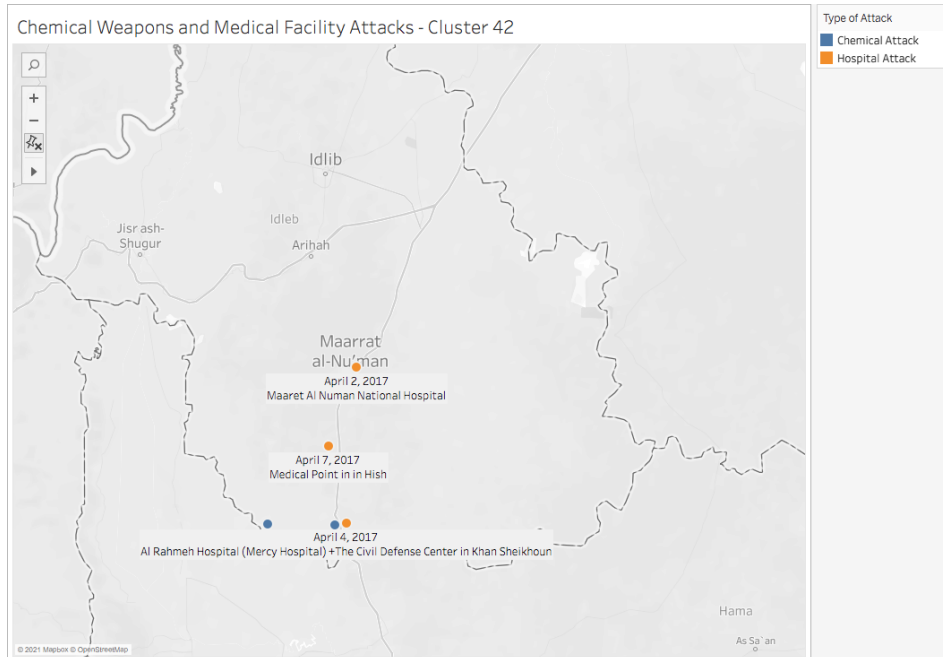


CASE STUDY: KHAN SHEIKHOUN



On April 3, 2017 Syrian government forces hit the Al Habit village with a barrel/canister carrying chlorine gas. The attack killed 2 people and injured 20 others. A day later, on April 4, Syrian government forces attacked Khan Sheikhoun, a village in southern Idlib along the main, M5 Aleppo-Damascus highway, with Sarin gas, killing 98 people and injuring 300 others. Before, during, and after these devastating attacks, 3 medical facilities along the M5 were hit by Russian and Syrian government forces.

In all, it is apparent that the capacity and capabilities of medical facilities near these chemical weapons attacks in Syria were precedingly or subsequently limited by airstrikes, allegedly from Russian and Syrian government forces.

APRIL 2: HOSPITAL ATTACK 1



A hole in the ceiling of [Maaret Al Numan National Hospital](#) from an air attack by Russian Forces.

On April 2, two days before the chemical weapons attack on Khan Sheikhoun, Russian Forces struck the Maaret Al Numan National Hospital. The attack was a direct hit that resulted in casualties. Having been attacked before as well as listed in the UN's deconfliction mechanism, Syrian Archive estimates that this hospital was deliberately targeted. Maaret Al Numan National Hospital lies along the vital M5 highway, 24 km north of Khan Sheikhoun. Both the OPCW's fact finding mission as well as the [Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic report](#) that the hospital was the main medical facility in the area. It also names the facility as one "which could have more adequately dealt with cases of patients exposed to chemical agents."

APRIL 3: CHEMICAL ATTACK 1

[Reports](#) confirm a chemical weapons attack hit the village of Al Habit within twelve hours before another chemical weapons attack in Khan Sheikhoun, 9 km east of Al Habit. [Posts](#) alerting of the attack claim helicopters belonging to the Syrian government dropped barrel bombs with chlorine gas over the town.

APRIL 4: CHEMICAL ATTACK 2

From a [fact finding mission](#) on the April 4 attack, the Office for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed that residents of the town were most likely exposed to Sarin gas. The report details victims being sent to 8 separate medical facilities inside and out of Syria. According to the Mission, “patients were transferred to several different medical facilities in the region, either passing through MF-F [“the medical centre in Khan Sheikhoun”] or going directly to other facilities [...] transfers were made on the basis of whether the receiving or potential receiving medical facilities had the capacity and capability to deal with such casualties.”

APRIL 4: HOSPITAL ATTACK 2



The inside of [Al Rahmeh Hospital](#) after airstrikes hit the facility.

On April 4, the day of the chemical weapons attack, Russian Forces hit Al Rahmeh Hospital in Khan Sheikhoun. The hospital, also along the M5, was deliberately targeted, resulting in casualties. Missiles hit the facility around [4.5 hours after the chemical weapons attack](#). The airstrikes on the facility occurred as hospital staff were receiving and treating victims of the attack. Witnesses of the incident—interviewed jointly by Syrians for Truth and Justice and by Justice for Life—describe severe damage to the facility's underground structure and

medical equipment, cutting the hospital off from power. Others featured in videos reporting on the incident describe the medical facility as out of service.

APRIL 7: HOSPITAL ATTACK 3



The area surrounding the [medical point in Al Hish](#) after airstrikes hit the town.

Lastly three days later on April 7, Russian forces allegedly hit, and likely deliberately targeted, a medical point in Hish—12 km north of Khan Sheikhoun and directly along the M5. The attack resulted in casualties and additionally limited where those exposed to harmful gases could be treated.