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Feb 16 · 22 tweets · [P_Kallioniemi/status/1626211316087066624](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1626211316087066624)

In today's [#vatnik](#) soup I'll introduce an American investigative journalist and political writer, Seymour "Sy" Hersh. His recent article suggested that the Nord Stream bombing is connected to the US, Sweden and Norway and that it was ordered by no other than Joe Biden.

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Let's begin with the obvious: Hersh is an accomplished journalist whose reporting is widely known around the world. His first big story was exposing the 1969 My Lai massacre and its cover-up during the Vietnam War.

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In the 70s, he covered the Watergate scandal and in 2004 he reported on the torture and abuse of prisoners taking place in Abu Ghraib, Iraq. He's won 5 George Polk awards, a Pulitzer price and two National Magazine Awards.

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But, then there's the other stuff. The kind of journalism that doesn't bear scrutiny.

In Sep, 2013, Hersh said in an interview that the death of Osama Bin Laden was "one big lie, not one word of it is true". In 2015 he published his own take on what happened in an ...

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... article called "The Killing of Osama bin Laden". He suggested that Pakistan had detained Bin Laden and both the Pakistani and the US governments knew about the attack beforehand. It was widely criticized by reporters, media commentators, academics and US official.

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The screenshot shows the top of the London Review of Books website. The header includes the site name, navigation links (THE PAPER, SUBJECTS, BLOG, PODCASTS & VIDEOS, EVENTS, SHOP, NEWSLETTERS), and a 'Subscribe' button. The article title is 'The Killing of Osama bin Laden' by Seymour M. Hersh, with a word count of 10,128 words. The main text begins with 'IT'S BEEN four years since a group of US Navy Seals assassinated Osama bin Laden in a night raid on a high-walled compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The killing was the high point of Obama's first term, and a major factor in his re-election. The White House still maintains that the mission was an all-American affair, and that the senior generals of Pakistan's army and Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI) were not told of the raid in advance. This is false, as are many other elements of the Obama administration's account. The White House's story might have been written by Lewis Carroll: would bin Laden, target of a massive international manhunt, really decide that a resort town forty miles from Islamabad would be the safest place to live and command al-Qaida's operations? He was hiding in the open. So America said. The most blatant lie was that Pakistan's two most senior military leaders – General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, chief of the army staff, and General Ahmed Shuja Pasha, director general of the ISI – were never informed of the mission. This remains the White House position despite an array of reports that have raised questions, including one by

The screenshot shows a news article titled 'The many problems with Seymour Hersh's Osama bin Laden conspiracy theory' by Max Fisher. It features a photo of Seymour Hersh speaking into a microphone. A 'Most Read' sidebar lists five other articles. At the bottom, there is a 'Future Perfect' logo and a small text box stating: 'On Sunday, the legendary investigative journalist Seymour Hersh finally released a story that he has been rumored to have been working on for years: the truth about the killing of Osama bin Laden. According to Hersh's 10,000-word story in the London Review of Books, the official

In Dec, 2013, London Review of Books published Hersh's article "Whose Sarin?". The article was previously rejected by both New Yorker & Washington Post. In his story, Seymour claimed that the US had used "cherry picked intel" to justify military attacks on pro-al-Assad troops.

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The screenshot shows the London Review of Books website. At the top, the logo "London Review OF BOOKS" is centered, with "Sign in" and "Subscribe" buttons to the right. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "THE PAPER", "SUBJECTS", "BLOG", "PODCASTS & VIDEOS", "EVENTS", "SHOP", and "NEWSLETTERS". The main content area features the article title "Whose sarin?" by Seymour M. Hersh, dated "Vol. 35 No. 24 · 19 December 2013". A small thumbnail of the magazine cover is visible. Below the title are social media icons and a word count of "5376 words". The article text begins with "Barack Obama did not tell the whole story this autumn when he tried to make the case that Bashar al-Assad was responsible for the chemical weapons attack near Damascus on 21 August. In some instances, he omitted important intelligence, and in others he presented assumptions as facts. Most significant, he failed to acknowledge something known to the US intelligence community: that the Syrian army is not the only party in the country's civil war with access to sarin, the nerve agent that a UN study concluded – without assessing responsibility – had been used in the rocket attack. In the months before the attack, the American intelligence agencies produced a series of highly classified reports, culminating in a formal Operations Order – a planning document that precedes a ground invasion – citing evidence that the al-Nusra Front, a jihadi group affiliated with al-Qaida, had mastered the mechanics of creating sarin and was capable of manufacturing it in quantity. When the attack occurred al-Nusra should have been a suspect, but the administration cherry-picked intelligence to justify a strike against Assad."

Various chemical weapons experts were critical at the time, and latest OPCW report concluded that the "reasonable grounds" exist to believe that the Syrian Government was behind these attacks.

In 2017, Welt am Sonntag published Sy's article "Trump's Red Line"...

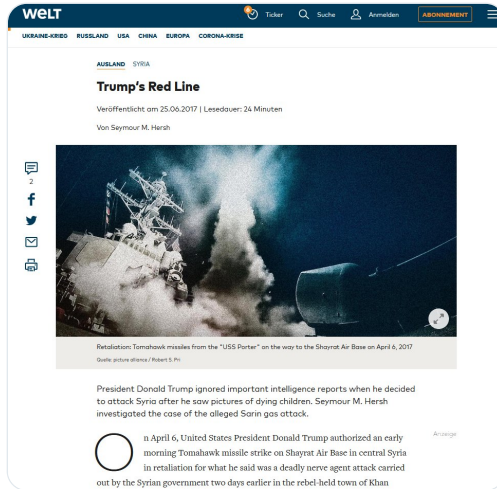
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The screenshot shows the UN News website. At the top left is the United Nations logo and the text "United Nations | UN News | Global perspective Human stories". A search bar is located at the top right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Topics", "In depth", "Secretary-General", and "Media". Below the menu are "AUDIO HUB" and "SUBSCRIBE" buttons. The main content area features the article title "'Reasonable grounds' to believe Syrian Government was behind deadly chlorine gas attack on Douma: OPCW report". Below the title is a photograph of two OPCW inspectors in blue protective suits and gas masks, one is handing a sample bag to the other. A small caption below the photo reads "OPCW | OPCW inspectors collect samples during a mock inspection exercise."

..., which suggested that the US intel had not informed President Trump that "it had found no evidence that the Syrians had used a chemical weapon". Bellingcat called Hersh's reporting "sloppy" as he based the case on tiny number of anonymous sources.

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Regarding 9/11, Hersh has said in an interview that he doesn't "necessarily buy the story that Bin Laden was responsible for 9/11." Then he continued: "We really don't have an ending to the story. I've known people in the [intelligence] community. ...

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... We don't know anything empirical about who did what."

Seymour's also been skeptical of the Skripal poisoning, saying that "the story of novichok poisoning has not held up very well. He [Skripal] was most likely talking to British intelligence services about Russian...

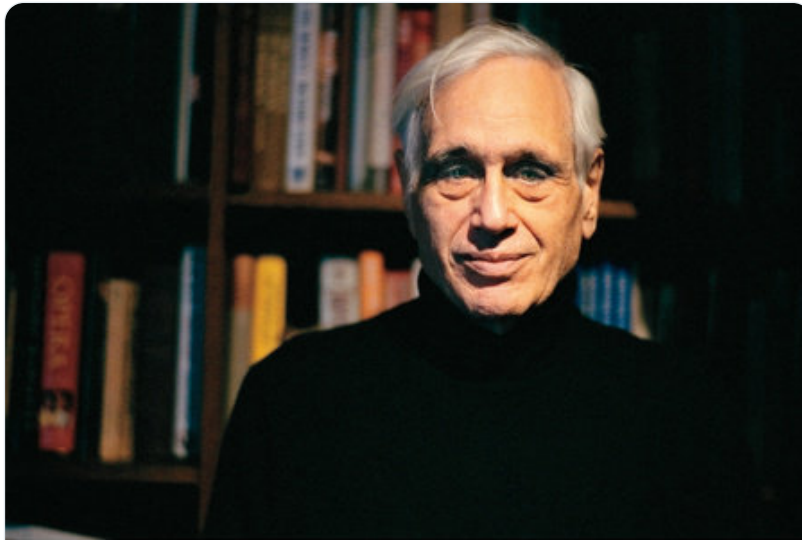
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Hersh is also on the record as stating that the official version of the **Skripal poisoning** does not stand up to scrutiny. He tells me: "The story of novichok poisoning has not held up very well. He [Skripal] was most likely talking to British intelligence services about Russian organised crime." The unfortunate turn of events with the contamination of other victims is suggestive, according to Hersh, of organised crime elements rather than state-sponsored actions – though this files in the face of the UK government's position.

... organised crime". He suggested that the poisoning was coming from organized crime rather than being state-sponsored.

Hersh is known for often using anonymous sources. He's also been criticized for this, and for example investigative journalist Edward Jay Epstein and...

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Edward Jay Epstein
PHOTO CREDIT: Valerie Sadoun

... activist Amir Taheri have said that he is "over-reliant" on them. Taheri said that "by my count Hersh has anonymous 'sources' inside 30 foreign governments and virtually every department of the U.S. government".

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In his story on Bin Laden, Hersh referred a 55 times to an "anonymous retired senior intelligence official". Vox's Max Fisher have stated that "Hersh has appeared increasingly to have gone off the rails. His stories, often alleging vast and shadowy conspiracies, ...

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Seymour Hersh's bizarre new conspiracy theory about the US and Syria, explained

The investigative journalist says Pentagon leaders conducted a secret alliance with Assad and Putin to undermine Obama.

By Max Fisher | max@vox.com | Dec 21, 2015, 11:40am EST

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Seymour Hersh speaking in 2005. | Craig F. Walker/The Denver Post via Getty



... have made startling-& often internally inconsistent- accusations, based on little or no proof beyond a handful of anonymous 'officials'". Slate's James Kirchick stated that "Hersh's problem is that he evinces no skepticism whatsoever toward what his crank sources tell him"14/20



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HAS TO DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE

FOREIGNERS

A Crank Theory of Seymour Hersh

To understand the legendary national security reporter, you need to understand an archetype of the intelligence world: the crank.

BY JAMES KIRCHICK MAY 12, 2015 · 11:45 AM



Seymour Hersh attends the *New Yorker's* White House Correspondents' Dinner Weekend Pre-Party on April 24, 2015, in Washington, D.C.

Hersh has defended his style of reporting, and has said that he may change details when he's giving speeches: "Sometimes I change events, dates, and places in a certain way to protect people. I can't fudge what I write. But I can certainly fudge what I say."

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Hersh "fudged" facts in his 2004 speech about the Abu Ghraib scandal, where he alleged that American troops had sodomized young boys and that the whole thing was recorded. In a later interview, he said that his statement "wasn't that inaccurate, but it was misstated".

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DAILY KOS NEWS YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT

Seymour Hersh: Children raped on camera in front of women at Abu Ghraib. How bad are these photos?

MinistryOfTruth
Community (This content is not subject to review by Daily Kos staff prior to publication.)

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"Some of the worst things that happened you don't know about, okay? Videos, um, there are women there. Some of you may have read that they were passing letters out, communications out to their men. This is at Abu Ghraib ... The women were passing messages out saying 'Please come and kill me, because of what's happened' and basically what happened is that those women who were arrested with young boys, children in cases that have been recorded. The boys were sodomized with the cameras rolling. And the worst above all of that is the soundtrack of the boys shrieking that your government has. They are in total terror. It's going to come out."
[salon.com](#)

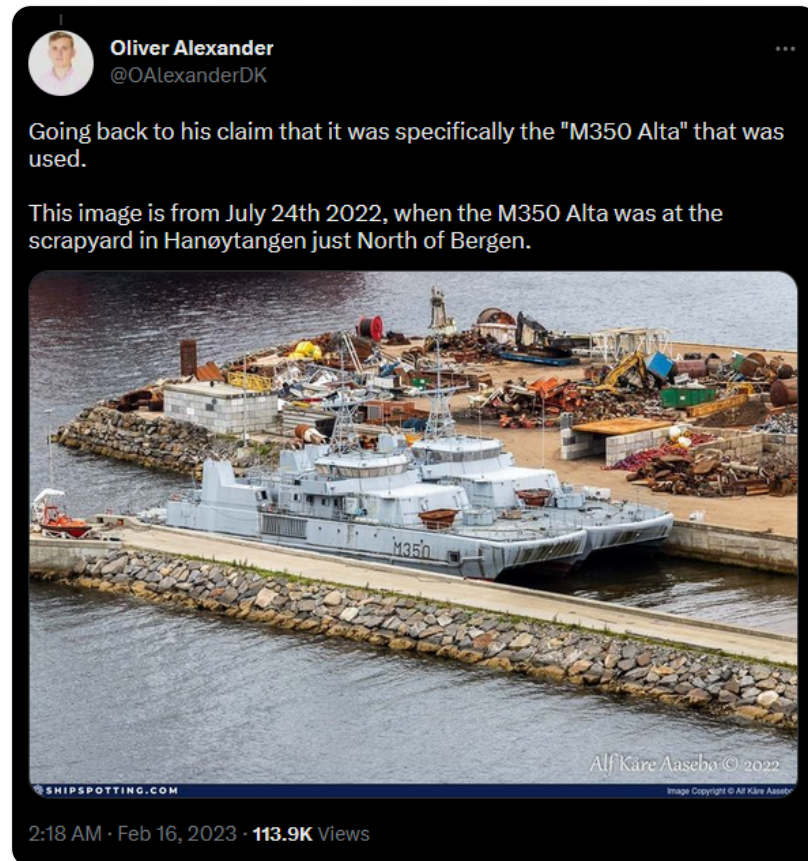
For the record, the videos and acts described by Mr. Hersh are not the same ones President Obama decided to withhold yesterday. We do not know if they are worse,

I have read Hersh's article on Nord Stream. It's a highly detailed blog post, describing the planning and the execution of the operation in detail.

Oliver Alexander (@OAlexanderDK) has researched Hersh's story on the Nord Stream bombing.

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Based on him and the OSINT evidence he's gathered, the story is full of holes and inaccuracies. One example: Hersh stated that a Norwegian Alta class mine hunter was used in the operation, but in reality the Alta hasn't been used since 2012 and was being scrapped at the time. 18/20



You can read Alexander's post here:



Blowing Holes in Seymour Hersh's Pipe Dream

On the surface Seymour Hersh's story looks passable, but as you dig deeper it has more holes than the Nord Stream pipeline.

<https://oalexanderdk.substack.com/p/blowing-holes-in-seymour-hershs-pipe>

The reasons why Hersh has resorted to sloppy journalism can only be guessed. Maybe he wants to stay relevant? Maybe it's the money?

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Either way, he should realize that his pieces riddled with dis- and misinformation are used as propaganda tools - On 15th of Feb, 2023, TASS reported that Russia requests UNSC meeting over the Nord Stream sabotage. Hersh has no plans to speak at the event if it occurs.

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TASS RUSSIAN NEWS AGENCY

15 FEB, 20:48

Russia requests UN Security Council meeting on Nord Stream sabotage for February 22

White House National Security Council Spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said in a commentary for TASS that Hersh's version is "utterly false and total fiction"

UNITED NATIONS, February 15. /TASS/. Russia has requested that a UN Security Council meeting be held to discuss the Nord Stream gas pipeline sabotage on February 22, Russian First Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky said on his Telegram channel Wednesday.

"In light of new information regarding the bombing of the Nord Stream gas pipelines, we have requested a UN Security Council meeting be held on February 22, at 3:00 p.m. New York time," he said.

At the same time, at 3:00 p.m., the UN General Assembly special session will resume its work, with an anti-Russian resolution planned to be put to a vote.

On February 8, US journalist Seymour Hersh, who specializes in investigative journalism, stated in his article, citing a source, that the Nord Stream pipelines were bombed using explosive devices planted by US Navy divers in June 2022 under the guise of the BALTOPS exercise, with support from Norwegian specialists. According to Hersh, the operation was authorized by US President Joe Biden personally, following nine months of discussions with White House

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Addendum: Amir Taheri whom I referred in the report seems to be mixed in several controversial cases, too. The whole case seems to be a kind of "the pot calling the kettle black" scenario. I would disregard Taheri's comments on this matter.

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