

Marie Colvin: Syria assassinated reporter, court told

8 hours ago



Syrian civil war



A journalist who was killed at the start of the war in Syria was "assassinated" by the government, family members have claimed in newly released court documents.

Marie Colvin died in February 2012 in Homs, Syria, alongside French photographer Remi Ochlik, when the building they were in was shelled.

Military memos and testimonies from defectors appear to chart how she was targeted.

Ms Colvin worked for the Sunday Times.

The sister of the highly respected correspondent, Cathleen Colvin, has brought a claim to a federal district court in the US stating her death was "an extrajudicial killing" and asking for compensation from the Syrian government.

Several defectors claim in **documents submitted for the case** that the government tracked journalists' satellite phone signals to find out their whereabouts.

The Colvin family's lawyer, Scott Gilmore, said the documents included evidence that the government of Bashar al-Assad had "identified media workers as targets from very early on in the conflict".

One anonymous defector names senior military personnel who he says drank and celebrated the day after the journalists died.

He states that a military intelligence officer said: "Marie Colvin was a dog and now she's dead. Let the Americans help her now."

Those involved in the attack later received rewards, he said - a general was promoted, and a militia leader was given a new car.

Paul Conroy, a British photographer who was wounded in the same attack, said he had previously been warned of Syrian government orders "to kill any Western journalists found in Homs" but that he and Ms Colvin decided to keep working "to expose the truth of what was happening inside Syria".

He says in testimony that the attack was targeted using a technique called "bracketing", which was "very different from the indiscriminate, systematic waves of shelling usually employed daily by the Syrian forces".

Bracketing involves an artillery gunner receiving information from an observer or drone on how close their fire has fallen to the intended target, so that they can adjust and try again.

Mr Conroy said the building he and the others were in - a makeshift media centre - "could not possibly have been a legitimate military target" as he never saw any activists there bearing arms.

The wrongful-death lawsuit, filed last year, could be decided upon within the next few months.

More than 200 journalists have died in Syria in its seven-year war. The government has denied targeting them, and President Assad has previously said of Ms Colvin that she had entered the country illegally, had "worked with the terrorists", and was "responsible for everything that befell her".

Related Topics

Syria

Syrian civil war

Press freedom

Share this story About sharing

More on this story

Marie Colvin: Tributes paid to 'heroic' journalist

16 May 2012

Marie Colvin: A life 'defined by humanity'

16 May 2012

New York funeral for Homs reporter Marie Colvin

13 March 2012

Around the BBC

Tributes to Marie Colvin

Middle East

Trump abandons trip to focus on Syria

10 April 2018 | [Middle East](#)

Iran fixes rate in bid to save currency

10 April 2018 | [Middle East](#)

Dubai to launch digital number plates

10 April 2018 | [Middle East](#)

More Videos from the BBC

Recommended by Outbrain



Mountain lion roams California backyards



Wildcat filmed in Aberdeenshire forest



'Republicans' should 'respect' Prince



Women's Institutes: A hipster takeover?



'Beards are not compulsory'



Crews tackle fire at high-rise flats

Elsewhere on BBC

Recommended by Outbrain



BBC News

Suspected Syria chemical attack kills 70



BBC Future

What is a 'normal' sex life?



BBC Culture

Explore our selection of art, culture, music and film events from around the globe



BBC Culture

The second a father saved his son



BBC News

'Steel butterfly' who charmed US and China



BBC Future

The pilot who stole a secret Soviet fighter jet

Top Stories

Facebook chief testifies to Congress

Chief executive Mark Zuckerberg faces a grilling from senators on political ads and data privacy.

1 hour ago

Facebook: Data haul had private messages

1 hour ago

Trump abandons trip to focus on Syria

1 hour ago

ADVERTISEMENT

Features



What are Trump's military and diplomatic options in Syria?



Girls jump from balcony to escape blaze

'More than 600 apps had access to my iPhone data'

Zuckerberg testifies: Seven things to look out for

Syria 'chemical attack': What we know

What will Trump's new border force do?

How photos are helping abuse victims love themselves

In the US, you don't have to kill to be a murderer

The 150-year-old story of Sri Lankan tea-making

Most Read

Man, 34, set up as Blackpool FC mascot on stag do	1
---	----------

Hither Green burglar death flowers 'an insult'	2
--	----------

Royal wedding: Barack Obama and Donald Trump not among guests	3
---	----------

Ultimo lingerie firm ceases trading in the UK	4
Alexander Perepilichnyy: No plant toxin found in system	5
The seismic signal of Lionel Messi	6
Syria 'chemical attack': Trump cancels Latin America trip	7
Otto Putland trial: Commonwealth swimmer cleared of rape	8
BBC Radio 1 announces major schedule changes	9
'More than 600 apps had access to my iPhone data'	10

ADVERTISEMENT

From Around the Web

Promoted content by Outbrain



[Gallery] Researchers Caught Rare...
maternityweel

Looking for a win-win? Do this for your yard.
Roundup® Product



60 Seconds Is All It Takes for a Burglar to Enter Your...
ADT Home Security



Macy's Has All Your Spring Handbag Needs Covered

Macys.com



An Incredible Story of Facing Metastatic Breast Cancer

HealthCentra



These 2018 Crossover SUVs Are Sure to Impress

Yahoo! Search

Ads by Google

Ads



Taylor Swift's New Home

The superstar bought her neighbor's four-story TriBeCa home.

Lonny Celebrity Homes

Easy Family Soup Recipes

Find quick and easy homemade vegetarian and vegan vegetable family soup recipes ideas.

freshcookingrecipe.com

The Story of Your Surname

Enter your last name to learn its meaning and origin.

Ancestry

BBC News Services

[On your mobile](#)

[On your connected tv](#)

[Get news alerts](#)

[Contact BBC News](#)

Explore the BBC

[Home](#)

[Sport](#)

[Shop](#)

[Travel](#)

[Culture](#)

[Future](#)

[Radio](#)

[CBeebies](#)

[iWonder](#)

[Music](#)

[Make It Digital](#)

[Nature](#)

[News](#)

[Weather](#)

[Earth](#)

[Capital](#)

[Autos](#)

[TV](#)

[CBBC](#)

[Food](#)

[Bitesize](#)

[Arts](#)

[Taster](#)

[Local](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[Contact the BBC](#)

[Advertise with us](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

[Get Personalised Newsletters](#)

[Ad choices](#)

Copyright © 2018 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **Read about our approach to external linking.**