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When protesting America's militarism in Vietnam, Martin Luther King indicated that to give attention to the other's point of view may help us to see the weaknesses of our own, and to grow from that understanding and their wisdom. ('[Beyond Vietnam](#)', April 4, 1967, New York)

## Did the BBC Lie to Escalate the War Against Syria?

**A crowdfunding campaign has been launched for a documentary to be made by Victor Lewis-Smith - a British film, television and radio producer. The documentary will critically examine a 2013 BBC report titled 'Saving Syria's Children'.**

In the BBC report, we see teenage 'victims' of an alleged 'napalm' device dropped by a Syrian government aircraft on a school yard.

However, in one key scene, the teenagers present like extras in a zombie movie, not as genuine victims of an incendiary weapon, and a close scrutiny of the BBC report calls into question its truthfulness and ethicality.

If a BBC team fabricated the report with the purpose of escalating a US/UK-led war against Syria, how should we respond? Knowing such images have the power to entrench hatred of the 'other' and radicalise individuals, do we turn away or give attention?

The crowdfunding campaign manager is peace activist and journalist Robert Stuart, who has made an exhaustive study of 'Saving Syria's Children' and information related to it. His conclusions implicate the BBC in creating a false flag event and in cooperating with ISIS, among other anti-government armed groups the BBC team encountered in Syria.



The 'news' that there had been an aerial incendiary attack on a school yard was first broadcast on BBC's ten o'clock news, 29 August 2013, when British MPs were voting whether the UK should support the United States in launching military strikes against Syria.

The news report may have been too late to influence MPs; however, if the government's motion for military strikes against Syria had passed, the BBC report could have been presented to the public as justification for ongoing military action against 'a regime that bombs school children with napalm'. As it was, British MPs voted 285 to 272 against military strikes.

There had been enormous pressure on the MPs to vote for military strikes because eight days before the vote, there had been an alleged sarin attack in Ghouta, Damascus, which purportedly claimed over 1,400 lives, many of them children. The alleged chemical weapons attack in Ghouta was said to have crossed President Obama's 'red line'.

For the US and UK governments and most mainstream commentators, the 'sarin' attack is the lynchpin of the war.

It bolsters claims that President Assad uses chemical weapons against his own people and, for many people, is seen to justify both military action against the Syrian government and crippling US-led sanctions that continue to cause untold suffering to millions of people in Syria.

However, eminent US scientists and award-winning journalists have raised doubts about the Syrian Arab Army's being responsible for this attack. Please refer to articles on the subject by

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investigative journalist the late [Robert Parry](#), as well as [a report by Professor Ted Postol and former UN weapons inspector Richard Lloyd](#).

Furthermore, after spending six months viewing videos and images of the 'victims' of the alleged attack, the late US pharmacologist/lawyer [Dr Denis O'Brien concluded](#) there was no physiological evidence of sarin gas poisoning, but rather indications there had been a macabre massacre of children and adults by other means, and their bodies made props in a staged set-up.

Comments about the Ghouta attack by former top intelligence officials in President Obama's administration indicate that there is [dissension even in the ranks of US intelligence agencies](#) on the question of culpability.

If the evidence points to both the alleged 'sarin' attack on 21 August 2013 and the 'napalm' attack reported by the BBC on 29 August 2013 being false flag events intended to provoke US/UK-led military strikes against the Syrian government, again, how should we respond?

Historical records show US and UK intelligence services attempted covert 'regime change' in Syria more than six decades ago. More recently, former French Foreign Minister [Roland Dumas asserted](#) Britain was preparing 'gunmen to invade Syria' nearly two years before hostilities.

Accepting some tough truths about ourselves might better equip us to work in a more united and hopeful way to address global concerns.



Image by S.Dirgham: Damascus, 2004

This raises the question as to whether Syria has been targeted this past eight years in a dirty war for the wealth and power of some, but also for the maintenance of our relatively affluent lifestyle.

The war in Syria is often described as a proxy war. The backdrop to it is a world war, which Pope Francis views as an "organised" "war of interests". He described it as such [following the brutal murder of a priest by an Islamist extremist](#).

Pope Francis was emphatic that the killing of the priest did not mark a religious war. He asserted, "The world is at war because it has lost peace.... There is a war for money. There is a war for natural resources. There is a war for the domination of peoples".

Claims about 'Assad's chemical attacks' and images of their 'victims' disorientate millions of people in the West who would normally march in the streets against war.

Accepting some tough truths about ourselves might better equip us to work in a more united and hopeful way to address global concerns.

**Martin Luther King, 4 April 1967, 'Beyond Vietnam'**

*Some of us who have already begun to break the silence of the night have found that the calling to speak is often a vocation of agony, but we must speak.... **we are deeply in need of a new way beyond the darkness that seems so close around us.***

**The crowdfunding campaign's target is £70,000 to be reached by the first week of June 2019. For more information, go to '[Saving Syria's Children: Did the BBC lie?](#)'**

Susan Dirgham, Editor of '[Beloved Syria - Considering Syrian Perspectives](#)'