

NEWS

British war reporter killed in Syria was 'tracked and targeted for assassination by Assad's army'

Marie Colvin, 56, was working for the Sunday Times newspaper when a deadly Syrian rocket strike on the building she was reporting from hit her in 2012 in the stricken city of Homs

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By [Chris Hughes](#) Defence And Security Editor
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Veteran war reporter [Marie Colvin](#) was deliberately tracked and targeted for assassination by Syrian despot Bashar al-Assad's troops, according to a new lawsuit.

Almost 2,000 documents, including leaked military memos and claims by [Syrian](#) defectors will be used to try and prove the Syrian regime had American Colvin in its sights.

Colvin, 56, was working for the British Sunday Times newspaper when a deadly Syrian rocket strike on the building she was reporting from hit her in 2012 in the stricken city of Homs.

Her family and campaigners who launched the investigation into her death believe regime officials tracked and intercepted her broadcasts to pinpoint her position so they could kill her.

She died along with award-winning French photographer Remi Ochlik, and an investigation by the Damascus-government claimed they were killed by a terrorist nail-bomb.

Syria's President Bashar al-Assad stands accused of war crimes (Image: REUTERS)

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The Center for Justice and Accountability, in Washington, today lodged a “wealth of evidence showing the regime’s crimes,” aimed at proving Assad’s men killed her deliberately.

Colvin’s grieving sister Cathleen - who launched the legal suit against the Assad regime in Washington’s federal court - said in a statement: “My sister was killed for exposing the Assad regime’s brutality but her work lives on.

“We submit this evidence to seek justice for Marie - and for the thousands of Syrian victims of torture and murder who have not yet had their day in court.

“We hope case will inspire the international community to finally bring Syria’s war criminals to justice.”

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A youngster chokes after the Assad regime forces allegedly conducted a poisonous gas attack in a town on Sunday (Image: Getty)

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Once the court has completed its hearing Colvin’s relatives hope Assad and his regime will then be officially found guilty of targeting journalists.

The evidence includes claims from a Syrian spy-turned -defector who has been given the code-name Ulysses, offering an account of how the regime planned the Colvin attack.

Henry Weisburg, a partner at legal firm Shearman and Sterling, said: "This lawsuit is among the first to ask a court to hold the Assad regime directly responsible for its crimes.

"It is not only an effort to provide Marie's family with some measure of justice - inadequate as it may be - but also to reveal the Assad regime's atrocities more broadly, something we hope will contribute to ending the regime's abhorrent treatment of its own people."

The dossier accusing the regime of being behind Marie Colvin's killing has taken six years to compile.

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