

U.N. experts blame Syria for chemical weapons attack in April

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Experts from the U.N. and the chemical weapons watchdog are blaming Syria's government for a sarin nerve gas attack that killed over 90 people last April.

Their report, obtained Thursday by The Associated Press, says leaders of the expert body are "confident that the Syrian Arab Republic is responsible for the release of sarin at Khan Sheikhoun on April 4, 2017."

The report supports the initial findings by the United States, France and Britain that a Syrian military plane dropped a bomb with sarin on the town.

Syria and Russia, its close ally, have denied any attack and have strongly criticized the Joint Investigative Mechanism, known as the JIM, which was established by the U.N. and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to determine responsibility for chemical weapons attacks in Syria.

The attack in Khan Sheikhoun sparked outrage around the world as photos and video of the aftermath, including quivering children dying on camera, were widely broadcast.

The United States blamed the Syrian military and launched a punitive strike days later on the Shayrat air base, where it said the attack was launched.

Responding to the report, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said: "Today's report confirms what we have long known to be true. Time and again, we see independent confirmation of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime."

Clearly referring to Russia, she said: "In spite of these independent reports, we still see some countries trying to protect the regime. That must end now."

The Security Council



In this photo provided by the United Nations, the U.N. Security Council meets on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, at U.N. headquarters, Thursday. Experts from the U.N. and the chemical weapons watchdog are blaming the Syrian government for an attack in April 2017 using the nerve gas sarin that killed over 90 people.

Kim Haughton/The United Nations via AP

"Today's report confirms what we have long known to be true. Time and again, we see independent confirmation of chemical weapons use by the Assad regime."

— Nikki Haley, U.S. Ambassador

should make it clear that "the use of chemical weapons by anyone will not be tolerated," Haley said.

A fact-finding mission by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons reported June 30 that sarin was used in the Khan Sheikhoun attack and "sulfur mustard" in Um Hosh. But the JIM experts had the task of determining who conducted the attacks.

The JIM experts said Thursday they are "confident" the Islamic State extremist group was responsible for an attack in Um Hosh in Aleppo on Sept. 15-16, 2016, that used "sulfur mustard," the chemical weapon commonly known as mustard gas.

In addition to blaming

the Syrian government and the IS group, the JIM report says, "The continuing use of chemical weapons, including by non-state actors, is deeply disturbing."

The report was issued two days after Russia vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution to extend the mandate of the JIM investigators for another year after it expires Nov. 17.

Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Moscow wanted to wait for the JIM report. "We can meaningfully negotiate the renewal of JIM after we have seen the report," he told reporters Thursday before it came out.

Russia's U.N. mission had no immediate comment on the report.

Haley said countries that

don't support the JIM experts "are no better than the dictators or terrorists who use these terrible weapons."

The investigators determined last year that the Syrian government was behind at least three attacks involving chlorine gas and that the Islamic State extremist group was responsible for at least one involving mustard gas.

Louis Charbonneau, U.N. director for Human Rights Watch, said: "The question now is whether Security Council and OPCW members, including Russia, will move to protect a key international rule and hold Syrian authorities accountable as they said they would."

The report said the JIM experts talked with 17 witnesses in addition to those interviewed by the OPCW fact-finding mission and collected and reviewed material the OPCW did not have. It said the experts also obtained "substantial information" on activities by the Syrian air force on April 4.

BRIEFLY

Georgia election server wiped after suit filed

A computer server crucial to a lawsuit against Georgia election officials was quietly wiped clean by its custodians just after the suit was filed, The Associated Press has learned.

The server's data was destroyed July 7 by technicians at the Center for Elections Systems at Kennesaw State University, which runs the state's election system. The data wipe was revealed in an email sent last week from an assistant state attorney general to plaintiffs in the case that was later obtained by the AP. More emails obtained in a public records request confirmed the wipe.

The lawsuit, filed July 3 by a diverse group of election reform advocates, aims to force Georgia to retire its antiquated and heavily criticized election technology. The server in question, which served as a statewide staging location for key election-related data, made national headlines in June after a security expert disclosed a gaping security hole that wasn't fixed six months after he reported it to election authorities.

Trump signs \$36.5 billion emergency aid bill for disasters

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump signed a \$36.5 billion emergency aid measure on Thursday to refill disaster accounts, provide a cash infusion to Puerto Rico and bail out the federal flood insurance program.

The president signed the bill after the Senate sent him the measure earlier this week to help Florida, Texas and Puerto Rico after a devastating string of hurricanes. The funding

will also bolster Western states dealing with massive wildfires.

To date, Congress has approved more than \$50 billion in disaster aid this fall but more money will be needed. The states and Puerto Rico continue to assess the damage from an onslaught of damaging storms.

The measure provides \$18.7 billion to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency's accounts, and \$16 billion to allow the flood insurance program to keep paying claims.

House backs \$4T budget, faces challenges on Trump tax plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans powered a \$4 trillion budget through the House on Thursday by a razor-thin margin, a close vote underscoring the difficulties that lie ahead in delivering President Donald Trump's promise to cut taxes.

For now, Republicans sidestepped divisions within the party by voting 216-212 to permit them to begin work on a \$1.5 trillion tax cut without fear of blocking tactics by Democrats. The legislative landscape is strewn with land mines, however, as GOP tax-writers pick winners and losers among interest groups, business sectors and rank-and-file voters.

The tax bill is the top item on the GOP agenda and would be Trump's first big win in Congress. Republicans hope it would provide a much-needed jolt for the party's political fortunes in advance of next year's midterm elections. Republicans view passage of the upcoming tax measure as a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and its importance has only grown since the party's debacle on health care.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
FOX	11	Crime Watch Daily (N)	Dateline	Paid Program	Paid Program	Into the Wild	Paid Program	Goldberg	Pre-game (L)	MLB Baseball World Series (L)	Paid Program	Last Man St.	The Big Bang	The Big Bang	First at Ten (N)	:35 Modern	:05 Anger M.	:35 Two 1/2 Men							
KPTV	3	12 O' News (N)	Wendy Williams	Dr. Oz (N)	People's Court	Judy	Pregame	MLB Baseball World Series (L)																	
CBS	19	Funny As Hell	The Talk (N)	Let's Make a Deal	Dr. Phil	Judge Judy (N)	Judge Judy	Action News	News (N)	Action News	Action News	Inside Edition	The Big Bang	The Simpsons	Michael Jackson's Halloween (N)	MacGyver (N)	Blue Bloods "The Forgotten" (N)	News (N)	:35 Colbert						
KOIN	19	News B & B	The Talk (N)	The Doctors (N)	Dr. Phil	KOIN 6 News (N)	Mila Kunis	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	MacGyver (N)	MacGyver (N)	Blue Bloods (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	
NBC	25	KNDU	Give	Days of Our Lives	The Wendy Williams Show	Daily Mail TV	Daily Mail TV	Ellen Kristen Bell, Mila Kunis	News (N)	NBC News (N)	News (N)	Family Feud	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy!	Blindspot "Back to the Grind" (SP) (N)	Dateline NBC									
KGW	8	News	Paid	Days of Our Lives	Portland Today	E.DeGeneres (N)	KGW News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Local News	Ent. Tonight	Extra	Once Upon a Time "Beauty" (N)	Marvel's Inhumans (N)	20/20								
ABC	42	KWEV	The Chew	General Hospital	The Doctors (N)	The Rachael Ray Show (N)	The Dr. Oz Show (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Local News	Ent. Tonight	Extra	Once Upon a Time "Beauty" (N)	Marvel's Inhumans (N)	20/20									
KATU	5	The Chew	General Hospital	Harry	Afternoon Live	KATU News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	News (N)	Local News	Ent. Tonight	Extra	Once Upon a Time "Beauty" (N)	Marvel's Inhumans (N)	20/20								
PBS	31	KTNW	Charlie Rose	MyGreekTable	Quilt in a Day	Esmond de Tech.	Arthur	Arthur	Martha Speaks	Wild Kratts	Odd Squad	Biz Kid\$	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	World News	Asia Insight	W.Week (N)	Charlie Rose (N)	Lincoln A poignant family set amidst the emerging AIDS crisis. (N)	Articulate					
OPB	59	13	Paint This	Family Ingre	Charlie Rose (N)	Nature Cat	Thomas-Friends	Cat in the Hat	Martha Speaks	Halloween Boo Fest	Arthur	Family Travel	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Doc Martin "Born With a Shotgun" (N)	Shetland "Blue Lightning" 1/2	Shetland								

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
A&E	52	Live PD			Live PD						Live PD						Live PD	:05 Live PD	Live PD (N)							
AMC	60	*** Van Helsing		*** Slither	Nathan Fillion.		*** Jeepers Creepers	Gina Philips.		*** Wes Craven's New Nightmare							*** Freddy vs. Jason									
ANPL	24	Pit Bull Parolees	Pit Bull Parolees	The Haunted	The Haunted	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	Tanked!	
CMT	42	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	*** O Brother, Where Art Thou?															
CNBC	72	Closing Bell		Money	Options	Mad Money	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	
CNN	68	CNN Newsroom	The Lead	The Situation	The Situation	The Situation	OutFront	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	CNN Tonight	CNN Tonight	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	A. Cooper 360	
DISC	51	Airplane Repo	Airplane Repo	Repo "Repo 911"	Airplane Repo	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Rush "Final Fury"	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	
DISN	26	The Lion	Disney Junior	Mouse	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi M.	Andi Mack	StuckMid/Bizaard	Udenc.	Liv/Mad	Andi Mack	Andi Mack	Andi Mack	Andi Mack	Andi Mack	
JUMP	33	Jump	SportsNation (L)	Highly?	Horn (N)	Interrupt	SportsCenter (N)	Baseball T. (L)	NCAA Football	Florida State at Boston College (L)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	
ESPN2	34	Football	Fantasy	Talk	Baseball	Tonight (L)	H.S. Football	Ramsey, N.J. (L)	NCAA Football	Tulsa at Southern Methodist University (L)	Fantasy	J & J (N)	APGC Golf													
FNC	66	Shepard Smith	Your World	The Five	Special Report	The Story	Tucker Carlson	Hannity	Fox News Tonight	Tucker Carlson	The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson	The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson	The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson	The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson	The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson	
FOOD	61	Barefoot	Barefoot	Pioneer	Pioneer	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	
FREE	32	*** Sleepy Hollow	(99, Hor) Johnny Depp.	.25 *** Hocus Pocus	Bette Midler.	.35 *** Men in Black	Will Smith.	.50 *** The Addams Family	Anjelica Huston.	.55 *** Addams Family Values	The 700 Club															
FX	65	Mother	Mother	Mother	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	Mike&M.	2 1/2 Men	*** Riddick	(13, Sci-Fi) Karl Urban, Vin Diesel.	*** Furious 7	(2015, Action) Paul Walker, Jason Statham, Vin Diesel.	Movie												
GOLF	88	PGA Golf	Sanderson Farms Championship (L)	CHAMPS Golf	PowerShares	QQQ Championship	LPGA Golf	Sime Darby Malaysia	Golf C.	Golf WGC - HSBC	Champions Site: Sheshan International Golf Club (L)															
GSN	76	Reaction	Reaction	The Chase	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	Feud	
HALL	87	Home and Family		A Royal Christmas	Stephen Hagan.	I'm Not Ready for Christmas	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	Christmas in Homestead	
HGTV	62	Fixer Upper	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	
HIST	50	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	Ancient Aliens	
LIFE	29	Unsolved Myster.	Unsolved Myster.	Unsolved Myster.	Unsolved Myster.	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	Grey's Anatomy	
NICK	27	Nella th Shimmer	PAW PAW	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	Sponge	ALVIN	Sponge	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	Loud H.	
ROOFT	37	Paid	Paid	The Dan Patrick Show (N)	H.S. Football																					
SPKITE	42	*** The Longest ...	Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bob...	*** The Goonies	(85, Adv) Sean Astin.	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
SYFY	67	Z Nation	Finder's Keepers	Jaime Pressly.	*** Drag Me to Hell	Justin Long.	*** G.I. Joe: Retaliation	Insidious: Chapter 3	Lin Shaye.	Z Nation (N)	Superstition (N)	Z Nation														
TBS	59	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cleveland.	Cleveland.	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Am.Dad	Fam.Guy	Fam.Guy	ELeague	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	BigBang	
TCM	56	.15 *** Two Guys From Texas	.45 *** Romance on the High Seas	.45 *** It's a Great Feeling	*** Psycho	Anthony Perkins.	.15 *** Pretty Poison	*** Fear Strikes O...																		
TLC	49	Four Weddings	Long Is. Medium	Long Is. Medium	The Little Couple	The Little Couple	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Say Yes	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	Kindred Spirits	
TNT	57	Supernatural	Supernatural	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	Bones	
UNI	21	Notic.	Hoy	Hoy	Como dice dicho	Las Amazonas	El gordo y la flaca	Primer impacto	P. Luche	Notic.	Rosa Guadalupe	Enamoramiento	Mi marido tiene	Caer en Tentacion	Impacto	Notic.										
USA	58	SVU "Control"	SVU "Mean"	SVU "Lowdown"	SVU "Criminal"	SVU "Painless"	SVU "Bound"	SVU "Poison"	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	Modern	
WE	118	CSI "Open Water"	CSI "Rampage"	CSI: Miami	CSI: Miami "Rio"	Boot Camp: Real	RealityStars (N)	RealityStars (N)	RealityStars (N)	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	Boot Camp: Real	
WGN	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	Blue Bloods	
HBO	518	*** Krampus	.05 *** Dark Water	.50 *** Minority Report	Tom Cruise.	.20 *** La La Land	(16, Com) Emma Stone.	News	*** The Ring	Naomi Watts.	Bill Maher (N)	T.Ullman	B.Maher													
HBO2	520	*** Austin Powe...	.55 *** Why Him?	.50 *** Good Will Hunting	Matt Damon.	Real Sports	*** Hellboy II: The Golden Army	The Deuce	*** Keeping Up With the50 *** Why Him?																
HBO3	521	*** Girl With a Pearl Earring	*** Shakespeare in Love	.40 *** Sister Act	Whoopi Goldberg.	.25 *** Sixteen Candles	*** The Witches of Eastwick	*** Shakespeare in Love	.15 *** Wanted																	
MAX	549	Movie	.40 *** Transcendence	.40 *** Point Break	Luke Bracey.	.35 *** Central Intelligence	.25 *** S.W.A.T.	Samuel L. Jackson.	.25 *** Fight	Ice Cube.	TourBus	Tour Bus	*** Transcendence													
SHOW	578	Movie	.45 *** Sweeney Todd: The Demon45 *** Notting Hill	Hugh Grant.	.50 *** Mother's Day	.50 *** The Parent Trap	Lindsay Lohan.	Shooter (N)	*** The Edge of Seventeen	.45 White															
STARZ	621	*** Donnie Brasco	Al Pacino.	.05 *** The Mexican	Julia Roberts.	.10 *** Outlander	"A. Malcolm"	*** The Birdcage	Robin Williams.	Griff																