that is where our MSM news about Syria comes from. The lesson is that the MSM cannot be taken at face value any more than the insurgents (or the Assadists) can, and Hersh and Parry have more than established that point with respect to America’s two leading newspapers.

While I am absolutely delighted and relieved to see Parry and Hersh confront the USG’s anti-Assad sarin-story, I believe that neither of them has made the complete conceptual shift away from the sarin myth. Neither one is asking Obama and Kerry that most penetrating question of all: “How do ya’ know it’s sarin?”

Very few writers on this subject have questioned the sarin myth. I note the ones I am aware of in Appendix II, Experts Expressing Doubt Over the Sarin Myth.

When you contemplate the way the MSM meshed with the USG and Government of Israel (GoI) in pushing this sarin myth, you are bound to get a whiff of that recurring nasty smell that indicates stories are being
cooked to serve government objectives. One of the obvious sources of
that bad smell is this problem of all of the information coming from the
same source – the insurgents. For the Western MSM journalists are not
reporting from Ghouta; they are reporting from London, Beirut,
Jerusalem. And what they are reporting is information they are getting
from the insurgents’ PR machine, which of course filters the information
according to the insurgents’ needs. And what the insurgents desperately
need is for the world to believe the sarin myth.

The NYT, WaPo, and Guardian appear to be particularly dependent
on information filtered by the insurgents, relying heavily on spooky anti-
Assadist Internet sources like Eliot Higgins and Rami Abdulrahman who
seem to be playing the same roles today that Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-
Janabi (aka “Curveball”) and Ahmed Chalabi played in the run-up to the
Iraq invasion.

But the insurgents’ filters are not the only filters standing between
you and the reality of Ghouta. Recall Edward S. Herman and Noam
Chomsky’s 1988 propaganda model for the way the elites “manufacture
consent.” (See Herman’s 2003 retrospective) They enumerated five
media filters that shape the news you read: ownership, advertising,
sourcing, flak, and anticommmunist ideology. One can easily detect four of
these filters still at work, but that anticommmunist ideology filter has long
since been replaced by Israeli/Zionist ideology as a very effective fifth
filter of MSM output, certainly in the US. This fifth filter can be seen at
work in the MSM treatment of the sarin myth.

We know that the insurgency is backed by GoI. And we know that
GoI considers Assad an enemy and has attacked Syria on more than one
recent occasion – as recently as Jan2014, in fact. We also know that GoI
has pushed very hard on Obama and Congress – both directly and
through its proxies in the US like AIPAC – to attack Assad in retaliation
for the “sarin attack.” So it is not surprising that we have a staunchly
pro-Zionist publication like the NYT and blatantly pro-Zionist writers
like NBC’s Richard Engel publishing anti-Assadist fabrications to move
the US population closer and closer to war with Syria. The insurgent-
filter and the Israeli/Zionist-filter working together have the synergistic
potential to completely distort what has happened and what is happening
in Ghouta. Take Engel as an example.

[0195] On Nov03.13 NBC put up an intemperate, unfortunate
piece of gratuitous war-mongering by Chief Foreign Correspondent
Richard Engel reporting from Jerusalem. [The link is not to the

108 Herman, Edward and Chomsky, Noam (1988) Manufacturing Consent, NY,
Pantheon Books.

109 http://www.chomsky.info/onchomsky/20031209.htm

110 Richard Engel Analysis: Did Syria’s Assad get away with chemical weapons attack?
Nov03.2013.
http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/11/03/21290348-analysis-did-syras
original piece because it has been re-published online without Engel's name attached to it. Also, it was originally published as being from Jerusalem, then later as being from Cairo.] In this piece Engel pushed hard on the sarin *casus belli* button and not only perpetuated the sarin myth but used it to demand to know why Assad “got away with it.” Bibi Netanyahu himself could not have drafted a piece of rubbish more in line with the Zionist anti-Assad agenda.

In his entire diatribe Engel alleged just one “fact” regarding Ghouta: “Fourteen-hundred people, including hundreds of children, were choked to death, their nervous systems shut down by the gas that seeped into their homes.” Engel sourced this assertion via a mendacious link to a *Sep17.2013 piece* by his NBC colleague Carrie Dann. [Dann’s name has also been removed from her article. It appears that NBC journalists are not at all proud of the quality of their work.]

I say “mendacious link” because the Dann piece Engel linked to does not mention 1400 – or any number of – victims. Nor does Dann mention anyone choking to death, nervous systems, or gases seeping into homes. In other words, Engel is employing the ole’ lying-by-link trick – relying on a link to pretend that he has facts that he doesn’t have. This is, of course, the same tenor and type of MSM propaganda that pro-Israel journalists used to convince The Stupid Americans that sending thousands of young Americans to their deaths in Iraq was OK.

[0196] We don’t need more of this type of dishonest journalism now. We don’t need reporters throwing their opinions around dressed up like other people’s facts. What we need is honest reporters digging for the truth and reporting it. We need more like Sy Hersh and Robert Parry. Parry put it this way:

But that is not how journalism is supposed to work. The job of reporters and editors should be to present the American people and the world public with full and fair coverage of important events – and surely the issue of war or peace in the Middle East qualifies.  

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[111] Robert Parry, *NYT Replays Its Iraq Fiasco in Syria*  
We have covered a lot of ground in this Part C. We have reviewed relevant physiological principles of respiration, and we have explored the pharmacology of three nasty critters: sarin, carbon monoxide, and cyanide. If you weren’t a pharmacologist coming into Part C, you are now, at least within the limited sphere of asphyxial toxicology.

More importantly, by employing the paradigm of multiple-hypothesis testing, we have carefully examined the evidence from Kafr Batna – more images of dead and dying people than most of us would ever want to see in our lives, much less in one report. But the payoff is worth it. First, we have cut away the kudzu of myth, to borrow Stacey Schiff’s analogy. We can reject the sarin myth with a high degree of confidence that the evidence backs us up, even in the face of contrary allegations by powerful men like Obama and Kerry. In fact, the cumulative evidence would make the sarin myth laughable if it wasn’t so dangerous.

Second, we now recognize that the people in the KB videos were very likely victims of CO or CN. From these two facts we can lay a logical pathway to door of the most likely perpetrators of these crimes against humanity. I call this pathway the “Pathway to Who” (as in, who dun it). This chain of circumstantial evidence is laid out in Part D.

But here’s the thing: The evidence forces us to abandon not just the sarin myth but the entire CW context. Obama and Kerry’s position is that Assad is the guilty party because only the Assadists had the capacity and the capability to carry out a sarin CW attack. But we have just taken sarin out of the picture, certainly as far as Kafr Batna goes. Having proved that sarin was not used does not mean we have proved that there was no CW attack anywhere in Ghouta, but it does mean that there is no longer any a priori basis for concluding that there was a CW attack. And so, for the moment we are floating without context.

The Pathway to Who provides the transition from the sarin CW context to the context of a CO/CN mass-execution. This is a context-shift of immense significance because 1) it forces any reasonable and honest person to point to the insurgents as the guilty parties; 2) it paints the Ghouta Massacre as a crime against humanity even more deplorable than the CW attack Obama and Kerry have alleged, 3) and, because the USG has supported the insurgents, it raises the question of whether and to what extent the USG is indirectly complicit in the Ghouta Massacre.
PART D

Evidence When Viewed In a New Context Is New Evidence
Chapter Ten

The 5-Step Pathway to Who: Shifting Contexts

Anyone who could claim that an attack of this staggering scale could be contrived or fabricated needs to check their conscience and their own moral compass.

– U.S. Secretary of State, John Kerry, Aug 23, 2014

Checking the Public’s Moral Compass

[0199] I don’t think you’ll have to read Kerry’s statement twice to catch the stomach-churning arrogance. For Kerry strongly implies that anyone who doesn’t go along with his Assad/sarin-scenario of what happened in Ghouta has no conscience and no morals.

But do me a favor: read Kerry’s quip again with the understanding that one of the people he is accusing of having no conscience or morals because they don’t agree with his position is Mother Superior Agnes-Mariam, the Syrian nun who has made a strong case that the Assadists are not the guilty party here and that the “attack” was staged by the insurgents. And just for a second or two, juxtapose in your mind what


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we know about John Kerry and Agnes-Mariam and consider the irony of a man of Kerry’s immense wealth and prestige, who has built his political career on his self-aggrandizing history as a swift-boat hero and gratuitous killer of Vietnamese, now vilifying a woman who has devoted her life to poverty and to serving her God and the people of Syria. Kerry’s arrogance makes even Dick Cheney look as humble as Pope Francis’ alter boy.

Kerry made this obnoxious comment just two days after the massacre — well before any competent investigation of what happened could have been undertaken. One would hope that as a senator who voted for, funded, and promoted the Iraq fiasco, Kerry would have learned something about false intelligence leading to a \textit{faux casus belli}.

We now know that Kerry’s view of what happened in Ghouta was informed largely, if not entirely, by “intelligence” supplied by Israel, who then put enormous public pressure on Congress and Obama to attack Assad. Ex-CIA officer Philip Giraldi \textit{has gone public} on the fact that the US intelligence community was badly fractured over the assertions that Assad was responsible for the Ghouta attack — to the point that several intelligence officers threatened to resign if the National Intelligence Estimate made such a claim, which is why the best Obama could ever provide the public was an undated, unsigned, anemic “assessment” of the situation in Ghouta.

From independent works like Seymour Hersh’s and Robert Parry’s, discussed above, it is becoming apparent that the Obama administration was intentionally misinforming the public when it alleged that only the Assadists had sarin or access to sarin production capabilities. And from the work of rocket ballistics experts Charles Wood, and Richard Lloyd & Theodore Postol, and even anti-Assad CW maven Dan Kaszeta, it is unlikely that a sarin attack killing 1400 people could have been carried out by the Syrian Army using the types of rockets the UN Mission were provided by the insurgents and that tested positive for sarin.

In other words, the case that this was a CW attack carried out by the Assadists had all but fallen apart even before the present report on the pharmacological impossibility of the Obama/Kerry sarin scenario. One wonders about the “moral compass” of American politicians who will lie to the American public in an attempt to gin up a war with the objective of regime change, and I’m not talkin’ George Bush, Dick Cheney, and Donald Rumsfeld this time around.

As the mystery stands as of this point in the story, sarin is out the window and all bets are off as to who the perpetrators were. We know one toxic agent that wasn’t used, and we have identified a couple of toxic agents that probably were used, but we don’t have the guilty party. That’s going to require some logic and circumstantial evidence, which I

\footnote{Philip Giraldi, \textit{Quitting Over Syria}, The American Conservative, Nov13.2013 \hfill \url{http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/ quitting-over-syria/}}
present as The 5-Step Pathway to Who. I will step through this Pathway very carefully and try to be absolutely clear as to what is established fact and what is deduction.

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**Step 1: Getting the Toxin Right**

[0201] Having spent virtually all of Part C providing a lotta’ yada explaining this step, I hardly need to pummel the point any further: the idea that the victims we see in the KB complex were poisoned with sarin is ludicrous in view of the vast weight of the evidence. It is now an established fact that sarin was not used to poison those people. Period.

[0202] Another fact that is about as close to certainty as we can get is that these people were poisoned with a rubigenic agent. It is far easier to deduce what agent was not used than it is to deduce what agent was used. We cannot, as a matter of pure fact, assert what that rubigenic agent was, but CO and CN are far and away the two most likely candidates. Although the evidence does not permit a clear differentiation between these two, the grounds for asserting that the toxin was either CO or CN include:

- Both have a well known history of being used to execute prisoners and to carry out mass-executions.
- Both are very effective for killing people in confined spaces, such as the rooms we see in the DM.
- Both are easily acquired, synthesized, and handled. Hydrogen cyanide, for instance, can be bought in 44 L. cylinders on the open market.
- There are very few alternative toxins that cause rubicundity and red or pink post-mortem skin color. Hydrogen sulfide (H2S) is one possible alternative in that it is a highly lethal agent that produces rubicundity, but it does not produce red livor mortis, it produces a bluish-green livor mortis.  

The evidence is not overwhelming – but pretty close to overwhelming – that the rubigenic agent used to poison the victims we see in the KB videos was CO and/or CN.

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**Step 2: Excluding a CW Attack**

[0203] More important than identifying the guilty rubigenic agent with 100% certainty is the recognition that we have now refocused on possible toxins that are widely available to both parties of the conflict and that can be used without employing a lot of fancy military hardware.
Recall the Obama/Kerry syllogism is that because this was a sarin CW attack and because only the Assadists had the capability to produce and deliver sarin, then the Assadists must be the guilty party. Now that sarin is out of the picture – at least with respect to Kafr Batna – and now that Seymour Hersh has shown that the insurgents also had access to sarin, the Obama/Kerry syllogism has been deep-six’d on two counts.

In other words, there is no basis for assuming that the Ghouta Massacre was a CW attack of any description. We have to revisit the CW attack allegation afresh from the context of CO and CN. But before we do that, I want to address a point that I know keeps popping into your mind.

[0204] Now that you have seen most of the KB evidence and most of my arguments why the KB victims were not poisoned with sarin, you are wondering whether I am justified in generalizing from KB to the whole of Ghouta in dismissing the sarin CW attack allegations.

My response is semantic. To paraphrase one of Bill Clinton’s most infamous lines: It depends on what your definition of “CW attack” is.

When I assert that a “CW attack” did not occur, I am defining “attack” with respect to the whole kit and caboodle. I am saying that a CW attack of the entire Ghouta area did not occur – from Duma in the north to Mu’addamiyah in the south on the US State Department map of communities that were attacked. (See Fig. 5.) To borrow Kerry’s phrase, quoted above, I am defining “sarin attack” to mean one of “staggering scale,” which is way he was defining it. It just didn’t happen.

More specifically, I am referring to what I see in the DiFi videos – those 13 videos authenticated by the USG as representing the Ghouta Massacre. Not a one of those videos in the DiFi package shows Ghouta victims displaying sarin symptoms. In fact, most of the DiFi videos – the ones where the light is sufficient – clearly show Ghouta victims with red skin, indicating that they, too, have been poisoned with a rubigenic agent.

[0205] And so the tightest way to make this point is to take the semantic position that “Ghouta attack” refers to Kerry’s attack of staggering scale, which is what is shown in the DiFi package. And what is shown in the DiFi package is 100% consistent with the more detailed observations I have made in the KB videos, at least three of which are themselves a part of the DiFi package.

Consequently, by limiting this case to what the USG has presented to the world as the “attack” on Ghouta, then, yes, I am very confident that we can extrapolate from Kafr Batna to Ghouta in the sense that we can extrapolate from three of the DiFi videos showing KB to all 13 of the DiFi videos. If for some reason those 13 DiFi videos do not present a true picture of the Ghouta Massacre, then the problem lies with the USG.

[0206] However, this semantic argument does not permit me to
prove the negative assertion that no sarin at all was used in this massacre, and I am not making that assertion. Indeed, I have seen two videos provided in the HRW report on Ghouta that were not included in the DiFi package and that show subjects in a clinic purported to be in Zamalka displaying minor symptoms expected from sarin. And this would make sense because when the insurgents took the UN Mission to inspect “sar in rockets” sticking in the ground, they took them to Zamalka. If this was a false-flag PR production, one would presume that the insurgents, knowing that the UN Mission was in town, would be smart enough to fire a few sarin-rockets into at least a limited area so they would have something to show the investigators. Seymour Hersh’s work, discussed above leaves little doubt that the insurgents had access to enough sarin for such a limited purpose.

For a more detailed discussion of what steps the insurgents had to take in order to pull off this PR stunt, see Appendix II, How To Do a Mass-Execution and Make It Look Like a CW Attack

What is embarrassing – not to me, but to the USG officials referring to the “staggering scale” of the attack – is that to this day, more than six months on, nobody can say what the scale of the “attack” actually was. Kerry says “staggering,” but he’s not defining his term. No one knows what the death toll was; no one knows how many CW rockets, if any, fell. When Kerry refers to “staggering scale,” he is apparently referring to the official USG storyline that 1429 people were killed, which has not been confirmed by any international organization, nor by the US itself. Even today, the estimates of fatalities range from less than three hundred to more than 1700. Estimates spread over a 5-fold range provide no useful information. It’s like a cop testifying that he clocked the you speeding at somewhere between 60 and 300 mph – the extreme range itself suggests the testimony is fraudulent.

In terms of the number of rockets in the alleged sarin rocket-attack, Dan Kaszeta, the CW rocket expert, calculated that at least 80 of the large rockets or at least 2000 of the smaller rockets of the type the UN Mission investigated would have been required to account for 1429 fatalities alleged by the USG, assuming a target zone of only 63

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115 Scribd, pdf version is found at: http://www.scribd.com/doc/167118023/Human-Rights-Watch-Syria


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hectares.\footnote{Kaszeta did not explain where the 63 Ha figure came from. My own area calculations based on the US State Dept. map was closer to 1700 Ha for the eastern region of Ghouta, which excludes Mu’addamiyah.} Even Kaszeta, who clearly states his belief that the Ghouta Massacre was a sarin CW attack by Assadists, concedes that the numbers of rockets required don’t add up with what has been observed. But he doesn’t say what I will say: there is no way 2000, or even 80 CW rockets, were fired into Ghouta that night. Didn’t happen. Even the insurgents themselves tend to make this point. According to the insurgent PR machine as re-tweeted by HRW, the total inventory of all alleged CW rockets falling on Zamalka and Mu’addamiyah that night was 12-15 rockets.\footnote{The HRW Sep13.2013 report on the Ghouta Massacre focuses on two of the areas that were purported to be hardest hit, and the same two areas investigated by the UN Mission: Mu’addamiyah (“Moadamiya” in the report) and Zamalka. HRW’s only evidence as to how many rockets fell in these communities is the assertions of insurgents themselves – the ones associated with the insurgent PR machine. A member of the “Moadamiya media center” told HRW that he counted seven rockets. With respect to Zamalka, HRW’s source of “information” was “a member of the local civilian council” – an insurgent PR person, in other words. That person alleges that eight rockets hit Zamalka.} The idea that 2000 small rockets or 80 large sarin rockets were fired into Ghouta – which Kaszeta says would have been required to produce Kerry’s “staggering scale” attack – is entirely risible. Didn’t happen.

\[0208\] Once one understands that sarin was not used in KB but that CO and/or CN probably were, and once one sees that the insurgents’ accounts of the numbers of rockets they witnessed are not even in the ballpark of what would be required to support the sarin CW attack storyline, the whole sarin rocket attack picture dims to the point of disappearing. But those who are still hoping that the The Stupid Americans will attack Assad may at least try and salvage the CW allegation by proposing that the Assadists did indeed instigate a CW attack but that they used CO/CN instead of sarin. This tactic would likely be satisfactory to most of the anti-Assadists because who – other than a retired neuropharmacology dude with a lot of time on his hands – is going to get their knickers in a twist over what specific agent was used? The main geo-political point for the insurgents is that it was a CW attack using rockets, missiles, mortars – whatever – because a CW attack points to Assad, at least according to the insurgent/USG standard theory. Swapping out sarin and swapping in CO/CN would change the theory somewhat but it would not require a context-shift. How can we know that this was not a CW attack by Assadists using CO or CN?

\[0209\] First, I will reach back into my hat of semantic arguments and pull out another good one – and it’s an important one. The USG, the UN, the MSM have used the term “chemical weapon” and “CW” over and over in their attempts to get the world to believe
that Assadists were responsible for the Ghouta Massacre. This CW allegation is an absolutely necessary part of their argument – both in terms of “chemical” and “weapon.” But each word raises its own issues. I have no argument with the allegation that the Ghouta Massacre was chemical, and I have made that point a couple times above, and so we’re good to go on the “C” of “CW.” Sarin, CO and CN would all qualify as chemicals. But the “W” is where Obama and Kerry & Co. have come undone.

A weapon is an instrument or device designed to be used to kill, maim, or incapacitate people. With respect to the “W” of CWs, the device is almost always a missile, rocket, mortar, artillery round or some other type of projectile that carries the toxic agent away from the attacker and toward the target. As I suggested above, proximity to your enemy and CWs don’t mix.

Consequently, in order for the Ghouta Massacre to have been a CW attack, the chemical would have had to have been fired into Ghouta with one of these warfare devices. By way of a contrary illustration, sarin was used in the attack on the Tokyo subway system in 1995. That was a chemical attack, but it was not a CW attack because no weapons were used. The sarin was carried onto the subway cars in plastic baggies or plastic containers that were then put on the floor and pierced with the tips of umbrellas. Sarin sans weapon is not a CW.

Having rejected sarin as the toxin used in Ghouta and having found that CO and CN were the most likely candidates, then in order for the Ghouta Massacre to have been the result of a CW attack, it follows that the CO or CN would have had to have been delivered by missile, rocket, etc. That didn’t happen.

People who are experts in killing large numbers of people talk about “weaponizing” chemicals, which means putting the “W” into “CW” – the toxin has to be modified in such a way that it can be delivered with some sort of military projectile. There are a number of criteria that must be met in order for a toxin to be considered weaponized. For instance, when the projectile lands, the chemical has to be in a form that can be easily dispersed, otherwise it just soaks into the dirt or sits there in the spent artillery round doing nothing. The chemical has to be potent so that the projectile can carry enough to kill people. Hopefully, the chemical will be in a form that is heavier than air so it stays close to the ground where all the people you want to kill are.

These are examples of criteria that must be met in before a chemical can used in a CW – merely being deadly is not sufficient. And neither CO nor CN meet these criteria necessary for weaponization.

First, let’s look at CO. This gas is not now and has never been considered a chemical weapon so far as I have been able to ascertain. Carbon monoxide has a wicked history of being used in closed spaces to carry out mass-executions of civilians, but not as the payload of a rocket designed to wipe out people who are widely dispersed in an
urban setting, such as Ghouta. It has never been used in open warfare, which is why the Nobel-prize winning OPCW does not include CO under any category of CWs. Among other practical limitations, the enormous volume of CO that would be required in open air with even a slight breeze obviates its use as a payload in a rocket or artillery round. In closed spaces it is deadly; out of doors in open air it is not. We can forget CO as a possible CW used in Ghouta.

As for CN, it also is not used as a CW, and for similarly practical reasons. Although NATO has official designations for hydrogen cyanide (AC) and cyanogen chloride (CK), these toxins don’t work well as CWs. Charles Stewart states that whilst CN was used by the British in WWI, it is difficult to attain sufficiently high concentrations of CN out of doors because it has high volatility and it is lighter than air. OPCW says it bluntly: “There is no confirmed information on [CN] being used in chemical warfare.” In other words, the same properties that keep CO from being used as a CW also nix CN.

And so while it would have been, perhaps, technically possible to have used CN-containing rockets to attack Ghouta, it’s a very uphill sort of idea. Even if CN-loaded rockets could be used, firing them into an urban area late at night when the streets were empty and a light breeze was blowing would not likely have produced many casualties. Besides, the thought that Assadists would have used CN in a CW attack is patently absurd when it is universally known that they had access to CW agents that work very well. As much publicity as Assad’s CW’s have gotten in the last six months while being destroyed, I have found no mention of CN. OPCW has been running regular updates on its site, and it has mentioned destruction of sarin, VX, and mustard gas. I don’t see a word indicating that Assad has or ever had CN.

Consequently, given that we know that some sort of rubigenic agent was used to poison the KB victims, given that CO and CN are the probable candidates, and given that it is virtually impossible to use CO and CN as CW agents delivered by rockets or artillery, we have no alternative but to reject the CW attack allegations. In other words, this was not a CW attack. What’s left?

Step 3: The Leap from CW attack to Mass-Execution

This step is driven more by common sense and by want of other possibilities than factual evidence, at least until Part D when we

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http://www.opcw.org/protection/types-of-chemical-agent/blood-agents/

Stewart, Chas. *Cyanide as a Chemical Weapon: A Report*

Ibid.


Murder in the SunMorgue ~ The Ghouta Massacre

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see the evidence of a victim actually being killed in the SunMorgue. But we have scores of bodies in the SM with cherry-red lividity. We have a dozen or so people gasping for breath in the DM, and many of them are bright red, too. There has to be an explanation. Given their physical location in the middle of a bloody sectarian war, the natural, knee-jerk conclusion is that they are victims of a CW attack. But having discarded that theory, we must seriously consider the very real possibility that we are looking at a mass-execution in those KB videos. I don’t really see any other viable explanations for over 100 dead and dying people with evident signs of CO or CN intoxication. But what difference could it make? By concluding that this was a mass-execution and not a CW attack, what does that tell us? 125

[0214] The most basic distinction between a CW attack and a mass-execution is proximity. The advantage of a CW attack is that you can keep your distance from both your victims and the toxin you use to kill your victims. You employ military gear like aircraft, artillery shells, mortars, rockets, or missiles to transport the toxin miles away, and unless you’re dumb enough to fire the toxin upwind, that’s the last you’ll see of it. By the time you reach your target area, the toxin will have blown away and all that will be left will be bodies reaching for gas masks. If your target is a civilian population, there likely won’t even be gas masks.

A mass-execution, on the other hand, is carried out on people who are in your physical control, which means in your physical proximity, and that means the toxin used to kill your enemy must also be in your physical proximity. Another way of saying it is that the victims of a mass-execution, or any execution, are prisoners before becoming corpses, whereas a CW attack dispenses with the prisoners step, and that is an enormously important distinction between the CW attack explanation and the mass-execution explanation. For if these people were victims of a mass-execution, then they were not poisoned while home in bed, they were poisoned while being held prisoner, which could explain, among other things, why they are all fully dressed.

And so, as long as you can get your prisoners and your chosen toxin into the same room at the same time, and as long as that room is sealed so that the you are isolated from the toxin, you are good to go. You don’t need expensive aircraft or other military gear; a sealed, subterranean room in a building complex in downtown Kafr Batna would do nicely as long as it can be opened to the outside in order to easily purge the room of the gas once the victims have been dispatched.

125 The only possible alternative explanation that I have seen proposed is that there may have been some sort of an accident whereby the insurgents inadvertently released sarin or an Assadist rocket landed on the insurgents’ stash of sarin. These sorts of ideas are too far out to be taken seriously. For one thing they don’t explain how casualties were reported from Douma all the way to Mu’addamiyah. Second, we have dismissed, on biological grounds, the idea that sarin was used.
As far as the agent of choice, nothing fancy like sarin or VX or tabun is required. For generations readily available and easily produced CO and CN have been the proven agents of choice for executing people. I don’t think I need to go into grisly details but if you just have to see them, google “US gas chamber,” “holocaust,” or “Jonestown.”

Steps 4 & 5: Excluding the Assadists, Indicting the Insurgents

The point of making this context-shift from a military CW attack to a mass-execution is not identifying the toxin that was used or identifying how it was used, it is identifying the guilty parties, which is what we are getting at in Steps 4 & 5.

Now that sarin in the Obama/Kerry syllogism must be replaced with CO/CN, and now that CW attack must be replaced with mass-execution, the syllogism must be re-formulated, and it can only be re-formulated in one way:

- Premise #1: The mass-execution of scores of people seen in the KB videos was carried out by someone who was in the immediate proximity of those people.
- Premise #2: Only the insurgents could have had the requisite proximity to the victims because on Aug21, 2013 Kafr Batna was exclusively under the control of the insurgents. So were all of the places in Ghouta listed by the US State Dept. as being affected by the attack.
- Conclusion: Ergo, the mass-execution was carried out by the insurgents.

In other, less formal, words, given the condition of the bodies and given the suffering of the victims not yet dead when they were videoed, those victims in the KB complex had to have been poisoned in geographical and temporal proximity to the place and time the videos were shot – and I mean within meters and minutes. That means they had to have been poisoned in the vicinity of Kafr Batna, if not in the KB complex itself. But the insurgents had been in control of all of Kafr Batna – and all of the areas around it – for at least a year prior to the massacre.

It would have been impossible for the Assadists to somehow slip into KB, kidnap 125 men, women, and children undetected, herd them into a gas chamber, open the valves on 44 L. gas cylinders of CO or CN, and then escape back into Assadist-held areas, leaving behind the chemical carnage for the insurgents to have a PR field-day with.

Furthermore, those are not Assadists we see futilely splashing water into the faces of choking children; those were not Assadists who were uploading hundreds of videos in an organized PR blitz before the sun came up on Aug21; those were not Assadists screaming “Sarin!!” to the
world within minutes of the whole horrible event starting. If this was a mass-execution carried out in KB – or multiple mass-executions carried out across Ghouta – with CO or CN, as the evidence strongly suggests, then logic and common sense virtually demand that the Assadists could not have been the perpetrators.

[0217] And here we come full-circle to the binary-suspects axiom first introduced in Chapter Two. Recall that that axiom is that the Ghouta Massacre was perpetrated by either the Assadists or the insurgents – if you eliminate one option, the remaining one is the guilty party, and we’ve just eliminated the Assadists. Q.E.D.

[0218] In summary, the 5-Step Pathway to Who comprises both direct evidence and circumstantial evidence. Consequently, it is a far stronger case against the insurgents than any case Obama, Kerry, the NYT, and the Washington Post have made against the Assadists. As is almost always the case in rejecting one theory and adopting a new one, by turning our focus to the mass-execution theory we are now forced to make an enormous context-shift. This will be particularly difficult from an intellectual and emotional perspective if you’re a big Obama fan.

And the reason I’m saying that is because we’ve got Obama’s Secretary of State on record as saying if you don’t agree with the sarin CW case the USG has made against Assad, then you got no conscience and you got no morals. But now that we have disproved the sarin CW case against Assad, a lot of people will be questioning Obama and Kerry’s own consciences and morals. For Obama, and Kerry, and Netanyahu have a tremendous problem on their hands if the world rejects their Assad sarin-scenario. After all, they have been supporting the insurgents with money, material, weapons, and training. And if it turns out that they have been supporting the same insurgents who are responsible for executing hundreds of children in Ghouta, then Obama, Kerry, and Netanyahu may be personally, even if indirectly, complicit in the murder of those children, including the ones we see in the KB complex.

And so, when the public checks the ole’ moral compass as Kerry suggested, it may see the needle pointing 180 degrees away from Obama and Kerry and Netanyahu, and these politicians may end up facing a public that is outraged not only at the idea that their leaders would be complicit in a crime against humanity, but also because those same leaders attempted to blame that crime on Assad, whom they knew to be innocent, which should be viewed as a separate and distinct crime. This is why some of my liberal friends are not comfortable with this discussion.

I’m not either, but I have promised myself to follow this evidence wherever it goes and to do what I can to shine a light on whomever the evidence points to. I’m not a Republican, and I’m not a Democrat; I’m not a Sunni or a Shia; I’m not an insurgent and I’m not an Assadist. I’m not even a hawk or a dove. The only dog I have in this fight is the one trying to sniff out whoever is responsible for killing those kids. I am the dog.
The Context-Shift: Unspeakable Barbarity

[0219] I have argued that our pharmacological context must shift from sarin to a rubigenic agent, and I have argued that one inescapable corollary of this shift in pharmacological context is that one is virtually required to also shift from a CW attack context to a mass-execution context. And it is by making this latter shift in context that all of the evidence begins to look different, and that is because context is everything.

Context doesn’t just influence how we interpret facts, it determines what facts we see. Context controls what we perceive and what we conclude about what we perceive. If you are operating within the context of a sarin CW attack, then you may not even notice a pool of bright red blood on a white floor of a sun-filled morgue in Kafr Batna because that blood has no particular relevance to sarin. But if you are operating within the context of a mass-execution by CO and you know that CO is a rubigenic toxin that holds hemoglobin in its red form, then the bright red blood will jump out of your computer screen and grab you by the ears and scream in your face until you, too, turn red. Under the sarin-CW attack context most of us naturally looked at the KB complex as being akin to something the Red Cross or Red Crescent would have set up, and the idea that someone would be murdered there and bleed all over the floor simply would not occur to us, but shift the context to the KB complex being a place where mass-execution was taking place and the possibility that we are really looking at all sorts of horrors suddenly occurs to us.

[0220] What really torques the mind and causes us all to mentally stutter when turning the contextual corner to a mass-execution is that if these insurgents – Sunni extremists, Salafists, Wahabbists, al-Qaeda/al-Nusra, or whoever – gassed scores or hundreds of children so that they could video them and show their dying and dead faces to the world in order to shock Obama into attacking the Assadists, then we are dealing with organized psychopathology the likes of which the world has not seen since Berlin fell and the Nazis crawled back under their rocks.

We now have to reject all of the pre-conceived, benevolent ideas about who those workers and loafers are we see in the KB videos, for if this massacre was, in fact, a infanticidal/pediocidal PR stunt, then everyone involved in making those videos must be suspected of being complicit in that heinous enterprise – and I’m talking about all of the workers and loafers; all of the cameramen and videographers, like Mr. Minnie and Mohammed al-Abdullah; all of the alleged doctors feeding “information” out of Ghouta to the West; all of the insurgents’ PR conduits in the West such as Eliot Higgins and Rami Abdulrahman. Given what we now know and can fairly deduce about the Ghouta Massacre, any fair-minded, objective skeptic will view
all of these people who have contacts with the insurgents and who have worked so hard to advance the sarin myth as potential suspects. But that’s the reality of this new context; that’s the new way we now have to look at those videos and the people in them.

This is not to say that Assad hasn’t committed his own crimes against humanity for which he should be prosecuted. It is only to say that to get to the bottom of the Ghouta Massacre we have to wipe the slate clean of all of the previous unfounded and disproved speculations; we have to purge from our neuronal CPUs all foregone conclusions that have been planted there by the insurgents with the help of the gullible or biased media and politicians.

[0221] I hope you can sense the transition this paper is going through at this point. There is a distinction between gathering evidence in an attempt to understand a situation, which is what I’ve been doing up to this point, and using evidence to prove what you believe the truth to be, which is where I am now. For it is now time to step out of the old context and into the new one and to look at the evidence differently – to switch from asking “Can the evidence tell us what happened?” to asking “Does the evidence support the theory that this was a mass-execution?” And with this shift in emphasis and context we are wading into completely uncharted territory. For I know of absolutely no comparable example in all of history where evidence of a mass-execution has been recorded in detail and intentionally shown to the world by the perpetrators in order to achieve a military objective. I know of no precedent in all of human history where the world has the opportunity obligation to look at that evidence and contemplate the denizens of the nether regions of our species and ask what should be done about them.

In the remainder of this Part D I re-evaluate the evidence and conclude that the KB complex was not a place were poisoned people were taken to be given medical care and succor. It was more likely a place were people were taken to be killed. And then photographed.
Chapter Eleven

How to Kill a Corpse

[Photographs] are the proof of something that was there and no longer is. Like a stain.

– Diane Arbus

The in situ death of corpse M-015

[0222] As I looked around the SunMorgue through the camera lenses of the anti-Assadist photographers and videographers, I couldn’t help but wonder about some of the odd things I was seeing in those four-score and six bodies of mixed gender and age filling the place from wall to wall. Oddities like a coin placed over a dead man’s heart; corpses with unmistakably rosy cheeks; the dead guy with his pants pulled down to his knees in one video and pulled back up in another; phlebotomists Mortia and Mort, syringes in hand, intently hunkered over people whose blood had stopped flowing and turned cold hours previously; the corpse bleeding like a stuck pig onto the white floor; a smudge that appears on a dead girl’s white legging between two videos; unlabeled syringes lying everywhere . . . hold on . . . back it up. A corpse bleeding?? Yes, there he is in videos SM-a and SM-b: a corpse lying in a pool of his own fresh blood . . . in a morgue. Do dead people bleed? Let’s rewind this thing and zoom in.

[0223] If you have viewed SM-a or SM-b for yourself, you will have seen this pool of blood because it is so conspicuous you would have to shut your browser down, turn your computer off, and close your eyes to miss it. I am talking about that shockingly bright red blood stain smack in the middle of the floor of the SM, as shown in the screen-grab above. The one shaped like a rhino’s head.

In Part C I discussed this bright red blood stain as evidence that the
sarin myth is exactly what it is – bunk. Only pure arterial blood could have been that red – unless, perhaps, the blood came from someone poisoned with CO, CN, or some other rubigenic toxin.

But having now left the sarin myth behind and turned the corner psychologically to look at the Ghouta Massacre independently of what the USG and the MSM claim happened, this blood stain becomes more than just your innocent, every day rhino-shaped blood stain on the floor of a make-shift morgue. Suddenly it becomes another of many sickening indicia suggesting what all of these KB complex videos and stills are really showing us is a mass-execution unfolding virtually before our eyes. Check your seatbelt, it’s gonna’ get bumpy.

[0224] It can hardly be disputed by anyone with functional cones in their retinas that the blood we are looking at on the SM floor is incredibly bright red, and that aspect alone is shocking, if not unnerving, because all of the people in the SM were brought there, presumably, because they were dead. But as fresh as that blood looks, the person it came from could still have been bleeding even as the videos were taken. In other words, he could still have been alive. Normal blood spilled out onto the floor and exposed to the air does not remain bright red for more than a few minutes. It dries out, gives up its O₂ and turns a greyish brown. Anyone who has ever nicked themselves with a razor knows that.

But the thing that is most wrong with that pool of blood on the SM floor is not the color, but that there is any blood at all. This is a morgue at noon and these people were supposed to have been killed in the wee hours of the morning – these corpses should not be bleeding blood of any color. Their pulse should be 0 beats per minute. Their blood pressure should have dropped to 0 over 0 long ago, where it will stay for eternity. That’s what being dead is all about.

Once a person’s heart stops, their cardiovascular system loses pressure and there is no force to push the blood out of the body. You can bleed-out a pig or deer by cutting its throat and hanging it up by its rear legs, but these folks were flat on the floor and gravity was not going to pull their blood from their bodies even if there were an opening.

So, one naturally has to ask: How does one bleed all over the floor with no pulse and no blood pressure 10 hours after one has died? What possible scenario could explain what we are seeing? We need more facts.

[0225] The first step in sorting this out is to be sure we’ve got the right victim connected to the blood stain. To get us oriented I have produced Fig. 123, below. Panels A and B comprise a two-image panorama screen-grab from SM-a showing three bodies in the middle of the SM. Panel C, also from SM-a, shows the arrangement of three additional bodies that are relevant to this discussion. All of the panels have been rotated as best I can to show the bodies oriented as in the SM, lying east to west, their heads to the west, arbitrary north is still up.

Let me describe what we know about these bodies so far. We have
already seen most of them:

• **M-015** is indicated in red in the schematics because this is the bleeding body, which is to say, the person who was murdered. We haven’t seen this body previously. He is the subject of this Part D.

• **B-004**, lying immediately south of M-015, is the boy we discussed when examining the syringes in Part B – he’s the one from which Mort was taking a blood sample. (See Fig. 43.)

• **M-014** is the red-faced body immediately to M-015’s left. We have seen this body in Room #3 where at least three videos show him lying in the same position and in the same place at the east end of the room. (See Fig. 74.)

• **M-011** is lying to the east of, and in line with, M-015 with his head just inches from the feet of M-015. As noted in Part B, M-011 is an important reference point because this body is shown in both of the **sun-videos** and in all of the still shots of the SM being emptied. M-011 is in precisely the same position in all of these images. He is also seen in a group of bodies in Room #3 with four other SM bodies, including M-012. (See Fig. 73.)

• **M-012** lies adjacent to and to the left of M-011. This body does not provide a very useful reference-point because it is not seen in any of the still shots of the SM and it is barely seen in **SM-b**. This body shows evidence of bloody trauma to the head/face. The trauma is more clearly seen in **Rm2-b** where the body is seen lying in Room #3 with M-011 and four others. (See Fig. 73.) We will examine this body more closely below.

• **W-002** is indicated with a cyan line to match the color of her clothing. She is seen at the same place at the foot of the western pillar of the SM in both **sun-videos** and in most of the still shots, although she is covered with different blankets from one image to the next.
Fig. 123. Schematic showing the positions of six bodies near the blood stain. Panels A-C are all oriented with “N” at the top. Source: SM-a.

When I first noticed the large blood stain, I assumed it came from a head-wound of M-014 and I thought: weird. I mean, we have many views of M-014 in Room #3 in which he is motionless, apparently dead, and with no sign whatsoever of any blood or trauma. We know those Room #3 videos were taken at night and so there can be no question that by the time SM-a was taken M-014 had to have been dead for many hours, and here is he bleeding at noon. It was not until I came upon SM-b and downloaded the VLC media player (which is good for slowing down videos and stepping through them frame by frame) that I realized the blood is actually coming not from M-014, but from M-015. That’s what I want to demonstrate now.

In Panels A and B of Fig. 123 I have circled two distinctive parts of the blood pool. In Panel A you can see where the blood has spread to the north, as better seen in Fig. 124.

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Please see Appendix III for a link to this media player and a discussion of its advantages.
Fig. 124. Victims B-004, M-015 & M-014, L to R, viewed from the east. SM-a/00:25

Fig. 124 shows the murder scene as seen from the east. B-004 is on the left; M-014 on the right; M-015 is in the middle. I have marked two parts of the blood stain with numbered arrowheads. Arrowhead #1 points to the norther, or rhino, part of the stain shown in Panel A of Fig. 123, above. Arrowhead #2 points to the blood flowing southward.

Fig. 125, below, shows the extent of the blood stain more clearly. This image is looking from the west.

Fig. 125. The same scene as Fig. 124, but viewed from the west.
Source: SM-a/01:07

The figure, at the beginning of this section shows part “1” of the stain magnified. The blood is layered very thinly on the white tile. It has a distinct, sharp edge. When all the bodies have been removed, this distinctive, rhino-shaped stain will become an important reference point, but for the moment I am focusing on it as proof that the blood did not come from M-014. On close inspection you can see that the head of M-014 is barely touching the edge of the blood. (See Fig. 125) There is, for instance, no blood along the sides of M-014's head. The fact that the blood did not use the tile-line next to M-014's head as a gutter says to me that the volume of blood flowing north was more limited than the volume of blood flowing south. See below.

[0227] Arrowhead #2 in Fig. 124 points to the part of the stain circled in Panel B of Fig. 123 and shown in close-up in the next figure, Fig. 126.
This blood has run (or is running) to the south, along a gap between two tiles, which acts like a gutter. The blood is deep enough that it has overflowed the gutter on the eastern side and forms a what looks like a series of waves of diminishing amplitude. Because of its volume and depth in the crack, it does not look as bright red as the thinly-spread rhino portion of the stain. The principle is that when light is transmitted through a thin blood stain, such as the light reflected off the floor and back through the rhino-stain, the blood appears more intensely red than when the light is reflected off of the blood. Blood in a test-tube looks a lot darker than the same blood spread onto a microscope slide.

[0228] In Fig. 124 I have also labeled three tile-lines “A,” “B,” and “C.” From the videos you can see that line “A” runs right down the centerline of M-015 and continues east right down the centerline of M-011. That tile-line will soon be helpful as an indicator of where M-015 was lying after the body was removed. M-014 is lying slightly right of center of tile-line “B,” and B-004 slightly right of center of tile-line “C.”

The blood stain thus extends from line “C” to half a tile-width beyond line “B,” or, based on a tile-size of 17 inches, a total of 40 inches, or so. There is some blood spreading to the west, toward the label “A” in Fig. 123, as well. Thus, the blood has spread in three directions from M-015.

[0229] Here’s what we can say from just the evidence from the two sun-videos:

• First, with respect to the head of M-015, blood has spread in three directions.
• Second, the left side of M-015’s head has been packed with a blue blanket, almost certainly meant to contain the blood-flow. I discuss the blanket below.
• Third, there was so much blood loss that it flowed onto the floor, and pooled – this was not a mere splattering.
• Fourth, that last observation is amplified by the fact that the blood flowed out from under the blue blanket, which means that at the time the sun-videos were taken, M-015 had lost a sufficient volume
of blood to saturate at least the bottom part of the blanket.
• Fifth, and most frightening: the blood is not coming from M-015’s head. It’s coming from his throat.

[0230] I have provided blue circles in Fig. 124 and in Fig. 127, below, to draw your attention to a point where M-015’s blood is soaking into the blue blanket. It is not coming from under his head; it is flowing from the left side of his throat, into the blanket, and then onto the floor. M-015 was hemorrhaging from his throat.

You may be asking yourself the same question I asked myself when I saw this situation: What causes a corpse lying supine on the floor of a morgue amongst almost 90 other corpses to start hemorrhaging, much less from the throat? The universe of possible explanations is not infinite. In fact, I can only think of one: M-015 suffered a wound to the throat, which must mean he was stabbed in the throat or had his throat cut. This is going to get even more gory, but follow me.

The bloody, blue blanket

[0231] The bloody, blue blanket you see in these images is the main piece of evidence that the blood came from M-015 and that M-015 was murdered right there where we see him lying in the SM. If we examine the blanket closely enough, I believe the case for murder-one becomes virtually bullet-proof.

When the cameraman who took SM-a first tip-toed past the male bodies as he worked his way from the entrance of the SM at the east end to the west end, he passed by M-015 too quickly to give us a good look. But when he made his return trip, he slowed down. He got back to M-015 just as two gun shots are heard, and he flinched. (See Appendix II, More SunMorgue Oddities.) By slowing down at that point he gave us a pretty good look at the situation – Fig. 125 – likely because he didn’t realize what horror had occurred before he arrived and didn’t know what he was about to upload evidence of a murder for the world to see.

[0232] Figs. 124 & 125, above, show very clearly how the blue blanket has been packed under M-015’s head and shoulders, and around his neck. There is a white towel lying on the front of his throat. Blood has soaked upwards into the white towel, as can be seen in both sun-videos. Blood is flowing downwards into the blue blanket about the level of M-015’s left ear. Fig. 127 shows this downward flow magnified. This angle shows not only that blood is soaking into the blue blanket, but also into the left shoulder and collar of M-015’s grey shirt. Clearly, M-015 is the source of the blood – more precisely, his throat area. (To me, his right eye looks like it has taken a punch, but this is more apparent on one of my screens than the other, so it may be artifact. No other scars, or bruises, or bullet-holes can be seen in or on his head or body.)
Whilst the initial impression is that M-015 has suffered a bloody wound to the back of the head, given that he is lying supine, that seems unlikely, particularly with the blood soaking the shoulder area of the shirt like it is. And a wound to the back of the head wouldn’t stain the white towel on the front of his throat. It is far more likely that M-015 was hemorrhaging from the throat.

The bleeding began after he was put on the floor horizontally, as indicated by lack of blood stains on his shirt other than his shoulder and collar. The blue cloth was packed around M-015’s left shoulder to soak up the blood. There is no blanket on his right side, indicating the wound is to the left side of his throat.

The blue cloth itself is noteworthy. The cloth is probably cotton or light-weight flannel that would be fairly absorbent. Magnified views of it show that it has a fanciful, children’s design. You can see the same unusual pattern in blankets covering two other victims in the SM – one a man’s body, and the other a body of unknown gender in the women’s area. All of these blue kiddie-blankets are seen in the same video, six seconds apart, so it is not one blanket being used to cover different bodies.
Having multiples of such distinctive kiddie-blankets in one place suggests to me that the SM may have been a childcare facility or pre-school before being converted to a morgue. But as for using the blanket to soak up M-015’s blood, what is noteworthy is not the pattern, but the size and absorbency of the blanket. Given that the other two identical blankets completely cover the bodies, the blankets must be at least 12-15 feet square. That much light flannel would soak up a lot of blood. Although Fig. 127, (& etc.) shows the material is mostly dry, suggesting minimal blood loss, that preliminary impression ignores the fact that most of the blanket is not visible; it is under M-015’s neck where it has become so saturated that the excess blood is running out from under it. Later we will see that as the day wore on, the blanket became completely saturated. In fact, blanket will give us a very good idea of just how much blood M-015 lost.

Back in Part B during our “orientation stroll” through the SM, I showed you a number of still shots of the SM taken after it was mostly emptied – I refer to them as the al-Abdullah photos. (See Figs. 16, 17, and 20) These photos show the same gross, blood soaked blanket still on the SM floor after M-015 – as well as B-004 and M-014 – were removed. I have copied those images into the SM schematic, below. What I intend to do here is to convince you that that blood-soaked rag in those still images is the same blue child’s blanket that was packed around the throat of M-015.
The primary way to prove that the blood-soaked rag in Fig. 130 is the bright blue blanket in Fig. 127 is to establish that in all of these images it is in precisely the same place – and that’s where the floor tiles come in. For instance, Fig. 131 is panel “C” of Fig. 130 magnified.

The two red circles to indicate the same two areas of the blood stain that are marked “1” and “2” in Fig. 124. The rhino-shaped stain “1” is evident and can also be seen in all of the panels in Fig. 130 if you look closely. In all of these views, the blanket is in precisely the same location with respect to these two conspicuous stains. Please also note what looks like a rod or stick in the blanket. Yellow arrow.

Also note in panels A-D above how the blanket has not changed.
position with respect to: 1) victim M-011; 2) victim W-002; and 3) the body draped with the white blanket lying on the south side of the pillar in “D”. (This latter body does not appear in the sun-videos, at least not next to the pillar. She serves as a reference point only for these still images.)

By aligning these reference points in the video taken before the bodies were removed and the still images were after, I believe it is incontestible that the bloody rag was not disturbed when M-015, M-014, B-004 and many other bodies were removed from the SM.

Finally, Fig. 132 is a portion of panel D from Fig. 130 to which I have added a yellow line extending from the head of M-011 to the bloody blanket. That yellow line is placed on a joint between two rows of tiles. M-011 is lying such that his midline is right over that joint. If you go back and review the sun-videos, you will see that the centerline of M-015 was positioned on that same tile-line – it is the tile-line marked A in Fig. 124.

In other words, the yellow line represents the centerline and length of M-015’s body. And, just as the yellow line indicates, inspection of the sun-videos shows that M-015’s feet were on the transverse tile-line just a couple of inches above M-011’s head, and M-015’s body extended almost exactly four tiles. But the important thing is that Fig. 132 shows that the bloody blanket is still in the exact same position where M-015’s head was before he was taken out of the room – four tiles to the west of M-011’s head.

Fig. 132. The yellow line represents the center-line of M-015 before he was removed from the SM. The image is panel D of Fig. 130 magnified. Source 127

There is a reason for going to all of this effort to establish beyond any doubt that the bloody blanket in the still images is the same as the blue blanket seen in the sun-videos. For the way that blanket has changed in appearance between the time it was shown packed around the head of M-015 in the sun-videos and the time al-Abdullah took the still photos of the near-empty SM provides quite a bit of information

127 Photo credit: Mohamed al-Abdullah
http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/08/21/syria-crisis-paris-idINDEE97K0FK20130821
about the murder of M-015.

For instance, by looking at the isolated bloody blanket saturated with blood, we can get a feel for the volume of blood that drained out of M-015’s body after he was brought into the SM. It would take at a lot of blood to saturate a cotton blanket that size. Also, because the upper surface of the blanket is so clean and pristine in the sun-videos and so gross in the still images, we can deduce that M-015 lost a lot of that blood into the blanket after the videos were shot – in other words, blood was still leaving his body as the PR guys were shooting the sun-videos, which suggests that in those videos we are looking at a man who is being left to bleed-out on the floor of the SM. And no one in those videos – including the cameramen – is doing anything to help him.

It is also noteworthy that the blood on the floor in the bloody blanket photos has dried and lost the bright, cherry red hue seen in the videos. Whereas both of the sun-videos show the blood as being bright red, by the time the later still shots were taken the blood stains had changed to brick-red. Thus, the bright color of the blood in the sun-videos suggests that not much time passed between the time M-015’s throat was cut and the sun-videos were taken, whereas much more time must have passed after SM-b was taken and when al-Abdullah took the still shots.

The degradation of the bright red color over this period might also be evidence that M-015 had been poisoned with CN instead of CO. As discussed in Part C, CO binds to hemoglobin very tightly and the red form is maintained for hours, but in CN poisoning, the Hb will slowly revert to the blue-form.

Eliminating the pre-bloodied floor possibility

Having stepped through this whole M-015 murder scene and examined the blood evidence in grisly detail, it makes a very tight case that M-015 was murdered as he lie on the floor of the SM. But a skeptic might justifiably ask: How do we know the floor wasn’t all bloody when they brought M-015 in? After all, the only image we have seen so far of the SM prior to video SM-a is the view in SM-c taken in the dark hours of the night when the floor had pools of muddy water on it. (See Fig. 8.) Fortunately, I have stumbled upon a still-shot that addresses this very question, and a couple of others as well. It tells us a lot about the logistics of the SM operation.

In Figs. 133 & 134 I have juxtaposed this still shot with a view of the SM we have already seen numerous times. Fig. 133 was taken at about sunup, which was 6:00AM. You can tell because of the faint light from the far window reflecting off the window frame and western wall and because the florescent lights are still on. This is the earliest view I have found of the SM after SM-c, the night video. In 133, the muddy puddles have dried and the floors are clean.

Fig. 134 is a screen-grab from video SM-a. It shows Mort as he is
drawing blood from the boy in the green jogging pants, B-004. (See Fig. 43.) The differences in these images, taken about 6 hours apart, are remarkable.

Fig. 133. The SunMorgue at about daybreak as show in a still shot. Source.

Fig. 134. The SunMorgue at about noon as seen in SM-a/00:23.

[0243] In order to get oriented let me begin with elements that are common to both images. Both images are taken looking toward the western end of the room, and so in both images the windows are on the left. The cameraman in 133 was standing approximately in the children’s corner. Most evident is body W-002 wrapped in a cyan cloth seen in both images. As we have seen W-002 is a near-constant feature in the SM images. B-004 is also visible in both images, but just his head is visible in Fig. 134. What is different is the position of his head – it has been turned to his left if Fig. 134. Please review videos SM-a and SM-b if you doubt this is the same body.

0. The Weekly Report on Dignity Revolution’s Martyrs
#.Uynw4X-lR5
In the early morning image, 133, B-004 is shown flanked to his right by three men, all of whom are in black pants and white tee-shirts. There are no syringes visible in this early image, and the reason I point that out is that when discussing the syringes above I suggested that the reason so many men and children had their pants pulled down was so that the phlebotomists could get to their inguinal area to draw the blood. And yet the second man to B-004's right in the dawn photo has his pants pulled down almost to his knees while his belt is still buckled, and yet there is no sign of syringes or blood being drawn in this early view. Later, a blood-filled syringe does appear on that man’s stomach in SM-a. Apparently, there was another reason for this victims’ clothes to be rearranged.

In the early photo there is no one immediately to B-004's left – there are just four people in that row of bodies. M-015 had not yet been added to the row at the time the image was taken. But he had been brought into the SM and the stretcher was just being put on the floor when the photo was taken – the foot end of the stretcher is still off the floor.

By the time SM-a was taken (Fig. 134) the following changes took place in that row of bodies.

a) The man to the far left, closest to the windows had been removed.

b) The spaces between the remaining bodies were eliminated and the bodies were all pushed closer to each other and closer to the windows. This being pushed to the right may have been what caused the head of B-004 to turn to the left.

c) M-015, having been laid on the floor, was pushed up against B-004.

d) M-014 was brought in and laid to the left of M-015.

Consequently, in the sun-videos B-004 is shown flanked by two men on his right and two on his left, all four of them dressed in black pants and white tee-shirts.

[0244] Another interesting difference between the early morning and noon images is that in the early morning three small children were placed at the far end of the room, along the western wall. They are indicated by the yellow ellipse in Fig. 133. Subsequently, those children were replaced by three adult men. If you magnify this part of the image, you will see that one of these children had on bright orange pants. I suspect it is the same child with bright orange pants shown in the children’s corner in both of the sun-videos. But other than these rearrangements, all of the bodies in the early morning image are in about the same place in the noon image, although the bodies are more tightly packed in the later view.

[0245] A final point of interest before returning to the bloody floor and M-015 is that a gold ring was snatched from one of the victims sometime after the early-morning image was made but before SM-a was shot. I have circled the ring in Fig. 133 and it is magnified in Fig. 135, below. The ring is a conspicuous gold and onyx piece worn on the third
finger of victim’s left hand.

![Image: The disappearing ring.](image1)

When we next see this victim in SM-a, his pants have been opened and the ring is gone. Fig. 136. He is not shown at all in SM-b; his place in the row is empty.

![Image: SM-a/01:13](image2)

[0246] But the point here is the blood – or rather, the absence of blood. There is no indication of any blood whatsoever in Fig. 133. Not on the floor, not on victim M-015. No bloody blue blanket. Fig. 137 is the relevant part of Fig. 133 enlarged.

![Image: M-015 is brought into a bloodless SunMorgue](image3)

[0247] When M-015 was brought into the SM, the white towel had already been placed over his face. There is no sign of blood on the cloth, whereas, as noted above and shown in Fig. 138, the blood is very evident in the white towel in both of the sun-videos.
It is noteworthy that when we compare SM-a (Fig. 139) and SM-b (Fig. 140) we can see that sometime between the taking of the two videos a blood stain appeared on M-015’s tee shirt just adjacent to his wrist. Unfortunately, we can’t see the rest of the tee shirt because of the white towel and the grey shirt he was wearing. (See Fig. 133)

Those red markings on M-015’s forearm look like blood but I don’t think they are. They appear first in video SM-b. If you look closely at other men’s bodies in the SM you will see similar markings. If you read Arabic, please send me an English translation.
Finally, I would ask you to take note of the most subtle change of all, but one that must be considered highly probative. Please compare the fingers of M-015’s right hand in the early morning image (Fig. 137) vs. the noon image (139). If the man was murdered, it was between these two images. In the earlier image his fingers are almost completely extended; the hand looks relaxed as it would be if he were, say, in a toxin-induced coma. But in the later image, his hand is clenched.

And the reason I’m raising this is that there is a phenomenon called “cadaveric spasm” and this looks to me to be an absolutely classic case—at least from what I have been able to learn about it.

Cadaveric spasm is a form of rigor mortis that happens immediately at the time of death, whereas normal rigor mortis takes 5 hours or more to develop. A cadaveric spasm does not affect the whole body, just isolated muscle-groups, and most often a hand, causing the fingers to clench. If M-015 died just before or during the filming of SM-a, then his fist becoming clenched was certainly not normal rigor.

But here’s the kicker: this phenomenon is rare, but it is most commonly seen as indicating the agonal endpoint of a violent death. Some references say a “highly emotional” death. If this is a cadaveric spasm we are looking at, it would have to mean that M-015 was conscious when his throat was cut or stabbed.

Murdered: the inescapable conclusion

All we had to do in order to conclude that sarin was not used to poison the KB victims was to compare skin color and note whether or not the expected symptoms like vomiting and defecation are seen. We didn’t need to speculate—given the principles of pharmacology, the evidence speaks for itself. But any conclusion we reach about what happened to M-015 must be based on circumstantial evidence and deduction. We can only try to ascertain the best explanation of what we see based on experience and common sense.

We have a clear record that when M-015 was brought into the SM in the early morning of Aug21.2014, the room was almost full of bodies, there was no blood on the floor, there was no bloody rag, there was no blood visible on him. His fingers were relaxed and extended. But by noon the circumstances with respect to this body were drastically different: there was blood all over the floor—bright red, fresh blood—there was a bloody blanket packed against his throat to stanch the blood flow, a white towel covering his face was blood-stained, the collar of his shirt was soaked in blood. And the fingers of his right hand were clenched but there was no sign of normal rigor mortis.

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129 Department of Forensic Medicine, University of Dundee, Lecture Notes. Time of Death
http://www.dundee.ac.uk/forensicmedicine/notes/timedeath.pdf

Murder in the SunMorgue - The Ghouta Massacre

- 200 -
This scene has turpitude written all over it, for there could hardly be a stronger circumstantial case that M-015 was murdered right there in the middle of the SunMorgue, almost before our eyes, just before the insurgent PR guy with the camcorder arrived to film video SM-a. The fact that the blue blanket later became saturated with blood indicates M-015 was still bleeding into it when the sun-videos were recorded. This is likely the closest most of us will come to actually witnessing a murder. I don’t know about you, but for me, it’s close enough.
Chapter Twelve

The Murder of M-015: What It Means

The flag of the al-Nusra Front

Maybe this world is another planet’s Hell.
– Aldous Huxley

[0251] The case of M-015’s murder is so dramatic we are at risk of losing the larger point in it. It is a small case within a larger one. For his murder tells us what the KB complex was all about and who those workers and loafers were, and they, in turn, tell us what the Ghouta Massacre was all about. This guy had been murdered, almost before our eyes. Judging from how fresh the blood was, he may have still been alive and bleeding-out as videos SM-a and SM-b were being taken, and all the while Mort and Mortia and the other insurgents in the room were calmly going about their business. I mean, all of those people milling around and yet the only thing anybody did to try rectify M-015’s obvious problem was to attempt to contain the spreading blood with the blue blanket. And these are what Kerry refers to as “heroic first responders.” Somehow, I don’t heroism here.

What can this bloody situation mean?

Trying to piece it together

[0252] As a starting point, we might consider how M-015 got into the SM. We have pictorial evidence that he didn’t just walk in bleeding from the throat, find an empty slot between B-004 and M-014, lie down, and die. We know that the room was already near full to over-flowing when M-015 was carried in and placed at the end of a neat row in the same manner and, presumably, for the same reason as every other corpse in the room. So then, why the bloody mess? How does a corpse bleed like that even if someone does stab it in the throat? And why would you kill a corpse, anyway?

No – M-015 was not a corpse when he was carried into the SM. He
was alive. Which can only mean that it was the people in that room who
took his life. Not the Syrian Army, not Assad, not sarin – the insurgents
we see in the videos. Kerry’s heroic first responders were the killers.

[0253] When we were looking at those workers in the KB complex
under the now discarded sarin-CW attack context, we naturally
presumed that they are there to try and save people who were exposed to
sarın, to give them comfort, to inject them with the antidote atropine or
an anti-convulsant, and, when their best efforts failed, to bury the victims
respectfully. We presumed that while the workers we see may have
lacked skills and knowledge and resources for handling a sarin attack, at
least they had the right intentions.

So if M-015 was mistakenly taken to the SM even though he was still
alive, and if for some reason he started bleeding after being taken there,
then surely, upon seeing the blood and realizing he was still alive, he
would have been removed immediately to a place where he could have
received treatment, including bandages. If these workers were there to
help the victims, why would they let this man just lie there and bleed? I
mean, even as M-015 is bleeding, Mort is drawing blood from B-004 right
next to M-015, nonchalantly using the bleeding guy’s stomach to hold
fresh syringes.

Fig. 141. As M-015 bleeds, Mort uses his belly as a syringe-holder. SM-a/00:24

[0254] But if the dead women, children, and men we see in the SM
were executed, then these workers and loafers milling around are
certainly not trying to save anybody, and their disinterest in the bleeding
man is explicable. In the context of a mass-execution, all of these
workers we see in face-masks or just from the waist down have only the
most depraved intentions. The entire KB complex turns from a rescue
operation into a venue for a crime against humanity. When we see these
workers in the videos, they are most likely playing the roles of caring
rescue workers in order to convince The Stupid Americans to attack
Assad.
And so, trying to pull all of this together, the only scenario that makes any sense to me rejects the view that this is a Red Crescent emergency center staffed with heros and well-meaning people. What I see is a scenario that goes something along the following line:

• Sometime during the early morning of Aug21, 2013, the insurgents gassed M-015, along with the rest of the people we see in the KB complex. They used CO and/or CN, and may have used those windowless rooms in the DM where we have seen so much suffering and so many 44 L. gas cylinders scattered around.

• The SunMorgue was not used to gas people – it has too many windows and doors and would leak like an NSA contractor. Rather, the SM was a staging area between execution and burial. It was also a photo-op center. As groups of people were exterminated throughout the night, the insurgents brought some of the bodies into the SM. By noon, when SM-a was taken, the insurgents had executed at least 86 people and nearly filled up the SM with their bodies. We don’t know how many additional “sun morgues” there were in the KB complex, and so we don’t have any way to estimate the total chemical carnage there. Although many bodies from the DM are later seen in the SM, some aren’t, and none of the people who were alive in the DM ever showed up in the SM, and so we can’t know their fate or where they were taken.

• Both CO and CN usually produce coma prior to death, and so, when gassing large numbers of people it would seem almost inevitable that there would be some victims who looked dead but were actually in a deep coma. M-015 was one of those. He was a large man, and larger people are generally harder to poison because drugs can be taken up and sequestered by their larger fat deposits.

• The insurgents carried the comatose M-015 up to the SM thinking he was just as dead as the others. As we can see in Fig. 133, they covered his face with the white towel for some reason, and that may have concealed some of the signs that he was alive. He was laid down to the left of B-004. Other bodies were placed around him – M-014 to his left, M-011 at his feet. Nice and tidy.

• Around noon, not long before the videographer started filming SM-a but hours after being placed on the floor in the SM, victim M-015 coughed, or moaned, or moved. The cadaveric spasm suggests he even regained consciousness. At any rate, the insurgents realized he was not dead. Instead of taking him back down into the DM and finishing him off there, they grabbed whatever was handy and stabbed him in the throat or slit his throat and left him to bleed-out in situ right where he lay. They grabbed one of the blue blankets and packed it around his throat to soak up the oozing blood. The white
towel soaked up some of the blood, but most of it drained into the blue blanket and onto the floor.

- At the time his throat was stabbed or slit, M-015 was just barely alive and so his blood pressure would have been close to nil. There would not have been a high-pressure spewing of blood like the insurgents normally enjoy uploading to their YouTube channels. Consequently, there is no blood splattered around. Because M-015's circulatory system was already in a low-pressure state at the time they finished him off, his blood, pushed by what little pressure was left in his cardiovascular system, slowly drained out of his body and was silently absorbed by the blue kiddie blanket until it became saturated. Some of the blood ran onto the floor. It formed a wee crimson rivulet that ran down the gutter formed by two tiles in one direction. It flowed in the other direction past M-014's head and formed a rhinoceros-puddle.

- Moments later, sometime around noon, an insurgent PR cameraman came through the SM shooting SM-a to upload to the world. Not long after that, the second insurgent PR cameraman came through and shot SM-b and uploaded it, too. Consequently, M-015, the rivulet, and the rhino-head blood stain all became a part of the DiFi Package produced for the perusal of Congress and the American people, and authenticated by the Obama administration as bona fide proof Assad had gassed his own people.

- Quite a while after the sun-videos were shot, the insurgents took M-015 out of the SM, carefully stepping over the blue, bloody kiddie-blanket, which by then was no longer sky-blue but a gory, brick-red, mess completely saturated with the murdered man's blood.

- As the light waned and that sad, sanguinary day was coming to an end, the SM became increasingly emptied. Mohammed al-Abdullah and other insurgent PR photographers arrived and shot the last still photos of the SM, the little girls G-004 and G-010 had not yet been removed. After they had their photographs the PR guys dutifully uploaded them to the Internet in yet another attempt to convince the world that the Assadists had committed the horrible atrocities seen in the KB complex. Gullible newspaper editors all around the world bought the hook, bought the line, and bought the sinker, swallowed them all, and started screaming SARIN!!! Soon F-16 pilots at the US strategic airbase at Incirlik, Turkey were being briefed on their next mission and Obama was on the hook giving his buddy Netanyahu a heads-up that an attack on Syria was less than 48 hours away.

We need a reality check. This clear evidence of the insurgents sticking someone in the throat and letting them bleed out like
a pig can only mean one thing: the people we see in these videos were not trying to save lives. In fact, when you look at all of these KB videos closely – SM and DM both – it may occur to you as it did to me, no one is actually trying to help any of these victims, unless you consider pouring water down their noses helping. I mean there is not a single act in these videos that could not be fairly interpreted as totally phony play-acting for the PR cameras. The only evidence I can see of any of these workers or loafers doing anything to change the situation of any of the victims is this case of M-015, where they very apparently changed his situation from barely alive to bled-out dead. Now, recalling Kerry’s speeches in which he calls these people “heroic first responders,” I get a little nauseous.

Another slit throat?

Whilst victim M-015 is the only body in the KB videos that has obviously been drained of blood right there on the floor of the SM, there are a couple other images that suggest there may have been other instances of brutality going on behind the camcorders and cameras in the KB complex. There is the strange case of victim M-012, for instance.

Fig. 142 is a screen-grab from video Rm2-b, showing a few seconds of DM Room #3. Panel “A” is the un-corrected image. Panel B is a portion of A magnified, lightened, and color adjusted to enhance red saturation. The left side of M-012’s face is deep red, which may be a bloody wound, a hematoma, a chemical burn, a dermatological abnormality, a . . . well, it could be many things. It is not really possible to say in the poor light. His lips are also messed up. Up close, there is no apparent source for the blood – no laceration, no bullet hole. The very clean borders of the red stain and his clean neck and throat area are not consistent with blood coming from a bleeding wound, at least not bleeding when the video was taken. It’s very odd, that stain.

Although the lighting isn’t great, it’s good enough to see that there is
something else odd here besides the shape of the blood stain. M-012’s shirt collar is pulled apart and his shirt is completely un-buttoned. There is blood on his chest. There is also an unsettling area on his throat (circled) that cannot be interpreted with a large degree of certainty, but looks an awfully lot like his throat has been slit. There is no blood on the floor beneath him, suggesting that if his throat was slit, it was done someplace else.\textsuperscript{130} Let’s have a look at M-012 in the SM where the light is much better.

[0259] Fig. 143 is taken from SM-a.\textsuperscript{131} The position of M-012 with respect to M-015 and other victims is shown in the schematic Fig. 123. We can tell from Fig. 133 that he was brought into the SM after M-015 was.

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=0.5\textwidth]{Fig143.png}
\caption{Fig. 143. SM-a/00:22}
\end{figure}

In Fig. 142 M-012’s head is turned toward his right shoulder, but in the SM view his head has been turned so that his face is straight up, giving us a different view of the blood stain and ventral portion of his throat. The facial blood stain with its sharp edges and his damaged lips look even stranger in the sunlight. It looks almost like skin has been removed, as with an asphalt-burn, as if he had been dragged on his face across pavement. But it may be a hematoma, suggesting he was beaten badly. The swelling of his lips also indicates trauma.

What I find odd is that so many of the other bodies in the SM have their pants pulled down and their shirts pulled up and are left that way for the cameras in a most disrespectful treatment of the dead. But sometime between when he was in the DM and when SM-a was taken someone went to the trouble to button-up M-012’s shirt, almost as if by an undertaker preparing the body for a viewing – or perhaps to conceal a ghastly wound to the dead man’s throat. His collar is no longer wide open; the blood from his chest that we see in Fig. 142 has seeped through his closed shirt. And the worst part is that distinct line across his throat

\textsuperscript{130} The bright spot inside the green circle appears to be a metal object reflecting light. It changes shape as the camera moves past M-012.

\textsuperscript{131} SM-b is no help here for it doesn’t give us a good look at M-012.
(circled) that could be interpreted that the insurgents turned the man’s head straight up, to close a gaping throat laceration.

And then there is his shoe.

[0260] Once you notice it, it is quite striking how, with few exceptions, all of the victims in the SM have bare feet. And if you closely observe these bare feet, they are, by and large, very clean, suggesting their shoes or sandals were removed after the people took their last steps. As a person who does his best to spend all summer barefoot, I know how quickly the soles of one’s feet become solid black, even just slouching around the house, which may tell you something about my housekeeping. And yet in all of these people in the SM I can find only one pair of bare feet that look even mildly “used.”

But I am diverging . . . the point I am getting to is that M-012 is one of the few bodies with shoes. He has running shoes and dark socks – at least on his right foot; we can’t see his left one. And this right shoe is relevant because the sole appears to be blood-stained, which suggests that one of the last steps M-012 took was into a puddle of blood. I don’t know how else blood gets on the bottom of a cadaver’s shoe.

Fig. 144. Blood-stain on the sole of M-012’s running shoe? SM-a00:15

[0261] In the end, I just don’t know what to make of M-012. The images are not clear enough to allow one to conclude unequivocally that his throat has been cut or that he died by means even more violent than gassing, and yet that is a possibility, which is made more believable by the demise of M-015. Of course, the difference in the two cases is the lack of blood on the floor around M-012. If M-012’s throat was slit, it must have been in some other part of the KB complex or some other location altogether, then he would have had to have been partially cleaned up when he was taken to Room #3. Finally when he was taken to the SM for the photo-op, his shirt was closed up in an effort to conceal the wound. This is speculation talking, not fact or even allegation of fact. But this much is clear: M-012, unlike M-015, was not murdered in the SM itself and was not left to bleed-out there. There has to be some explanation for what we’re seeing.
The cranberry collar

Victims M-015 and M-012 are not the only bodies in the SM with throat anomalies suggesting they may have died in a spasm of al-Nusra-style YouTube depravity. For there is also victim M-021, who has a very odd cranberry collar around his throat.

Victim M-021 is seen in both of the sun-videos. He is at the east end of the SM, next to the children. Again, I’m looking at red and thinking the worst; it’s now a habit. However, that collar does not appear to be soaked with blood, but when you zoom in (B), it does, in fact, look like there could be blood on the man’s jaw adjacent the collar. No blood is visible on the floor.

I cannot recall ever having seen a collar like this. The closest I can think of is a clown’s collar or one of those inflatable cushions used by long-haul airline passengers. Could we be looking at a garrotte of some sort? Or some way to hide a throat wound? I also cannot interpret M-021’s right hand, which looks like it’s in a green glove. Please note how red the lividity is in lower portion of his body.

I have not been able to find any images of this victim other than the sun-videos, and so I cannot establish even a crude timeline to help piece together his story. But after seeing what happened to M-015, anything is possible in this place.
There is a large case for murder here and there is a small case – the case that M-015 was murdered is a small case that is enclosed within the larger case that the Ghouta Massacre was a mass-execution. The analogy is a box within a box, but the reasoning might appear circular.

For I have argued that the murder of M-015 and the presence of his spaghetti-red blood on the floor of the SunMorgue are important pieces of evidence that support the case that there was a mass-execution because that bloody floor has to mean that the SM was a place where people were murdered. But I also argue that it is only through the context of a mass-execution that the conclusion that M-015 was murdered makes sense.

Were this the extent of the argument, it would be as unacceptable as Obama’s and Kerry’s flawed syllogism. But the larger case, the case for a mass-execution, stands on its own independent of whether or not M-015 was murdered. In other words, I do not argue that M-015’s murder proves the mass-execution theory because the mass-execution theory proves that M-015 was murdered.

In Part C I developed an extremely linear proof of the mass-execution theory by using the paradigm of multiple-hypothesis testing to establish that a rubigenic agent, not sarin, was used to poison the KB victims. And through the 5-Step Pathway to Who – a linear argument in spite of the serpentine graphic – I established that the mass-execution carried out by the insurgents conclusion was a necessary consequence of rejecting the sarin hypothesis myth. Consequently, the mass-execution conclusion stands quite well on its own even if M-015’s blood all over the floor has an innocent explanation, like a ruptured post-mortem pimple or some other “natural” cause, however impossible that might seem.

It is this whole gruesome picture, taken in its entirety – the inner box and the outer box together – that has removed any doubt from my mind that Kafr Batna – and, by extension, most of Ghouta – was never subjected to a sarin CW attack on Aug21.2014, but that scores of people were poisoned as a result of a mass-execution.
EPILOGUE

One’s Own People

The most precious possession you have in the world is your own people.

– Adolph Hitler

[0266] I know that there is a problem in this whole line of mass-execution argument that must be bothering you: Given that the insurgents were in control of Ghouta, doesn’t the mass-execution theory mean they would have had to have killed their own people? Did they kill their own kids? It’s a very strong point, at least emotionally, and many people would argue that it constitutes proof against the mass-execution theory. Well, maybe not.

[0267] When I was a kid with just a few days of freedom left before reporting to boot-camp, I drove down to visit my maternal grandmother, Mae, who lived in a tiny tobacco town in southern Kentucky. Being a grandmother, Mae was not real keen on the idea of my enlisting in what was turning out to be the bloodiest American war since WWII and the most dishonest since the Spanish-American. And she was clear about her reservations. She was clear on just about everything. Two of her sons had been sent to Europe during WWII and she knew how hard a mother’s wait can be.

As we sat at her white kitchen table sipping coffee and saying our good-byes before I got in the car to return home, Mae inventoried her concerns about how badly my military gig could turn out. About half way through the list she said: “I just hope they put you in with your own people.”

Having grown up in a cow-town in Ohio with only three black kids in the entire high school and not many more than that in the entire township, I initially blanked on this standard Southern use of the phrase “your own people” as a euphemism for “whites.” I missed her point entirely. She was talking the genetic/racial “your own people” and I was
thinking the nationalistic “your own people.”

“You mean Americans?” I asked, totally incredulous that she would think I might be mixed in with Romanians or Russians in Marine Corps boot-camp.

I remember thinking about this odd term “own people” during the long drive back to Cowtown, and every since “own people” has been a red flag warning me to examine closely how it is being used. When you’re looking for it, it’s amazing how many times you’ll recognize it being bandied about by American war hawks trying to whip the public into a frenzy to justify bombing some small country.

Phrases like “own people” and “chosen people” have to be among the most pernicious racist euphemisms out there. How is it that Hitler’s use of the phrase “own people” in his famous statement above is seen as being so overtly racist, and yet US politicians today throw the same euphemism around all the time and no one takes notice?

I can see three separate “own people” issues with respect to Syria, and, more specifically, with respect to the Ghouta Massacre. I believe these three issues nicely encompass a number of problems and predicaments regarding what happened in Ghouta on Aug21.2013 and how the world should respond.

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**Own people, Issue #1: The rhetoric of war**

Long before George W. Bush was first “elected” president, his neocon advisors had decided Saddam Hussein had to go – that decision was made 13 years prior to 9/11. By mid-2002 the “gassed his own people” meme began popping up all over the place as Bush, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Condelezza Rice, and Colin Powell started bashing Saddam in order to soften-up the US public for the regime-change war that had been coming down the pike with 100% certainty since 1987 when Saddam suddenly backed out of the Bechtel Aqba oil pipeline project. It made no difference to the Bushites that their CW *casus belli* took place during the Reagan administration, or that Reagan and Bush Sr. not only waived any retaliation but actually gave Saddam their tacit approval and a green-light for more CW attacks by blaming Iran for Iraq’s attacks, even though the administration knew full well who was responsible. At that point the USG was backing Iraq in the Iraq-Iran war and the USG wanted that pipeline to the Red Sea. Rumsfeld, who was not even in the government at that time, was sent to Iraq to make nice with Saddam and to get the pipeline deal going.

Fifteen years later, the same neocons who advised Reagan to give Saddam carte blanche to use CWs were advising Bush to tell Americans that America had a duty to punish Saddam for “gassing his own

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132 See *Crude Vision, Vallette*, Jim Vallette, Steve Kretzmann, and Daphne Wysham, Mar24.2003
And that's the way Bush pitched it to the public. For instance in a joint news conference with Mexican President Vincente Fox on March 22, 2002, Bush said:

Let me put it to you this way, David. What we're telling our friends is that Saddam Hussein is a man who is willing to gas his own people, willing to use weapons of mass destruction against Iraq citizens.

Evidently there's a new article in New York magazine, or New Yorker magazine, or some East Coast magazine, and it details about his barbaric behavior toward his own people. And he not only did it to his own people, he did it to people in his neighborhood.

And this is a man who refuses to allow us to determine whether or not he still has weapons of mass destruction, which leads me to believe he does. He is a dangerous man who possesses the world's most dangerous weapons. And it is incumbent upon freedom-loving nations to hold him accountable, which is precisely what the United States of America will do. Source

Bush was using the genetic/racial version of “own people” – the same one Mae was using. (I'm not sure about Bush’s distinction between Saddam's "own people" and "people in his neighborhood," but that's Bush – his cutting remarks were almost always made with a dull edge of ambiguity that obfuscated the meaning and mitigated the effect.)

If you give it a modicum of thought, Bush’s logic was terrifying: Bush and the neocons argued that Saddam’s killing thousands of “his own people” justified the US going in and killing thousands more of the very same people in retaliation. Bush and the boys were thinking “They're not our people, they're Saddam's, so we can kill as many as we need to in order to retaliate for him killing any of them.” They were, in effect, arguing for retaliation against the same people Saddam was killing, and that’s exactly what they did and hundreds of thousands of them died.

That’s the power of the war hawks’ “own people” style of thinking: The public’s consternation is minimal when you kill the other guy’s people, but it is maximal when he kills his own people, even if they’re the same people you’re killing. Like I say, context is everything.

Whatever they were thinking, reviling Saddam for killing his own people sure worked because just about the entire Congress, including Senator John Kerry, got behind the idea of killing hundreds of thousands of Saddam’s people because Saddam had killed 30,000, or so. And now here we are 12 years after “mission accomplished” and hundred’s of thousands of Saddam’s “own people” are dead, and a few thousand of Bush’s “own people” are dead, and Saddam is a distant,

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134 http://edition.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0203/22/se.03.html
swinging memory. But then so too is the relative peace Iraqis once knew under Saddam – Iraqis are still dying at the rate of thousands per month. Maybe if Saddam had stuck with killing other people’s people, things would have worked out better for him and his own people.

Which brings us to Ghouta. John Kerry – who is no longer a member of Congress and, apparently, is no longer a Viet vet against war – is now in a position to push for war from within an administration, and I guess it should be no surprise that he would revert to Bush’s successful approach of softening-up the public for the next war that is coming down the pike. For Obama, and Kerry, and Hagel have all appropriated the rhetoric of the neocons and employed that most damning accusation: Assad is killing his own people, just like Muammar Gaddafi before him, and Saddam before him. Here’s an excerpt from Kerry’s speech of Aug30.2013.

Instead of being tucked safely in their beds at home, we saw rows of children lying side by side, sprawled on a hospital floor, all of them dead from Assad’s gas and surrounded by parents and grandparents who had suffered the same fate.

The United States government now knows that at least 1,429 Syrians were killed in this attack, including at least 426 children. Even the first-responders, the doctors, nurses and medics who tried to save them, they became victims themselves. We saw them gasping for air, terrified that their own lives were in danger.

This is the indiscriminate, inconceivable horror of chemical weapons. This is what Assad did to his own people.

This “he gassed his own people” meme has become the regime-changers’ magical mantra. Obama and Kerry having thus stated for a fact certain that Assad gassed his own people, they now have no alternative but to either attack Assad in faux retaliation or admit they were wrong. Unfortunately, arrogance and egotism never yield to honesty even when thousands or hundreds of thousands of lives may be at stake. We can only hope that the Chief Joints of Staff see this gambit for what it is this time and can resist being pushed into another neocon war designed for the sole purpose of removing another of Israel’s enemies.

But the thing that the gullible public have not quite worked out with the way the “killed his own people” meme has been applied to Assad is that when a faction of your own people turn on you, and when they start trying to kill you and bring down your government with the help of foreign governments such as the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, they are no longer, technically, “your own people.” If they were, then Abraham Lincoln would have also been guilty of killing his own people, where “own people” is used in the both in the genetic/racial way Mae used it and in the nationalist way I understood it – white Americans, in
other words.

I am not suggesting that a despotic government is justified in using mustard gas or sarin against those who are trying to bring that government down, clearly the use of CWs is not justified under any circumstances. What I’m saying is that politicians who allege that such a government under siege has “gassed its own people” probably have an ulterior motive for using such inflammatory rhetoric. And once the accusation is made, there is only one course of action. Retaliation.

One’s own people, Issue #2: The Latakia connection

But there is another point in the discussion on the Syrian civil war where killing one’s own people comes up – when people like Mother Superior Agnes-Mariam and me speculate that the Ghouta Massacre was a false-flag operation carried out by the insurgents.

Before the Syrian war began Ghouta was populated by conservative Sunnis who opposed Assad – people who became the insurgents, in other words. And so the argument goes: the insurgents would not gas their own children just to upload videos of them dead and suffering in order to shock the West into attacking Assad. No one would kill their own people in order to stage a PR stunt. I have two responses.

First, I agree that for most of us who live in the West in neighborhoods free of open warfare and daily death, for those of us who are used to Western norms and having SWAT teams and FBI forensic specialists to help enforce those norms . . . I agree, rounding up a thousand of “your own people” and gassing them for the cameras is unthinkable. In fact, rounding up a thousand of anybody’s people and gassing them for a PR stunt is unthinkable.

But, then again, when you read about and see videos of the constant stream of decapitations and the butchery that the insurgents are perpetrating in Syria, you have to conclude that there is no violence so extreme as to be taboo to those fools. The only way to conclude that al-Nusra or ISIS or three dozen other extremist Sunni groups would never execute their own people in Ghouta to gain a political/military advantage is to ignore the reality of who these people are, ignore their bloody history, and ignore the level of depravity they have already demonstrated they are capable of in Syria.

There is no doubt in my mind that these violent people would make martyrs of anyone – even “their own” children – if they thought the videos would help Obama convince the American public that Assad should be attacked. And, as I observed earlier, it nearly worked. If Obama had not blinked back in early September, al-Nusra and ISIS and the other violent Sunni/Wahhabi extremists would be in control of Damascus today.

My other response to the very legitimate question of whether
the insurgents would sacrifice their own people for a photo-op is more complex, and that’s because Islam, particularly in the Middle East, is such an ethnic gumbo that defining what “one’s own people” means is complex. The secret to understanding the violence perpetrated by Muslims and Jews in the Middle East is to figure out who hates whom the most – that is, figuring out what I have called the “balance of hatreds,” an analytical paradigm derived from a masterful piece by Juan Cole. In order to understand the balance of hatreds in Syria, it’s necessary to look at the sectarian lay of the land.

About 150 crow-miles north of Damascus lies Syria’s main port-city, Latakia. Latakia City is in the Latakia District, which is in the Latakia Governorate. This area is the heart of Alawite Syria. (See Fig. 3.) The rural areas of the Latakia Governorate are predominately Alawite Shia – about 70%. Although Syria as a whole is only 10-12% Alawite compared to 70% Sunni, the Alawites have long held the power. Assad is Alawite and he is from the Latakia area.

My guess is that unless you are following the Syrian mess very closely you have not heard about Latakia, for Latakia has not had a high profile in MSM stories about the Syrian civil war even when significant events happened there. For instance, in late January 2014, Israel attacked – either by air or from submarines, it’s not clear yet – Russian made S-300 missiles being off-loaded in Latakia. The Israeli press lit up like a Christmas tree menorah over the unprovoked attack, but the US press hardly took notice.

Similarly, in early 2013 a couple dozen Sunni/Wahhabi extremist groups began surrounding the Latakia region, but there was little discussion of this initiative in the US MSM. Turkey, which is also Sunni and is blatantly anti-Assad, borders Latakia to the north. What this adds up to is a sectarian minority surrounded by violent jihadis of the majority sect.

Then, on Aug04.2013, one of the most grossly under-reported massacres of the Syrian conflict occurred when about 20 of the extremist insurgent groups – 20 groups, not 20 people – attacked about 10 Alawite villages in the Latakia countryside in a well coordinated operation. The groups included the most violent jihadi elements of the insurgency, including Ahrar al-Sham, ISIS, al-Nusra, Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar, Suquor al-Iaa. According to the insurgents this “Operation to Liberate

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135 http://logophere.com/Topics/2013/539.htm
136 http://www.juancole.com/2013/01/decline-hizbullah-middle.html
the Coast” was to be an attempt to take the port of Latakia and the large stores of military goodies delivered from Russia. But the operation smells a lot more minacious than just your usual troops at war moving through civilian territory to get where they’re going.

[0277] And the reason I say that is that the Alawite mountain villages the insurgents attacked were a long way from the sea, and the villages were virtually unarmed except for a few old men with hunting rifles. And the insurgents didn’t just over-run the villages and the three Syrian army outposts near the villages and then sweep on towards the sea. No, they stopped in the villages and executed old and disabled residents, decapitated or other wise butchered what older boys and men they could find, and then kidnapped the women and children. And the emphasis for this discussion is on the “kidnapped.” These are not accusations I’m pulling out of thin air merely because I detest these execrable jihadis, this attack was well documented in spite of being ignored by the American press.

On Oct11, Human Rights Watch published a 100+ page report on the Latakia Massacre: You Can Still See Their Blood. HRW also uploaded a useful video about the massacre. By every account, including the HRW report and multiple examples of YouTube-braggadocio uploaded by the insurgents, this was not a one-off massacre by an isolated extremist group – it was a well-coordinated piece of butchery involving multiple insurgent groups, including the so-called “moderate” Free Syrian Army, who went to a lot of trouble to let the world know they were a part of the Latakia Massacre, too.

I mean it’s brutal when they cut the hands off of women to remove their bracelets and murder dozens of children in cold blood. It’s brutal when they blow away a paralyzed man in his bed and then walk his geriatric mother to the back yard and blow her away – and then put a video of the event up on YT. These Sunni/Wahhabi jihadis opposing Assad are capable of committing any atrocity that would further their goals – and that itself is a very significant part of the answer to the question of whether they would kill their own people.

Even though the MSM has all but ignored the Latakia Massacre, there are now reports of 500 or more Alawite civilians being butchered, which is more than the lower end of the death toll estimates of the Ghouta Massacre. The HRW report documents executions of entire families in their fields. But while the US news agencies flooded the airwaves and broadband with news of insurgents being killed in Ghouta, CLOS provides a detailed attempt to inventory the killings, rapes, beheadings during the Latakia Massacre.

140 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltoM0RaC6TM
141 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QSOct5R88mQ
142 CLOS provides a detailed attempt to inventory the killings, rapes, beheadings during the Latakia Massacre.
there was hardly a peep about insurgents killing Alawites in Latakia. I don’t know of any US news source that covered this massacre at the time; most have still not. Some, like the Guardian, have even removed articles they originally published online.

For instance, when I raised this incident with a friend who is a life-long NYT junkie, he denied the Latakia Massacre could have happened at all because he hadn’t seen a word about it in the NYT. And therein lies the problem with many Americans: if they don’t see it on CNN or NBC or FOX or read it in the NYT, it didn’t happen.

I was incredulous that the NYT would have missed the Latakia Massacre. For those of us following the Syrian conflict online through competing blogs of pro-insurgents and pro-Assadists, this event was high profile. I couldn’t image that the NYT could have dropped this ball. So I had a look . . . sure enough, the NYT took a bye on Latakia. For instance, there’s barely a mention of Latakia in Anne Barnard’s Aug05 NYT report “Rebels Gain Control of Government Air Base in Syria” filed from Beirut the day after the massacre:

Yet to the north, a large rebel force armed with tanks and rocket launchers pushed deeper into an area that has long been a relatively quiet government stronghold, the coastal mountains of Latakia Province, sending civilians fleeing.

“Pushed deeper” – that’s about it. Not a word about the massacres, decapitations, kidnappings. How could such a misrepresentation of the news be considered anything other than dishonesty or gross incompetence? And how was Barnard able to come by her biased information – she was in Beruit, not Syria. Well . . . it was through her Skype contacts with insurgents such as Ahmed Farzat, Abu al-Haytham, and Ammar Hassan, all of whom she quoted verbatim. The NYT and the rest of the Western SMS have been in bed with the insurgents from the beginning of this disaster, too, and so that is the side of the conflict the West is going to go with. Assad’s people being murdered is, apparently, not something the editors of the NYT want you to know about.

A week after the Latakia Massacre, on Aug12, the NYT’s Ben Hubbard briefly sniffed the Latakia Massacre story but also declined to...

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143 The following note has replaced an Oct11.13 Guardian article on the Latakia Massacre: “This content has been removed as our copyright has expired.” Never heard that one before.

cover it. No, Hubbard preferred to discuss the difficulties insurgent FSA commander Salim Idris was having during his “visit” to Latakia. 

Visit?? Saying that this traitor of the Syrian army had problems when he “visited” Alawite Latakia is equivalent to saying that Robert E. Lee had a few problems on his “visit” to Gettysburg. But there was not a word from Hubbard about the massacre or kidnapping. It was not until Anne Barnard’s Oct11 article, more than two months after the fact, that NYT even mentioned the massacre, and then only when reporting the release of the HRW Latakia report.

[0280] It seems to me the US news black-out of the Latakia Massacre is more than just inept reporting. We know that both the US and Israel are deep into supporting the insurgents, and that has to be a factor in the US media keeping the lid on this story while expending all of their ink accusing Assad of the Aug21 “SARIN!!!” attack.

I mean, the editors at NYT had to know the Latakia Massacre happened. In the UK where the media are under far less pro-Israel control, there was some excellent reporting on the event. Within a week of the event Ruth Sherlock of The Telegraph published what was, apparently, the first report the Latakia Massacre in the Western MSM. Then there was a Guardian story on Oct01. And even the lowly UK Daily Mail ran a far more informative story about the Latakia Massacre and the HRW Latakia report than what the NYT’s Barnard eventually published.

Now, months later, thanks to the excellent work of HRW, we know that there is absolutely no question that the Latakia Massacre and kidnappings took place. With respect to the kidnappings specifically, HRW said:

> During their military offensive, armed opposition groups abducted over 200 residents, the vast majority of them women and children. Human Rights Watch documented abductions from Barouda, Nbeiteh, al-Hamboushieh, Blouta, Abu Makkeh, and Bremseh. In many cases opposition fighters killed adult male family members and abducted

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148 http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/02/syria-massacre-reports-alawite-assad

And to put the Latakia Massacre beyond dispute, the insurgents themselves uploaded videos of the massacre while it was underway and, later, videos of kidnapped women and children being held by “brave” mujahideen captors who hid their faces while they made their demands – in the name of Allah, of course.

[0281] Had it not been for the chatter on the Internet amongst people trying to make sense of the Syrian civil war, I would have had no idea the Latakia Massacre happened or that it was possibly Stage I of the Ghouta Massacre. And the person who was chattering the loudest was that Carmelite nun, Mother Agnes-Mariam. It was Mother Agnes-Mariam who made the bomb-shell assertion in her ISTEAMS Report that connected the women and children kidnapped from Latakia to the women and children killed in Ghouta – same women, same children, said the nun.

[0282] In other words, according to Agnes-Mariam, those dead children we are seeing in the KB videos are not the insurgents “own people.” They are Alawite children – yes, Alawites, whom many of the jahadis consider to be apostates, and in radical Islam being labeled an apostate is a death sentence. And that is the best answer I have found yet to the question: Would the insurgents have gassed their own people? Perhaps not, but they would certainly have butchered the Alawites they had kidnapped.

150 HRW, You Can Still See Their Blood, pg 58.
151 http://logosphere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20033.mp4
152 This insurgent YT channel has been closed down when last checked on Apr11.2014. A mp4 copy of the video can be found at http://logosphere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20018a.mp4
153 Ibid
Under the sarin myth there no reason to even ask whether the insurgents would gas their own people. But having come to the conclusion that the Ghouta Massacre was a mass-execution carried out by the insurgents, Agnes-Mariam’s accusation merges these two events into a single, large, well-coordinated mass murder. No, the insurgents didn’t sweep through Latakia District on the way to the sea. The objective of their campaign was to take women and children who would be gassed and then filmed by Mr. Minnie and his PR colleagues in order to get the Stupid Americans to do something brash.

The horrifying implications of Agnes-Mariam’s accusation makes one think of macabre story-lines Wes Craven or Stephen King might come up with. Or Joseph Goebbels. For it has to make you think: Could anything be more sinister than murdering hundreds of children in order to make a propaganda video? Even one child? Throwing a bunch of rockets loaded with sarin into a residential area would be prosecuted as a war crime – and fair enough. But rounding up Alawite women and children from their homes, trucking them 150 miles into insurgent territory in Ghouta, and gassing them, say, in the DarkMorgue, in order to produce a spasm of online violence-porn would be a crime against humanity severe enough to guarantee a Nuremberg necktie for anyone involved.

This is a serious accusation. It has been several months since Mother Agnes-Mariam dropped this bomb-shell and there is still, so far as I am aware, no positive evidence to prove it. I have looked at every video of the kidnapped people I can find and I have not been able to identify any child that is also seen in the SM. That doesn’t mean anything.

The nun has claimed that there are Alawite survivors in Latakia who recognize their loved ones in the Ghouta videos. Given that her report inventories 185 kidnapped/missing people by name and village, what she needs to do now is publicly connect those names to the people in the Ghouta videos. She needs publicly to say something like: “In this morgue scene, that child in the red shirt is Bachar Jaoudat Chehade, age 2, from Anbateh, and that one in the pink shirt is Jaafar Adam I Smael, age 2, from Hanbouchieh.” But I know of no one who has connected a single one of those dead people in the Ghouta videos to any of the people abducted from Latakia.

While we don’t have this sort of positive evidence that the victims in Ghouta were the same people kidnapped from Latakia, there is negative evidence, for none of the 200 or more women and children kidnapped from Latakia have been released. So far as I have been able to tell, after six months not a single one has yet to surface. I can find no reports that they have been released, or exchanged, or have ever been seen again. The YouTube channel for the insurgents where the videos of the kidnapped people were originally uploaded has been closed down.
On Jan 14. 2014 an anonymous blogger, thelemniscat,\textsuperscript{155} published a piece claiming that the kidnapped victims are still missing. Included in that post are photographs of 39 people who were allegedly kidnapped. Unfortunately, one of the great weaknesses of online research is that it is so often not possible to verify such information. But the burden is on the insurgents to prove that the people they kidnapped – and claimed to have kidnapped – were not the ones murdered in Ghouta. And the reasons the burden lies with the insurgents is because 1) Mother Agnes-Miriam’s allegation is consistent with what we now likely happened in Kafr Batna; and, 2) the insurgents control the evidence – the kidnapped women and children – and so only the insurgents can resolve the accusations.

\textsuperscript{[0285]} In summarizing this important point, the Latakia killings and kidnappings offer two potential answers to the question of whether the insurgents would have gassed their own people. First, the evidence documented by HRW overwhelmingly proves that these violent jihadis killed many children in the Latakia attack, which proves they would sacrifice children for their cause. That level of pathology is not likely to be mitigated by sentimental ideas about victims being “one’s own people.”

Second, for those of you who do not agree that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that the insurgents are sufficiently vile to kill their own children, there is virtually no dispute that the Latakia kidnappings occurred and that the insurgents were responsible. That means the insurgents have in their possession the Alawite women and children, and we have seen videos produced by the insurgents proving that point. That in itself is, according to HRW, a crime against humanity. It is also strong negative evidence supporting the Latakia-Ghouta connection.

\textsuperscript{[0286]} But even if we ignore the unsubstantiated assertions of an anonymous blogger and the hearsay of a nun proclaiming to the world that those Ghouta Massacre victims are the same victims as the Latakia kidnapping victims, the timing of the Latakia kidnappings and the Ghouta murders is disturbing. And regardless where they came from, those victims in the KB videos were almost certainly executed, and therefore the Ghouta Massacre becomes a crime against humanity that is qualitatively equivalent to the Nazis crimes of just 70 years ago when the free world collectively shook its head, sighed, and said “Never again.”

\begin{center}
\textbf{One’s own people, Issue #3:}
Nobody cares about other people’s people
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\textsuperscript{[0287]} Finally, there is the third “own people” issue that is relevant

\textsuperscript{155} http://thelemniscat.wordpress.com/2014/01/25/some-of-the-latakia-missing-via-prosyriana/
to the Ghouta Massacre, and that is this: Americans, and particularly American politicians, don't really care that much about the people who were executed in Ghouta because they were not Americans' own people.

The significance of the massacre to American politicians is primarily that it is a *casus belli* for attacking Assad and extending the neocons' regime change program to the next Middle East state on their list, which is to say, on Israel's list. In the end, however many children were killed in Ghouta and however many more are killed by America's punitive response against Assad, which will come eventually, those deaths will be deemed to be worth it in the eyes of Americans and their leaders, but particularly their leaders.

In making this unkind cut I am thinking of Bill Clinton and his Secretary of State Madeline Albright and his Ambassador to the UN, Bill Richardson and their brutal admissions regarding the UN/US sanctions against Iraq in the 1990's that killed 500,000 Iraqi children between the time the sanctions were imposed in 1990 and 1995 when studies on Iraqi child and infant mortality started appearing. Of course, the sanctions continued long after 1995, and right up until the 2003 Bush-Cheney-Rumsfeld-Powell oil-or-blood program, also called "shock and awe," began killing Iraqis at even a higher rate.

[0288] Although the US/UN sanctions against Iraq were functioning before Clinton took office, he enforced them as brutally as he enforced the no-fly zones over Iraq, which were not a part of the UN sanctions but implemented as a power play by the US and UK. By 1995 a number of people were concerned and shocked by how many Iraqi children were dying because of Clinton’s pressure on Saddam. One research article in the esteemed medical journal *The Lancet* estimated there were up to 500,000 excess child deaths resulting from the bombing and hardships caused by the sanctions. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimated in 1995 that the figure was 567,000 dead Iraqi children under the age of five. The UNICEF figure in 1999 for the total deaths of children under 5 was also 500,000. By and large, these staggering numbers were ignored by the American press, as noted by Rahul Mahagan in 2001. I have yet to see any figures for how many Iraqi old people died because of the sanctions. Apparently, the MSM saw the US policy of starving elderly Iraqis as being even farther outside the dialog than the policy of starving children.

[0289] Eventually, the UN and US were forced to back off. In 1997 when the oil-for-food program was put in place UN Secretary General Kofi Annan reported, with pride it seems, that the sanctions were working and over 30% of Iraq’s children were malnourished. Oil-for-food allowed Iraq to sell oil on the international market and the proceeds were paid directly into an account administered by the UN – largely to buy food and medical supplies for Iraq, except for that pesky $18 Bn that went missing from the account and has not been seen since.
But by then the damage had been done. The surviving children had been malnourished for so long that their mental and physical development were arrested permanently, and the children that did grow up would surely become a new generation of Iraqis that had very good reason to hate the West and the US, specifically. Furthermore, as shown by Andrew Cockburn, even under UN pressure, Clinton refused to relax the prohibition of imports of pumps for water treatment plants and water purification chemicals, particularly chlorine. In a 2007 article for Common Dreams, Professor Alan Nasser put it this way:

Clinton bombed Iraq several times weekly for eight years. Defense Information Agency documents, now available through the Freedom of Information Act, reveal that the strategy of the bombing was to extensively bomb water purification facilities and power generating facilities with the explicit intention to spread diseases that would affect children. The idea was to pressure ordinary Iraqis to overthrow Saddam, with the knowledge that if they did so, the pedicide would cease. But Iraqis blamed Washington for this catastrophe, not Saddam. When Saddam offered to accede to Clinton’s requirements for ending the bombing, Clinton abruptly replied that no possible concessions on Saddam’s part would lead him to end the bombing/sanctions.

Predictably, the inevitable diseases exacerbated the effects of malnutrition. By the time Bush’s bombing started in 2003, water-borne diseases had overtaken starvation as the primary killer of Iraqi children.

Anyone with half-a-conscience got as far away from this UN/US travesty as they could. Denis Halliday, a life-long UN employee and UN Humanitarian Coordinator to Iraq, resigned in protest of what he considered to be a genocidal sanctions regime. His successor, Hans von Sponeck, also resigned in protest. Jutta Burghardt, head of the World Food Program in Iraq also resigned in protest.

American foreign policy is not understood by the vast majority of American people. And that this is due to a media that in this country is suppressed by Washington and by the owners of this media, who often tend to be corporate entities close to the [White House] and very often are arms manufacturers with a vested interest in chaos [in] the Middle East. And as a result Americans do not actually get both sides of the story.

I believe that Americans are basically decent people. If they

157 https://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/08/02/2933
158 Denis Halliday, Salon
159 Noted by Cockburn, supra
160 Wiki
understood that Iraq is not made up of 22 million Saddam Husseins but made up of 22 million people — of families, of children, of elderly parents, families with dreams and hopes and expectations for their children and themselves — they would be horrified to realize that the current killing of innocent Iraqi civilians by the U.S. Air Force, or what happened in the Gulf War, is being done in their name.

— Denis Halliday, Salon 2002

The evidence strongly suggests that the Iraq disaster was not a result of US politicians being too stupid to anticipate unintended consequences on the citizens of Iraq. No, the evidence is clear that the horrendous consequences were not just intended, they were the sine qua non of the entire program. It was planned infanticide/pediocide. Andrew Cockburn quotes Robert Gates, who was then GHW Bush’s national security adviser, as making it clear at whom the sanctions and bombings were directed:

“Iraqis will pay the price while [Saddam] remains in power.”

[0291] Albright’s and Richardson’s public admissions prove beyond doubt that Clinton’s eight years of enforcement of the sanctions and incessant bombing of Iraq’s infrastructure were part of a policy of “carefully crafted callousness,” in Cockburn’s words.

On May 12, 1996, sixteen years before Obama awarded her the Medal of Freedom Award, Madeleine Albright, sat down with Lesley Stahl of CBS’s 60 Minutes in what would turn out to be an Emmy-winning interview. At the time of the interview Albright was Clinton’s Ambassador to the UN. Stahl asked Albright point-blank: Is killing 500,000 children worth it? Albright’s casual response was mind-boggling: “[W]e think the price is worth it.”

Note that this was early in 1996. The sanctions were really just getting going and already Iraqi children aged 1-5 were dying as a result of those sanctions at the rate of about one per hour — even as Albright sat

http://www.salon.com/2002/03/20/halliday/
http://www.cbsnews.com/team/lesley-stahl/

Stahl’s lead into the question was factually strained. She noted that 500,000 was “more children than died in Hiroshima,” and true enough, but by trying to sensationalize the issue by playing the Hiroshima card Stahl was actually minimizing the Iraqi tragedy, at least mathematically. First of all, the 500,000 number refers to children between 1 and 5 years of age, and Stahl used it to refer to all children. The total number of Iraqi children has never been discussed, so far as I know. The figure for all children must surely be close to one million. Second, the total deaths from Hiroshima, including chronic radiation deaths counted within the following year, was around 100,000, of which certainly not more than 30,000 were under the age of five. Probably not more than 20,000. And so, if Stahl had done her homework, she should have noted that the Iraqi child deaths were at least 10 times more than those of Hiroshima. In fact, infant and child mortality rates in Iraq doubled or trebled for years as a result of Clinton’s draconian enforcement of the sanctions.

http://www.salon.com/2002/03/20/halliday/
in the comfortable studio chatting for the camera and, essentially, telling
the world that killing Iraqi children was a part of Clinton’s policy to
"contain Saddam."

One might try and give Albright the benefit of the doubt as she later
tried to give it to herself when she explained that she had been caught off
guard and her answer was "stupid." Well, yeah – but she didn’t say the
policy of intentionally targeting Iraqi civilians was stupid, she said that
admitting publicly that it was worth it was stupid.

A year later, after the UN weapons inspectors concluded Saddam
was clean and the sanctions should be lifted, Albright, by then Clinton’s
Secretary of State, shifted the goal-posts on the purpose of the sanctions.
They were no longer meant to “contain” Saddam. Albright, in arguing to
continue sanctions said:

[W]e do not agree with the nations who argue that, if Iraq complies
with its obligations concerning weapons of mass destruction, sanctions
should be lifted. . . Clearly, a change in Iraq's government could lead to
a change in U.S. policy. Should that occur, we would stand ready, in
coordination with our allies and friends, to enter rapidly into a
dialogue with the successor regime. Text. 164

In other words, the people of Iraq would continue to suffer until they
got with the neocons’ program of regime-change. After all, if killing
500,000 children was “worth it” to “contain” Saddam, then killing even
more children would be more than worth it to get rid of him altogether.

[0292] Albright was not expressing (just) her own views, she was
expressing Clinton’s. She was speaking for him and his administration.
Almost a decade later Democracy Now’s Amy Goodman had a look-back
chat with Bill Richardson, who had been Albright’s successor as
Clinton’s Ambassador to the UN. Goodman asked Richardson the
worth-it question that Stahl had asked Albright, and she asked it in the
context of Albright’s response and whether Richardson agreed. “Yes,” he
said. Worth it. 165

[0293] And so there can be virtually no doubt that Clinton and his
administration knew the sanctions were a form of pediocidal genocide
and yet they considered the 500,000 dead kids worth it to “contain
Saddam” . . . whatever that means. And Americans were OK with that.
There was no real reaction from the public to Albright’s sickening "worth
it" admission on 60 Minutes or to her being awarded the Medal of
Freedom Award by Obama. There was no public revulsion to
Richardson’s endorsement of so much gratuitous killing. It wasn’t a
matter of Americans forgiving Clinton for killing half a million Iraqi kids

165 There are numerous compilations of both the Stahl and Goodman interviews
online. Here’s one.
the way they forgave him for messing up Monica Lewinsky’s blue dress in the Oral Office. Americans were temporarily annoyed by Clinton’s sexual indiscretions and his lies under oath, but they couldn’t have cared less for the loss of Iraqi life he caused.

[0294] And my point in bringing up Iraq is that Albright and Richardson were implicitly evoking the distinction between “our people” and “their people.” Consider, for instance, what they would have said if for some reason the Iraq sanctions had cost the lives of 500,000 American children, 1-5 years old. Would either of them have dared suggest that killing 500,000 American toddlers was “worth it” in order to “contain” Saddam or get rid of him – or to achieve any objective, military or political, domestic or international? The thought of Americans being OK with the killing of American children in order to attain a political or military goal is as ludicrous as the thought of them being OK with the killing of Iraqi children is sick.

And so when Albright and Richardson said “It was worth it,” what they meant by the first “it” was not killing children, per se, but killing Iraqi children – the other guy’s children. And you have to start getting a sense for how really vicious these American politicians are.

[0295] But follow their logic: Having asserted that killing 500,000 Iraqi children was “worth it,” then it must necessarily follow that the killing of any single one of those children was worth it, and 500,000 times over. One cannot possibly assert that killing 500,000 children is worth it and not also assert the killing of any one of those children is also worth it.

As Stahl was asking Albright to stick her head into an Emmy-winning noose, CBS was showing on the screen a clip of a starving child, presumably an Iraqi child. How could Stahl have missed the opportunity? Why didn’t she ask Albright point-blank the “on-a-per-child-basis” question: Was the killing of that young girl worth it? Or CBS could have arranged to bring an Iraqi child onto the set, stand him/her in front of Albright and have Stahl ask whether killing that child would be worth it to get rid of Saddam. After all, that interview was in 1996 and Saddam was still Iraq’s leader. What could Albright have possibly answered?

[0296] When you look at children individually, it’s harder to see them as merely the other guy’s “own people,” but Americans are capable of anything. Recall, if you are old enough, a 1972 black-and-white Pulitzer-winning image of a 9 year old Vietnamese girl, Kim Phuc, burned by napalm, running naked and screaming toward the camera. That poor girl was suffering the consequences of Americans’ choice of Richard Nixon as their president, and Lyndon Baynes Johnson before him, and of Jack Kennedy before him. When Americans saw that photograph, they understood, at some level, who was really responsible for her suffering. They were. But that was OK for she was Vietnamese.
Had Kim Phuc been American child scorched by American napalm, the Vietnam War would have ended the next day.

[0297] And there’s a point in here about Ghouta. For if you give just a moment’s honest thought to how Americans and their politicians consider killing the other people’s children to be “worth it” in order to obtain political/military goals, then you’ve got to ask yourself this: If Americans can justify killing a half-million Iraqi toddlers as worth it in order to remove the despot Saddam from power, then how could Americans possibly complain about al-Nusra or ISIS killing a few hundred Syrian children in Ghouta in an attempt to remove that despot Assad from power? I mean, the scale of the Ghouta Massacre is minuscule compared to the scale of Americans’ Iraq Massacre, and yet the end point – regime-change – is equivalent. If it works to bring down Assad, then, from Americans’ way of thinking, the Ghouta Massacre was a great deal . . . on a per-child basis.

And that is both my closing point and my message. A per-child cost-basis is the way we have to look at the Ghouta Massacre. Any massacre, any war. And because the loss of any child, including the other guy’s, is an immeasurable loss, then killing even one cannot be worth it for any objective. Killing even one child intentionally or as reasonably foreseeable “collateral damage” should be punishable as a crime against humanity.

And I guess that brings us back to Bunny.

~ ~ ~

Murder in the SunMorgue was originally published online on Apr14.2014 as a series of pdf files. The original version can be found here. Separate files with just the images for each part are found there also. An online discussion page can be accessed here.
APPENDIX I
Tables

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Table I
Links to Videos

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vid ID/link</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time of day</th>
<th>Upload date</th>
<th>mp4 link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SM-a †</td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>~ Mid-day</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4&lt;sup&gt;168&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-b&lt;sup&gt;169&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Afternoon /evening</td>
<td>Aug22</td>
<td>mp4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM-c †</td>
<td>SM → DM Room #2</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4&lt;sup&gt;170&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm1-a&lt;sup&gt;171&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>DM Room #1</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm1-b&lt;sup&gt;172&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm2-a †</td>
<td>DM Room #2</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4&lt;sup&gt;173&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm2-b&lt;sup&gt;174&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug21</td>
<td>mp4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm3-a&lt;sup&gt;175&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>DM Room #3</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm3-b&lt;sup&gt;176&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug21</td>
<td>mp4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rm3-c&lt;sup&gt;177&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pat-a&lt;sup&gt;178&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>DM Patio</td>
<td>Night</td>
<td>Aug20</td>
<td>mp4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† The YouTube links to these videos have been taken down or access denied. Please access the mp4 links.

<sup>168</sup> http://logophere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20011a.mp4
<sup>169</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7bI0BuNlfw
<sup>170</sup> http://logophere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20031.mp4
<sup>171</sup> https://www.youtube.com/verify_controversy?next_url=/watch%3Fv%3DcBDb0fI_pwe
<sup>172</sup> https://www.youtube.com/verify_controversy?next_url=/watch%3Fv%3DGOAmM1rN8s%26bpctr%3D1390773070
<sup>173</sup> http://logophere.com/Syria/Videos/Vid%20030.mp4
<sup>174</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbmKPf1FozU
<sup>175</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWhuHM2KiDHm5&Tlist=PLO_yQ_Y4lJ5B11D1kCN-PRf9m9A7aLeSkX&index=2
<sup>176</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gzh5tK5gXrXqg&Tlist=PLO_yQ_Y4lJ5B11D1kCN-PRf9m9A7aLeSkX
<sup>177</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5Vby7TdnL8
<sup>178</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzLeXcJfNj
### Table II
Victim Locator Table

The table focuses on victims seen in more than one place and/or more than one video. The victim ID numbers are derived from a set of tables of Ghouta victims that provide more information on each victim. [Here](#).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim</th>
<th>SM</th>
<th>Rm #1</th>
<th>Rm #2</th>
<th>Rm #3</th>
<th>Patio</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B-005</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm1-a</td>
<td>Rm1-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-006</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-004</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seen in multiple al-Abdullah still shots in late afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-005</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seen in one al-Abdullah still shot in late afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-006</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Bunny”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim</td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Rm #1</td>
<td>Rm #2</td>
<td>Rm #3</td>
<td>Patio</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-a</td>
<td></td>
<td>“Baby.” Green blanket on white stretcher passing her connects Rm #3 to Rm #1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-008</td>
<td>SM-a SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-010</td>
<td>SM-a SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-a Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seen being roughly handled by Mr. Cranberry in Room #2, also prominently seen in multiple al-Abdullah still shots in the SM in the late afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-a Rm3-b</td>
<td>Pat-a</td>
<td>Also seen in at least two Zamalka videos and numerous still shots in the MSM.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-a Rm3-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-006</td>
<td>SM-a SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b Rm3-c Pat-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim</td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Rm #1</td>
<td>Rm #2</td>
<td>Rm #3</td>
<td>Patio</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>--------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pat-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-008</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shown in numerous MSM images. In the sun-videos a coin is placed over his heart, but in many of the still images the coin is missing. See Appendix II, More SunMorgue Oddities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-011</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-012</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bloody head wound, possibly slit throat. Blood on bottom of R shoe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-014</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm3-c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-015</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hemorrhaging from throat. Likely murdered in the SunMorgue. Seen in one still shot being brought into the SM. See Fig. 133.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim</td>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Rm #1</td>
<td>Rm #2</td>
<td>Rm #3</td>
<td>Patio</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
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<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-002</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Seen in almost all views of the SM, including multiple al-Abdullah still shots in late afternoon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-004</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-a</td>
<td>SM-c</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>“Fuchsia Lady” – connects SM to Room #2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-005</td>
<td>SM-a</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Covered by ornate brown blanket in both SM and Room #2 – connects SM to Room #2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SM-b</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W-006</td>
<td>SM-b (?)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rm2-a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Identification in the SM is tenuous. With W-005 may be one of only two women seen in both the SM and DM videos.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Murder in the SunMorgue ~ The Ghouta Massacre

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Table III
Table of Symptoms of the Three Toxins Under Consideration

The table shows symptoms caused by sarin (GB), carbon monoxide (CO), and cyanide (CN). “✓” indicates the symptom does occur for that toxin, “✗” indicates it does not. “—” indicates no information found. The column labeled “Useful?” indicates whether or not a symptom is useful in the present study in testing the three hypotheses. The symptoms in bold are those that have been used to test the hypotheses. Numbers in brackets refer to citations below. See Part C for full discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>GB</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>CN</th>
<th>Useful?</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Low to moderate dose symptoms</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salivation (drooling)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easily observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacrimation (tear production)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Moderate hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urinary incontinence</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defecation &amp; GI distress</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easily observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emetis (vomiting w/ or w/out nausea)</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easily observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronchorrhea</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>Y/N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easily observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyanosis</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easily observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubicundity</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Easily observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miosis</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye pain</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptom</td>
<td>GB</td>
<td>CO</td>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Useful?</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blurred vision</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive sweating</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• High hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coughing</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest tightness or pain</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid breathing</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confusion or dizziness</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drowsiness</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscular weakness</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Localized tremors / twitching</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential, unless GB applied to skin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradycardia</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>These symptoms are not useful b/c there is no way to monitor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>cardiovascular function from the videos and still shots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tachycardia</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypertension</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hypotension</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallucinations</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>✔️</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>• Low hypothesis discrimination potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Not amenable to observation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| High Dose Symptoms |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>GB</th>
<th>CO</th>
<th>CN</th>
<th>Useful?</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
• Easily observed                                                   |
• Easily observed                                                   |
• Not amenable to observation                                      |
| Convulsions                         | ✔ [1] [10] | ✔ [10] [11] | ✔ [9] | N       | • Low hypothesis discrimination potential  
• Included in the hypothesis testing because MSM emphasizes it.  
• Easily observed                                                   |
| Paralysis                           | ✔ [1] | \(\times\) [12] | ✔ [12] | N       | • Easily observed                                                   |
| Death due to respiratory failure    | ✔ [1] [10] | ✔ [11] | ✔ [19] | N       | • Low hypothesis discrimination potential |

1. CDC sarin fact-sheet  
2. CDC CO fact-sheet  
3. OPCW on sarin  
5. Dinesh Rao’s Forensic Pathology  
6. U of Dundee, Dept Forensic Medicine Lecture Notes  
8. OPCW on cyanide  
9. CDC CN fact sheet  
11. Neurology MedLink  
12. Negative observations not reported and not expected. Lack of symptom predicted by the physiological and pharmacological principles.  
13. Homeland Security National Terror Alert  
16. There are a number of anecdotal observations of bronchorrhea in CO victims. For instance: *UK case*: “The inquest heard Jordan found Declan in bed 45 minutes later with white foam around his nostrils and mouth.” *Orlando, FL* case: “Schroeder was found sitting upright in the front seat, passed out and foaming from the mouth. The truck’s CO alarm was sounding.” *LA Times*: “She found her husband panting and foaming at the mouth and immediately called 911, Reinhart said.”
Table IV  
Summary of Analysis of the Hypotheses

For each of the seven symptoms examined predictions on whether and to what extent the symptom is predicted by each hypothesis are summarized. Observations as to each symptom are also summarized, as are conclusions. See Chapter Eight for full discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptom</th>
<th>Predicted by Sarin-H&lt;sup&gt;0&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Predicted by CO-H&lt;sup&gt;0&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Predicted by CN-H&lt;sup&gt;0&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Conclusions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ante-mortem Symptoms (Dark Morgue)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Ante-mortem skin color | Incidence of cyanosis hi – incidence of rubricundity very lo to nil | Incidence of rubricundity hi – incidence of cyanosis lo to nil | Predominately rubricundity, but occasional cyanosis possible | Very hi incidence of rubricundity, no cyanosis observed | • Strongly contradicts sarin-H<sup>0</sup>  
• Strongly supports CO-H<sup>0</sup> & CN-H<sup>0</sup> |
| 2. Fecal Incontinence  | Incidence hi                      | Incidence lo – fear-induced possible | No examples seen               |                              | • Strongly contradicts sarin-H<sup>0</sup>  
• Mildly supports CO-H<sup>0</sup> & CN-H<sup>0</sup> |
| 3. Salivation (watery) | Incidence hi                      | Incidence lo to nil             | No examples seen               |                              | • Strongly contradicts sarin-H<sup>0</sup>  
• Mildly supports CO-H<sup>0</sup> & CN-H<sup>0</sup> |
| 4. Bronchorrhea        | Cases possible, incidence not predictable but likely low | Not known                       | Two examples seen              |                              | • Mildly supports sarin-H<sup>0</sup> & CO-H<sup>0</sup>  
• Inconclusive as to CN-H<sup>0</sup> |
| 5. Convulsions         | Incidence hi for a few seconds prior to death | Incidence moderate to high but only for a few seconds prior to death | No examples seen               |                              | • This symptom is not helpful in distinguishing the hypotheses b/c it is so short-lived. |
| **Post-mortem Symptoms (Sun Morgue)** |                                  |                                |                                |                              |                                                                            |
| 6. Pallor mortis color | Exclusively bluish grey           | Predominately red/pink          | Red/pink, occasionally bluish | Red/Pink consistently observed w/ minor questionable exceptions | Strongly supports CO-H<sup>0</sup> Supports CN-H<sup>0</sup>  
Strongly contradicts Sarin-H<sup>0</sup> |
| 7. Livor mortis color  | Exclusively dark blue to purple   | Predominately red/pink          | Brick red, occasionally bluish-purple | Red/pink consistently observed | Strongly supports CO-H<sup>0</sup> Supports CN-H<sup>0</sup>  
Strongly contradicts Sarin-H<sup>0</sup> |
APPENDIX II
Details & Diversions

CONTENTS

Timeline of the Videos ........................................ 234
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Other Experts Expressing Doubt Over the Sarin Myth .... 266
A timeline, or even a sequence, of the KB videos is not necessary in order to establish the primary conclusion of this paper that the Ghouta Massacre was a mass-execution perpetrated by the insurgents and not a CW attack perpetrated by the Assadists. In short, we don’t need to know which video preceded another in order to see that the victims in both videos are rubicund and not cyanotic. But having at least a rough sequence of the videos is necessary in order to establish some of the ancillary evidence that supports the primary conclusion. For instance, because many of the corpses shown in the DarkMorgue are also shown in the SunMorgue, knowing that the DM videos were taken before the SM videos supports the conclusion that the SM was a temporary repository for bodies between the time the people died in the DM and the time they were buried.

As with all circumstantial evidence, the assumptions underlying this proposed timeline must be made clear. There are two. The first assumption is that the massacre took place in the pre-dawn hours. The second assumption is that all of the KB videos and images we are working with were taken after the massacre took place and before the end of that same day.

We can verify these assumptions by the dates the videos were uploaded to YouTube, which was Aug20, 2014, Pacific Daylight Time, for almost all of the videos. This was Aug21, Damascus time. Any videos showing an upload date of Aug20 would have been uploaded prior to 10AM Aug20 YouTube time, or PDT. Only one of the KB videos (SM-b) was uploaded after Aug21 Damascus time. Of course, the upload time does not tell us when the video was taken, it only determines the latest point in time at which it could have been taken.

What these assumptions are getting at is obvious: all of the videos that were taken during the dark hours were taken in the pre-dawn morning of Aug21 Damascus time and all of the videos taken in daylight were taken sometime during that day. I don’t believe anyone has suggested that these videos span more than that period of about 18 hours (~2 AM to ~8 PM). In Part A I mentioned a video as an example of fraud. (See Fig. 5.) This video was uploaded a number of days after the massacre; it was not a KB video and is not a part of this analysis.

Given these assumptions the following picture of the sequence of the KB videos can be pieced together. Time is flowing from top to bottom; the arrows should be read as saying “precedes.”
We have two very firm temporal reference points. Video SM-c was taken at night without question, and videos SM-a and SM-b, the sun videos, were taken during daylight, and more specifically SM-a was taken about noon and SM-b sometime after that. These represent the strongest nighttime and daylight touchstones. Let me begin with the daylight videos and images because that sequence is most certain.

**Afternoon/evening**  As argued in Part B, SM-a was shot at about noon. We know this by the strength of the sunlight on the walls of the SM and the angle of the shadows. We also have numerous indications that SM-a precedes SM-b. For instance, we see the phlebotomists at work in SM-a and we see syringes with blood and plasma lying on the bodies in SM-b.

What I refer to in the timeline diagram as the “al-Abdullah SM photos” are those still images that show the SM in waning light and nearly empty. We know that SM-b preceded these photos because the murdered man’s corpse, M-015, which is visible in both of the sun-videos, had been removed before the al-Abdullah photos were taken, leaving behind the bloody floor and the bloody, blue blanket.

Consequently, we can deduce that the videos and images of the bottom half of the timeline diagram shows the SM in the afternoon and early evening of Aug21.2014.

**Dawn**  Recall, Fig.133 in Part D. We know that Fig. 133 was taken prior to SM-a because it shows M-015 on a stretcher being set down on the floor of the SM, but there is no blood on the floor and no bloody rag. Having made the case in Section D that the floor and blue blanket became bloody with blood from M-015’s wound, Fig. 133 had to
precede the **sun-videos**, which means it was taken before noon.

Setting a more precise time is possible. The figure shows a lot of bodies in the SM and the floor clean and dry, and so it must have been taken quite a while after the late night view of the SM seen in SM-c.

To my eye, the far wall shown in Fig. 133 is lit by faint light from the window and yet the overhead lights are still on. All of this suggests to me that the photo was taken at about dawn.

**Nighttime**  The upper portion of the timeline diagram shows three groups of videos, labeled “A,” “B,” & “C.” I don’t think it is possible to arrange these videos or these three groups chronologically except for how they are shown grouped.

The videos with asterisks were taken by Mr. Minnie. Group "A" represents three Mr. Minnie videos that comprise a continuous sequence that begins outside the KB complex at night and proceeds through the SM and into the DM, past Room #2, into Room #1, and back to Room #2. And so there can be no question that sequence “A” precedes the daylight videos.

The two videos in box “B” are also Mr. Minnie videos and are also a continuous sequence. This sequence begins in Room #3 and proceeds out the door and onto the patio, in pitch black nighttime. While the box “B” videos certainly precede the daylight videos, it is not possible to say whether they precede or follow the other nighttime videos.

The two videos in box “C” are both of Room #3. I infer they were taken during the night because of their relationship to video Rm2-b.

Video Rm2-b is a sort of a nexus between the night videos and the day videos, being the last of the night ones. But the evidence for this conclusion is subtle.

First, to establish that Rm2-b came later than Rm2-a, recall that in Rm2-a Mr. Cranberry was doing his dramatic thing picking G-010 up off the floor and putting her down again next to the brown blanket. But in Rm2-b, G-010 is seen under the blanket while other children's bodies are on top of it. Also, the body of woman W-005 dressed in black with the pink hijab is seen under the blanket next to the wall in Rm2-a, and in Rm2-b the body of a girl in green has been placed on top of the blanket between W-005 and the wall. These differences suggest that Rm2-a preceded Rm2-b.

With respect to Room #3, at the very beginning of video Rm2-b, we see five male bodies neatly arranged close to the door through which the group of men are entering the room. As noted in Section B, the hands of victim M-006 are tied together with his belt in this image, whereas in videos Rm3-c and Pat-a his arms are sprawled and his belt is in place on his trousers and buckled. Consequently, video Rm2-b must follow the others.

Furthermore, the other videos of Room #3 – Rm3-a and Rm3-b – show the room in great disarray with bodies and gas cylinders spread out all over the floor, whereas in video Rm2-b, the floor is empty and clean except for the five bodies near the door and the body of victim M-014 on the floor near the back of the room.
For these reasons I believe the timeline shown above provides a rough idea of when each of the videos and images we have examined was taken between about 2 AM and evening on Aug 21, 2014, Damascus time. The timeline further supports the contention that were bodies are seen in both the DM and SM, they were in the DM prior to being taken to the SM.

~ More SunMorgue Oddities ~

As I have wandered around the KB complex on the shoulders of the cameramen, some really odd things have popped up – not that a large corpse bleeding all over the floor through a blue kiddie-blanket isn’t odd enough. But these are little things, mostly, and probably irrelevant . . . but weird. Really weird. And weird things popping up turn me on, especially when they might be additional evidence that could be used to convict the killers of these children. And so, here I raise a few of these oddities with you in the hopes that what makes no sense to me will be immediately obvious to you and you might be good enough to explain what I cannot.

Muffled and not so muffled gunshots

There is one SM oddity that is not visual, it’s (mostly) audible. If you want to follow, put on your headphones and run SM-a again.

The first thing you will notice is how incredibly noisy the SM is, which is, in itself, odd for a morgue where one might expect a modicum of silent respect for the victims. But if you listen carefully through the cacophony, at 00:20 you can hear a double-tap that sounds like two muffled gunshots in quick succession. If they are gunshots, they would have to come from an automatic weapon to be that closely spaced.

Then, near the end of the video, at 01:14, there are two unmistakable, clear, and un-muffled gunshots. The cameraman flinches and jolts the camera. Nobody else takes much notice. Mortia looks up from Bunny and glances out the window briefly but shows no other reaction. Immediately after the two clear gunshots, you can hear another muffled double-tap.

Now, once again, context is everything. And once we begin to suspect that the KB complex was a vile place where people were executed rather than a place where injured people were receiving succor, and once we see a guy lying on the floor bleeding big-time from the throat . . . well, gunshots in such a context are not likely to have a benign explanation. What hangs in my mind is all of those people in the DM who were not dead when Mr. Minnie videoed them in the middle of the night, and they never showed up for the photo-ops in the SM. Not a single person who is alive in the DM videos is shown in the SM, and yet many of the people who are dead in the DM videos are...
found in the SM. Once Mr. Minnie and the other insurgent PR guys were done filming these suffering people in the DM for propaganda pieces, what happened to them? As witnesses, clearly they could not just be allowed to recover and leave.

The coin

Back in Section C, I showed you a Reuters still image I came across in the Irish Independent, it's body M-008 lying against the wall of the SM. Here that image is again.

The point I was making in Section C was about the cherry-red livor mortis visible on M-008's waist. The point I'm making now is that in this image there is no coin on his chest.

And the reason I point that out is that if you look at both of the sun-videos very, very carefully, you will see the coin. (Fig. 149.) When perusing the sun-videos initially, I thought I was seeing some sort of hole in M-008's shirt. Maybe a bullet-hole, for all I knew.

But then I came upon that Independent image (Fig. 148) and the hole was gone. Same man, same shirt that is pushed up in the same way, same SunMorgue . . . no hole. And so I dove back into the online still image collections because they are normally clearer than video screen-

---

179 The Independent, Reuters. Image #20 in the collection of 66.
grabs and, sure enough, I found the following image of M-008. The hole is actually a coin or token of some sort.

![Image of M-008 with coin on chest]

**Fig. 150. Coin placed over the heart of M-008. Source.**

The figure above is from the Shaam photo collection, which has since mysteriously disappeared – I mean the whole collection. The coin looks to be silver or nickel. It has an engraved outer circle, and an engraved inner circle. I would guess it’s about the size of a US quarter. I have looked at images of hundreds of coins from countries in the Middle East and I cannot identify the coin, the image is just too grainy.

In that same Shaam collection I also found a second photo of M-008 lying in the same place, against the south wall of an almost empty SM, in waning light with just five children remaining in the room – and the coin still on his chest. Both of these Shaam photos are credited to Mohammed al-Abdullah, but you have to run the Arabic caption through Google Translate to see that. I cannot find a photo credit for the Independent photo above other than Reuters. However, most of the other still photos of the SM at about the same time of day and nearly emptied of bodies are Reuters photos credited to al-Abdullah that it appears a moderately safe guess that all of these photos featuring M-008 – both with and without the coin – in the SM late in the day were taken by al-Abdullah. And so the following possible timeline emerges.

In DM video **Rm2-b** we can see M-008 lying on the floor of Room #3 at night with four other male victims, all five bodies patiently waiting to be carried up to the SM. (See Fig. 59.) There is no coin. The earliest the coin appears is in **SM-a** which we know was taken about noon. It is also seen in **SM-b** taken shortly after, when the sunlight had softened a little bit.

And so we can surmise that sometime after M-008 was brought from the DM and positioned in the SM – but prior to the time the sun videos were taken – someone reached down and carefully placed the coin on his chest, right over his heart, where it must have remained for hours. We know it was there for hours because al-Abdullah’s photo showing M-008 with the coin on his chest and the other shot in the Shaam collection (not shown here), also with the coin on his chest, were taken in the waning light in a nearly empty SM. After al-Abdullah took those two photos, someone removed the coin from M-008’s chest.

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180 The source of this image at Shaam.org, has been taken down prior to publication of this study.
before the photo published by the Independent was taken (Fig. 148), presumably also by al-Abdullah. Now, I don’t want to jump to any wild conclusions here, but this timeline suggests to me that if I were looking for that coin, the first place I would check would be Mohammad’s pockets.

But more importantly, there may be something important but subtle going on here. What is the significance – political, religious, superstitious – of placing a coin on a body? Why would anybody go to the trouble? Was the coin on the man’s chest meant to be a sign of respect? Of disrespect? It smacks of Costa Nostra, but maybe not to Syrians. I can find no other examples of coins placed on bodies in the KB videos or any other Ghouta videos.

Under the “old” context that this morgue is holding bodies of victims killed in a sarin attack, I cannot think of a single reason why anyone would mark this – or any – specific body with a coin. But under the “new” context that the insurgents running this SM are the actual killers or working with the killers, and the SM was set up for photo-ops prior to burying the bodies, I can come up with a number of possibilities. Perhaps the coin was a pre-arranged signal communicating a message to someone at a distance who can’t just pick up the phone and chat – someone like, say, Ayman al-Zawahiri, current head of al-Qaeda, present whereabouts unknown, at least pending the next Navy Seal raid. Or it might have been a way of identifying M-008 to let al-Abdullah know that this body needed special photographic attention, or to let someone viewing the videos and al-Abdullah’s still shots know that this person was a specific target that had been taken out. Ideas welcome.

The red rag, or bag, . . .or something

By now, if you’re as spooked by this SM as I am, bright red things are really going to grab your attention. Well, here’s another one. Below are two views looking east at the main entrance. The top view is from SM-a and the lower one, taken at roughly the same spot, is from SM-b. The area to the left in these shots is the SM side-foyer and side-entrance. The bright red, amorphous object in the foyer in the top view is . . . well, I’m asking you. The floor adjacent the object seems to have a red glow, but that may well be reflected light.

Fig. 151. Red objects really start sticking out in this place. Vid-SM-a/01:00
Whatever it is, it disappeared before SM-b was taken. I cannot see this foyer in the still shots of the SM and so the only timeline I have is the two-point timeline of the sun-videos. Whatever it is, it was there when SM-a was taken and it was gone before SM-b was taken.

Fig. 152. Gone. Vid-SM-b/01:28

I don’t mean to push this too far, or overstate the importance of this amorphous whatever. I note it as an example of how, given the context-shift, many things suddenly seem out of place in a morgue, and this one by virtue of it’s unexpected bright color. But bright red rags or bags are not the only red things in the SM that seem out of place by virtue of their color. A lot of fingers do, too.

Ruby fingers

As the two cameramen walk through the SM taking the sun videos, numerous headless workers and desultory loafers wander around the room and, often, walk right in front of the cameras. If you look carefully at these men – including the one apparently guarding all those dead people with an AK-47 assault rifle (Fig. 156) – you will see some of the most ruby red fingers south of Juneau. Examples:

Fig. 153-156. Eskimo-style fingers displayed by Syrian insurgents in the SM.

In addition to these rubicund fingers, I have commented in the main text about red toes in these workers. (See Fig. 3b.)
This ruby red digits phenomenon is not restricted to the SM; it is seen throughout the KB complex. They are particularly curious in the sun-videos because those videos were taken near noon on an August day in Damascus when the temperature was almost 100°F., and yet these people have fingers that look like they just finished a mid-winter dog-sled race and left their mittens at the starting line. Such red fingers might not normally attract one’s attention, but it certainly does when the current best theory going is that the KB victims were gassed with a rubigenic agent. Given that theory, these bright red fingers could be the result of low-level CO or CN intoxication that resulted from these cherry-fingered workers being tasked with removing bodies from a gas chambers or with other jobs in rooms where the toxic gasses had not been completely purged. A person whose CO-Hb level is around 30% might well have such color changes and still be functioning fairly well, particularly if they are young and in good health.

Kitten amongst the goats

Whilst it is not an issue directly connected to the SM – or even Kafr Batna – the kitten amongst the goats is weird enough to merit a few words of mention. Even without the kitten the goats are weird enough to be worthy of a couple of comments. From a pharmacological point of view, one would expect that if enough sarin had landed in an urban area to produce a cloud capable of killing over 1000 people in their sleep, then we would be seeing dead a lot more dead things than people. Like, dogs, cats, rats, pigeons, parakeets, mice, cockroaches, locusts, flies – well, any animal with an acetylcholine receptor, and that includes every animal that runs, flies, crawls, swims, tweets, or texts. The non-human carnage should have been 10, or 100, or 1000 times greater than the human, and dead animals should have been everywhere you looked. This is one of those examples of negative evidence: because you don’t see it, you can be quite sure there was no sarin rocket attack.

And, of course, the insurgents know that, so there are a few videos that make a pitiful effort to show dead animals. A cat in one video, a dog in another, with the emphasis on the singular, for these are mostly videos or still shots of isolated animal deaths. As evidence of a sarin attack, they are laughably inadequate.

One of the most risible of these is a video flagged by Eliot Higgins showing the “exact location” of a sarin rocket impact site in Zamalka – the actual rocket sticking out of the ground. The ridiculous part of this video occurs 20 seconds in when one of the insurgents is talking to the camera in one instant and in the next he can be seen dashing off, out of the view of the camera. When the camera catches up with him, it looks like he ran about 30 yards, turned around, and came back holding out a

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181 https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Pc6xL-N6fSM

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dead sparrow, looking as proud as an suburban tabby bringing home its first kill. The guy’s dead sparrow (which probably would have been contaminated with sarin if that’s what killed it) was thereafter offered as proof positive by more than one pro-insurgent blog of a sarin attack.

Fig. 157. Sharp-eyed insurgent bird-collector displays dead sparrow. No tweets or twitters, and no concerns for sarin contamination. Link above.

The UN Mission visited the very site where the bird-man is standing, for there are very few alleged sites where a so-called sarin munition is actually sticking out of the ground. Two, I believe. And yet the UN Mission did not take a single sample from any dead animal – and I’m not talking just no samples from any dead human; I’m talking no dead animals at all! There should have been thousands and tens of thousands of dead rats and birds lying around this area, any one of which, if chosen at random by the UN team and if tested positive for sarin, would have provided helpful and moderately reliable evidence of a CW attack with sarin. Nothing. Zilch. Nada. The camera scans over a number of acres of bare ground in this dead-bird video, and not another dead animal is seen anywhere.

But then there were the goats, and they were certainly dead. In Part C I presented the following screen-grab from a video, link below, featuring a pile of perhaps two dozen goats in rigor mortis that was offered as “proof” of a sarin attack. Like the bird-man video, this goat video is marked with the Erbin insurgents’ logo, but that doesn’t mean that Erbin is where it was shot. The English translation of the title is: “Animals died due to chemical weapons and eyewitness testimony of what happened 22/08/2013.” And like the bird-man video, this is one of those many videos in which for some reason the insurgents splice two copies of the same footage together into one video – sort of like what geneticists would call a tandem repeat.

This is one of the more surreal videos out of Ghouta, and that places it high in the running for the most surreal video worldwide. It shows a spooky guy with a nicely trimmed beard looking vaguely drugged talking and gesturing. There is also a voice behind the camera making it a dialog. Presumably, they’re speaking Arabic.

From the pointing and gesticulations, the bodies of the goats in the
background seem to be the subject of the discussion. The goats have been neatly arranged adjacent to a large opening that has been cut into the wall of a cinder-brick building. The way the goats have been placed right in front of the opening, it looks to my eye like they were gassed inside the building and then pulled out and stacked.

![Fig. 158. Ghouta goats allegedly killed by sarin.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rw31LO_2o8)

But I still haven’t gotten to the weirdest part. Eventually, the bearded guy ends the dialog and steps off-camera. We hear a loud motorcycle being fired up behind the camera and driven away. The cameraperson keeps talking and moves in for a close-up of the dead goats and flies. In the background, wind gusts push a plastic bag along the ground.

As the camera approaches the neat pile of dead goats, if you’re quick, you’ll see the kitten hiding among the goat bodies, cowering from the camera.

![Fig. 159. A kitty peeking out from among the Ghouta goats.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rw31LO_2o8)

I have not been able to find any reports in the sarin literature suggesting that kittens are immune to organophosphates, which

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182 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0rw31LO_2o8
presents a problem for the insurgents’ sarin scenario. For if those goats were killed by sarin, the kitten should be as dead and stiff as the goats are. Even if the kitten somehow avoided the initial cloud of sarin, the goats’ wool would be impregnated with the toxin and would stay that way for days or weeks, particularly in the dry desert air. Piling sarin-laced goat bodies up like that would create a toxic environment that should reduce a kitten’s life expectancy to mere seconds.

In fact, standing next to a pile of sarin-laced goat bodies would likely reduce the life expectancy of the cameraperson and his bearded interlocutor, as well.

Of course, if those goats were gassed with CO or CN in that building and pulled out into the windy street and left long enough to develop rigor mortis, the kitty would be just fine, which it appears to be.

~ Evidence in Support of the Juliet Hypothesis ~

I have referred repeatedly to Mother Superior Agnes-Mariam el-Salib, a Carmelite nun of the St. James Monastery in Qara. She became something of a media sensation following a 50 page report she published on Sep11.2013 that pushes back – and hard – against the USG storyline that Assad gassed those people in Ghouta with sarin. Her report is called the ISTEAMS Report, and is, essentially, her response to the USG intelligence services anonymous, undated “intelligence assessment”. And so you have on one hand, James Clapper, a known public liar, providing the public with the US intel “assessment” saying that Assad attacked Ghouta with sarin, and on the other hand you have a mother superior who has been ministering to the poor in Syria for 20 years, and she is saying the US version is complete bunk . . . well, who you gonna’ believe? My advice would be don’t waste a lot of time listening to any known liar, not that you were likely to anyway.

Mother Agnes-Mariam and her team waded through a lot of the same Ghouta videos I have and came up with what they thought was proof of fraud. I have addressed a number of the same points in this report that the ISTEAMS Report addresses, and I have found that some of the ISTEAMS accusations have merit, but some of clearly them do not, and I provided one example of a flawed allegation in Part B. (See Fig. 69.) The ISTEAMS report also erred by claiming that the SM and Room #2 of the DM are in two different cities, and it mistakenly asserts that the phlebotomist, Mort, was injecting SM bodies with something, when the evidence is quite clear that he was drawing blood.

And so a number of factual assertions made by the ISTEAMS Report are clearly incorrect, but Mother Agnes-Mariam is no dummy,
and what really made the world sit up was the way she connected dots no one else had even noticed – the hundreds of people kidnapped from Latakia and the Ghouta Massacre two weeks later.

The ISTEAMS report is also one of the major sources of what I have introduced in Part C as the “Juliet Hypothesis” – the idea that the bodies we see in the Ghouta videos are not really dead but are playing dead or are drugged to look dead. While I have identified one video where that sort of thing seems to be going on (See Fig. 5.), I have rejected the Juliet-H° for the most part because so many of the bodies display pallor mortis and livor mortis, which would be awfully hard to fake. But it is easy to see how one who was not thinking in terms of carbon monoxide or cyanide could have looked at all of those bodies with such excellent color and concluded that they were not really dead; I made the same mistake, initially.

In retrospect, looking at people lying on the floor of a morgue and trying to read their rosy lips to determine if they might not, in fact, be alive and lying very still for the cameras was not an exercise that in itself was likely to lead to any valuable conclusions unless one of the bodies sneezed or rolled over, and, of course, if that happened it was never going to make its way onto YouTube. But a lot of people were getting into this Juliet-H° idea. And with that idea in mind, the closer you look, the more supporting evidence you see – that’s the way the mind works.

One of the major provocations for this Juliet-H° was a rumor bobbing around the blogosphere by some anonymous hacker who claimed to have hacked the Emails of a US Army colonel, Anthony Jamie MacDonald, who knew what “really happened,” and sent an Email to his wife to reassure her that all of those kids in Ghouta were OK. Just faking. 185 Although it raised quite a buzz initially, the whole thing pretty much dissipated into the cyberfog, probably because anyone following the Ghouta Massacre is going to understand that the propaganda war between the insurgents and Assadists is 99% BS. No one is going to believe second and third-hand anonymous hear-say. I was a bit surprised that TIME magazine took the bait. Unfortunately, their article on the rumor probably gave it more life than it deserved. 186

But even without wasting time on anonymous Syrian hackers, there were plenty of suggestions in the videos themselves that maybe the children weren’t really dead. For instance, there are the images of the bodies of G-004 and “Bunny” in the SM, which could be interpreted that these kids were moving around.

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185 See, for instance: http://acloserlookonsyria.shoutwiki.com/wiki/MacDonald_email_leak .
186 http://www.isidewith.com/article/hack-of-u-s-army-colonel-spawns-online-syria-war-conspiracy
Panels A and B above are of G-004 (in orange) and Bunny (in cranberry) taken from SM-a and SM-b, respectively. Having concluded that Vid-SM-a was recorded before Vid-SM-b, (See Section B) it seemed very curious that somehow the left knee of G-004 acquired a conspicuous black smudge sometime after SM-a was taken but before SM-b. Here are magnified views of the knee from “A” and “B” juxtaposed:

How could a child’s body lying supine on the floor acquire a black stain on its knee? Had the child been crawling around on the floor between the two videos? It also seemed somewhat odd that G-004’s ankles were crossed – right over left. That seemed like a pose a living person might be expected to assume but not a dead one. And so I started pulling up different views of this scene on the Internet, and what I found made me even more suspicious that maybe these kids weren’t
dead.

One can find quite a few different views of the SM children’s corner on the Internet. Image C above, for instance, is a still shot that shows this same area and the same bodies in the same places, with Mortia the phlebotomist standing among the children’s bodies. We know that image “A” (SM-a) precedes “B” (SM-b), and it is almost certain that image “C” precedes “A” because Mortia has not yet drawn Bunny’s blood. Please note that neither image “A” nor image “C” – the two earliest images – show the dark smudge on the left knee of G-004. Most of the images of G-004 on the Internet were taken late in the day and they all show this smudge. Also, the late afternoon al-Abdullah images of G-004 show her ankles no longer crossed. (See Figs. 13-21.)

Given this sequence C → A → B there are a couple of other strange things going on here that made me question whether there might not be something to the Juliet-H.

For one, look at Bunny’s right leg – it is extended in the earliest view, C, but it is bent in both A and B. None of the bodies around her have been shifted, and judging from the lines of the floor, her torso has not been moved so much as an inch, nor has the position or the odd angle of her right wrist changed – suggesting the body was not moved. Her left leg seems not to have moved at all.

How does the body of a child go from having an extended leg to a bent knee like that? If A and B had preceded C, then we could suppose that rigor mortis had not yet set in and her foot passively slipped on the tile floor so that her leg extended under the force of gravity. But gravity won’t cause an extended leg to bend like that.

Then there is the hematoma on the inside of Bunny’s left elbow. See it? Well, you won’t see it if you are looking at C because it’s not there, and that’s my point. Here is the elbow magnified as shown in C vis a vis SM-b. (Fig. 162.) A hematoma appearing on the L elbow of Bunny.

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It is almost certain that the hematoma on Bunny’s elbow was caused by Mortia. We cannot see over Mortia’s shoulder as she is working on Bunny in SM-a, and so we can’t tell whether she is trying to draw the blood from Bunny’s arm or abdominal area, maybe both. She may well have first tried unsuccessfully to get the blood from Bunny’s arm and gave up and got it from the femoral vein. Note that what she ended up with was plasma, and I don’t believe she would have gotten that from the smaller vessel of the arm.

But I don’t know whether jabbing a needle into the arm of a corpse would cause that sort of dark hematoma – particularly when the person was supposed to have died 10 hours previously. I would have thought not. In fact, I did think not, which is why I considered this hematoma to be further evidence that these children were not really dead.

You can see from these sorts of weird observations in the SM how the Juliet-H could gain some traction. However, as I’ve said, the observed livor mortis – such as in G-004 (See Fig. 115.) – has to mean that many or most of these children in the SM were dead when videoed. Then again, we don’t have a view in which we can see if Bunny is displaying any lividity, and her skin color is very natural. Also in Part C I pointed out that some of the children in the SM clearly do not display any lividity. (See Figs. 116 & 117.) Consequently, whilst we are justified in dismissing the Juliet-H in many cases, I don’t believe we have the evidence to dismiss it with respect to every child.

Once again, all I can do is bring these observations to your attention and hope that someone can make sense of them. I think you will agree with me, tho’ – this SunMorgue was a weird place.

~ Room #2: Where the Devil Is ~

If Lucifer really is in the details, then he is deeply embedded in the DM, and particularly Room #2, for there are so many devilish details in these videos, it has taken months to flush them out. I have learned one thing really well: To find what’s most important, you have to look past whatever the cameraman is focusing. It’s like a magician, if you watch only the hand holding the wand, you’ll never see where the rabbit comes from. The most interesting information, the evidence that this is a crime scene, is in the background – shoes, tiles, wall sockets, the color of finger tips, blood on a tee-shirt, a laughing boy.

Somehow in the end it all has to add up to a coherent picture: the truth. For everything ultimately makes sense. If it seems not to, then you are missing necessary details, which are almost always the ones the devil is in.
Here I want to illustrate this point with a few of examples of fleeting details in the background that could be important in understanding not just Room #2, or the KB complex, but the entire Ghouta Massacre.

Gas cylinders

One of the more conspicuous and curious background details of the DM is all of the gas cylinders lying around. In Fig. 53 I indicated the positions of 5 gas cylinders in Room #2 and in the hallways adjacent to Room #2. There was a sixth cylinder in Room #3 (Fig. 64), and a seventh on the patio. And that's just the ones we can see – all within about 20 feet of each other.

They all look to be standard 44 liter cylinders, 9" in diameter by 51" long. Using the American system for calculating volume of gas cylinders, the total would be about 1525 cubic feet of compressed gas. That's a lot of gas. That would be more than half the volume of a room that is 15 feet x 20 feet x 8 feet. A welder might use 10 cubic feet per hour.

What is odd about the cylinders in the videos is that their safety caps had been removed so that the valves were exposed, and yet nothing was attached to any of the cylinders, certainly not flow meters as one would expect if they were being used for medical purposes. But even weirder than that, the valves had no handles to open and close the valve. If someone, for instance, opened the valves of these cylinders and then took the handles off, there would be no way to get the valves closed and the gas, whatever it is, would just escape and fill the air.

I'll let you make of that what you will. To me, it's damned suspicious.

The brown blanket and blue rag

In Part B I drew your attention to video Rm2-b and I pointed out that this video is important because it connects rooms #2 and #3 of the DarkMorgue together and both of them to the SunMorgue. The analysis of this point is too complicated to layout in the main text and so I have deferred until now.

What is at issue, primarily, is establishing that videos Rm2-a and
Rm2-b are showing the same corner of Room #2 with different bodies. The bodies shown in Rm2-b all end up in the SM; the bodies shown in Rm2-a don’t, with two exceptions: W-005, the woman with the pink hijab, and G-010, the girl in red that was man-handled by Mr. Cranberry. This is a very good example of how confusing these videos can be until they are connected, and then they seem so obvious. I went through several glasses of wine over a period of about four nights trying to sort out just this one problem. Merlot.

When Mr. Minnie entered Room #2 in video Rm2-a, he entered from Hallway “A” through a door in the east end of the room. In that video he aimed his camera down the length of the room to the northwest corner where there was a brown blanket. He then walked the length of the room and ended the video looking down on the brown blanket, but we never get a view of what was behind him; i.e. the southwest corner. Nevertheless, we can deduce that there must be a doorway there by the fact that while Mr. Minnie was shooting the video, people keep appearing at the west end of the room. The mystery doorway actually connects Room #2 and Room #3. Here is the schematic, Fig. 52, again. The brown blanket is marked “B.” Not to scale.

![Diagram](image)

Fig. 164. Schematic of the (known parts of the) DarkMorgue. Not to scale.

Once a few dots got connected, I understood that in video Rm2-b I was actually watching people pass through this mystery doorway. That video shows that when a cortège of men enter a room, they are directly facing the brown blanket with several bodies of children on and under it. But, as I say, these are different children than the ones seen in Rm2-a when Mr. Cranberry was there. The lack of body-continuity between
the two videos of Room #2 causes confusion and initially suggests that we are looking at two different brown blankets in two different rooms with two different groups of children. But, no. What we are seeing is the same blanket in the same room and an almost complete turn-over in children’s bodies between the shooting of Rm2-a and Rm2-b. And my reason for saying that comes down to G-010’s white hair ribbon and a blue rag. And the brown blanket itself – in fact – it is the same brown blanket we saw covering W-005 in the SM. (See Figs. 50 & 51.) So let me focus on the blanket first.

I have never seen a more peripatetic blanket in my life. It appears in many of the SM still shots (Figs. 16 & 17), and it also appears in both sun-videos. And, of course, in Room #2.

In both of these videos of Room #2, we see victims lying on the blanket and under it. (Images “I” & “J” of Fig. 53.) The blanket is less important than the people associated with it, but its evidentiary utility is that it allows us say with some certainty that the room we see in Rm2-b is the same room we see in Rm2-a, which is to say Room #2. And it also helps us connect Room #2 to the SM. But we have to be cautious because there are at least two blankets in the KB images of about the same color. It could be a design commonly seen in this area.

I will not go into all of the evidence proving the brown blanket in Room #2 is the same brown blanket in the SM, but I will set forth the strongest piece of evidence, and that is that the blanket is associated with victim W-005 in both Room #2 and the SM. Here are two screen-grabs from Rm2-a showing the blanket in Room #2.

![Fig. 165. The blanket in Room #2 – long view on approach. Rm2-a/00:22.](image)

![Fig. 166. The blanket in Room #2 – close up. Rm2-a/00:52.](image)
The image on the left is a view of the northwest corner of Room #2 taken as Mr. Minnie moves from the entrance at the east end toward the west wall, where the blanket is seen in the corner. You can see Mr. Cranberry just beginning to bend over to scoop up G-010 and launch into his tirade. This shot defines the blanket’s position in the northwest corner of Room #2, as shown in the schematics. When Mr. Minnie gets to the western end of the room, he turns to his right and sweeps the blanket-area, but Mr. Cranberry and a number of other workers/loafers photo-bomb the shot and so we don’t get a very good view of the blanket area. But we can see a body under the edge of the blanket adjacent to the wall. This is W-005 – her foot, clothed in black, sticks out of one end of the blanket, and, with a little imagination, you can just make out her pink hijab at the other end. However, this evidence is not sufficient to establish that this is the same lady in black and pink – W-005 – that we see in the SM. We’ll need more.

Video Rm2-b shows the brown blanket much more clearly. But there are major changes to the scene compared to Rm2-a, for most of the victims we saw in Rm2-a are gone. Now the bottom of the blanket is covered with dead children in colorful clothes – the same children who will end up in the SM. In other words, most of the children we see in video Rm2-b are also seen in the SM. And vice-versa – most of the children seen in the SM are seen in this video of Room #2. Most, but not all. For instance, Bunny does not seem to be present in Room #2, although she might be covered by the blanket.

Here is a composite of three views of the blanket in Room #2 with the kids who end up in the SM. (c.f. Fig. 29.)

A. The brown blanket in Room #2 – now occupied by many children. Rm2-b/00:20.

B. The brown blanket in Room #2 – close up. Rm2-b/00:18.

C. Panoramic still shot taken at a different time. Source
Things get a little bit difficult because Rm2-b does not give us the best views of this important scene. Images A and B above are taken from the video and juxtaposed in an attempt to show most of what is there, and most of what is there is kids – the same kids seen in the SM. Image C on the right is a wide-angle still shot of the same scene, taken at a different time, with a slightly different population of kids – 5 fewer to be precise – but most of the children who are in both images are in the same position and in the same pose. There is a lot of information here. For one thing, C shows the checker-board edge of the brown blanket that I noted in the discussion of the the SM. (See Fig. 51.) Video Rm2-b allows us to see W-005 under the blanket a little more clearly, even though the girl in the lime playsuit is now between W-005 and the wall. By magnifying screen-grabs from Rm2-b, we can ascertain that the body under the blanket is W-005:

Given her pink hijab, her black clothing, and her association with the blanket, I don’t believe their could be a reasonable doubt that this woman and blanket seen in Room #2 of the DM is W-005 lying under the same blanket in the SM. In addition, if you go back and review the first 10 seconds or so of both sun-videos, you will be able to positively identify the children in the SM as the same children in images A-C, above. There might be some valid grounds for doubt about the girl in the lime playsuit because in the SM she is covered with a white sheet and only a bit of the grey trim of her playsuit shows, but by and large there can be no doubt that the same group of kids is shown in both places. In other words we have strong continuity of bodies between the SM and Room #2, and the blanket supplements that continuity.

Because bodies in this corner of Room #2 have changed so drastically, one might reasonably question whether we are even looking at the same room in Rm2-a and Rm2-b, much less the same blanket. But any doubt that the brown blanket in Rm2-b is the same brown blanket in Rm2-a and in the same place can be eliminated upon close inspection. Here is a better view from Rm2-b and from a still shot, both showing three children under the blanket.
The girl in the red, G-010, is the same girl that Mr. Cranberry picked up off the floor after throwing his gas mask down. Her identity can be confirmed by her shirt with glittery figures on it, her pony-tail, and her distinctive white hair band. These same features identify her as the girl in red we see in many views of the he SM. So far as I am able to tell with any degree of certainty, she and W-005, at the other end of the blanket, are the only people seen in both of videos Rm2-a and Rm2-b, and both victims are also seen in the SM.

Also, please note that there is a blue rag in the corner above their heads. It is also visible in Rm2-a, but you have to be quick to see it because workers and loafers keep photo-bombing Mr. Minnie’s video.

The rag is no more than the blue blur (circled in yellow), that can be barely glimpsed as Mr. Minnie sweeps his camera past the brown blanket. Although he walks right up to the brown blanket, he fails to provide a clear view of it. But given that the blur is positioned in the corner above the blanket precisely where the blue rag is in Rm2-b, I am confident in concluding that both videos show the same blanket, the same corner of the same room, the same rag, but different bodies, with the exception of the girl in red. In other words, both videos show Room #2. This is important because the children’s bodies and W-005 in Rm2-b provide body-continuity between Room #2 and the SM, and the brown blanket certainly helps.

Mr. Minnie caught on camera
Because there were so many insurgent PR people running around Ghouta that night and the following day, when you look closely at the videos, it is not unusual to see pushy PR people, eager to get the best shot, step into each other’s views. But Room #2 is the only case I have found where you can see the images that two PR guys took of each other – Mr. Minnie’s reciprocal shot of his PR buddy in black.

Below is a screen grab from about 00:56 of Rm2-a. At that point Mr. Minnie had stepped over the people on the floor to reach the western end of Room #2 and had turned back toward the entrance at the eastern end that he just came through. Standing next to that door you can see a photographer in black with his camera at the ready and his camera bag on his shoulder.

Five seconds earlier in Mr. Minnie’s video, at 00:51, you can see a flash go off and bounce off of the western wall. At just that moment Mr. Cranberry was bending over the girl in red, G-010, and the flash threw a shadow of Mr. Cranberry’s rear-end onto the wall. That flash was from the photo that the man in black took from the opposite end of the room. It seemed very likely that if I could find that photo online, it would show both Mr. Cranberry and Mr. Minnie. And so I went looking for it. Of course, I had Mr. Minnie’s video to show me what to look for. And I got lucky; I found the photograph on in a YouTube collection. This image is labeled “A” in the compilation below, Fig. 172. According to its logo, the still photograph was uploaded by the Kafr Batna Coordinating Committee, which also uploaded Mr. Minnie’s videos.

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187 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LzKqqpk_TA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LzKqqpk_TA), at 01:38.
Again, the view in Image A is from the east entrance to Room #2, looking toward the west wall. Mr. Cranberry is bending over G-010, having just put her down. All of the people in black shirts with the bandanas are squatting precisely as shown in Rm2-a. Consequently, we can deduce that one of those people standing at the far end of the room is Mr. Minnie, who must be perforce facing that far wall because his video catches the flash bouncing off that wall.

Five seconds after the flash, Mr. Minnie turned back to the east and his video captured the PR guy who took the still. That's Fig. 172. In the video, the PR guy moved quickly toward the door as Mr. Strap’s camera turned toward him.

Image B of Fig. 172 is the top half of Image A magnified and marked up. Image C is a screen-grab from Rm2-a showing the shadow cast against the west wall by the flash going off. The shadow is of the derriere of Mr. Cranberry as he bends over to put the child down, indicated by the two-headed yellow arrow. The cyan circles indicate a man in a plaid shirt and white tennis shoes. His head has been cropped out of the still shot but his shirt and shoes are quite conspicuous throughout this portion of the video. From Image C we know that when the flash went off, Mr. Minnie was pointing his camera behind the plaid shirt toward the wall. The plaid shirt was on Mr. Minnie’s right.

This suggests that in Image B Mr. Minnie is likely the man indicated by the green arrow, who is to the left of the white tennis shoes of the man in plaid and who is facing the west wall. This is probably the only image of Mr. Minnie we’ll ever see, other than his foot-selfies. Unfortunately, it’s probably not going to be much help to the authorities hunting him down if he turns out to be complicit in the execution of these people.

The still Image A has considerably more detail of Room #2 than Rm2-a does and so I would like to make a couple of observations regarding it that you may find interesting. First, in this one image you can see both of the two 44 L. gas cylinders littering the room – both of
them lying on the floor, no caps, no valve handles.

Second, recall that Fuchsia Lady's foot played a pivotal role in connecting Room #2 to the SM. (See Part B at [0043].) That is her in the lower left corner. This is the only woman or woman's body I have seen in the KB complex without a hijab, and she has been covered in the most cursory way. Thirty seconds before the still was taken, as Mr. Minnie was entering Room #2, her face was completely covered by the black cloak; she moved almost imperceptibly at time point 00:13 of Rm2-a. Fig. 174 is from Mr. Minnie’s video.

As you can see, a man is lying prone next to the blue cylinder in the video, motionless. Thirty seconds later he is on his back as seen in Image A. The point I’m making is that the still shot taken together with video Rm2-a tell us that both victims were alive; with either one alone we wouldn’t be able to tell that. Neither one of these victims were poisoned with sarin, I think if you have read Part C that goes without saying.

Finally, there is the suction machine. You can just barely see it in Minnie’s video, but you can hear it. It is quite prominent in the still shot.

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Fig. 174. The Room #2 chaos as seen in Mr. Minnie’s video.

Rm2-a:00:14

Fig. 175. From Panel “A,” above. Suction machine, brand new, pristine clean. Unused?
I find this machine interesting for two reasons. First, being a medical device it supports the view that this DM area was a clinic and that these insurgents are actually trying to help the prostate people we see. Indeed, lean in on Rm2-a and you can see that the worker in blue appears to be suctioning the mouth of a victim draped in green. Now, that would be a good thing and would be consistent with a more benevolent role for these workers than the animadversions I have offered, but I don’t think it flies.

And the reason I say that is because I have quite a bit of experience with these portable suction machines from once being employed as a peon in an ER tasked with setting them up and cleaning them, and based on my experience as an intrepid vomit-jar cleaner, I am incredulous at how both of the jars in Image A are pristine-clean and empty. Every suction device like that I have seen or used has vomitus, or blood, or whatever else that is being suctioned splattered all over the inside walls of the jars, that’s how they work. Also, it doesn’t take long for coughed up and flying fluids to cover the outside of these machines. This one looks brand new, like it has never been used and like it was not really being used at the time the photo was taken. For that reason I tend to see it more as evidence that the scene was being faked for the cameras than as evidence that this is a medical facility. I just can’t reconcile the latter conclusion with the two gas cylinders lying in the floor.

How To Do a Mass-Execution and Make It Look Like a CW Attack

Having proposed the theory that Ghouta Massacre was really a mass-execution carried out by the insurgents using carbon monoxide or cyanide, I feel like I have an obligation to propose how such a pediocidal, false-flag PR stunt could have been carried out. While any such comments can only be, perforce, speculation, I think a scenario can be constructed that is consistent with what we know and is not outrageously inane – at least not as inane as the sarin myth. I’ll give it a go.

To start, it is necessary to articulate what the objectives of such a false flag PR stunt would have been. I have already criticized Obama’s red-line threat as an open invitation for the insurgents to do precisely the sort of thing I am proposing they did do. (See Part C at [0037].) And that would be the obvious objective of a false-flag operation: to make the world think that Assad had crossed Obama’s red-line and that Obama must now give Assad a cruise-missile-style spanking or be seen as a 90 pound weakling.

Then there is a secondary, but associated, objective: to provide “evidence” of sarin to the UN Mission so they would submit a public report to the General Assembly claiming that a sarin rocket attack had taken place in Ghouta. This second objective required, of course, that the UN have a CW investigation team in the area, which they did. The
UN Mission landed at Damascus en route to northern Syria just three days before the Ghouta Massacre; they were staying just a few kilometers from where the sarin-rockets were alleged to have landed. The insurgents had a four or five day window to pull this stunt off and get the UN investigators involved before they moved on – the Ghouta Massacre couldn’t have possibly been better timed if the insurgents had coordinated it with the UN itself.

One who is less verbose and more perspicacious might articulate these two inextricably linked objectives more concisely: Get the Stupid Americans to attack Assad. If the insurgents could only do that, the kewpie doll would be theirs.

With these two objectives in mind, what operational elements would be necessary in order for a false-flag operation to successfully meet them and how many of those necessary elements are seen in the KB videos and stills? Here is my list of false-flag elements, with my thoughts on each one.

**Compelling drama** – This false-flag gambit would only work if the evidence was dramatic enough to compel The Stupid Americans to react suddenly without stopping to think it all through – pretty much like McCain, Feinstein, and Graham did. The insurgents would surely understand that if Assad was not attacked within a few days, the intelligence services of the world would have time carefully to evaluate the flood of video evidence, put rooms and bodies and bloody rags together, and realize what was going on. But if their gambit worked and Obama attacked Assad within days, then there would be no looking back and Damascus would soon be theirs. At that point it would make no difference what the world found out or thought. How do you produce the requisite compelling drama? By showing the world lots of bodies, and victims suffering near the moment of death.

**Bodies** – The insurgents needed hundreds of bodies for their photo ops in order to show the world the seriousness of the "sar in attacks" they were blaming on the Assadists. Judging from the indifference the world showed in response to their smaller false-flag CW attacks months before the Ghouta Massacre, the insurgents knew they would need evidence of a massive CW attack if they wanted to work The Stupid Americans into a right-rage. And if this was going to be presented as a CW attack against civilians, then, of course, the bodies would have to be civilians.

How does one produce hundreds of civilian bodies for photo ops? Well, from a pharmacologist’s point of view, sarin has to be the worst choice. For instance, sarin is so dangerous and so persistent that if used in a gas chamber situation, you would end up killing your own guys in order to get the bodies out of the chamber so they could be photographed.

Carbon monoxide would likely be the first choice and cyanide the second. I mean nobody knows more about these ghoulish techniques
than the Nazis, and CO and CN is what they used. Of course, the Nazis didn’t take endless videos of their victims’ suffering and post them to the Internet, so they didn’t have to worry about someone noticing that the victims were cherry-red instead of cyanotic blue.

Nevertheless, the insurgents produced those bodies by gassing hundreds of men, women, and kids. Then they displayed the bodies all nicely laid out in various Ghouta venues like the SM. No problem . . . at least not until one of the bodies coughed just before the cameraman arrives.

Given that wars are based on the model of men killing men, merely showing the world photos of adult male victims of a faux sarin attack would probably not incite The Stupid Americans sufficiently to enter the fray. No one in a war is innocent and if they end up dead, well . . . that’s the point. What the insurgents needed was photos of dead women and children. Dead babies would be a real bonus.

In the Epilogue I discuss how the Sunni insurgents could have produced large numbers of women’s and children’s bodies without killing their own women and children by kidnapping their victims from Shia/Alawite areas like Latakia, and, in fact, we know that the Sunni insurgents did kidnap hundreds of Alwite women and children from Latakia a couple weeks prior to the Ghouta Massacre. This is not quite Q.E.D., but it’s damn close to it. All we need is for one child or woman from Latakia to be identified in those Ghouta videos.

Suffering – But mere bodies would not be sufficient. The insurgents needed to show the world the actual suffering of gassed victims, preferably suffering children. They needed photo-ops not just of dead children, but of children in the process of becoming dead children. They wanted the world to feel the pain of people dying. And the way to do that was to start the gassing at least for a subset of victims and then stop just before the endpoint was reached. At that point they purged the room of the toxic gas, left the gas cylinders lying on the floor, and called in the cameras to get the close-ups of the suffering. The victims foaming from the nose were especially popular with the PR guys.

But what do you do when the photo-op is over? I mean, now you’ve got a bunch of partially gassed victims, many of whom may recover and live to tell the world their story. But the gassing room has been purged of toxic gas. So how do you finish them off?

The insurgents’ answer to this predicament may be indicated by the gunshot I discussed above – the ones heard at precisely 01:14 into SM-a. (See Part B at [0034].) Gunshots in the KB complex, now there’s something that has to make the hairs rise on the back of your neck. Would they have put a bullet into those suffering children, like “Baby” seen on the floor of Room #3? (Fig. 93.) Ask Mr. Cranberry.

Panic – Panic on the streets is a good thing – and necessary – in any PR campaign to convince the world you’ve just been hit with sarin rockets fired by a tyrant, and the insurgents in KB gave us what looks
like genuine panic in the streets. Fig. 176 is a screen grab from the opening seconds of Mr. Minnie’s video SM-c; it has become an iconic image of the Ghouta “sarin attack.”

![Fig. 176. Panic outside the SM. SM-c/00:08](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=__roFlRqLRg)

This scene takes place immediately outside the SunMorgue. We see children crying and screaming, calmer adults holding handkerchiefs to their noses, heros hosing down the sidewalks with large volumes of water, a few people prostrate, two guy sitting calmly on a low wall watching the chaos unfold. Another video ([here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=188)) was taken at precisely the same time, in the same place, of the same people but by a different videographer who almost bumps into Mr. Minnie, begging the question: What the devil is going on? Why aren’t these videographers being affected if this is sarin? And who are those guys sitting around chit-chatting in the middle of a “sarin attack?”

And that’s just one part of the pharmacological problem. Like I say, I have never actually witnessed a sarin attack, but I know enough about organophosphates and how they mess people up to know, as an absolute certainty, that during a sarin attack you will not see two guys sitting calmly on a low wall watching the whole thing unfold. And if this family was being gassed by sarin, they would not be screaming, and running around, and holding handkerchiefs to their noses. After a few breaths and a few seconds they would be convulsing, defecating, throwing up, gasping for air, and turning blue. Sarin has no odor. It does not burn one’s eyes. It would likely kill you, or at least disable you, well before you could go into a panic. While I would not dispute that these people are reacting to something, they are not reacting to sarin.

No, these people look to me like they were being gassed with 2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile, known in the military as “CS,” known to rioters the world over as “tear gas” – a non-lethal riot control agent that easily produces panic in any group of people who are not expecting it to be dropped in their midst. This scene suggests to me that the population of Ghouta probably got gassed by tear gas and many, many videos of people with inflamed eyes support that conclusion. And that’s what the insurgents needed – panicked people capable of running

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188 https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=__roFlRqLRg
around looking panicked, because most Americans would not know that sarin victims don’t get to run around. They die on the spot.

In other words, there is nothing – not one thing – in this scene to support the allegations that these people were gassed with sarin, and yet such videos produced their intended effect of reinforcing the sarin myth.

**Evidence of sarin** – And that brings us to the most important, most critical, element of the false-flag attack: physical evidence of sarin.

With the UN investigators staying only five miles away from the insurgent controlled areas of Ghouta, the insurgents knew they had a rare opportunity. One would have to be pretty gullible not to make a temporal connection between the UN Mission’s arriving in the area on Aug.18.2013 and the Ghouta Massacre on Aug.21. The insurgents could have pulled this PR stunt off at any time, but knowing the UN Mission was coming to town, if they could manipulate the Mission to collect some “sarin samples” they might be able to score a huge PR coup.

And so while I have emphasized over and over that sarin was not used to injure and kill the people we see in Kafr Batna, I am willing to allow how it may have been used and/or planted in other parts of Ghouta – parts to which the insurgents would later restrict the UN investigators. Seymour Hersh has laid to rest Obama and Kerry’s lies that only the Assadists had access to sarin. (See Part C at [0078].)

There is now no reasonable doubt that at least one of the insurgent groups – al-Nusra – not only had access to sarin, but had it in hand. All they needed was someone with a gas-mask and a spray bottle to taint the evidence in places were the UN Mission would later be permitted to collect samples. They could easily take old rockets that the Syrian Army had fired into Ghouta, spray them with sarin, and plant them in the ground or dropped them in buildings previously hit. Police in the US are experts at planting evidence like that; it doesn’t take any brains to do it.

But in addition to collecting dirt samples and pieces of rockets the insurgents provided, the UN Mission took blood samples from “sarin victims” who were also provided by the insurgents, and “signatures of sarin” were detected in some of those blood samples. There’s the smoking sarin-gun for sure.

Except for the fact that it would be simple to produce such biological samples that would test positive for “signatures of sarin.” For instance, the insurgents could expose themselves to low, non-lethal doses of sarin or non-lethal sarin-like compounds like the insecticide malathion or the glaucoma drug echothiophate in order to provide the UN Mission with “victims” with the right symptoms and with blood tainted with sarin-like by-products.

Even if rockets did land in the Ghouta area on Aug.21, an assertion that I am not at all convinced of, but even if so, from what we know about the evidence of those rockets, their impact was limited to a very small area of Ghouta called Zamlaka, according to the Sep.2013 report by Human Rights Watch. And even if one or more of those rockets
carried sarin, it makes no sense that hundreds or a thousand fatalities could have occurred from an attack with such a limited target-area, particularly when you see the videos of the impact sites and see how they are in open lots surrounded by buildings that were bombed-out and empty.

**PR & logistics machinery** – There would be absolutely no point in killing hundreds of women and children if you weren’t set up to acquire photos and videos of their dead and dying faces and disseminate them to the world. That would require a pre-existing PR machine and lots of logistics. Note that however many victims there were – and nobody knows to this date, six months later – all of the bodies had disappeared within 24 hours. By the time the UN Mission reached ground zero – which was just around the corner from their hotel – the bodies were gone. Buried. Burned. Whatever. What this means, given the hundreds of videos that were uploaded within 24 hours of the "attack," is that the PR machinery had to be in place before the attack took place. And it was – this PR effort hit the world like a digital tsunami before the first body could have been buried.

As for the workers, I am willing to allow how some of the medical clinics shown in the Ghouta videos may be manned by people who did not know that they were caring for victims of a false-flag attack. For instance, if Zamalka was tagged by the insurgents with a couple of bona fide sarin missiles, the people we see scrambling to treat people in the Zamalka videos may very well be genuine and may have had no clue where the sarin came from.

But when you’ve got workers and loafers walking past a victim who is clearly bleeding on the floor of the SunMorgue of Kafr Batna and no one is taking notice, then there is no reasonable scenario other than a false-flag scenario that explains why that victim was not helped, you pretty much have to surmise that something is amiss. In other words, those people had to be a part of the barbaric scam, and that implies both an organization and a logistic machine to get the workers and the victims in place for the cameras. With well over 100,000 violent insurgents now operating inside the borders of Syria, there would be no problem whatsoever in recruiting 100 or 200 blood-thirsty individuals willing and able to commit the crimes we see in those videos – everything from kidnapping women and children to opening cylinders of toxic gases and removing the valve-handles so the valves couldn’t be closed. No problem at all.

**Stupid Americans** – The whole insurgents’ false-flag effort would be for naught without a sufficient number of Americans displaying a sufficient level of stupidity to demand that their government retaliate against Assad. And that’s where the insurgents fell flat.

Oh yes, there were a significant number of stupid American politicians – including Kerry, McCain, Graham, Feinstein – braying for Assad’s blood the same way they brayed for Saddam’s, but the public was
not behind them this time. Working Americans paying for their politicians’ wars – paying with their blood and their taxes – had learned a lot about their government after 10 years of war in Iraq. And as G.W. Bush famously said: “[F]ool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can’t get fooled again.”

This time Americans should be proud for not going to war. And Americans should remember and should be grateful for those 116 Congressmen who demanded that Congress sign off on any attack Obama wanted to throw at Syria. For instance, it was Republican Representative Scott Rigell of Virginia who urged his colleagues to enforce the 1973 War Powers Resolution and demand that Obama get Congressional approval before pulling any triggers. Republican Rand Paul was also very vocal in demanding that Obama adhere to the Congressional vote on war powers for attacking Syria.

We need to remember this example because it is too easy to forget who the war hawks were when history proves they were wrong, and it’s too easy to forget who the doves were when history proves they were right. That’s why Americans keep getting pulled into wars they have no business being in.

~ Other Experts Expressing Doubt Over the Sarin Myth ~

Whereas the Western MSM have generally been braying for Assad’s skin like a pack of Kentucky coonhounds set loose on the harvest moon, if you dig deep enough, you will find references to experts who, if not swimming against the tide of the sarin myth, are at least not swimming with it. Here are some of the experts who have not mechanically bought the apocryphal sarin myth.

Jean Pascal Zanders
Background
• Until May 2013 was senior analyst at EU Institute for Security Studies
• Served as the project leader of the Chemical and Biological Warfare Project at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and director of the Geneva-based BioWeapons Prevention Project (BWPP) – source
• Can’t find a word on his training.

Position on the sarin myth
• Guardian, Aug 21.13, comparing Ghouta to earlier accusations of sarin attacks:
The video footage and pictures this time are of a far better quality. You can clearly see the typical signs of asphyxiation, including a pinkish blueish tinge to the skin colour. There is one image of an adult woman where you can see the tell-tale blackish mark around her mouth, all of which suggests death from asphyxiation. What is also different in this footage is that we are seeing the chaos of the
first response to what occurred. We are seeing the emergency services being overwhelmed by the innocent victims. It feels very authentic.

I remain sceptical that it was a nerve agent like sarin. I would have expected to see more convulsions . . . The other thing that seems inconsistent with sarin is that, given the footage of first responders treating victims without proper protective equipment, you would expect to see considerable secondary casualties from contamination – which does not appear to be evident.

- **News.com.au** Aug23.13:
  However, [Zanders] said the symptoms they exhibited were not consistent with mustard gas or the nerve agents VX or sarin. Mustard gas would cause blistering of the skin and discoloration, while the nerve agents would produce severe convulsions in the victims and also affect the paramedics treating them - neither of which was evident from the videos or reports.

- **Guardian**, Aug26.13:
  It's not possible that what is being shown to the public is a chemical weapons attack. The video from Aleppo showing foaming at the mouth does not look like a nerve agent. I'm wholly unconvinced.

- **HuffPo** Aug30.13
  [W]e don't know what the agent is. Everyone is saying sarin. There is something clearly to do with a neurotoxicant [such as sarin] but not everything is pointing in that direction.

  [I]f you watch the clips closely, you will see [parts] where people clearly show signs of asphyxiation but show no signs of exposure to neurotoxicants.

- **Washington’s Blog** Sep05.13 interview w/ Zanders
  When I look at video images that have been going around, what I see is a large number of people suffering from asphyxia, but only a minority (if the photos are representative of the total picture) display symptoms that would correspond to exposures to neurotoxicants . . . John Kerry used the term “signatures of sarin”. But signatures of sarin are things one can have from other organophosphorus compounds.

  We do not know where the samples come from. And we do not know how representative they are for a certain area. Certain samples could have been selectively given to Western sources for analysis. Assume that you do not know where a sample comes from . . . your whole chain of custody is compromised.
The extreme focus on sarin – as if only government forces would be able to have sarin – doesn’t make sense. If the UN team were to come up with evidence that toxic chemicals other than sarin were used, does that prove that it was not the Syrian government which is responsible?

**Paula Vanninen,**

**Background**
- Director of Verifin, the Finnish Institute for Verification of the Chemical Weapons Convention. – [source](#)

**Position on the sarin myth**
At the moment, I am not totally convinced because the people that are helping them are without any protective clothing and without any respirators . . . In a real case, they would also be contaminated and would also be having symptoms.

**John Hart**

**Background**
- Head of the Chemical and Biological Security Project at Stockholm International Peace Research Institute – [source](#)

**Position on the sarin myth**
Of the videos that I’ve seen for the last few hours, none of them show pinpoint pupils... this would indicate exposure to organophosphorus nerve agents.

**Ralph Trapp**

**Background** –
- Former scientist at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

**Position on the sarin myth**
- [Guardian](#) Aug21.13
It is possible a gas was involved, but the images I've seen were not clear enough to see other symptoms beyond difficulty in breathing and suffocation. It certainly looks like some sort of poisoning.
APPENDIX III
Methods and Techniques

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~ Acquiring and Examining Videos ~

One of the simplest and most common tasks on the Internet is looking at YouTube videos. Hit a live link and away you go. But you have no control over what happens to YT’s. If you are in the middle of an investigation that is based on YT’s and the person or people who own the YT channels decide to take the videos down, you are stuffed. It is very helpful to have the actual YT file saved on your own computer so you can access it whenever you need to. Surprisingly, while uploading videos to YT is dead easy, downloading them to your computer is not, which is why I am explaining one way to do it here.

Once you have the video on your computer, you will want to be able to examine it frame-by-frame. While you can see the video on with the generic Media Player or Quicktime or whatever media package came with your operating system, that is generally not enough. You’ll need to be able to easily stop, reverse, step forward one frame at a time, etc. If you don’t have a media player with these capabilities, read on.

How to download a YouTube

Getting a YT on to your own computer is a multi-step process. It seems complicated at first, but once you’ve been through it a couple of times it becomes almost automatic. Here are the steps and software I use.

**Step 1:** Organize your files.

What you are going to be doing is dumping potentially large amounts of data into the file-structure of your computer. Whilst you can create new folders while stepping through the download process, I find it much easier to get my directories set up and labeled before I wade into the download. Your system is likely set up so that when you hit a “download” button, the file ends up in a predetermined folder. If your file system is organized, all you will have to do is drag the new downloaded YT file to its new home.

**Step 2:** Set a bookmark to kibase.com

You will be using the KIBase YT downloader – here. Open this page and set a bookmark for it for now so you can get back to it easily. Alternatively, just leave it open in one tab and open a new tab to get to the YT.

**Step 3:** Copy the video source code to your clip board.

What you will do here is acquire the YT of interest in a digital

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format in your clipboard so you can transfer it to KIBase.

- Go to the YouTube you want to download. Don’t run it.
- Somewhere in the margins of the page, right-click to get a menu that includes: “View page source”. You might have to try a few times to get the right menu.
- Left-click “View page source”. A new browser page should open showing html code for the video.
- While on that source code page hit “Ctrl-a”. This should highlight everything on the page. If it doesn’t you’ll have to highlight it all manually.
- While the code is highlighted, hit “Ctrl-c” to copy it all to your clipboard. You can close the browser page with the highlighted code at this point if you want but I normally leave it open in case one of the next steps goes wrong and I want to start over.
- You now have the YT contained on your clipboard in a form that will do you absolutely no good. You have to convert it to a video file.

**Step 4:** Convert YT source code to the video file.

- Go back to the purple KIBase page you bookmarked and click on the empty white box.
- Paste the source code into the empty box with “Ctrl-v”. You’ll only see the last few lines of the code in the white box when the past is complete.
- I normally un-check the wee box that says start the download automatically. It’s up to you.
- Click the “submit” button.

**Step 5:** Download

- In a few seconds KIBase will get back to you with a “Thank you for using KIBase” page. This page will have a number of format options for your video. The options seem to change from one session to the next, but “mp4” is always there and is the one I use.
- Determine which format you want and click the choice. A familiar download dialog box pops up.
- Chose “Save File” on the download dialog box and click “OK.”
- After a few seconds the file will be downloaded to whatever folder your downloads normally go to. Open that folder and the new file should be at the top of the list.
- I re-name the file at this point so if it gets lost I can track it down.
- Drag it into the folder you set up in Step 1.

You’re done. The YT is now on your computer in a format you can watch without even being connected to the Internet.
How to examine video evidence

If you have a media player that gives you all the functions listed above, skip this part.

There are probably dozens of acceptable media players that you can download for free. My choice is VLC Media Player because it is 1) free, 2) open-source (i.e., not Microsoft), and 3) plays a large number of different formats. More importantly, it has the functionality needed for very detailed examination of videos. Here is the Wiki page\(^\text{190}\) that describes it in detail.

The VLC Media Player can be downloaded from here: English download.\(^\text{191}\)

You'll have to look around the package once you download it to see everything it can do. The most valuable functions I have found are:

- Adjust the speed of the video.
- Jump forward or backward in small or medium steps.
- Bookmark frames.
- Move forward one frame at a time.
- Ability to enhance/modify both the video track and audio track to bring out details.
- Play multiple videos independently.

The last feature is particularly helpful in these video forensics situations. You'll need two screens to get the most out of this feature. In the KB video collection, for instance, there are numerous examples of two or more videos showing the same scene at different times and/or angles. SM-a and SM-b are examples. If you are trying to view a specific piece of evidence, it is very helpful to have both videos running simultaneously on two screens. Slightly different angles can be hugely important in interpreting what you are looking at.

~ Acquiring and Examining Images ~

Acquiring images from the Internet makes one's surfing activities far more valuable. The entire world, it seems, is represented visually online, and the ability to see it is wonderful, but the ability to save, organize, and archive what you see allows you to sort of build your own version of what the world looks like. Of course in a cyber-investigation you have to closely analyze and preserve the evidence you are going to

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\(^{190}\) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vlc_media_player

\(^{191}\) http://freedownloads.us.com/lp/vlc/videoPlayer.php?pk=845429&s=google&c=FreeD_VLC_CCCA_Exact_English&aid=tight&gclid=CMuN1uyStr8CFQqCfodFb8ACw
rely on to make your case.

How to find the image you need

This is the easiest and one of the most essential tools of all – a Google add-on to your browser that lets you hunt for images online. It’s called Search By Image and there are free versions for FireFox, Chrome, Explorer, and Safari.

This is a very powerful app. Once you load it into your browser, you right-click on an image that you see online and click “Search Google with image.” The app will scour the Internet and bring you back a list of webpages where the same image is found – tons of material to search through to see what others are saying about the same image, which is to say, the same subject matter. These webpages will have more images of the same subject matter, which can be even more helpful than your starting image.

In addition the search results will give you a page of images that Google deems to be “similar” to the one you searched. Most of them won’t be similar at all and it’s amazing how far off a lot of them will be. But peruse that page carefully and you’ll find other images taken by the same photographer, or taken at the same place or of the same subject matter. When you find one that’s close, you can then search on it, ad infinitum.

How to acquire/enhance an image

Often it’s not possible to download an image you’ve found, and when it is possible it can be time consuming and you risk downloading viruses and all sorts of crap with the image. There’s a much better way to get any image or any portion of any image that appears on your computer screen.

One of the three most important tools I have in my entire computer system is a good screen-grab app. It is absolutely essential in this online forensics work. The free version of Gadwin PrintScreen has served me well for years. I could not do without it or an equivalent product. It can be found here.

The thing I like about Gadwin is that it is so fast I hardly know it’s there. I have it set up so that when I hit the “Print Screen” button, I get a frame-box. I adjust the box to capture what I want. With a right-click that image goes to my clipboard. I pop over to my word-processor (WordPerfect X6) and copy the image directly into whatever document I’m working on. Often I have a special WP page open just to receive

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192 https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/1325808?hl=en
193 http://www.gadwin.com/printscreenuot/n/
screen-grab images as I surf; consequently, I have entire libraries of images from the Internet, all in WP format.

Alternatively, once the image is in the clipboard, I can copy it right into an email, and this is very helpful. I keep my Em client open with an email under construction and just keep dropping images into that draft email. When I have what I want, I send the email to myself. And so the Em client becomes a way to archive images.

You can also use the screen-grab app as a microscope. Once I have an image I want in the clipboard, I copy it to an empty WP page. I can easily enlarge it 1000-fold merely by clicking on it and dragging a corner. If necessary, I take another screen-grab of the enlarged area of interest and paste that one into the WP page. Then I can enlarge the enlarged view.

In order to enhance/modify an image to bring out a detail, I grab the image with Gadwin and copy it into IrfranView, a graphics package that can be used to adjust brightness, contrast, color saturation, etc. It can be downloaded for free here.\textsuperscript{194} Irfran View also has functions to annotate images and add circles, &etc., but I find those functions difficult to work with. I prefer to use a very basic CAD program, QuickCAD, to annotate figures and to produce schematics. The QuickCAD output can be copied/pasted directly into a WordPerfect document and can then be edited from within WP if necessary.

\textsuperscript{194} http://www.fileparade.com/listing/123837/IrfanView?did=10844&pid=1&ppd=search,33415561340,irfanview,e,,c,0,,,&gclid=CMyF2cudtr0CFRRsfgodXSgABw
APPENDIX IV

The Author

This is my fourth piece on the Ghouta Massacre. As you can tell if you’ve read the text, it’s become an obsession.

• On Sep09.2013 I published an online open letter to Congress: Lack of Pharmacological Proof of a Sarin Attack at Damascus. It was as well received as fart-bubbles in the hotel hot tub.

• On Oct11.2013 I ripped into the UN with Pigeon Poop on the Pump Handle: A Critique of the Report of the UN Mission to Investigate the Use of Sarin in Damascus. That piece was as effective as a “No Staring At the Opposite Gender” sign in the high-school cafeteria.

• On Nov09.2013 I ripped into CW expert Dan Kaszeta with The Ghouta Sarin Story: Bullbleep Mountain or Veritas Valley?, which went over with Mr. Kaszeta like an IRS auditor with halitosis.

And now I’m going after Obama, Kerry and the NYT. I should lighten up on this Ghouta thing . . . but I can’t. For if Obama ends up attacking Assad once all of Assad’s CWs are out of the way, I want to be able to say I did what I could to oppose such bloody nonsense, and other than going off on all these people who are pushing the sarin myth, I don’t know what else to do. But I know a few people have heard me and some agree.

Somewhere in the blogosphere I bumped into a conversation over one of my pieces and somebody was asking “Who is this guy?” I realized then that in my previous articles I had neglected to extend to my readers the courtesy of introducing myself, which is what I’m doing now.

As I have noted in the text, my background is neuropharmacology. After a short, unsuccessful, and stressful “career” in the USMC, I obtained a BA in biology from Ohio State. Then I did my PhD work under the supervision of Theodore Rall at the University of Virginia — Cyclic-AMP Metabolism In Rat Cerebral Cortex was the title of my thesis.

My next career stop was a post-doc with John Dowling at the Harvard Biolabs where I investigated control of neurotransmitter release in the retina.

After a ten-year teaching gig at the New Zealand National School of Pharmacy, I stepped out of academia and studied law under J. Benjamin Dick in Charlottesville, Virginia. The remainder of my career was spent as a patent lawyer in the US and Canada, where I now live. I am a member of the Virginia State Bar and the U.S. Patent Office Bar. I have argued cases before the US Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, the Virginia Supreme Court, and Virginia state and federal courts.
When not bursting blood-vessels over who killed these kids in Ghouta, I am working on a book on evolution to be titled *Hard Evolution, Soft Evolution and the Meaning of Species: Understanding Darwin’s Debacle*, which has been on hold for the last six months or so as I have struggled to make sense of these senseless murders in Ghouta.
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W-004 (“Fuchsia Lady”)
no hijab ...............
Fig. 173, Appendix II
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[0087-0089], [0094],
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W-005 blood draws and . [0079-0081]
DM .................... [0187]
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W-006 Hallway A ............ [0187]
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videos generally linking rooms together .......
[0066], [0098], [0115]
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Pat-a showing patio . . . . [0108-0113]
Rm1-a showing Room #1 ........
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Z Zanders, Jean Pascal doubtful of Sarin Myth ........ Appendix II