

# News

## After Chemical Weapons Attack, US Intervention in Syria Likely

Monique Kreisman, news editor

Over 1,400 people—including 400 children—died in a chemical weapons attack on Aug. 21 near Damascus. The US claims it has evidence connecting the Syrian government with the chemical strike, but al-Assad, the leader of Syria, charges the rebels with the attack. Since civil war began in Syria in 2011, over 100,000 people have been killed, according to a United Nations estimate.

Before intervening in the civil war, President Obama has decided to seek the approval of Congress. On September 2, he met with several members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Sen. John McCain has said that a plan is in the works to support the rebel Syrian army in its fight against the government, and Congress will likely vote on the matter on September 9 when it reconvenes. Matt Smith reports in a September 2 CNN article that Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have offered assistance to the US should it decide to take action against Syria. France has also agreed to act if the US intervenes, but Britain has decided to remain uninvolved.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Le Figaro*, al-Assad warned that war could quickly break out in the Middle East if the US strikes Syria. Many Americans share



via nytimes.com

that fear. With memories of US intervention in other Middle Eastern countries, some citizens worry that any action on the part of the US would entrench the country in a long, drawn-out war. It remains to be seen what action President Obama and Congress decide to pursue.

## Wildfires Threaten Yosemite National Park

Marlena Brown, staff writer

A wildfire that broke out in Yosemite National Park on Aug. 17 made headlines and has since garnered national attention. According to CNN, the fire has caused severe damage, resulting in the closing of the entry road and threats of homes within the vicinity being engulfed in flames. The fire has been named the Rim Fire, as it has also been perceived as a threat to San Francisco's power and water supplies. Reuters has reported that the fire has the land mass of the city of Chicago and is the sixth largest wildfire in California's state history. As the wildfire has spread, there have been warnings passed of homes and community shopping centers being potentially consumed by fire damage. Many homeowners and business owners in the area are worried that everything that they have will become engulfed in flames.

At least 20 percent containment had been achieved on Aug. 26, yet community firemen are still working to make sure that the fire remains in boundaries of the national park and does not spread further through the community. The fire may not only affect the local community, but also visitors from around the United States. Known as a tourist attraction for decades, Yosemite national park may see a serious decline in tourism with this natural disaster at the helm. Authorities at Yosemite National Park have expressed concern that the damage from the wildfire would deter potential visitors for the Labor Day weekend, but there is very little indication of people being dissuaded from visiting the park. While the fire continues to be an issue for the local community, it appears to not have affected tourists and frequent visitors who take advantage of the wide range of outdoor activities that the national park has to offer.



via nytimes.com

## Controversy Surrounds Moore Square

Mollie Schrull, staff writer

Tension erupted in downtown Raleigh on Aug. 26 when news about the Raleigh Police Department's increased restraints on feeding the homeless gained media attention. Moore Square is a well-known destination for the homeless, who have been fed there for many years by the local public. Colin Campbell of the News and Observer explains that this area has been flourishing, and visitors have become aggravated with the "panhandling, fighting and loitering" that they claim is becoming more prominent in the area.

Police became weary of these complaints and made an aggressive move to establish order at Moore Square by requiring local charities and religious groups to have a permit to feed the hungry. Fortunately for the homeless of downtown Raleigh, the decision to enforce this rule has been held until November. At that time, the full City Council will meet and determine the best plan for reducing visitors' encounters with the homeless while also supplying the food that the hungry have been used to receiving at Moore Square.

City officials have considered many options in their plans; social-service organizations that assist the homeless in gaining work and providing for themselves would be the most desirous plan. However, that kind of one-on-one work would take time. Right now, moving the homeless to another area may be the fastest way to provide both groups with what they need: a place for the homeless to spend time and be fed as well as an ease of tension in downtown Raleigh between the homeless and the visiting locals.