

Press Release

Chemical Attacks Continue in Syria - So Does Global Inaction.

SNHR

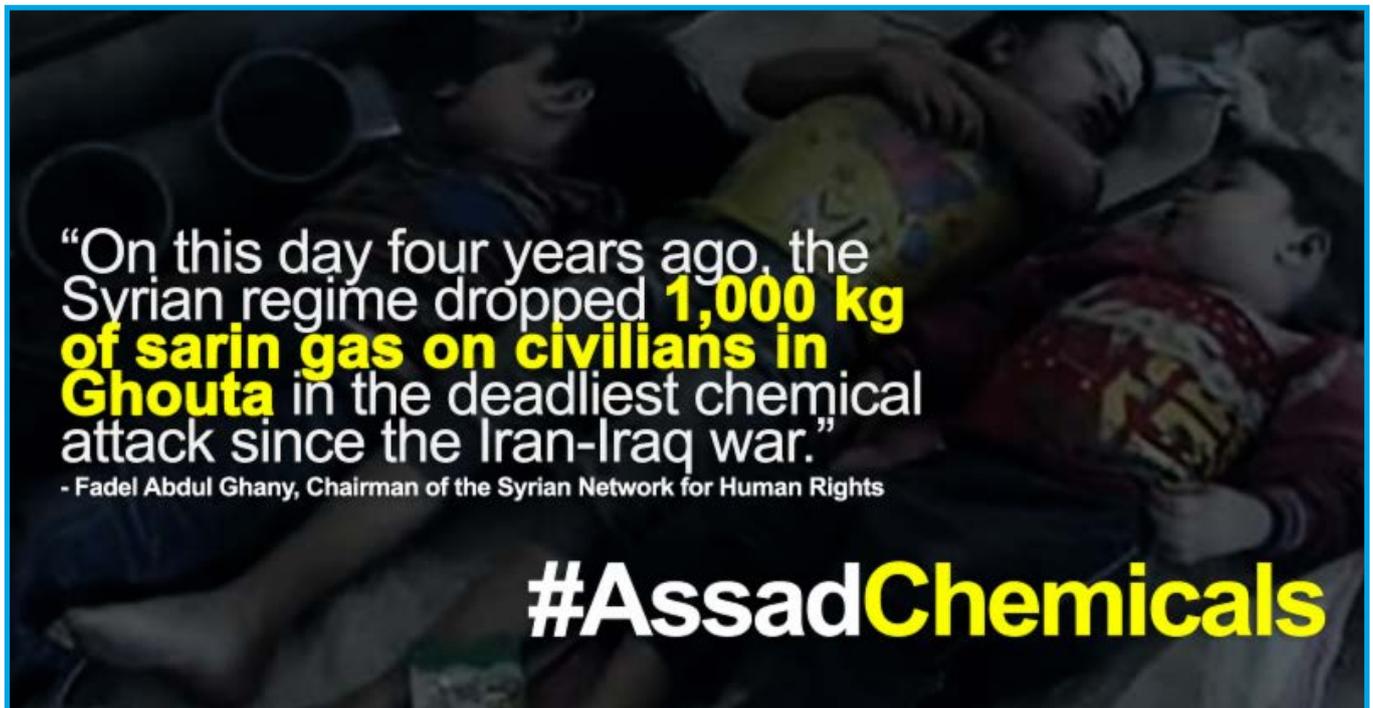
SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Monday, August 21, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria

[21 August 2017] On the anniversary of the Ghouta chemical attack that left more than 1,100 dead in 2013, Syrian civil society remind the world that the Syrian government's continued use of chemical weapons against civilians must be met with consequences. The global failure to protect Syrian civilians and ensure justice for those responsible has emboldened the Syrian government, which continues its use of banned chemical weapons at an alarming rate.



“On this day four years ago, the Syrian regime dropped 1,000 kg of sarin gas on civilians in Ghouta in the deadliest chemical attack since the Iran-Iraq war. This time, the world couldn't feign ignorance – videos circulated of people suffering the effects of nerve gas, the streets lined with bodies. Sadly, many of the victims were women and children. Yet despite a collective, international expression of horror at the massive scale of the Ghouta chemical attack, still no one took action”, says Fadel Abdul Ghany, Chairperson of the [Syrian Network for Human Rights](http://www.sn4hr.org).



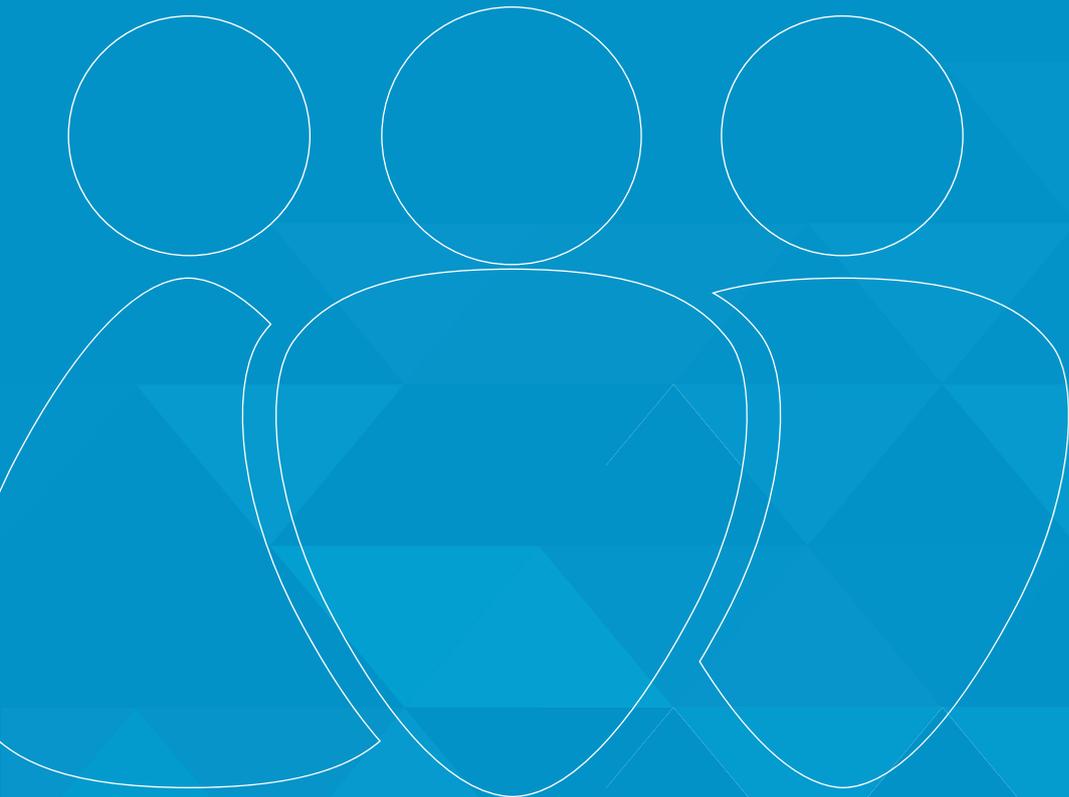
«The Syrian government has carried out more than 200 chemical weapons attacks in its 7-year campaign to suppress demands for democracy and freedom, 5 in the last few months alone - even after French President Macron's so far unfulfilled commitment to retaliate against any use of chemical weapons.

“Every time the regime carries out attacks against civilians without consequences, it is a green light for the assault to continue. Accountability for crimes that have already been committed, like the Ghouta attack, is crucial. But the regime continues to bomb, starve and, siege every day. So we also need protection from future attacks. Accountability and protection go hand-in-hand, and Syrians need both”, he concludes.

On the anniversary of the Ghouta chemical attacks, Syrian civil society are calling for:

- **Protection** from all attacks against civilians, including use of banned chemical weapons. When world leaders commit to act - as President Macron did - they must follow through: to do otherwise only encourages further attacks.
- Independent, international and impartial **monitoring** of Syria's de-escalation zones to ensure that violations are accurately documented and that there is clear attribution of culpability.
- **Accountability** for war crimes, including the use of chemical weapons, by increasing support for existing accountability mechanisms such as the IIIM, pursuit of cases under domestic and universal jurisdictions, and establishment of an international tribunal through the UN General Assembly.





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