

Bio Terror Bible

EXPOSING THE COMING BIO-TERROR PANDEMIC

BIOTERRORBIBLE.COM: Despite the fact that the United States and its European Union allies have been researching, planning and drilling for a major bio-terror attack and the subsequent pandemic, the nations of [Egypt](#), [Iran](#), [Iraq](#), [Libya](#), [North Korea](#) and [Syria](#) have been quietly set up over the last decade as potential bio-terror scapegoats. Based on the evidence available, it appears that the U.S., [Israel](#) and [South Korea](#) may be the future victims of major false-flag bio-terror attacks.

While the world is distracted by the "Arab Spring" in Syria, the country has been quietly set up as a bio-terror state that will likely be scapegoated in the upcoming war of bio-terror. Based on recent news and events, Syria will likely be scapegoated in a future false-flag bio-terror attack on the state of Israel.

Title: Chemical And Biological Weapons In The Middle East

Date: April 16, 2002

Source: [Carnegie Endowment](#)

Abstract: Raging violence between Israelis and Palestinians has raised fears of a wider war in the region. For background on the possible use of weapons of mass destruction in future conflicts, we provide summaries on the chemical and biological weapon capabilities of countries in the Middle East adapted from a forthcoming Carnegie study, [Deadly Arsenals: Tracking Weapons of Mass Destruction \(June 2002\)](#). Next week's analysis will assess regional missile arsenals.

Israel's Chemical and Biological Weapon Capabilities

Israel possesses advanced chemical and biological weapons capabilities, although it is not known what type or how many offensive agents it currently has. Israel is believed to have had sophisticated chemical and biological weapons programs for several decades which are centered at the Israel Institute for Biological Research (IIBR) at Ness Ziona, some 10 kilometers south of Tel Aviv. There, Israel reportedly has conducted advanced research on both chemical and biological warfare.

Lacking authoritative information, non-Israeli publications have made many claims about Israel's CBW capabilities, from the trivial to the most sensationalist. The government of Israel, as part of its traditional deliberate ambiguity policy, has neither confirmed nor denied those reports. Acknowledging the difficulties in assessing Israel's CBW programs and capabilities, Avner Cohen recently characterized Israel's capabilities in these fields in the following way: "A near-consensus exists among experts-based on anecdotal evidence and intelligence leaks-that Israel developed, produced, stockpiled, and maybe even deployed chemical weapons at some point in its history." As to biological weapons, however, Cohen appears more cautious and tentative: "It would be logical-given the experience with Iraq-that Israel has acquired expertise in most aspects of weaponization, with the possible exception of testing. Although it is probable that Israel has maintained some sort of production capability, it is highly doubtful that Israel engages in the ongoing production or stockpiling of BW agents."

A 1990 DIA study reported that Israel had an operational chemical warfare testing facility. In an oblique Israeli reference, the authoritative Middle East Military Balance produced by the Jaffe Center notes, "The chemical and biological capabilities of Syria, Iraq and Iran are matched, according to foreign sources, by Israel's possession of a wide range of such weapons." Israel has signed but not yet ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention and is not a party to the Biological Weapons Convention.

Iraq's Chemical and Biological Weapon Capabilities

The absence of UN monitoring since 1998 has aroused concerns that Iraq again may have produced some biological warfare agents. Iraq currently maintains numerous science and medical facilities furnished with dual-use equipment where potential BW-related work could easily take place. According to UN estimates, Iraq possesses the technology and expertise to reconstitute an offensive biological weapons program within a few weeks or months. Iraq's continual refusal to disclose any details about its biological weapons program have lead U.S. officials to conclude that Baghdad maintains an active program, in spite of Iraq's ratification of the BWC in 1991. "The United States strongly suspects that Iraq has taken advantage of three years of no UN inspections to improve all phases of its offensive BW program. The existence of Iraq's program is beyond dispute, in complete contravention of the BWC." In the absence of further monitoring, the current status of the Iraqi chemical weapons program is also unknown. Iraq maintains the expertise to resume chemical agent production within a few weeks or months. However, to attain former levels of production, Iraq would need significant amounts of foreign assistance.

Iran's Chemical and Biological Weapon Capabilities

Although Iran is a member of the Biological Weapons Convention, U.S. intelligence reports claim that Iran currently maintains an offensive biological weapons program. The Iranian program is believed to include active research and development, agent production and weaponization.

In May 1998, after acceding to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Tehran acknowledged past Iranian involvement in chemical weapons development and production. Like the Iranian BW program, the chemical weapons program began in the 1980's during the war with Iraq. Officials claimed that the Iranian CW program was dismantled at the war's end. U.S. threat assessments, however, contend that Iran's chemical weapons program remains intact. It is believed that Iran possesses a stockpile of weaponized blood gases, and blister and pulmonary agents.

Egypt, Syria, Libya and Sudan's Chemical and Biological Weapon Capabilities

There is considerable evidence that *Egypt* started a biological weapon research program in the early 1960s that produced weaponized agents. In 1996, U.S. officials reported that Egypt had developed biological warfare agents by 1972 and that "there is no evidence to indicate that Egypt has eliminated this capability and it remains likely that the Egyptian capability to conduct biological warfare continues to exist." Currently, Egyptian officials assert that Egypt never developed, produced or stockpiled biological weapons. *Syria* has a biotechnical infrastructure capable of supporting limited agent development but has not begun a major effort to produce biological agents or to put them into weapons, according to official U.S. assessments. *Libya* is also believed to have a program, but it has not advanced beyond basic research and development. *Sudan* is not believed to have a biological weapon program, but U.S. officials have repeatedly warned of Sudanese interest in developing a program.

Egypt was the first country in the Middle East to obtain chemical weapons and the first to use them. It reportedly employed phosgene and mustard gas against Yemeni royalist forces in the mid-1960s. It is believed to still have a research program and has never reported the destruction of any of its chemical agents or weapons. Like Egypt, *Syria* has not signed the Chemical Weapons Convention and U.S. officials believe it has a significant stockpile of the nerve agent sarin. A 1990 intelligence assessment reported that Syria had weaponized these chemicals in 500-kilogram aerial bombs and warheads for its Scud-B missiles. Libya once had a substantial chemical weapons stockpile. It produced at least 100 metric tons of blister and nerve agents before it closed its Rabta plant in 1990. It may still have some chemical weapons and is suspected of trying to re-establish its offensive chemical weapon capability and an indigenous production capability for weapons. *Sudan* is also believed to have an active interest in acquiring the capability to produce chemical agents, but is not believed to have done so yet. Libya is not a member of the CWC; Sudan is ([Carnegie Endowment, 2002](#)).

Title: Arms Scientists Said To Have Fled To Syria

Date: April 12, 2003

Source: [UCLA](#)

Abstract: Some of Iraq's top weapons scientists already have fled their country and are in Syria, from where they may seek political safety in France, administration sources said yesterday.

The officials said among those believed to have made it to Syria are [Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash](#) and [Rihab Taha](#), both top scientists in Iraq's biological-weapons program. The administration sources said there are intelligence reports that one, or both, made it to Damascus.

Mrs. Taha is a British-trained microbiologist, who led Iraq's drive to cultivate and weaponize deadly anthrax. Nicknamed "Dr. Germ," she is believed to hold vast knowledge concerning all of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's development of weapons of mass destruction.

Mrs. Ammash has been nicknamed "Mrs. Anthrax" by Western reporters. She has been photographed at Saddam's Cabinet meetings, and at a meeting with his son, Qusai, who ran most of Iraq's military and security organizations.

The two women are notable not only for their expertise in weaponizing germs, but also because they both attained senior positions among the male-dominated Ba'ath Party.

Mrs. Ammash's picture and name were listed yesterday by the U.S. Central Command as one of 55 most-wanted Iraqis for possible war-crimes charges. Mrs. Taha was not listed, although she is wanted for questioning.

They are of great potential value to American weapons inspectors who want leads on where Saddam has hidden his weapons of mass destruction.

One administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said there are intelligence reports that Iraqi weapons scientists are seeking safety in France. Paris aided Saddam's nuclear-weapons program, helped build Baghdad's air-defense network and vehemently opposed the ongoing war that toppled the dictator.

U.S. officials declined to put a number on how many Iraqi weapons scientists have entered Syria, but estimated it is fewer than 10 at this point.

Allied forces set up checkpoints early in the war at crucial highway intersections. But military officials say it is impossible to stop every car and search it.

There have been two days of intense firefights between U.S. troops and Iraqi forces in the town of Qa'im, which lies just 20 miles from the Syrian border and is a key juncture in the escape route from Baghdad to Damascus.

During the inspection regime by the United Nations that ended before the war started March 19, inspectors failed to gain unfettered access to any Iraqi weapons scientists except one biological-warfare researcher.

Reports that Iraqi scientists have left Baghdad for Syria comes as the U.S. Central Command announced yesterday a most-wanted list of 55 Ba'ath Party leaders. The "wanted posters" came in the form of a deck of cards — this one with 55 cards, each showing a picture of an Iraqi fugitive. Saddam, who may have been killed in a Monday air strike, is the ace of spades.

The current government in Syria, like Saddam's regime, was founded as a hard-line dictatorship. Since the war started, Syria has purportedly come to Baghdad's aid in several ways, including shipping night-vision military equipment and allowing suicidal non-Iraqi Arabs to travel through Syria to Iraq to attack the allies.

Now, Syria is providing a haven to Iraqi Ba'athists, including some weapons experts. The exodus began with the family members of Saddam's regime. But as Army soldiers and the Marines got closer to Baghdad last week, regime figures started showing up in Syria.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has warned Syria several times publicly to stop helping Saddam's defeated regime and did so again yesterday.

"They have allowed people to come out of that country into their country and either stay or transit. None of these things are helpful," he said.

Mrs. Taha is married to Iraq's oil minister, Lt. Gen. Amir Rashid Mohammed Ubaydi. During the U.N. inspections regime of the 1990s, inspectors interviewed Mrs. Taha frequently. A loyal Ba'athist, she often responded angrily, and in one instance threw furniture.

Gen. Ubaydi is on the most-wanted list of 55.

Mrs. Taha ran Iraq's supersecret biological-warfare program at a research lab in the town of Hakam beginning in the mid-1980s.

Many senior Iraqi ministers, generals and Ba'ath Party members suddenly disappeared on Monday from Baghdad two days before the city fell to the U.S.-led coalition. The vanishing act came hours after a U.S. Air Force B-1B dropped four 2,000-pound bombs on a building in Baghdad suspected of holding Saddam, his sons, Uday and Qusai, and other officials.

The target was a safe house for the Iraqi Intelligence Service in the western Mansur neighborhood of Baghdad, behind the popular al Saa restaurant.

"There were two places. One was a restaurant, and one was a house nearby," Mr. Rumsfeld said yesterday. "And the question is, who was in what, if anybody? And the answer is, do we have ground truth there? And the answer is no."

The four satellite-guided bombs destroyed a row of buildings, and left a deep crater.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, said U.S. forces will eventually examine the bombing site located in the Ba'ath Party stronghold. But for now, occupying troops have more important missions.

"I think our priorities now would not be to be digging in rubble," said Gen. Myers.

The CIA received human intelligence that Saddam went into the building and did not come out before the bombs destroyed it ([UCLA, 2003](#)).

Title: U.S. Report Finds Active Biological Weapons Programs In Iran, North Korea, Russia And Syria

Date: September 7, 2005

Source: [NTI](#)

Abstract: The U.S. State Department has found that Iran, North Korea, Russia and Syria are maintaining biological weapons programs, the Associated Press reported last week (see [GSN](#), March 29).

The State Department also found that China still has “some elements” of a biological weapons program, while experts failed to agree on Cuba’s bioweapons production capacity, AP reported.

The findings were outlined in the State Department’s “Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments” report. The congressionally mandated report, covering the two-year period ending in December 2004, details individual country’s WMD capabilities and missile proliferation efforts, according to AP.

According to the report: Based on available intelligence, Iran is believed to have an offensive biological weapons program; North Korea has a “dedicated, national-level effort to develop a BW capability; Russia “continues to maintain” a weapons program; and Syria would be in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention if it was a member.

China “maintains some elements of an offensive BW capability,” while Cuba has at least a “limited offensive BW research and development effort,” the report found (George Gedda, Associated Press/[Baltimore Sun](#), Aug. 30).

China rejected the report’s findings, according to *Voice of America*.

“These statements are far from the truth, and are irresponsible,” said Zhang Yan, director general of the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s arms control department. “We hope that the U.S. side will stop such erroneous practices, and we also express our strong dissatisfaction” (Luis Ramirez, [Voice of America](#), Sept. 1).

Russia has also challenged statements made in the report regarding its weapons programs, RIA Novosti reported last week.

“Those are not new accusations,” the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement. “The Russian Foreign Ministry has had to comment on similar points in other ‘research papers’ that put Russia in a group of countries violating nonproliferation agreements without providing any evidence many times before.”

The Foreign Ministry said the report presents “a one-sided and distorted picture of the implementation of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.”

Russia said the State Department offered no evidence that it has failed to honor its Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological Weapons Convention commitments ([NTI, 2005](#)).

Title: Syria Ready With Bio-Terror If U.S. Hits Iran: Damascus Reportedly Hiding WMD Smong Commercial Pharmaceuticals

Date: March 5, 2007

Source: [WND](#)

Abstract: An American biodefense analyst living in Europe says if the U.S. invades Iran to halt its nuclear ambitions, Syria is ready to respond with weapons of mass destruction – specifically biological weapons.

“Syria is positioned to launch a biological attack on Israel or Europe should the U.S. attack Iran,” Jill Bellamy-Dekker told WND. “The Syrians are embedding their biological weapons program into their commercial pharmaceuticals business and their veterinary vaccine-research facilities. The intelligence service oversees Syria’s ‘bio-farm’ program and the Ministry of Defense is well interfaced into the effort.”

Bellamy-Decker currently directs the Public Health Preparedness program for the European Homeland Security Association under the French High Committee for Civil Defense.

She anticipates a variation of smallpox is the biological agent Syria would utilize.

"The Syrians are also working on orthopox viruses that are related to smallpox," Bellamy-Decker said, "and it's a good way to get around international treaties against offensive biological weapons development. They work on camelpox as a cover for smallpox."

According to the Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) at the University of Minnesota, [camelpox is a virus closely related to smallpox, that causes a "severe and economically important disease in camels," but rarely, if ever, causes the disease in humans.](#)

Bellamy-Decker also told WND the North Koreans were working closely with the Syrians on their biological weapons program.

"The Syrians have made some recent acquisitions in regard to their smallpox program from the DPRK," she explained. "Right before the recent Lebanon war, the Syrians had a crash program in cryptosporidium."

According to the Washington State Department of Health, [cryptosporidium is a one-celled parasite that causes a gastrointestinal illness with symptoms of diarrhea, abdominal cramps, headaches, nausea, vomiting, and a low-grade fever. The symptoms can last for weeks and may result in weight loss and dehydration.](#)

"Because cryptosporidium is impervious to chlorine," Bellamy-Decker continued, "you could infect the water supply by the bucket full of cryptosporidium, if you know where to get it. The resulting illness would put down a lot of civilians and military who might oppose you going into their country."

"The Syrians have a modus operandi of covert operations and deniability," she stressed, "so biological weapons are absolutely perfect for them."

WND asked Bellamy-Decker if the Syrians have any history of having used biological weapons.

"I believe they are testing biological weapons right now, in Sudan, in the conflict in Darfur," she answered. "There is credible information about flyover activity in Darfur, where little parachutes have been dropped down on the population. This is consistent with dispersal methods in bioweapons attacks. I've also seen evidence of bodies that have been recovered from Darfur that look as if they had been exposed to biological weapons."

[President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran met with Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in Khartoum Feb. 28](#) to exchange expressions of support and solidarity.

"The Syrians now consider biological weapons as part of their arsenal," Bellamy-Decker said. "The Syrian military is also beginning to plan the eventual integration of biological weapons in its tactical and strategic arsenals."

She referenced an April 2000 article published by Syrian defense minister General Mustafa Talas, titled "Biological (Germ) Warfare: A New and Effective Method in Modern Warfare." The article was republished in a Farsi translation in Tehran.

"All indications suggest that Syria's ultimate objective is to mount biological warheads on all varieties of the long-range surface-to-surface missiles in its possession," Bellamy-Decker maintained. "This is a goal that can probably be achieved within a few years, and it may already have been realized in part."

She argued that instead of producing large quantities of bioweapons agents, Syria is seeking to develop a smaller, but high-quality arsenal, which it can deliver accurately against military and civilian targets.

When asked how Syria might be expected to retaliate against Israel or Europe if the U.S. attacked Iran, she responded, "Syria has most likely forward-deployed some of their covert operatives. Smallpox does not need to be weaponized. Aerosol release is the way to go."

Bellamy-Decker explained the methodology of a terrorist bio-attack:

So with a good primary aerosol release in an airport in Israel or Europe and you could get 100 index cases. If you've made the strain sufficiently virulent, you could have a ratio of 1 to 13 for infectivity, where the normal ratio is 1 to 3. If every index case infects 13 other people, you unfortunately have a great first hit.

"A terrorist bio-attack could go global," she noted. "A good biological hit will spread rapidly with international travel. Smallpox is a better weapon than anthrax. Smallpox has been field-tested, it is highly stable, and highly communicable, especially if you look at some of the strains the Russians manipulated. Syria probably retained some of [its] smallpox strains from the last outbreak back in 1972."

Another risk is the possibility Syria's military might give bioweapons to terrorists.

"We are close to seeing a breakthrough where Syria could provide biological weapons to some of the terrorist groups they work with, like Hezbollah in Lebanon," Bellamy-Decker argued. "The Syrians believe they can vaccinate themselves and they are working within the Syrian military. They're certainly not worried about releasing these biological weapons in a military setting, or even if civilians were infected as well, as long as they are vaccinated. I think it is a real threat."

Bellamy-Decker is presenting a paper at this week's [Intelligence Summit](#) in St. Petersburg, Fla. It is expected to focus on the sophisticated state of development of the Syrian bioweapons program.

"The Syrians have developed a rather remarkable bioweapons capability that has gone under the radar of U.S. intelligence," she said. "U.S. intelligence continues to insist that the Syrian capability is not highly developed. The Syrian program mirrors how the Russians have developed their program, as well as Iraq under Saddam Hussein, North Korea, and Iran. The emphasis in the Syrian program is on latent potential and outbreak capability."

Bellamy-Decker explained we should not expect to find stockpiles of biological weapons.

"Stockpiles are just not how biological weapons are done," she said. "With biological weapons, it is not the quantity, but the quality that counts. If you can produce a virulent, communicable strain, then you have a great biological weapon and it doesn't matter how much of it you have, it depends on what the weapon looks like."

Bellamy-Decker also referenced a [paper she had co-authored for the European Homeland Security Association \(EHSA\) titled, "Public Health Security and Preparedness."](#)

This paper is intended to be used as part of a new initiative EHSA is launching in Brussels to hold a quarterly bioterrorism forum bringing together national and international experts with high-level decision-makers "to discuss the threat posed by deliberate disease and the appropriate preparedness and response mechanisms vitally needed to address this threat" ([WND, 2007](#)).

Title: Mysterious Plague Outbreak Among Syrian Army

Date: July 6, 2010

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: An outbreak of plague, which is considered a potential bioweapon, among the Syrian military may be raising more questions than answers.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad recently ordered the shutdown of all Syrian military exercises due to a plague that currently affects a large number of military personnel, according to Examiner.com.

The Syrian president has told Syrian news sources that food and drinking water in military bases, coupled with one of the country's worst droughts in over 40 years, are responsible for the outbreak of plague.

Hundreds of thousands of Syrians are experiencing food shortages, nearly 60,000 small livestock owners have lost all their animals and 50,000 others have lost 50 to 60 percent of their cattle.

The infectious bacterium *Yersinia pestis* causes the infectious disease plague, which is commonly found worldwide in rats and other rodents. Fleas often serve as common vectors of plague. There are three forms of human plague – bubonic, septicemic and pneumonic.

Humans may also be infected by direct contact with an infected animal, through inhalation and, if it is pneumonic plague, by person to person contact.

Drinking water, food and a heat wave are not common causes of plague, Examiner.com says, unless they have increased the contact between humans and plague carriers.

Because of this, the article says, questions should be raised about the true cause of the Syrian army plague ([Bio Prep Watch, 2010](#)).

Title: Nations Of Concern: Syria

Date: July 15, 2011

Source: [Wiley](#)

Abstract: The article discusses Syria's biological weapons capability, its support to terrorism, and finally the possibility that Syria might provide biological weapons-related materials or information to terrorist groups. Based on the available information, the article concludes that Syria does not possess an offensive biological weapons capability even though it may possess the technical wherewithal to develop, produce, and deploy biological weapons. The article also concludes that in spite of its support to terrorism in the region, Syria has not transferred any biological weapons-related information or material to terrorist groups and is highly unlikely to do so in the future ([Wiley, 2011](#)).

Title: Experts Worried Syrian Chemical Weapons Could Fall Into Terrorists' Hands

Date: August 30, 2011

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: As the political turmoil continues to increase in Syria, U.S. officials are closely monitoring the stockpile of weapons in the country, particularly its arsenal of deadly chemical gases and delivery systems.

According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, American officials are deeply concerned that political dissidents or terrorist organizations may take advantage of the instability in Syria to acquire some of the nation's weapons of mass destruction. Officials do not believe any weapon sites have yet been compromised, Business Insider reports.

The officials do fear, however, that the Syrian government could lose control of its chemical cache if the country descends even further into political disarray or even into a full-blown civil war.

The chemical stockpile in Syria is believed to include a large amount of mustard gas, Sarin gas – the nerve agent used in the 1995 Tokyo subway attacks that killed 13 and sickened over 1,000 – as well as the missile systems required to deliver those chemical weapons.

Privately, the U.S. has worried about the extent of Syria's cache of chemical weapons since at least 2008, when a secret state department cable warned about the mounting threat of the country's large stockpile and potential ties to terrorist groups, Business Insider reports. Those concerns have increased in recent months as the government of Syria has teetered on the brink of collapse.

The United Nations estimates that more than 2,200 people have been killed in the country as a result of a government crackdown on protesters, leading to a number of foreign governments, including the U.S., to call for Syrian President Assad to step down.

The Obama administration has expressed similar concerns about weapons going missing in Libya, where rebel forces ousted long-time leader Muammar Qaddafi last week ([Bio Prep Watch, 2011](#)).

Title: Syria's 'Serious Chemical And Biological Threat'

Date: September 2, 2011

Source: [BBC](#)

Abstract: Scientists have warned that Syria could be developing chemical and biological weapons to add to their already substantial stockpile.

Professor Christine Gosden of the Department of Molecular and Clinical Cancer at the University of Liverpool, and Dan Plesch, of the School of Oriental and African Studies, discuss the "serious problem" of such weapons in the hands of a "failing state" ([BBC, 2012](#)).

Title: Syrian 'Chemical, Biological' Weapons Concern Israel

Date: January 17, 2012

Source: [YNet](#)

Abstract: IDF's planning division head says chemical, biological weapons still flowing into Syria, wonders 'what will be transferred to Hezbollah?' [Israel](#) has serious concerns about what will happen to "huge stockpiles" of chemical and biological weapons in [Syria](#) when the Assad regime collapses, a senior military official said on Tuesday.

Major-General Amir Eshel, head of the Israeli military's planning division, said the working assumption was the regime of President Bashar [Assad](#) would eventually fall.

"The question is when, not if. And the big question is what's going to come the day after," he said.

"The immediate concern is the huge stockpiles of chemicals, biologicals (weapons), strategic capabilities that are still going into Syria, mainly from eastern Europe," Eshel said.

"That's a major concern because I don't know who is going to own those the day after. Up till now, what has been transferred to Hezbollah? What will be transferred to [Hezbollah](#)? What will be divided between those factions inside Syria? What is that going to create?

"We are talking about huge stockpiles," he said.

The regime has spearheaded a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy activists seeking to overthrow Assad, who has vowed to remain in power, raising the specter of civil war between Syria's many religious sects if he steps down.

Eshel said the threat of civil war was a real possibility if Assad clung to power.

"If Assad will adopt this Yemenite model and leave, it might prevent a civil war," he said, referring to an agreement that saw Yemen's former president Ali Abdullah Saleh agree in November to leave power.

"But if he won't leave of his own will, we might get into civil war," he said. "If there will be a civil war, it might be a disaster."

Eshel also warned that Syria faces bankruptcy, which could create new instability.

"I think the major challenge the Syrians will face in a few months, is bankruptcy. The reserves will be zero, and this is going to create, I think, internal turmoil. We can expect refugees in many countries."

On January 10, Israel's Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Benny [Gantz](#) told MPs that the military was preparing for the possibility of an influx of Syrian refugees, particularly on the Golan Heights ([YNet, 2012](#)).

Title: Hezbollah May Obtain Syria's Non-Conventional Weapons

Date: January 18, 2012

Source: [YouTube](#)

Title: Concerns Continue To Mount About Syrian Bioweapons

Date: January 20, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Worries continue to mount over the potential that the vast stockpile of chemical weapons in Syria could fall into the hands of militants as the days of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad look increasingly numbered.

While the size and quality of the chemical arsenal in Syria is not known, experts are fairly certain that Damascus operates a comprehensive weapons program encompassing both production and delivery capabilities, [AINA](#) reports.

"We are talking about huge stockpiles," Major-General Amir Eshel, the head of the Israeli military planning division, said, according to [AINA](#). "That's a major concern because I don't know who is going to own those the day after. Up till now, what has been transferred to Hezbollah? What will be transferred to Hezbollah? What will be divided between those factions inside Syria?"

There were similar concerns about the chemical weapons arsenal of Libya under the regime of Muammar Qaddafi. Syria's chemical weapons stockpile is thought to be much bigger and more sophisticated.

"Syria has never signed the Chemical Weapons Convention and has been indifferent over the years to our consistent overtures to open a discussion on the issue," Luhan said, according to [AINA](#). "We're monitoring events in Syria closely ... and hope whatever situation subsequently develops from the turmoil will create more favorable circumstances for joining the convention."

Experts believe that the chemical weapons stockpile includes mustard gas, sarin and possibly VX nerve agent. If Syria has biological weapon capabilities, they are more shrouded in mystery. Analysts fear that

Al-Assad might transfer some of the arsenal to his allies or use chemical weapons against its own people. A chaotic end to his reign could also enable rebels, arms dealers and foreign militant groups to raid the depots ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

Title: Biological Weapons In Syria And Bioterrorism In USA

Date: January 21, 2012

Source: [PBS](#)

Title: Israeli Officials: Terrorists May Get Syria's Weapons

Date: February 7, 2012

Source: [Haaretz](#)

Abstract: With violence mounting, the growing threat to President Bashar Assad's regime is raising concern in Israel that weapons from Syria's military could fall into the hands of terrorist groups, defense officials told Haaretz on Monday.

Following the bloody weekend assault on Homs by Assad's forces, Israeli defense sources said large amounts of weapons could be transferred to Hezbollah, in Lebanon, or to other organizations.

The weapons include advanced SA missiles, high-trajectory long-range rockets and missiles, and biological and chemical weapons, the officials said.

Speaking last week at the Herzliya Conference, Defense Minister Ehud Barak said: "It is difficult to predict exactly what will happen in Syria. We're watching for attempts to pass advanced weapons systems that could edge the delicate balance in Lebanon to Hezbollah."

Incoming Israel Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Amir Eshel told foreign journalists in Jerusalem last month that, as far as Assad's fall is concerned, "the question is when, not if. And the big question is what will happen the following day."

Eshel said Israel's immediate concern is Syria's huge cache of chemical and biological weapons - coming mainly from East European states - and into whose hands it will fall.

"What has been passed on to Hezbollah so far? What will be passed on in the future? What will be divided between the two factions in Syria?" he asked.

Israel has been warning for several years that Syria may provide Hezbollah with advanced weapons systems. The foreign media reported that Hezbollah has maintained training bases and arsenals in Syria, near the Lebanon border, since 2008. Arab media reported Syria had moved Scud missiles to Hezbollah camps in Lebanon and that advanced SA missiles had been set up in the mountains of Lebanon.

Other reports, unconfirmed by Israel, said Israel considered attacking convoys carrying weapons from Syria to Lebanon on several occasions in recent years.

However, the concern is greater now because Assad's forces seem to be losing their grip on the state. This could result in passing weapons to Hezbollah, or in radical Sunni factions taking over the arsenals, the officials said.

After Muammar Gadhafi's regime collapsed in Libya last year, the army's caches were looted and SA missiles and rockets found their way to various terror organizations - from militias in east Africa, to Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Gaza Strip, officials said ([Haaretz, 2012](#)).

Title: Hizbullah Chemical War Threat to Israel If Assad Falls

Date: February 7, 2012

Source: [Israel National News](#)

Abstract: The expected fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime may be Hizbullah's gain of chemical and biological weapons that could be used against Israel, officials fear.

The latest concerns, reported by foreign news services, come three weeks after former Labor party Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer warned, "We are talking in terms of thousands of missiles that might move to Hizbullah and might endanger the whole Middle East."

He told a news conference organized by the Israel Project that Syrian's arsenal includes biological and chemical weapons.

Lebanese sources have reported that Hizbullah has been increasing its smuggling of weapons from Syria.

Defense officials told the *Associated Press* this week that they are worried Hizbullah will obtain Syria's S-125 anti-aircraft missiles, which could down surveillance flights Israel conducts over southern Lebanon. The terrorist organization has created a "state within a state" in the area.

In 2000, then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak suddenly pulled all military personnel out of the "security zone" in southern Lebanon, from where terrorists shot missiles on northern Israel. Hizbullah easily filled the vacuum of power. With the absence of Israeli intelligence, it stockpiled 20,000 missiles until launching the Second Lebanon War against Israel in the summer of 2006.

An Israel intelligence official said last week that Israel now faces 200,000 missiles on all fronts ([Israel National News, 2012](#)).

Title: Israel Warns Against Syrian Bioweapons Falling Into Hezbollah's Hands

Date: February 8, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Israel recently announced that it considers the threat of Syria's weapons of mass destruction falling into the wrong hands to be equal to the threat posed by Iran's nuclear weapons development.

The violent crackdown on Syrian civilian protestors has entered its eleventh month, and the Israeli intelligence community now considers the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government all but inevitable, according to the [Telegraph](#).

Al-Assad's massive weapons stockpile includes chemical and biological weapons, surface-to-air missiles and high-trajectory long-range rockets – all considered threats to Israeli security. The weapons are currently under the care of government forces.

With Assad reportedly losing his grip on power, the danger grows that his weapons, including deadly chemical agents like sarin and VX, will fall into the hands of Sunni extremists or the Tehran-backed militant Shiite group Hezbollah, the [Telegraph](#) reports.

Israel Hayom, a newspaper closely aligned with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, recently quoted a high-ranking Israeli defense official who warned Syria that any transfer of WMDs to Lebanon would be tantamount to a declaration of war by the government in Beirut. The official added that Israel would act in order to prevent such a move.

Incoming Israeli Air Force Chief Major General Amir Eshel said that the unrest in Syria could precipitate a conflict on Israel's northern border.

"The question is when, not if [Assad will fall]. And the big question is what will happen the following day," Eshel said, the [Telegraph](#) reports. "What has been passed on to Hezbollah so far? What will be passed on in the future? What will be divided between the two factions in Syria?" ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

Title: Assad Forces Mull Use Of Chemical Weapons In Homs, Opposition Says

Date: February 9, 2012

Source: [Haaretz](#)

Abstract: Opposition figures claim government stockpiling chemical weapons and distributing gas masks to soldiers near Homs; 130 people reportedly killed on Thursday as government intensifies crackdown.

Syria's military has begun stockpiling chemical weapons and equipping its soldiers with gas masks near the city of Homs, opposition sources reported on Thursday.

Opposition activists said they had received reports that the Syrian army had transferred a significant quantity of grenades and mortars containing chemical agents to a school building in Homs.

The opposition also reported that gas masks were being distributed to soldiers at roadblocks.

Homs has become the focal point of violent confrontations between insurgents and the country's military in recent days, and opposition figures are concerned that the moves could signal the regime's intention to use chemical weapons against its citizens.

News agencies reported over 130 killed in Syria on Thursday, as Bashar Assad's government intensified its crackdown on an expanding uprising against his regime.

Demonstrations were reported on Thursday in Aleppo, Syria's second largest city, which had previously not seen large-scale protests against the government.

Meanwhile, an opposition website reported that an armored brigade of the Syrian military was headed toward the city of Zabadani, which has been held for the past ten days by the Free Syrian Army, the opposition's armed wing. The site speculated that the brigade would attempt to retake the city over the next two days.

Opposition sources said the ferocity of attacks by government forces against the cities of Homs, Idlib and Daraa had reached unprecedented levels of intensity over the past two days, with hospitals and clinics bombed and doctors arrested.

British Prime Minister David Cameron on Thursday said there was a need to continue to maintain pressure on Syria's government over its bloody crackdown on the country's opposition.

"Clearly what we are seeing on our television screens is completely unacceptable," Cameron told a news conference in Stockholm. "It really is appalling to see the destruction of Homs... It is quite clear that this is a regime that is hell-bent on killing, murdering and maiming its own citizens."

Cameron added that there was a need to "take the toughest response we can" against Syria.

Arab League foreign ministers are scheduled to meet in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Saturday to discuss the organization's next steps on the crisis. The Arab League suspended its monitoring mission to Syria in late January due to the rising violence.

Approximately 6,000-7,000 people have died thus far in the 11-month uprising, which has become increasingly militarized in recent months ([Haaretz, 2012](#)).

Title: U.S. Steps Up Watch Of Syria Chemical Weapons

Date: February 15, 2012

Source: [Wall Street Journal](#)

Abstract: The U.S. and some Mideast allies are intensifying surveillance of Syria's chemical and biological depots amid fears that the weapons could go loose if unrest escalates out of control.

The U.S. is using satellites and other surveillance equipment to monitor suspected chemical and biological weapons storage sites in Syria, military officials said, reflecting Washington's concerns about a growing proliferation threat.

Officials say, however, that they have seen no evidence so far to suggest that any of the stockpiles are in immediate danger of being overrun by antiregime forces or Islamist militants, which they believe are currently incapable of conducting raids of the necessary sophistication. Facilities where stocks of nerve agents and mustard gas are stored are guarded by regime loyalists and were built to withstand attack, U.S. officials believe.

Lightly armed rebel forces have so far relied on hit-and-run tactics. But the number of defections from the Syrian military is on the rise, providing rebels with more capability.

U.S. officials said they believe the Syrian regime has strong reasons to secure their weapons stockpiles. "Most countries that have [chemical weapons] stocks view it as a strategic, not tactical, tool—and strategic tools are usually pretty well protected," a U.S. official said.

The Obama administration has intensified coordination with Syria's neighbors, particularly Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan, to guard against the potential of Syrian weapons of mass destruction moving outside its borders, U.S. and Arab officials said.

The U.S.-led effort underlines Washington's concern about the increasing violence in Syria and the lack of options to address it after China and Russia this month vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for President Bashar al-Assad to step aside.

Activists on Tuesday reported some of the heaviest shelling of Homs yet in the 11th day of a siege that activist groups say has left hundreds of Syrians dead. Along with battles between troops and defectors around Hama, in which five government soldiers were killed, 20 civilians were killed by government across Syria on Tuesday, the U.K.-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. Another opposition group, the Local Coordination Committees, reported 40 people killed.

Arab states continued to prepare a new U.N. General Assembly resolution that would ramp up diplomatic pressure on the Assad regime. The Arab League on Sunday passed its own Syria resolution, proposing a joint peacekeeping mission with the U.N. and vowing to support the Syrian opposition politically and materially. Some Arab diplomats interpreted that wording as indication that Arab states were readying to arm opposition forces.

U.S. military leaders believe they need a clearer picture of the array of rebel forces on the ground before considering taking any steps to aid any of the groups with equipment. Potential options include providing nonlethal communications gear to the rebels, officials said.

At a Senate hearing Tuesday, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin Dempsey, highlighted the gap in U.S. intelligence about Mr. Assad's opponents. "We don't have as clear an understanding of

the nature of the opposition. We are working with the intelligence community to develop it," Gen. Dempsey said.

It took the U.S. months to assess the opposition in Libya. U.S. military officials said the situation is even more complicated in Syria, where Mr. Assad commands heavily armored brigades, sophisticated air defenses, thousands of rockets and chemical weapons.

"You thought Libya was hard," a U.S. military official said of any potential intervention.

Pointing to the threat posed by Syria's chemical and biological weapons stocks, Gen. Dempsey said: "We are watching the trend lines on their military to make sure they are still under control of the regime."

Gen. Dempsey said the Free Syrian Army currently is the centerpiece of the opposition and is "for the most part" made up of fighters from Syria, but he added: "We also know that other regional actors are providing support and that complicates the situation."

Intelligence agencies are working to understand the makeup of the opposition. The effort appears to be similar to the one in Libya in the early phase of that conflict. Some U.S. officials suspect al Qaeda militants may have been behind a recent series of bombings in Syria. Officials say some Sunni militants have entered Syria from neighboring Iraq. The U.S. believes at least some of the arms being used by rebels in Syria were supplied by Sunni tribes in Iraq.

Gen. Dempsey didn't confirm reports about al Qaeda's involvement but said the group's presence in Syria shouldn't be discounted. "All of the players in the region, it seems, have a stake in this. Those who would like to foment a Sunni-Shia standoff, and you know who they are, are all weighing in in Syria," he said.

The U.S. and its allies have long monitored Syria's chemical weapons stockpile.

"Syria is a country of significant proliferation concern, so we monitor its chemical weapons activities very closely," White House National Security Council spokesman Tommy Vietor said. "We will continue to work closely with like-minded countries to impede proliferation to Syria's chemical weapons program."

Separately, Gen. Dempsey said that on a trip to Egypt over the weekend, he tossed out his planned agenda for meetings and told his counterparts, including the country's military ruler, Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, that they had to resolve U.S. complaints over the treatment of pro-democracy groups and detained Americans.

"I am convinced that potentially they were underestimating the impact of this on our relationship," he said. "When I left there, there was no doubt that they understood the seriousness of it."

Egypt is pursuing charges that more than 40 people, including 16 Americans, violated Egyptian laws through the activities of pro-democracy groups, including organizations funded by Congress ([Wall Street Journal, 2012](#)).

Title: U.N. Concerned That Syria Could Have Chemical Weapons

Date: March 5, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Ban Ki-moon, the secretary-general of the United Nations, and Ahmet Üzümcü, the director-general of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, have warned that Syria may have chemical weapons.

General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the U.S. military's Joint Chiefs of Staff, said last week that Syria has an integrated air defense system and biological and chemical weapons, [Reuters](#) reports.

In the last 11 months, a crackdown on pro-democracy protestors in the country has led to the deaths of over 7,500 civilians at the hands of Syrian security forces.

"On Syria, the secretary-general and the director-general noted with concern the reports on the possible existence of chemical weapons in the country," Martin Nesirky, a U.N. spokesperson said, according to [Reuters](#). "Those concerns are entirely understandable."

According to Jeffrey Feltman, the U.S. assistant secretary of state, Washington is also concerned that Syria may have weapons of mass destruction.

"This is a topic that's being discussed actively with Syria's neighbors and with our allies in Europe and elsewhere," Feltman said, according to [Reuters](#). "We don't have any indication at this point that these stockpiles have fallen out of the control of the Syrian government, but it's one of the reasons why a managed transition is so important. We're watching this. We're watching it carefully."

The OPCW monitors compliance with the anti-chemical weapons convention, of which Syria is not a signatory ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

Title: General Warns Of Syrian Bioweapons, Iran Threat

Date: March 6, 2012

Source: [CBS News](#)

Abstract: The top U.S. commander in the Middle East will warn Congress on Tuesday against efforts to scale back the Navy's presence in the embattled region, saying threats from Iran and elsewhere will require more ships and maritime missile defense capabilities.

Marine Gen. James Mattis, head of U.S. Central Command, also said Syria has a "substantial" chemical and biological weapons capability and thousands of shoulder-launched missiles. Until now, the U.S. military has largely declined to describe the expanse of weapons that President Bashar Assad's regime has at its disposal.

Mattis laid out his concerns in testimony prepared for Senate and House Armed Services Committee hearings this week. He and Navy Adm. William McRaven, head of U.S. Special Operations Command, are testifying before the Senate panel Tuesday. The testimony was obtained by The Associated Press.

Mattis' comments come as the Obama administration meets with Israeli leaders this week to discuss the escalating Iranian threat and the possibility of a pre-emptive strike by Israel.

Against a backdrop of roughly \$500 billion in Pentagon budget cuts over the next decade, Mattis said the U.S. must use its Navy and special operations forces to maintain a smaller but still strong military presence in the Middle East as the wars in Iran and Afghanistan end.

"The stacked Iranian threats ... of ballistic missiles, long-range rockets, mines, small boats, cruise missiles and submarines demand stronger naval presence and capability to protect vital sea lines of communication," Mattis said.

At the same time, he described a deteriorating situation in Syria, fueled in part by Iran. The prospects of a civil war are rising in Syria, he said, but the "options available to address the situation are extremely challenging."

Some members of Congress have called for U.S. and international military action against the Assad

regime to stem a brutal offensive against the Syrian people. But the Obama administration and other international leaders have opposed military intervention and instead have pushed instead for increased sanctions.

U.S. officials argue that unlike the military campaign in Libya last year that ousted Moammar Gadhafi, a military campaign in Syria would be far more difficult, would not get the backing of the U.N. Security Council and would be hampered by a less coordinated opposition force ([CBS News, 2012](#)).

Title: Leaked Email: Pentagon Admits Plan To Direct Terror Attacks Inside Syria

Date: March 6, 2012

Source: [Infowars](#)

Abstract: A shocking email leaked as part of the Wikileaks Stratfor data dump reveals that the Pentagon is planning to direct terror attacks and assassinations inside Syria in a bid to topple President Bashar al-Assad. (Infowars, 2012).

[The email](#), written by Reva Bhalla, Stratfor's Director of Analysis, contains details of a December 6 Pentagon meeting attended by members of the USAF strategic studies group along with four military officers at the Lieutenant Colonel level, "including one French and one British representative."

Bhalla was told by the military officials that, despite official claims to the contrary, foreign troops from NATO powers were already on the ground in Syria.

"After a couple hours of talking, they said without saying that SOF teams (presumably from US, UK, France, Jordan, Turkey) are already on the ground focused on recce [reconnaissance] missions and training opposition forces," states the email.

Bhalla goes on to describe how the mission of the undercover commandoes is hypothetically to "commit guerrilla attacks, assassination campaigns, try to break the back of the Alawite forces [Assad's support base], elicit collapse from within."

In other words, the Pentagon, along with other NATO powers, have already directed Special Forces troops stationed inside Syria to carry out terrorist attacks and assassinations in an effort to topple President Bashar al-Assad.

The email states that such actions should be ready within a 2-3 month time period. Bhalla describes how a destabilization campaign was favorable to air strikes because unlike Libya, "Syrian air defenses are a lot more robust and are much denser."

Some would argue that far from merely planning such attacks, the United States and other NATO powers are already using the Al-Qaeda- affiliated terrorists [airlifted out of Libya into Syria](#) to do the job for them. These terrorists have been blamed for bloody attacks that have killed both Syrian regime officials and innocent civilians, [including a bombing last month](#) in Syria's second city of Aleppo which killed 28 people.

[Footage has also emerged](#) of western-looking troops carrying out indiscriminate attacks using rocket-propelled grenade launchers.

Carrying out terrorist attacks to destabilize governments is not a conspiracy theory, it is a widely acknowledged form of covert warfare. [Only last month NBC News reported](#) that Israel was paying terror groups to carry out bombings and assassinations in Iran in a bid to weaken the regime in Tehran.

Reports of foreign troops entering Syria have been circulating for months.

[Last month Israeli intelligence outfit DebkaFile revealed](#) that British Special Forces were inside Syria “operating with rebel forces under cover in the Syrian city of Homs just 162 kilometers from Damascus.”

According to the report, the foreign units are not engaging in direct combat but are acting in an advisory capacity, while also relaying requests for arms outside of the country.

[According to Egyptian security officials](#), United States, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are also providing arms and training for Syrian rebels, dovetailing with [former FBI translator Sibel Edmonds' report](#) that hundreds of NATO and US troops arrived on the Jordanian and Syrian border back in December for the purpose of training militants to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad.

NATO member Turkey is also reportedly arming terrorist groups to aid rebel fighters. Leaders of the Free Syria Army have also bragged about the claim that [France and the United States have provided them with weapons](#) and anti-aircraft missiles.

[As we reported last week](#), during a BBC interview U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton admitted that the United States and Al-Qaeda were on the same side when it came to achieving regime change in Syria.

Just as in Libya, where the overthrow of Gaddafi was [achieved through the use of Al-Qaeda groups](#), NATO and the United States are once again turning to terrorists as a means of achieving their geopolitical objectives in the region.

Indeed, [as we reported back in November](#), some of the same Al-Qaeda terrorists who fought U.S. troops in Iraq were airlifted into Syria to aid rebels. Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri's has [also publicly expressed support](#) for Syrian rebel forces ([Infowars, 2012](#)).

Title: Top U.S. Commander Says Syria Has Substantial Bioweapon Capability

Date: March 7, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: According to the top U.S. commander in the Middle East, Syria has a “substantial” capability for biological and chemical weapons and an effort to scale back naval presence in the area could spell trouble.

Marine General James Mattis, the head of U.S. Central Command, said that threats from Iran and other countries in the region require more ships and maritime missile defense capabilities as opposed to fewer. Mattis and Navy Admiral William McRaven testified before the Senate and House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, [Associated Press](#) reports.

Mattis said that despite the \$500 billion worth of Pentagon budget cuts in the next decade, the U.S. must use its special operations and its Navy to maintain a smaller but still strong military presence in the Middle East.

“The stacked Iranian threats...of ballistic missiles, long-range rockets, mines, small boats, cruise missiles and submarines demand stronger naval presence and capability to protect vital sea lines of communication,” Mattis said, according to [Associated Press](#). “(In addition), options available to address the situation (in Syria) are extremely challenging.”

Some members of Congress have called for military action by the U.S. and internationally against the Assad regime to stop the brutal attacks against the Syrian people. Obama's administration and other leaders around the world have thus far opposed military intervention and have recommended increasing sanctions ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).

Title: Panetta, Dempsey Warn Of Syria's Bioweapons

Date: March 9, 2012

Source: [Bio Prep Watch](#)

Abstract: Top U.S. military officials spoke on Wednesday about Syria's extensive biological and chemical weapons stockpile and its sophisticated air defenses as a strategic reality check to the demand for U.S. military action.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey said that they would be ready if the order is made but that the situation is currently too complicated to quickly jump into action. While Republican Sen. John McCain has called for the president to launch airstrikes against President Bashar Assad, few colleagues in Congress have expressed interest in such a tactic, [Associated Press](#) reports.

"The fundamental issue that is before us is whether or not the United States will go in and act unilaterally in that part of the world, and engage in another war in the Muslim world unilaterally," Panetta said, according to [Associated Press](#). "Or whether or not we will work with others in determining what action we take."

Panetta said that the situation is dissimilar to what the U.S. faced in Libya because Syria's air defenses are five times more sophisticated and its biological and chemical weapons stockpile is 100 times larger. In addition, attacks could lead to many unintended deaths.

"We also need to be alert to extremists," Dempsey said, according to [Associated Press](#). "(In addition to other hostile actors, including Iran which) has been exploiting the situation and expanding its support to the regime. And we need to be especially alert to the fate of Syria's chemical and biological weapons. They need to stay exactly where they are."

President Obama is currently relying on sanctions and international diplomatic isolation to pressure Assad's regime into handing over power. The House's Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously approved harder sanctions on Syria targeting its energy sector along with strengthening current penalties ([Bio Prep Watch, 2012](#)).