

[TWO WEEKS IN APRIL 2017]

REPORTED CHEMICAL WEAPON ATTACK IN SYRIA

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/04/05/middleeast/idlib-syria-attack/>

Victim: 'I don't know if my family is dead or alive'

Mazin Yusif, a 13-year-old-boy, broke down in tears at the Reyhanli Hospital in southern Turkey near the Syrian border. About 25 survivors of Tuesday's attack are being treated there, and several said they saw a plane drop chemical bombs.

Mazin Yusif, 13, tells a harrowing story of being caught up in the apparent chemical attack.

"At 6:30 in the morning, the plane struck. I ran up on our roof and saw that the strike was in front of my grandfather's house," Mazin told CNN.

He said he ran toward his house and found his grandfather slumped over. He ran outside to call for help. "I got dizzy and then fainted in front of my grandfather's garage. I next found myself here in this hospital, naked in a bed." . . .

The boy's grandmother, Aisha al-Tilawi, 55, said she saw blue and yellow after the plane dropped a chemical-laden bomb.

"We started choking, felt dizzy, then fainted. Mazin was trying to wake up his grandfather. Three of my family died," she said, lying in bed with an oxygen mask on her face.

'Sixty-eight children among dead' of suicide bombing attack in Syria

-- Blast targeted convoy transporting evacuees from Fua and Kefraya under deal between Assad regime and rebels

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/16/sixty-eight-children-dead-suicide-bombing-syria>

Maysa al-Aswad, a 30-year-old evacuee from Kefraya, said she was sitting on one of the buses with her six-month-old son Hadi and 10-year-old daughter Narjis when the blast shook the parked convoy.

"Hadi was on my lap and Narjis on a chair next to me. When the explosion happened I hugged them both and we fell to the floor," she told AFP by telephone from near Aleppo. "I didn't know what was happening, all I could hear was people crying and shouting," she said.

"All I can think about is how we survived all the death during the last few years and then could have died just after we finally escaped."

More than 5,000 people left Fua and Kefraya and about 2,200 left Madaya and Zabadani on Friday, the latest in a series of evacuations from the four towns under the agreement.

The evacuation process resumed after the bombing, the Observatory said, with the residents of Fua and Kefraya eventually arriving in Aleppo, Syria's second city that the government took full control of last year.

Wounded survivors, including many children, were taken for treatment at an Aleppo hospital.