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# Facts, not merely suspicions, must guide U.S. policy regarding Syria

This is an opinion item.

**Author(s)** [The Plain Dealer editorial board](#)

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**Quote**

“ The Free Syrian Army, which is fighting to overthrow Assad, says it has what it believes to be an unexploded chemical weapon deployed by government forces. Indeed it may. But neither the existence of such a weapon nor the reports of isolated instances of what appears to be human exposure to Sarin gas constitutes reliable evidence that the Assad regime is employing chemical weapons. Suspicion -- even strong suspicion -- is not enough to justify more active U.S. involvement in Syria's civil war. ”

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This item takes a mixed stance on the position [United States should intervene](#) on the topic [Syrian civil war](#).