



# Will the US-led anti-IS coalition now be held accountable?



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In mid-June 2017, the human rights organisation Human Rights Watch (HRW) accused the US-led anti-IS coalition of having used white phosphorus during attacks in Iraq and Syria. In addition to fire damage and injury or death caused by its combustibility and the severe, difficult healing of those wounded by it, white phosphorus develops highly toxic fumes (poison gas). A consumption of as little as 50 mg results in agonising infirmity within 5 to 10 days, followed by death.

In April 2017 poison gas was released in the Syrian city of Khan Sheikhoun. Although it is unclear to this day who was responsible for the attack, US president Trump immediately accused the Syrian government and ordered a missile strike on the military airport Al-Schairat in retaliation. It was even said that Syrian President Assad would be held accountable before the International Court of Justice.

But why are there different rules in place for the US government when it comes to the deployment of white phosphorous? Shouldn't such a case promptly be investigated by international professionals and, if the claims made correspond to the truth, shouldn't the US-lead anti-IS-coalition be held accountable?

from pg.

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## Sources:

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