

THE LETTER THAT HELPED SWAY THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT  
NOT TO GO TO WAR

Damascus, 29 August 2013

**An open letter to Our Fellow Parliamentarians of the British House of Commons**

Dear Sirs and Madams

We write to you urgently as you debate launching an attack on Syria. We write to you as fellow Parliamentarians and representatives of our respective governments.

More important still, we write to you as fathers and mothers as members of families and communities really not so different from yours, we write to you as fellow human beings for, if you bomb us shall we not bleed?

Despite our common humanity we are divided by mutual suspicion., such divisions have throughout history been the starting points for terrible conflicts – as we are reminded as time ticks away to the centenary of August, 1914.

Local tragedies become regional wars that explode into global conflict because of breakdowns in communication. Se we implore you to communicate through civilized dialogue rather than a monologue of blood and fire.

It was just such a propaganda monologue that let to so many British MP's being taken in by the dodgy dossier on chemical WMDs in Iraq. There are some who, despite the misery caused by that illegal meddling, now want yet another war. A war that could plunge secular Syria, and indeed the whole region, into a cataclysm of sectarian mass murder that will dwarf the terrible human suffering we have already seen.

Those who want to send others to fight will talk in the Commons of the casualties in the Syrian conflict. But before you rush over the cliffs of war, would it not be wise to pause? Remember the thousands of British soldiers killed and maimed in Afghanistan and Iraq, not to mention the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi dead, both in the war and in the continuing chaos.

That said, yours is a very old and well-established democracy that is a model for us. So we ask you not to bomb us but to work with us. We need your help as Parliamentarians to build a stable, just and fair secular democracy in Syria.

That is why we urge you come to Syria and find out more about what is going on here for yourselves. You need to come to Syria to measure the situation before you cut – especially when the scissors will cost your constituents £1 million, each, and the cloth they cut is human flesh.

Despite our current differences, we Syrians have great respect for your British institutions, particularly your Mother of Parliaments and your legal system. That is why we hereby

- 1) invite you, as fellow Parliamentarians, to come to our country, either en masse or by sending a delegation at the earliest time convenient to you,
- 2) suggest that it might be particularly appropriate for such a visit to coincide with the conclusion of the current United Nations investigation into the chemical attack – which we condemn without reservation.
- 3) Invite you to bring your own experts with you to check for themselves the UN's conclusions.

As for our admiration of the English legal system, it is such that we are in the process of obtaining senior Counsel's opinion as to the grounds for our bringing action through your courts against those responsible should the UK government launch an attack on Syria.

We believe that such an aggressive and unprovoked act of war would be illegal because:

- a) Syria is a sovereign state that does not pose any threat to the United Kingdom.
- b) The United Nations Security Council has not sanctioned such an attack.
- c) The UN report into the terrible incident in a suburb of Damascus has not yet even been published. No-one can yet know whether it will conclude that there is enough evidence for any kind of prosecution, let alone acts of mass execution with your own weapons of Mass Destruction.
- d) The UN has by contrast already concluded that there is very strong evidence that Islamist terrorists from the al-Nusra front have used poison gas against Syrian soldiers and innocent civilians. To act against people who you regard, without legitimate evidence, as chemical weapons criminals, while aiding and abetting Wahhabi rebels who stand accused of precisely that crime by the United Nations, is surely in breach of your basic principle of National Justice.

Those at least, will be the arguments laid before your courts, the European court and in the

Hague by injured and bereaved Syrians in the event of an attack by the UK government. Each and every British MP who encourages or orders such an attack will be held personally legally liable for all the losses and damages so suffered by Syrian individual families and society as a whole. We will be writing separately to your Attorney-General as soon as we have the formal opinion of Queen's Counsel.

Overall, however, we urge you to consider not so much the legal risk to yourselves but the potential human cost of firing Cruise missiles into the Middle East powder keg. Western meddling has already created one totally failed state in Iraq and Mr. Hague's adventurism has put Libya on the same downward spiral,. If you do the same in Syria, then you will in due course also have on your hands the blood of untold thousand in Syria.

We appreciate your sharing our revulsion at the images of the chemical attack. We are not only co-operating fully with the UN Investigation Team, but are also putting together our own formal inquiry into what happened. You may not be aware that Syrian experts are also investigating the question of who carried out this atrocity against our people, but we parliamentarians are determined to get to the truth and to bring those responsible to justice, whoever they are.

In the meantime we ask you to stop the rush to reckless action. It is in your power today to turn Great Britain from the war path and back to the diplomatic road. We hope to meet you upon that road, and to talk, as civilized peoples should.

This is all the more important since, in reality we face the same terrorist threat. By attacking and weakening Syrian targets and institutions you would automatically strengthen our common enemy, Al Qaida and its affiliates. Instead of fighting each other, we should be working together to implement fully UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1624 against terror. Instead of being enemies, we should be allies, and walk the road to peace, truth and reconciliation together.

With best regards, Speaker of People's Assembly, MHD, Jihad Allaham

Damascus 04 September 2013

Rep. John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
Washington D.C. 20515

Greetings,

Please find attached an urgent formal Open Letter from myself as Speaker of the Syrian Parliament. I am sending this on behalf of the Members of the Syrian People's Assembly. The institution that has functioned continuously since its foundation in 1919.

In view of today's crucial debate on a possible American military attack on our country, it is vital that the attached letter to be circulated immediately to every Congress Member prior to the debate.

In addition, we kindly ask you read out the letter during the opening stages of the debate in order to ensure that the Honourable Members are fully appraised of the situation in Syria and of the proposals included in the attached letter, and in order to ensure that the full text of the letter is registered in your records.

It is important to note that we have sent an explanatory letter regarding the situation in Syria to our colleagues at the British Parliament who took the responsibility to exhaust all avenues of diplomacy before involving their nation into war.

We hope that your Honourable Members will also take a similar approach.

Yours faithfully,  
Speaker of People's Assembly  
MHD. Jihd AL-LAHHAM

Dear Sirs and Madams,

*"If civilization is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships — the ability of all peoples, to live together, in the same world at peace."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

We write to you urgently as you are debating the process of launching an attack on Syria. Additionally, we write to you as fellow Parliamentarians and representatives of our peoples.

It is still important that, we write to you as fathers and mothers, as members of families and communities which really are not so different to yours. Moreover, we write to you as human beings asking: if you bomb us, shall we not bleed?! The innocent people will be harmed.

Local tragedies become regional wars that led to global conflict because of the lack of communication among nations. We urge you to communicate with us through civilized dialogue rather than the language of fire and blood.

In Syria, we are keeping in mind the American dream of family values, the opportunity of success in a peaceful environment. James Truslow Adams said in 1931, "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement" regardless of social class, religion or circumstances of birth.

Before your debate at the Congress let's recall the following:

1. Common facts:

- \* The main factor of 9/11 attacks was the hatred Wahhabi Jihadist Ideology adopted and financed by Saudis.
- \* The hatred Wahhabi Jihadist Ideology was born from the Muslim Brotherhood jihadist doctrine. One of the living example is Omar Abdel Rahman, who's actually in your prison, where many parties claiming to be your allies are seeking his release.
- \* More than 3 trillion USD, hundreds of thousands of killed and injured Americans and Iraqis and millions of Iraqi refugees were the cost of the ongoing military war on terrorism.
- \* Due to the Saudi money the Salafi Wahhabi different jihadist "Madrassas" are still operating and where thousands of kids are graduated every year from these terrorist centers.
- \* Kitchen tools plus Wahhabi Ideology are the main factors behind the horrible terrorist attacks around the world and Boston crime is the living example of the present and future sleeping cells model.
- \* Since late seventies, Syria was the first country that faced fundamentalist fanatic terrorism.
- \* Now, Syria is fighting tens of thousands of Non-Syrian jihadists.
- \* Syria is the last living genuine secular state in the Middle East.
- \* The United States and Syria both suffered and are still suffering from the terror of the same enemy which is the hatred Wahhabi Ideology adopted and financed by Saudis.

\* Both of our countries fully supported the Security Council resolutions 1373 and 1624 to combat terrorism.

*"I ask you to judge me by the enemies I have made "*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The main common enemy to our two nations is the hatred Wahhabi Jihadi ideology represented by Al-Qaida, Al Nusra Front and its affiliates,

2-Alleged Chemical Attacks:

2-1 Evidences of possessing Chemical Weapons by the armed fanatic terrorist groups:

\* On 19.03.2013 Khan Al-Asal, Aleppo chemical attack on civilians and military personnel, Syrian Government asked on 20.03.2013 for an immediate UN investigation.

The investigation Team visit was delayed for more than 5 months by US, France and UK intervention.

\* On 30.05.2013 Turkey announced the capture of an Islamist fanatic terrorist group possessing two litres of Sarin Gas. Therefore, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, on 31.05.2013 urged the Turkish Government to cooperate to avoid the possibility of any future chemical attack in the Middle East and Europe.

\* On 01.06.2013 the Iraqi Army announced the capture of a fundamentalist fanatic terrorist group on the Iraqi-Syrian borders, and seized chemical weapons and a remote control of a small helicopter.

\* On 28.07.2013 the Syrian authorities handed to the Russian and Chinese diplomatic missions in Damascus the evidence of the possessing chemical weapon by al Nusra Front and their intention to use them to attack Maaaret al Numan and the suburb of Aleppo.

Conclusion: the above facts proves that the fundamentalist Jihadist terrorist groups possessed and used chemical weapons previously.

2-2 Question: Logically, what is the benefit of the Syrian Government to commit a chemical

attack crime during the visit of the U.N. Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria within less than 4 miles from the Commission residence at Four Seasons Hotel?!

3. For that reason, we urge you to come to Syria, to send a delegation, as soon as you can to see and discover for yourselves what is going on here. We invite you to come to Syria to measure the situation before you cut—especially when the cloth that will be cut is human flesh. Where we can together generate a road map for a joint effective effort against terrorism.

We believe that such an aggressive and unjustified act of war would be unfair and illegal due to the following reasons:

a) Syria is a sovereign state that does not pose any threat to the United States of America;

b) The UN Security Council did not adopt such an action.

c) The UN Report about the terrible incident in Damascus Countryside - Ghotta- has not been formulated. No-one can even know whether it will include enough evidence for any claims and allegations.

d) On the contrary, the UN has already concluded that there is a very strong evidence that the fundamentalist terrorists from the al-Nusrah Front - a terrorist organization affiliated to al Qaeda- have used a poison gas against Syrian soldiers and innocent civilians. Consequently, any aggressive act against innocent and sovereign people, without any legal evidence, would be a criminal act breaching the principles of the International Law. While some of the western circles are offering all possible support to the fanatic Wahhabi rebels who were accused of committing crimes by the UN, which is surely a breach of your declared basic principles of justice.

We highly appreciate your moral feeling of sorrow at the images of the chemical attack victims. We the Syrians, are fully co-operating with the UN Investigation Team, Syrian experts are also investigating the question of who carried out this atrocity and sharing the UN Team with the results. We Parliamentarians, are determined to reach the truth and to bring the involved criminals to justice, regardless whoever they are.

In the meantime we urge you not to rush into any irresponsible reckless action. You have the power and the responsibility today to convert the United States of America from the war

track to the diplomatic path. We hope to meet there, and to talk, as civilised peoples should. We adopt a diplomatic solution, as we realize that war would be a bloody destructive catastrophic track, which does not have any benefit for all nations.

In fact, the most important matter is that we all face the same terrorist threat. Attacking Syria and weakening its establishments and infrastructure would automatically strengthen the power of our common enemy, Al Qaida and its terrorist affiliates. Instead of fighting each other, we should be working together to fully implement UN Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1624 against terror. Instead of being enemies, we should be walking the road to peace and truth together.

With Best Regards,  
Speaker of People's Assembly  
MHD. Jihad AL-LAHHAM

## ISRAEL SAYS IT, U.S. LAUNCHED MISSILE TEST IN MEDITERRANEAN

September 3, 2013 Sergei L. Loiko

MOSCOW -- Israel said it carried out a joint missile test with the U.S. over the Mediterranean Sea that was detected Tuesday morning by a Russian radar system.

Earlier in the day, Russia announced the detection of two "ballistic" objects over the Mediterranean, state-run media outlets RIA-Novosti and ITAR-TASS reported.

The two launches were picked up at 10:16 a.m. Moscow time, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reportedly informed President Vladimir Putin.

The news initially raised concerns of a possible missile strike against Syria -- the U.S. is weighing an attack on the country in the wake of an alleged chemical weapons attack by the Syrian government -- but the Russian Embassy in Damascus reported no sign of any explosions or damage from missiles, RIA-Novosti reported.

About two hours after Russia announced the detection of objects over the Mediterranean, Israel's Defense Ministry said the detected launches were made by Israel jointly with the United States to test an Israeli anti-missile system.

"The said launches were the testing of target missile Yakor [Anchor] which is used to test anti-missile defense systems," an Israel defense spokesman told RIS-Novosti.

Igor Korotchenko, a Russian defense analyst and editor-in-chief of the National Defense journal called the tests "totally irresponsible" at what is a critical time in the volatile region.

"Israel and the United States should have thought better of the grave risks of such tests at this critical time in this region before launching those missiles," Korotchenko said in an interview with The Times. "The Russian early warning radar system proved its efficiency full well and Russia could have put its nuclear forces on higher alert.

"If Israel chose to act so totally irresponsibly, the United States should have at least used the hotline between Washington and the Kremlin to warn Moscow of such tests despite the current coldness in the relations between the two countries," Korotchenko added. "It is not clear whether the Kremlin was informed in advance."

## AGGRESSION WAS OVER THE MOMENT THOSE TWO MISSILES WERE FIRED

Daoud Rammal – As-Safir, September 9, 2013

A well informed diplomatic source told **As-Safir** newspaper that “the US war on Syria had started and ended the moment those two ballistic missiles were fired, leaving inconsistent information, as Israel denied and Russia confirmed, until an Israeli statement was issued indicating they were fired in the context of an Israeli-US joint drill and fell in the sea, and that they were not related to the Syrian crisis.”

The source further told the Lebanese daily that “the US forces fired these two rockets from a NATO base in Spain, and were instantly detected by the Russian radars and confronted by the Russian defense systems, so one of them exploded in the airspace and the second one diverted towards the sea.”

In this context, the source pointed out that “the statement issued by the Russian Defense Ministry, which stated the detection of two ballistic missiles fired towards the Middle East, intended to neglect two points: the first was the location from which the two rockets were fired, and the second was their downing. Why? Because the moment the full military operation was launched, Head of the Russian Intelligence Service contacted the US intelligence and informed it that “hitting Damascus means hitting Moscow, and we have removed the term “downed the two missiles” from the statement to preserve the bilateral relations and to avoid escalation. Therefore, you must immediately reconsider your policies, approaches and intentions on the Syrian crisis, as you must be certain that you cannot eliminate our presence in the Mediterranean.”

“This unannounced direct confrontation between Moscow and Washington increased the Obama Administration’s confusion and certainty that the Russian side was ready to move until the end with the Syrian cause, and that the US did not have a way out of its impasse except through a Russian initiative which would save America’s face...” he added.

From this point, the diplomatic source clarified that “in order to avoid further US confusion, and after Israel denied knowing anything about the rocket firing in its first statement, which is the truth, Washington demanded Tel Aviv to adopt the rocket firing to save its face in front of the International Community, especially since these two rockets were the beginning of the US aggression on Syria and the announcement of the beginning of military operations, after which US President Barack Obama was supposed to go to the G20 Summit in Russia to

negotiate the destiny of Syrian President Bashr Al-Assad. However, he went to find a way out of the impasse he's in."

The source further indicated that "after the US-Russia rocket confrontation, Moscow intended to increase its number of military experts in Russia, and added to its military units and destroyers to enhance its military presence in the Mediterranean. It also set a time for announcing about its initiative on stopping the aggression on Syria after the G20 Summit, after drawing a side scene on the sidelines of the summit which was followed by two successive visits for Iranian Foreign Minister, Hussein Amir Abdul Lahyan, and Syrian Foreign Minister, Walid Al-Moallem, in which a way out was agreed on with the Russian side, and it included a Syrian announcement on approving the Russian initiative regarding putting Syrian chemical weapons under international supervision and preparing Syria for joining the non-proliferation treaty.

Finally, the source pointed out that "One of the first results of the US-Russian military confrontation was the British House of Commons' rejection to participate in a war on Syria. This was followed by European stances, most significantly, the German stance announced by Chancellor Angela Merkel."

Translated by Sara Taha Moughnieh