Twitter Thread by Piers Robinson



Piers Robinson
@PiersRobinson1

.@bellingcat's attempt in their new book, published by @BloomsburyBooks, to coverup the @OPCW #Douma controversy, promote US and UK gov. war narratives, and whitewash fraudulent conduct within the OPCW, is an exercise in deception through omission @marydejevsky @freddiesayers

> In response to @marydejevsky seemingly bad faith questions about Bellingcat on @unherd I've written a response providing details of where Bellingcat came from, and why it is like it is https://t.co/5rCsSwpcAm
>
> — Eliot Higgins (@EliotHiggins) February 15, 2021

1) 2000 words are devoted to the OPCW controversy regarding the alleged chemical weapon attack in #Douma, Syria in 2018 but critical material is omitted from the book. Reading it, one would never know the following:

2) That the controversy started when the original interim report, drafted and agreed by Douma inspection team members, was secretly modified by an unknown OPCW person who had manipulated the findings to suggest an attack had occurred. https://t.co/QtAAyH9WyX… @RobertF40396660

Sent: 22 June 2018 08:27
To: Robert Fairweather <bob.fairweather@opcw.org>
Cc: Aamir Shouket <aamir.shouket@opcw.org>; @opcw.org>;

Subject: Grave concern about the 'redacted' Douma report

Dear Bob,
I wish to express, as a member of the FFM team that conducted the investigation into the alleged chemical attack in Douma on 7 April, my gravest concern at the redacted version of the FFM report, which I understand was at the behest of the ODG. After reading this modified report, which incidentally no other team member who deployed into Douma has had the opportunity to do, I was struck by how much it misrepresents the facts. Many of the facts and observations outlined in the full version are inextricably interconnected and, by selectively omitting certain ones, an unintended bias has been introduced into the report, undermining its credibility. In other cases, some crucial facts that have remained in the redacted version have morphed into something quite different to what was originally drafted. If I may, I will outline some specific aspects to the redacted report that are particularly worrisome.

3) This act of attempted deception was only derailed because an inspector discovered the secret changes. The manipulations were reported by @ClarkeMicah
and can be readily observed in documents now available https://t.co/2BUNlD8ZUv…. https://t.co/9kEMqb6wR7

4) .@bellingcat's book also makes no mention of the @couragefoundation panel, attended by the @opcw's first Director General, Jose Bustani, at which an OPCW official detailed key procedural irregularities and scientific flaws with the Final Douma Report: https://t.co/9Mkfam0AAB

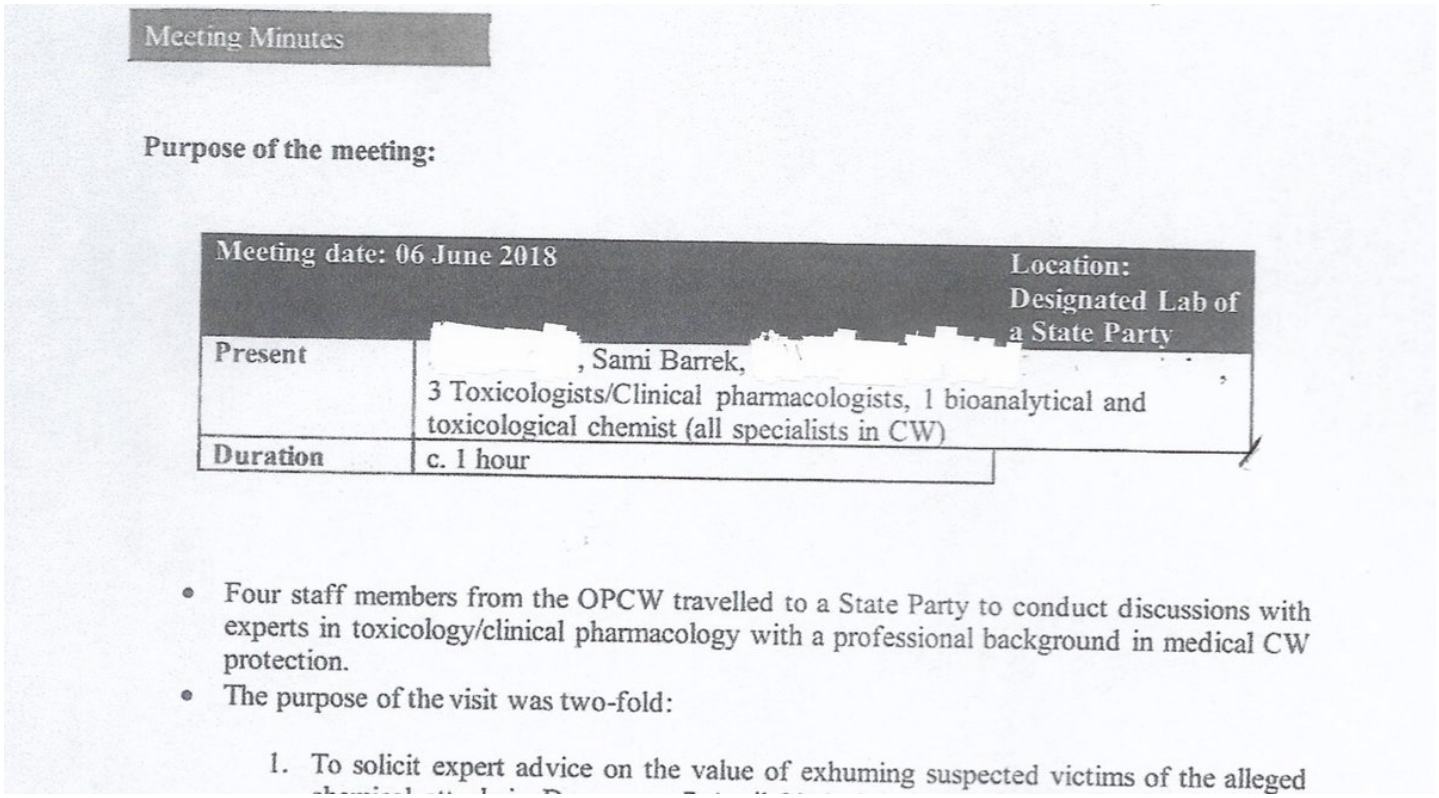
5) The @couragefound panel learned that an engineering study, sidelined by OPCW management, indicated that the damage seen here on a chlorine cylinder and roof were not consistent with each other:



6) The panel also learned that a toxicology report by NATO chemical warfare experts had been suppressed come the final @opcw report. This report evaluated how these victims came to to be killed, on the spot, by the alleged chemical chlorine gas. @2ndNewMoon



7) This report is ignored in Bellingcat's book, even though it concluded that the observed symptoms were not consistent with chlorine gas poisoning them where they were found. @samibarrek @LenP91535865 https://t.co/MCmW6hjiTJ



Meeting Minutes

Purpose of the meeting:

Meeting date: 06 June 2018	Location: Designated Lab of a State Party
Present	, Sami Barrek, 3 Toxicologists/Clinical pharmacologists, 1 bioanalytical and toxicological chemist (all specialists in CW)
Duration	c. 1 hour

- Four staff members from the OPCW travelled to a State Party to conduct discussions with experts in toxicology/clinical pharmacology with a professional background in medical CW protection.
- The purpose of the visit was two-fold:

1. To solicit expert advice on the value of exhuming suspected victims of the alleged

8) So compelling was the evidence presented at the @couragefound panel that an open letter, signed by eminent figures including Noam Chomsky and Hans von Sponeck, was sent to all OPCW member states- https://t.co/cQoU9bzK24…But you will not learn about that in the Bellingcat book

Yours Sincerely,

José Bustani, Ambassador of Brazil, first Director General of the OPCW and former Ambassador to the United Kingdom and France

William Binney, former technical director at NSA (US National Security Agency)

George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury

Noam Chomsky, Professor Emeritus, MIT (Linguist, Philosopher and Public Intellectual)

Alain Chouet, former chief of the Security Intelligence Service within the French external

9) .@bellingcat also chooses to ignore how the OPCW's first director general spoke out in support of the Douma inspectors trying to tell the truth but was blocked by the US and UK at a UNSC meeting. https://t.co/4CFGsNG9ob… @aaronjmate @thomasphipps @SJobDigital @McCormack_Tara

10) Whilst omitting all of these facts, @bellingcat
instead reinforces the attempt by OPCW senior management to smear some of its most experienced inspectors using a 'leak investigation' to spread lies and disinformation. @RealDeeptiC @UK_OPCW @CanadaOPCW @NLatOPCW

11) and in doing so ignores entirely the detailed and factual rebuttal of these smears provided by British journalist @ClarkeMicah in the Mail on Sunday:- https://t.co/ZkluynYRmt…. @PeterCronau @OborneTweets @alextomo

12) .@bellingcat's discussion of #Douma and the
@OPCW controversy also conveniently forgets to mention the claim from a @BBC producer @Dalatrm
that he could confirm the hospital scenes shot at Douma were staged: https://t.co/YZwfPITgbr… @bbclysedoucet @BreesAnna @cerumol

> After almost 6 months of investigations, i can prove without a doubt that the #Douma Hospital scene was staged. No fatalities occurred in the hospital.
> All the #WH, activists and people i spoke to are either in #Idlib or #EuphratesShield areas.
> Only one person was in #Damascus.
>
> — Riam Dalati (@Dalatrm) February 13, 2019

13) Ignoring relevant facts is one thing, but @bellingact also obscure their own role in the events at Douma and the OPCW controversy @beek38. As @MichaKobs explains here, @bellingcat deleted a tweet confirming manipulation of the cylinder

on the balcony:-https://t.co/5IquuNu6Sb

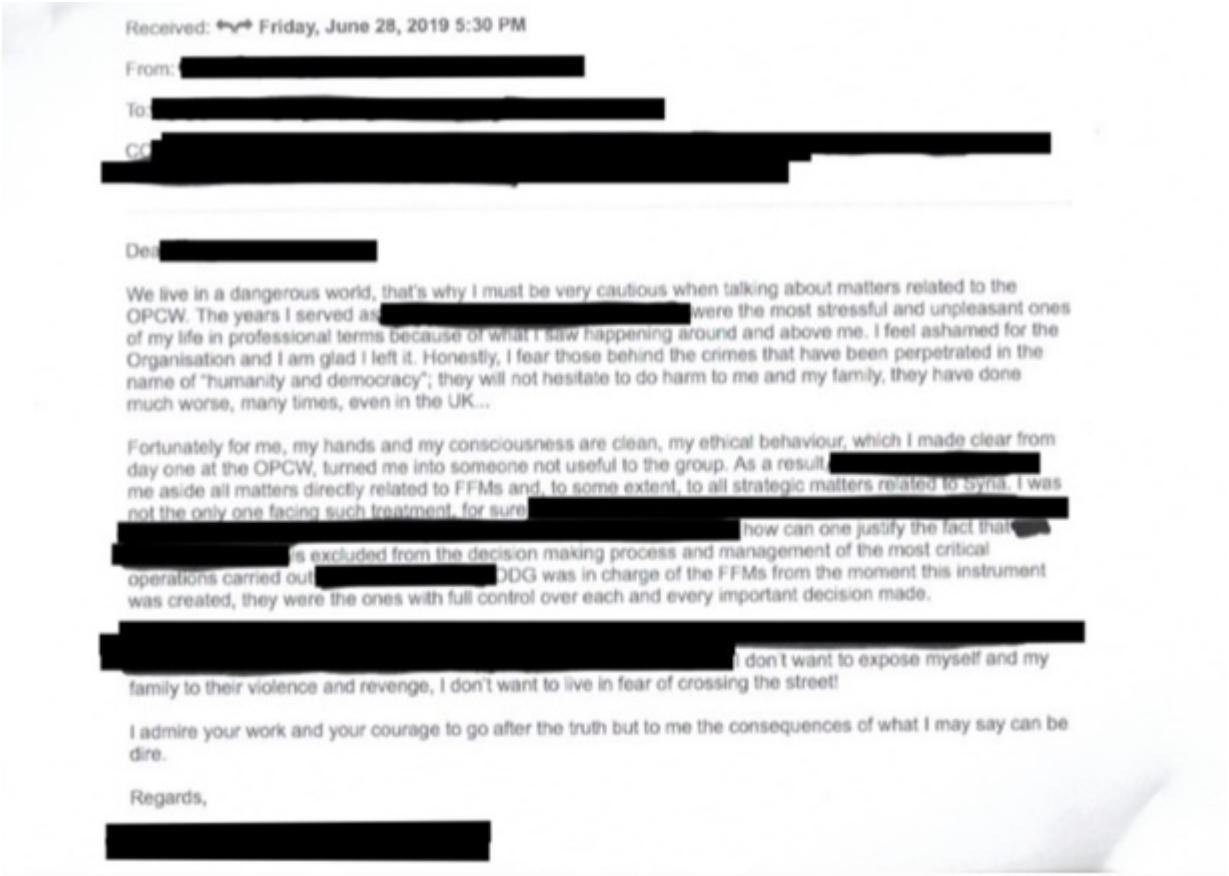
> #Douma #DoumaMassacre #DoumaProvocation
> The tweet deleted by Eliot Higgins proves some serious manipulation of the chlorine cylinder. Probably this is the reason why he deleted it. Compare the deleted version to the later White Helmet version. pic.twitter.com/4JcyzIlFtm
>
> — Michael Kobs (@MichaKobs) April 13, 2018

14) This cylinder, the subject of the engineering study mentioned above (5) can be seen to have been rotated through 180 degrees, to line up a dent with a steel bar, and then tilted so that its nozzle points into a hole in the roof.



15) Not only were Bellingcat in contact with activists manipulating evidence on the ground, they also published a fraudulent story seeking to discredit an OPCW inspector & involving a letter allegedly sent by OPCW DG. https://t.co/WQTouuk1fg… @MaxBlumenthal @aaronjmate

16) The letter Bellingcat leaked was never sent and its leaking confirms that a) nefarious actors within the OPCW are leaking false information and b)
@bellingcat serve as their conduit. The description of the conditions within the OPCW described by this official appear accurate



Received: Friday, June 28, 2019 5:30 PM

From: [redacted]

To: [redacted]

CC: [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

We live in a dangerous world, that's why I must be very cautious when talking about matters related to the OPCW. The years I served as [redacted] were the most stressful and unpleasant ones of my life in professional terms because of what I saw happening around and above me. I feel ashamed for the Organisation and I am glad I left it. Honestly, I fear those behind the crimes that have been perpetrated in the name of "humanity and democracy"; they will not hesitate to do harm to me and my family, they have done much worse, many times, even in the UK…

Fortunately for me, my hands and my consciousness are clean, my ethical behaviour, which I made clear from day one at the OPCW, turned me into someone not useful to the group. As a result [redacted] me aside all matters directly related to FFMs and, to some extent, to all strategic matters related to Syria. I was not the only one facing such treatment, for sure [redacted] how can one justify the fact that [redacted] is excluded from the decision making process and management of the most critical operations carried out [redacted] DDG was in charge of the FFMs from the moment this instrument was created, they were the ones with full control over each and every important decision made.

[redacted] I don't want to expose myself and my family to their violence and revenge, I don't want to live in fear of crossing the street!

I admire your work and your courage to go after the truth but to me the consequences of what I may say can be dire.

Regards,

[redacted]

17) Fortunately there are individuals with integrity who are analysing *all* the evidence and detailed analyses of the @opcw Douma issue are available https://t.co/Giy4xbJ6wF…. And, in the coming months, more voices will come to be heard.

18) In the meantime, @BloomsburyBooks
have published an account of a major controversy that demonstrably ignores critical facts/material. As shown by the material in this thread, it is a deception through omission. @GeorgeMonbiot @lukeharding1968 @anneapplebaum @haynesdeborah

19) I doing so @BloomsburyBooks is complicit in the attempts by the UK and US governments to conceal their propaganda activities and complicit in preventing the truth coming out of how these civilians came to be killed at Douma.

fyi @JefferySachs @MaxAbrahms @joshua_landis @cwccoalition @JPZanders @bbclysedoucet @alextomo @PeterCronau @OborneTweets @TulsiGabbard @rogerwaters @pamfoundation @SusanSarandon @medialens @PeterCronau @MaxAbrahms @RenieriArts @MichaKobs @afshinrattansi @johnpilger @ggreenwald