

TULSI GABBARD AND BASHAR AL-ASSAD

Highlights:

- Tulsi Gabbard met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad while on a trip to Syria.
 - Gabbard said she did not regret meeting with Assad.
- Tulsi Gabbard refused to condemn Assad as an enemy of the United States.
 - Gabbard said she was “skeptical” that Assad’s government perpetrated a chemical weapons attack.
 - Gabbard said Assad was not the enemy of the United States.
 - Gabbard called those who criticized her meeting with Assad “warmongers.”

2017: Gabbard Met With Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad In Syria

2017: GABBARD WENT TO SYRIA AND MET WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT BASHAR AL-ASSAD

2017: Gabbard Went To Syria And Met With Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad. According to the Washington Post, “Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) just did something few members of Congress dare to do these days: Go to Syria and meet with the man the United States has actively been trying to oust, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Besides the fact a sitting member of Congress met with the leader of a nation that Washington has no diplomatic relations with — a man whom former president Barack Obama described as the main roadblock to peace in Syria — the timing of Gabbard’s trip is perplexing.” [Washington Post, [1/26/17](#)]

Gabbard Went On The Trip To Syria With Dennis Kucinich. According to the Washington Post, “Gabbard returned this week and said the seven-day trip — which also featured former Ohio congressman and presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich — was led and paid for by the Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Ohio.” [Washington Post, [1/26/17](#)]

Gabbard Said The Meeting With Assad Was Unplanned But That She Could Not Pass Up The Opportunity

Gabbard Said The Meeting With Assad Was Unplanned But That She Could Not Pass Up The Opportunity. According to the Washington Post, “Gabbard said the meeting with Assad was unplanned but that she couldn’t pass up the opportunity. In an interview Wednesday with CNN’s Jake Tapper, she elaborated: ‘When the opportunity arose to meet with him, I did so because I felt it was important that if we profess to indeed care about the Syrian people ... then we’ve got to be able to meet with anyone that we need to if there’s a possibility we could achieve peace. And that’s exactly what we talked about.’” [Washington Post, [1/26/17](#)]

Gabbard Said She Went To Syria To See And Hear Directly From The Syrian People Affected By The Conflict

Gabbard Said She Went To Syria To See And Hear Directly From The Syrian People Affected By The Conflict. According to the Washington Post, “‘The lives of millions of Syrians have been destroyed by a horrific war that has killed hundreds of thousands and forced millions to flee their homeland,’ she [Gabbard] wrote in an op-ed in the Honolulu Star Advertiser. ‘I went there last week to see and hear directly from the Syrian people.’” [Washington Post, [1/26/17](#)]

2019: GABBARD SAID SHE DID NOT REGRET MEETING WITH ASSAD

2019: Gabbard Said She Did Not Regret Meeting With Assad, Who Was Accused Of Using Chemical Weapons On Civilians. According to the Washington Post, “Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii) said Sunday that she does not regret her 2017 meeting with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, who has been accused of using chemical weapons to attack civilians in the country’s years-long civil war. Gabbard, a 2020 presidential candidate, has previously drawn criticism for voicing skepticism that the Assad regime was behind the chemical weapons attacks. Asked by CNN’s Jake Tapper whether she regrets the meeting, Gabbard said she did not, drawing a comparison between her sit-down with Assad and President Trump’s summit last year with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. ‘I have seen this cost of war firsthand, which is why I fight so hard for peace,’

said Gabbard, an Iraq War veteran. ‘And that’s the reality of the situation that we’re facing here. It’s why I have urged and continue to urge President Trump to meet with people like Kim Jong Un in North Korea because we understand what’s at stake here. The only alternative to having these kinds of conversations is more war.’” [Washington Post, [1/20/19](#)]

Gabbard Refused To Condemn Assad As An Enemy Of The United States

GABBARD SAID SHE WAS “SKEPTICAL” THAT ASSAD’S GOVERNMENT PERPETRATED A CHEMICAL WEAPONS ATTACK IN APRIL 2017

Gabbard Said She Was “Skeptical” That Assad’s Government Perpetrated An April 2017 Chemical Weapons Attack. According to POLITICO, “Gabbard previously said she was ‘skeptical’ that Assad’s government perpetrated a chemical weapons attack in April 2017 that killed dozens of Syrians, although the Defense Department and the United Nations found that his regime was responsible for the slaughter.” [POLITICO, [3/10/19](#)]

- **The Syrian Regime Was Found Responsible For The 2017 Chemical Attack.** According to the Guardian, “Investigators from the global chemical weapons agency have found the Syrian regime responsible for a poison gas attack that killed 43 people in a suburb of Damascus in 2018, leaving victims choking to death in the basement of a home. In a report nearly five years in the making, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) found the canisters carrying poison gas had been dropped by a Syrian air force helicopter over Douma – then one of the last opposition strongholds near the Syrian capital.” [Guardian, [1/27/23](#)]

GABBARD SAID ASSAD WAS NOT THE ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES

Gabbard Said Assad Was Not The Enemy Of The United States Because Syria Did Not Pose A Direct Threat To The United States. According to CNN, “Hawaii Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard said Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is not the enemy of the United States, standing by her opposition to US involvement in that country’s civil war two years after she met personally with the accused war criminal. ‘Assad is not the enemy of the United States because Syria does not pose a direct threat to the United States,’ Gabbard said Wednesday morning on MSNBC.” [CNN, [2/6/19](#)]

Gabbard Would Not Answer When Asked If She Viewed Assad As An “Adversary” Of The United States. According to CNN, “Asked if she viewed Assad as an ‘adversary’ of the US, Gabbard demurred and said it was important to look at who posed a threat to the US and how the interests of other nations compare to those of the US. Pressed on the point, she said, ‘You can describe it however you want to describe it.’” [CNN, [2/6/19](#)]

GABBARD CALLED THOSE WHO CRITICIZED HER MEETING WITH ASSAD “WARMONGERS”

Gabbard Called Those Who Criticized Her Meeting With Assad “Warmongers.” According to CNN, “‘We heard attacks from warmongers in politics/media before. Those opposed to Iraq/Libya/Syria regime change wars are called ‘dictator-lovers’ or ‘cozy’ with evil regimes. Rather than defend their position, they resort to name-calling & smears. American people wont fall for this,’ read Gabbard’s tweet.” [CNN, [2/6/19](#)]