Under a deal brokered by Russia and the US, Syria has agreed to disclose its full chemical arms arsenal within a week and eliminate it by mid-2014. The US had threatened military action over a chemical attack in Damascus. UN weapons inspectors who visited the scene of the attack released their findings on Monday, though their remit did not involve assigning blame.

Meanwhile, the latest report from UN human rights investigators in Geneva said there was evidence chemical weapons had been used on several other occasions. War crimes, including mass executions, rape and torture, were also continuing, according to the study.