

Does ISIS Possess Saddam Hussein's WMDs?

An interview with Ken Timmerman by Mike Bates and Jerry Gordon (April 2016)




Donald Trump with CNN's Anderson Cooper, South Carolina Townhall, February 18, 2016

Following his South Carolina victory, GOP Presidential front runner Donald Trump was on *Fox News Sunday* with Chris Wallace on February 21, 2016 when the subject of the War in Iraq came up. Trump contended it was a disaster. He pointed toward the result, Iran taking over Iraq and its oil reserves, something he alleges would stop if he were elected President. Trump was on record in an [interview](#) with Howard Stern in September 2002 tentatively supporting the Iraq war, but later questioning its cost. Wallace's question was triggered by an exchange with Anderson Cooper of *CNN* during the South Carolina town hall on February 19th. His comment about WMDs in Iraq caught a wave of attention. In the exchange with Cooper he said:

"There are a lot of people that think that – look, bottom line, there were no weapons of mass destruction, and there were none, and they knew there were none," he added. "There were no weapons of mass destruction."

[Watch](#) Trump's interview with FoxNews' Chris Wallace on this YouTube Video.

Dr. Jill Bellamy

 [Dr. Jill Bellamy](#), noted bio defense expert, member of the UN Counterterrorism Advisory Council and Founding Director of [Warfare Technology Analytics](#) was a featured guest on [The Lisa Benson Show](#) on Sunday, February 28, 2016. The subject of Saddam Hussein's bio WMD came up. In our first [NER interview](#) with Dr. Bellamy in December 2007 we raised this issue. Here was our exchange with Bellamy:

Gordon: *We heard that some of the late Saddam Hussein's Bio-warfare*

research and pathogens may have been transferred to Syria during Operation Enduring Freedom. Is that accurate to your knowledge, and who facilitated the transfer? What types of bio-warfare agents and materials might have been transferred?

Bellamy: Yes. It is important to remember that the Iraqi programs were far more advanced at the time than what the Syrians had, and were developing. The delivery of certain pathogens in a 'weaponized' form taught the Syrians new techniques they previously had not mastered. This is very problematic. I am less concerned about the types of pathogens or specific pathogens as these were available to Syria from other sources. What Hussein's transfer taught the Syrians was more sophisticated ways of weaponization and dispersal. I believe Russian special ops- their Spetsnaz teams – transported sections of the programs.

In response to that question she drew attention to one of the major figures in the late Ba'athist dictator's bio-warfare program, [Dr. Rihab Taha](#), a UK trained microbiologist and expert in plant toxins. Bellamy also addressed ISIS and their possible acquisition of scientists and technicians for creation of laboratories to weaponize viral agents. She mentioned Dr. Taha as someone who was engaged in bio weapons work for the late Saddam Hussein. She was released by the interim Iraqi government. The question arose as to what she was involved in as a devoted Ba'athist nationalist in Iraq and where she might be now.

In 2004 Dr. Taha had explained to US officials what had happened to 1,800 gallons of anthrax which had been unaccounted by UN inspectors. Dr. Taha told inspectors the chemicals had been stored close to a presidential palace. After the anthrax was deactivated, the affair had been hushed up out of embarrassment at the chemical being stored close to one of Saddam Hussein's residences.

We asked Dr. Bellamy where Dr. Taha might have gone after her release. She replied, "I think she's working for the Syrians." We speculated it might be at the [Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Center](#) in a highly secure facility near Damascus.

The question remains as to whether Dr. Taha had a "better offer" from her former Ba'athist colleagues now part of the ISIS command and security echelon. Perhaps Taha is weaponizing BW agents to raise havoc against the West.

This writer and host Lisa Benson of the eponymous Radio Show on National Security later on Sunday, February 21, 2016 interviewed [Ken Timmerman](#), investigative journalist, President of the [Foundation for Democracy in Iran](#), author of New York Times best seller, [Countdown to Crisis](#), [Shadow Warriors](#) and [Dark Forces: The Truth About What Happened at Benghazi](#). We brought up Trump's assertions about Saddam Hussein's WMD.

Timmerman said that Trump had erred by repeating "a massive media lie." As evidence to support this he pointed out that evidence of WMD, especially chemical weapons had been uncovered in the opening stages of Operations Enduring Freedom. Moreover, months before the March 2003 conflict with Saddam Hussein's Iraq began; convoys of trucks were seen on satellite imagery crossing the frontier into Syria. "We knew," Timmerman said, "because none other than current Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, formerly the director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, said in 2003 that he believed materials had been moved out of Iraq in the months before the war and cited [questioned by American military officials](#) in Erbil, Iraq, Mr. al-Afari has told American interrogators that ISIS is weaponizing mustard gas by loading the powder into artillery shells. ISIS likely hopes to frighten Iraqi troops by threatening to employ the gas on the battlefield but does not have the logistical expertise or resources to carry out the kind of chemical attacks that terrorized the anti-Assad Syrians or the Kurds under Saddam Hussein.

ISIS has [.](#)

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