

## Diplomacy and Criminal Persecution, Not War, for Syria

The use of chemical weapons against Syrian civilians is abominable, and if Assad's regime is responsible, he – along with his officials -- should be prosecuted as war criminals at the Hague

**LA Jews for Peace** opposes all direct and indirect military intervention in Syria, including supplying arms.

Recent history has taught us that U.S. military intervention, even “surgical strikes,” do not serve human rights or humanitarian purposes, even when these are the stated goals or cover story.. The U.S. and Iraq are still reeling and suffering from a decade-long illegal war that was waged on the basis of false information about weapons of mass destruction, and sold to the American people as a quick military intervention.

Thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, including many civilians and children, died, the Iraqi economy was devastated, and the country was left in a state of political instability with interreligious terrorism still destroying civic life.

**LA Jews for Peace** demands that whoever is responsible for the massacre of over 1,000 civilians on August 21, 2013, be held accountable through prosecutions under international law. A United Nations investigation into the massacre is still ongoing.

While we do not yet know the result of that investigation, it is clear that military intervention, whether direct or through proxies, is the wrong approach. Prosecuting the leaders who ordered this massacre in the International Criminal Court is an appropriate 21<sup>st</sup> century answer.

**LA Jews for Peace** urges Congress and the Obama administration to support diplomatic and humanitarian measures to protect civilians in the region, including refugees and displaced Syrians, and to end the Syrian civil war. Such a diplomatic process must include all stakeholders within Syria and the international community, including France, Russia, Iran, Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Israel, as well as the United States, the United Nations, and the Arab League.