

# Question Of Enforcement Casts Cloud On Syria Plan

BY RYAN LUCAS  
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Associated Press

BEIRUT — A Russian plan for Syria to turn over its chemical weapons to avert Western missile strikes bogged down Tuesday when Moscow rejected U.S. and French demands for a binding U.N. resolution with “very severe consequences” for non-compliance.

The surprise Russian proposal, which Syria and the United States both accepted, would put President Bashar Assad’s regime’s chemical stockpile under international control before its eventual dismantling. The initiative — also cautiously endorsed by Britain and France — appeared to offer a way out of a crisis that raised the prospect of U.S.-led military action against Syria in retaliation for an alleged chemical weapons attack last month.

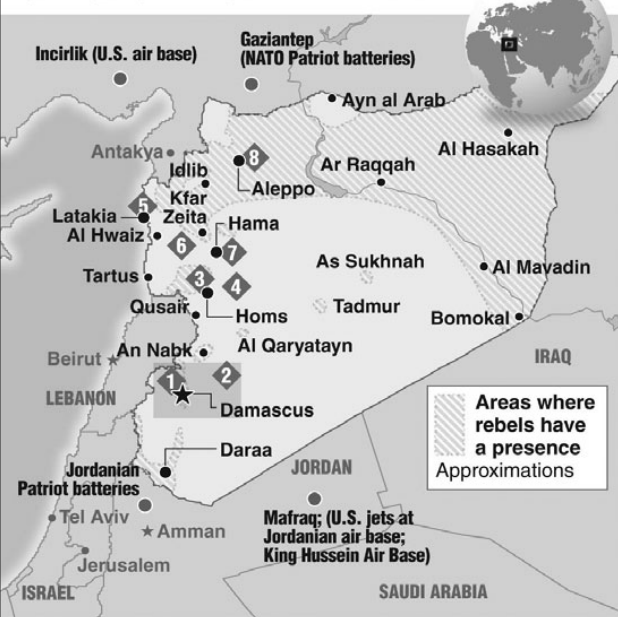
But the plan ran aground as the world powers haggled over the crucial element of how to enforce it. Wary of falling into what the French foreign minister called “a trap,” Paris and Washington are pushing for a U.N. Security Council resolution to verify Syria’s disarmament. Russia, a close Assad ally and the regime’s chief patron on the international stage, dismissed France’s proposal as unacceptable.

The dizzying diplomatic maneuvering threatened what had been growing momentum toward a plan that would allow President Barack Obama to back away from military action. Domestic support for a strike is uncertain in the United States, even as Obama seeks Congress’ backing for action — and there has been little international appetite to join forces against Assad.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said early Tuesday during a trip to Moscow that Damascus “agreed to the Russian initiative as it should thwart the U.S.

## Chemical weapons plan

Syria accepted a Russian proposal to surrender chemical weapons and win a reprieve from U.S. strikes. France said it would put forward a U.N. Security Council draft resolution for Syria to give up its stockpiles of chemical arms.



### ◆ Suspected chemical weapons sites What is known

1. CERS\* chemical munitions research headquarters  
*Israeli warplanes conducted a strike against this facility in Jan. 2013*
2. Khan Abu Shammat  
*Purportedly a storage site, not a production site*
3. CERS\* chemical munitions production center
4. Furqlus chemical weapons storage depot  
*Purportedly a storage site, not a production site*
5. Latakia research center, chemical munitions production  
*Israeli warplanes conducted a strike against this facility in Jan. 2013*
6. Masyaf chemical munitions storage depot
7. CERS\* chemical munitions production center at Hama
8. Al Safira government chemical weapons production site  
*An air base, a SCUD missile base, and a suspected chemical weapons production facility*

\*Centre D'Etudes et de Recherches Scientifiques  
Source: ESRI, Foreign Policy, Globalsecurity.org, BBC  
Graphics: Robert Dorrell

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aggression against our country.”

Before departing Moscow in the evening, al-Moallem told Lebanon’s Al-Mayadeen TV that Syria would place its chemical weapons locations in

the hands of representatives of Russia, other unspecified countries and the United Nations. Syria will also declare the chemical arsenal it long denied having, stop producing such weapons and sign conventions

against them.

Mindful that Damascus could only be seeking to avoid Western military strikes, France said it would put forward a draft resolution under Chapter 7 of the U.N. charter, making it enforceable with military action.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said the French resolution would demand that Syria open its chemical weapons program to inspection, place it under international control, and ultimately dismantle it. A violation of that commitment, he said, would carry “very serious consequences.” The resolution would condemn the Aug. 21 attack and bring those responsible to justice, he said.

“We do not want this to be used as a diversion,” Fabius said. “It is by accepting these precise conditions that we will judge the credibility of the intentions expressed yesterday.”

Obama threw his support behind the French resolution and discussed the matter with French President Francois Hollande and British Prime Minister David Cameron. At the same time, he continued to push his original plan to win congressional authorization for U.S. airstrikes against Assad’s regime in case the diplomatic efforts fail. Obama was to address the nation from the White House on Tuesday night.

The prospect of a deal that could be enforced militarily met swift opposition from Russia, which has provided economic, military and diplomatic support to Assad throughout the 2 1/2-year conflict.

President Vladimir Putin said the plan can only work if “the American side and those who support the U.S. in this sense, reject the use of force.” Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told his French counterpart that it is unacceptable for the resolution to cite Chapter 7, the U.N. resolution authorizing force, his ministry said in a statement.

## Apple CEO Unveils New iPhone Designs

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — For the first time since introducing the device that changed cellphones forever, Apple will offer two distinct versions of the latest iPhones — a cheaper one made of plastic and another that aims to be “the gold standard of smartphones” and reads your fingerprint.

Apple unveiled the latest iPhone models, available on Sept. 20, during an event at its Cupertino, Calif., headquarters. The move comes as the company tries to fend off Samsung and other competitors that want to challenge Apple in the competitive smartphone market. The lower-cost iPhone 5C is expected to help boost sales in China and other areas where people don’t have as much money to spend on new gadgets as they do in the U.S. and Europe.

Research firm Gartner Inc. estimates that Apple had a 14.4 percent share of the world’s smartphone market in the second quarter of this year, No. 2 behind Samsung’s 31.7 percent.

The lower-cost iPhone 5C will be available in five colors — green, blue, yellow, pink and white. CEO Tim Cook calls it “more fun and colorful” than any other iPhone. The 5C has a 4-inch Retina display and is powered by Apple’s A6 chip. It also has an 8 megapixel camera, live photo filters and a rear cover that lights up.

The iPhone 5C will cost \$99 for a 16 gigabyte model and \$199 for a 32 gigabyte model with a two-year wireless contract.

## Police Release Video Of Zimmerman

LAKE MARY, Fla. (AP) — Police have released a dash cam video of George Zimmerman being handcuffed after his estranged wife called 911 and said he was threatening her with a gun.

The video released Tuesday shows officers ordering Zimmerman out of his truck. They tell him to put his hands up and drop to his knees. Two officers approach him. One of them has a gun drawn while the other handcuffs Zimmerman.

Police are investigating whether George Zimmerman or Shellie Zimmerman should be charged after the dispute Monday. Shellie Zimmerman told a 911 dispatcher George Zimmerman threatened her with a gun, but later told police she didn’t see a gun.

Authorities in Lake Mary say video from her broken iPad may be crucial evidence in determining whether any charges are filed.

## Top 1 Pct Took Record Share In 2012

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gulf between the richest 1 percent and the rest of America is the widest it’s been since the Roaring ’20s.

The very wealthiest Americans earned more than 19 percent of the country’s household income last year — their biggest share since 1928, the year before the stock market crash. And the top 10 percent captured a record 48.2 percent of total earnings last year.

U.S. income inequality has been growing for almost three decades. And it grew again last year, according to an analysis of Internal Revenue Service figures dating to 1913 by economists at the University of California, Berkeley, the Paris School of Economics and Oxford University.

One of them, Berkeley’s Emmanuel Saez, said the incomes of the richest Americans surged last year in part because they cashed in stock holdings to avoid higher capital gains taxes that took effect in January.

In 2012, the incomes of the top 1 percent rose nearly 20 percent compared with a 1 percent increase for the remaining 99 percent.

## Report Finds Crisis In Cancer Care

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. is facing a crisis in how to deliver cancer care, as the baby boomers reach their tumor-prone years and doctors have a hard time keeping up with complex new treatments, government advisers reported Tuesday.

The caution comes even as scientists are learning more than ever about better ways to battle cancer, and developing innovative therapies to target tumors.

And while doctors try to optimize treatment, the Institute of Medicine found “daunting” barriers to achieving high-quality care for all patients. Overcoming those challenges will require changes to the health care system, and savvy consumers.

“We do not want to frighten or scare people who are getting care now,” said Dr. Patricia Ganz, a cancer specialist at the University of California, Los Angeles, who chaired the panel.

But too often, decisions about cancer treatments aren’t based on good evidence, and patients may not understand their choices and what to expect, the panel found. For example, some studies suggest that two-thirds or more of cancer patients with poor prognoses incorrectly believe the treatments they receive could cure them.

## Poll:

# Public Doubts Rise On Surveillance, Privacy

BY STEPHEN BRAUN  
AND JENNIFER AGIESTA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Following disclosures about the National Security Agency’s massive surveillance programs, a majority of Americans believe the U.S. government is doing a poor job of protecting privacy rights, according to a new poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Close to 60 percent of Americans oppose the NSA’s collection of data on telephone and Internet usage. A similar majority opposes the legal process supervised by a secret federal court that oversees the government’s classified surveillance.

The American public is still anxious about terrorism as the 12th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaches. About 6 in 10 Americans feel it is sometimes necessary to sacrifice rights to confront terrorism.

But suspicions about the government’s promises to protect civil liberties have deepened since 2011. Only 53 percent now say the government does a good job of

ensuring freedoms, compared to 60 percent two years ago.

The shift in public attitudes follows a three-month barrage of leaks to media organizations by Edward Snowden, the former NSA contractor who released secret documents about the surveillance agency’s inner workings.

In follow-up interviews after the poll, some respondents described Snowden as a criminal and an attention-seeker. Others called him a whistleblower. But many agree that his disclosures have highlighted the once-remote issue of government surveillance.

“It’s not surprising this was going on, but I think all these revelations brought it home to people,” said Sam Thomas, a former musician from Knoxville, Tenn. “This is the eroding of American rights as we used to know it.”

Not until Snowden’s leaks was the massive NSA trawling — of domestic telephone numbers, and their calling patterns, and the agency’s collection of Americans’ Internet user names, IP addresses and other metadata

swept up in surveillance of foreign terror suspects — confirmed and detailed. The new poll sought to measure the public’s views on the revealed NSA activities, and it also tracked Americans’ shifting opinions over time.

President Barack Obama has sought to reassure Americans that the government’s data collection does not extend to the contents of their phone calls and text messages. “Nobody is listening to your phone calls,” he said after the first wave of disclosures in June. He added: “They are not looking at people’s names, and they’re not looking at content.”

But a majority of Americans appear doubtful. Some

56 percent oppose the NSA’s collection of telephone records for future investigations even though they do not include actual conversations. And 54 percent oppose the government’s collection and retention of Internet metadata for future investigations that avoids actual email contents; only 34 percent favor such efforts.

Even stronger majorities oppose unauthorized government surveillance of phone calls and Internet mail traffic within the U.S. As many as 71 percent do not want officials eavesdropping on U.S. phone calls without court warrants; 62 percent oppose collection of the contents of Americans’ emails without warrants.

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