

Russia's UN Mission Trolls US as Syria Chemical Weapons Resolution Expires

November 17, 2017



Lucas Jackson / Reuters

A war of words between Russia and the United States has spilled onto social media after Russia vetoed a United Nations resolution on chemical weapons in Syria for the 10th time since the start of the war.

Russia on Thursday blocked a UN and Dutch-based intergovernmental group tasked with finding those responsible for chemical attacks in Syria. The mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) [expires](#) on Friday.

The group recently blamed a sarin gas attack in the village of Khan Shaykhun, which killed nearly 100 civilians this year, on Syria. Moscow immediately [rejected](#) its findings as biased.

Shortly after Thursday's vote in New York that effectively allowed the JIM to expire, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley [accused](#) Russia of killing the investigative mechanism.

The Reuters news agency [cited](#) Vasily Nebenzya, the head of Russia's mission, as saying the

U.S. used the investigative mechanism as “a puppet-like structure to manipulate public opinion.”

Haley said American diplomats were unable to reach their Russian counterparts ahead of the crucial vote. “They’ve been too busy to talk to us this week.”

“When I have tried to call Vasily, for some reason he’s not available,” she [told](#) reporters walking up to the vote.

Embed:

[.@nikkihaley](#) on “Vassily not available for some reasons”:
<https://t.co/JvRiKbhM8R> Wrong! [#Nebenzia](#): Not a single missed call on my phone.
And our experts replied as many times as been contacted by the [#US](#) counterparts.
<pic.twitter.com/oxISrTlDdl>

— Russian Mission UN (@RussiaUN) [November 17, 2017](#)

“Wrong!” Russia’s permanent mission to the UN [wrote](#) on Twitter on Friday. “[#Nebenzia](#): Not a single missed call on my phone.”

“And our experts replied as many times as [they had been] contacted by the [US](#) counterparts.”

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