



## Press Release

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**Attention:** news editors, ethnic media, international affairs, social affairs and community writer

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### **The ASA-VIC condemns the recent brutal chemical attack in Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib**

Imagine you lost your twin babies or a loved one in front of you with a chemical attack! What could be more heartbreaking? In fact, that what has recently happened, on Tuesday 4 April 2017, when the Assad regime launched an aerial attack using chemical weapons to kill its own people in the Idlib province. It is estimated that more than 86 civilians were killed, and the death toll is likely to rise, with many of the injured in a serious condition in hospitals.

This recent massacre by the Assad regime, reminds us of the Ghoutta chemical attack in August 2013, which killed 1300 innocent civilians. Although the Obama administration had marked down the use of chemical weapons as "a red line", which, if crossed, would lead to serious consequences for the Assad regime, The US and Russia came together and brokered a deal at that time under which the Assad regime would give up its chemical arsenal under international inspection.

This recent chemical attack emphasises once more that the Assad regime and his supporters cannot be trusted, and will continue to commit more crimes and terrorist acts against the people of Syria. We want to remind you all that Bashar Al Assad and his allies are killing the Syrian people not only by gas attacks, but with all possible means.

Hopefully, this recent criminal chemical attack by the Assad regime will prompt the international community for more serious actions to remove the Assad regime from power, and to end the growing calamity in Syria.

The Australian Syrian Association-Victoria calls upon the Australian government to reconsider their thinking that Bashar Al Assad is part of the solution in Syria, and request the whole international community to take more serious actions, not only condemnation, to stop Al Assad's regime from committing more heartbreaking crimes. We support any action or move that can end this crisis sooner than later.

**Anas Shehna**

President

Australian Syria Association Victoria (ASAVIC)

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*We care for the afflicted Syrian people*