



April 30, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As your administration has recently concluded, the Assad regime used chemical weapons against opposition forces and the civilian population in Syria on at least three separate occasions in recent weeks. These are unassailable facts. The Regime's history of desensitizing the international community to its gradual use of internationally banned weapons has led me to the alarming conclusion that these incidents are but a prelude to a larger and more systematic deployment of chemical weapons as part of Assad's military strategy.

The Supreme Military Council of the FSA values your statements regarding the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We appreciate, as you noted today at your press conference, the critical importance that facts will play in your analysis. However, I respectfully submit to you that Assad is not taking your carefully phrased condemnations as warnings, but as loopholes, which justify his continued use of chemical weapons on a small, strategic scale.

As the world has seen, there is no limit to the cruelty that Assad will employ to deny the Syrian people their freedom. There is no limit to the number of men, women and children he will kill, arrest, or torture; towns he will destroy; and families he will force to flee their homes. At first firing upon peaceful protestors, then using hired goons, Assad has gradually resorted to air raids, Scud missiles, and now chemical agents to intimidate and terrorize his people.

Mr. President, I understand the reasons behind your cautious involvement in Syria. But I hope you will not discount the imperatives urging the free world to assist us in protecting our people. We desperately need your support, as the Free Syrian Army under my command has neither the requisite training nor equipment to counter the effects of Assad's chemical weapons or to destroy them.

I wish to emphasize that our future Free Syria will not need weapons of mass destruction, and that such senseless weapons will not be welcome on her soil. We are committed to help the international community in its efforts to rid the Middle East of these weapons.

Mr. President, now that Assad has crossed your red line as he had crossed many before, we are calling upon you to help us rid Syria and the world of this cruel dictator and his dangerous chemical weapons.

Respectfully,

General Salim Idris
Chief of Staff, Supreme Military Council
Free Syrian Army