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مجلس الأمن



رسالة مؤرخة ١٧ شباط/فبراير ١٩٩٩ موجهة إلى رئيس مجلس  
الأمن من الممثل الدائم للسودان لدى الأمم المتحدة

يسعدني أن أرفق طيه مقالا نشرته صحيفه نيويورك تايمز يوم ٩ شباط/فبراير ١٩٩٩ معنونا "الخبراء لم يعثروا على مواد كيميائية لصنع الأسلحة في المصنع السوداني الذي تعرض للهجوم بالقنابل" (انظر المرفق).

ويفيد المقال أن علماء كيميائيين أمريكيين وظنهم مالك المصنع أجروا دراسة على عينات من التربة والحما والآنقاض أخذت من مصنع الشفاء للمستحضرات الصيدلية الذي دمرته في آب/أغسطس قذائف انسيابية أمريكية، ولم يجدوا أي آثار لمركبات الأسلحة الكيميائية.

وحسب المقال فإن هذه الاستنتاجات تثير أسئلة جديدة حول مزاعم المسؤولين الأمريكيين التي تفيد بأن عينات أخذت من تربة المصنع تحتوي على آثار مادة الإيمبتا Empta.

وتفيد الصحيفة أيضا أن الأدلة الجديدة تستند إلى ١٣ عينة مظهرة بأحكام أخذت في أواخر تشرين الأول/أكتوبر ١٩٩٨ من المصنع المودم والأرض التي بني عليها. وقد صمم مشروع أخذ العينات وأشرف عليه البروفسور توماس د. توليوس رئيس قسم الكيمياء في جامعة بوستون. وقال البروفسور توليوس في مقابلة "إن الهدف مما قمنا به هو أخذ العينات بدقة وبطريقة علمية من مجموعة متنوعة من المواقع وإخضاعها للتحليل في أحد المختبرات الأكثر تطورا في العالم بخصوص هذا النوع من العمل. وما اكتشفه ذلك المختبر هو أن تلك العينات لا تحتوي. في حدود الإمكانيات العلمية للاكتشاف العلمي، على مادة الإيمبتا أو على مادتها التحليلية الإيمبا".

ويشير المقال أيضا إلى أن التحليل المختبري خلص إلى أن أيًا من العينات لا يحتوي على كميات قابلة للاكتشاف من مادة الإيمبتا كما لم يكتشف مادة الإيمبا المركب الفرعي الذي تتحلل مادة الإيمبتا بسرعة إليه. وقال البروفسور توليوس إن الإيمبتا تتحلل في غضون أيام غير أن مادة الإيمبا تظل في التربة ويمكن اكتشافها، حتى وأن كانت بكميات قليلة. على مدى أسابيع أو شهور بعد أن تمس الأرض. وإضافة إلى تقييم العينات الجديدة من التربة، وظف محامو السيد إدريس شركة أمن دولية هي شركة كروول اسوشيايتس لإعادة النظر بالتفصيل في الخلاف القائم حول مصنع الشفاء. وخلصت شركة كروول

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اسوشيايتس في تقرير أتاح لصحيفة نيويورك تايمز الاطلاع عليه إلى عدم وجود أدلة على وجود صلة مباشرة بين السيد إدريس، مالك المصنع وأسامة بن لادن.

وقال المحققون التابعون لشركة إنهم لم يجدوا من المقابلات التي أجروها مع الخبراء الاستشاريين الغربيين لدى المصنع وعماله وغيرهم، أية أدلة تثبت أن الحراسة كانت مشددة على المصنع أو تثبت وجود أماكن سرية داخل المصنع محظورة على الغرباء، قد تنتج أو تخزن فيها أسلحة كيميائية. وخلص التقرير إلى أن المصنع لم يكن ينتج سوى أدوية بيطرية ومستحضرات صيدلوية معدة للاستهلاك البشري. وبالرغم من أن المصنع كان يصدر منتجاته إلى العراق، فإن شركة كروول لم تعثر على أدلة تثبت وجود روابط مع بغداد في مجال الأسلحة الكيميائية.

والمقال المرفق الذي يتضمن تعليقا على استنتاجات العلماء الأمريكيين الذين أجروا دراسة على المصنع في تشرين الأول/أكتوبر الماضي يشكل دليلا قاطعا إضافيا يفتد ادعاءات الحكومة الأمريكية بشأن مصنع صغير وبسيط للمستحضرات الصيدلوية الغرض منه هو إنتاج أدوية لإنقاذ الأرواح، ما أحوج السكان إليها في بلد ينتمي إلى العالم الثالث.

وسأكون ممتنا لو تفضلتم بتعميم هذه الرسالة ومرفقها كوثيقة من وثائق مجلس الأمن.

(توقيع) الفاتح عروة

الممثل الدائم

# Experts Find No Arms Chemicals at Bombed Sudan Plant

By JAMES RISEN  
and DAVID JOHNSTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 — Chemists who examined soil, sludge and debris samples from a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant destroyed in August by American cruise missiles found no traces of chemical weapons compounds, according to a scientist hired by the owner of the plant.

The findings, although prepared privately for lawyers for the owner, who is now seeking redress from the United States, raise new questions about the Government's reliance on tests of soil samples from the site obtained clandestinely by the Central Intelligence Agency. The American officials had said the samples contained traces of VX, a precursor used in the production of deadly VX nerve gas.

The United States attacked Al Shifa pharmaceutical plant in Khartoum and suspected terrorist training camps near Khartoum, Afghanistan, on Aug. 20 in an effort to curb the activities of the Saudi exile Osama bin Laden after the bombings of two American embassies in East Africa. American officials have said that the bin Laden terrorist network was behind the bombings of the diplomatic missions in Kenya and Tanzania. Mr. bin Laden has denied any role in the bombing.

At the heart of the new evidence are 13 carefully catalogued samples taken from the wrecked plant and its grounds late in October. The sampling project was designed and supervised by Prof. Thomas D. Tullius, chairman of the chemistry department at Boston University.

"The point of what we did was to carefully and scientifically collect samples from a variety of locations and have them analyzed by one of the top laboratories in the world for this kind of work," Professor Tullius said in an interview. "What they found was that in those samples, to the

practical limits of scientific detection, there was no Empira or Empira, its breakdown product."

In response to the new findings, Clinton Administration officials said they stood by their decision to strike the plant. The officials dismissed the findings of chemists working on behalf of the plant's owner, Salih Idris, noting that their soil samples were taken long after the United States obtained its soil from the site and could have dispersed incriminating evidence.

Moreover, while they acknowledge that they did not know that Mr.

## Scientists hired by the factory's owner issue their report.

Idris owned the plant at the time of the attack, other American officials say they now have strong evidence linking him to Mr. bin Laden.

"We stand by our evidence indicating the presence of a chemical weapons precursor at this plant," said P. J. Crowley, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House. "We stand by our evidence linking this plant to Osama bin Laden's network. We continue to believe that this was an appropriate action to pre-empt Osama bin Laden from further attacks against the United States."

Several ground locations at the plant were surveyed, along with interior sites in the plant that were covered by debris and partly protected from rain. One location, a septic tank, was found intact and provided what Professor Tullius said was a historical record of the chemicals

flushed through the plant drains.

The lab analysis found that none of the samples contained detectable levels of Empira, nor did they find Empira, the subsidiary compound into which Empira rapidly breaks down. Empira, Professor Tullius said, breaks down within days, but Empira remains in the soil, and even in small quantities would be detectable for weeks or months after contact with the ground.

In addition to the evaluation of the new soil samples, an international security company, Kroil Associates, was hired by Mr. Idris's lawyers to conduct a detailed review of the Shifa controversy. In their report, made available to The New York Times, Kroil Associates found no evidence of a direct link between Mr. Idris and Mr. bin Laden.

The scientists and investigators were hired by the Law Firm of Albin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, which represents Mr. Idris, a Sudanese-born Saudi businessman. The law firm has a long-held reputation of influence in Democratic circles with partners like Robert Strauss, the former Democratic Party chairman, and Vernon E. Jordan Jr., a close friend of President Clinton.

But his credentials have not benefited Mr. Idris. The firm's lawyers have been fairly rebuffed in their efforts to present their findings to the White House, National Security Council or the Justice, Treasury and Defense Departments.

"We've been confronted with the problem of proving a series of negative tests that there was no Empira at the plant and that Idris was not a terrorist," said Mark J. MacDonnell, a partner at the law firm. "We think we've done that with evidence that can be admitted in court. But to date responsible officials, including at the White House, have fairly refused to look at the facts. We're sorry about that."

The lawyers have not yet decided

whether they will sue the Government, in what would probably be complex litigation with an uncertain outcome. But nevertheless, Mr. MacDonnell said Mr. Idris wanted to clear his name and unfreeze millions of dollars in bank accounts at the Bank of America that the Treasury Department's office of foreign assets control that were blocked after the Shifa attack. In addition, Mr. Idris is seeking millions of dollars to replace the plant.

In interviews with Western consultants to the factory, employees and others, the Kroil investigators said they had found no evidence that the plant had been heavily guarded or that there had been secret areas in the factory off-limits to outsiders where chemical weapons might have been produced or stored. The report concluded that the plant produced only veterinary medicines and pharmaceuticals for human consumption while Al Shifa did export to Iraq. Kroil found no evidence of a chemical weapons link to Baghdad.

But the Kroil investigation did provide new details about Mr. Idris and confirmed his commercial links to Sudan's Military Industrial Corporation, the Government entity that produces weapons for the Sudanese Army. The United States charged that the corporation was also responsible for chemical weapons production in the country, and that Mr. bin Laden had provided financing for the agency.

The Kroil report determined that Mr. Idris did have links to the corporation, through his other business interests in Sudan, but not through Al Shifa. Kroil investigators said the corporation was a powerful military-based organization that reaches into many parts of the Sudanese economy, including Mr. Idris's business empire.