

Statement

Syrian Regime Has Carried Out 207 Attacks Using Chemical Weapons, 174 after the Major Two Ghoutas Attack

Attempting to Rehabilitate the Criminal is a Direct Involvement in the Crime

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

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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



Today, The Syrian people remembers one of the most atrocious incidents in modern history, as today marks the fourth anniversary of the Syrian regime's chemical attack on Eastern Ghouta and Western Ghouta on August 21, 2013. In addition, another major incident that involved sarin took place in Khan Sheikhoun city last April, which was to be excepted in light of the international community's and the former American administration's, as well as the current administration it seems, failure to uphold their commitments in front of the whole world considering that using chemical weapons is a red line. They have failed to stop the criminal, or even to confiscate their entire chemical weapons arsenal.

Fadel Abdul Ghany, chairman of SNHR, says:

“With many international signs and statements pointing to an intention to rehabilitate the Syrian regime, the images and memories of the Ghouta massacre and the dead children, as if they were asleep, are still vivid in the Syrian people's memory. Accepting a regime or any individual that was involved in this horrifying massacre as a part of the political process is not acceptable no matter the circumstances. Any attempt to force settlements and platforms that agree to this will be doomed to fail. Instead, there must be calls to prosecute the regime who caused this, as well as their allies.”

The Syrian Regime's Black Record of Using Chemical Weapons

According to SNHR's archives. The first use of chemical weapons was on December 23, 2012, in al Bayyada neighborhood, Homs city. Consequently, the Syrian regime continued with this path until the world woke up to the Two Ghoutas Attacks on August 21, 2013, even though there had been 33 attacks before, while not on the same scale.

The Syrian government agreed to the CWC treaty on September 14, 2013. The well-known Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on September 27, 2013. According to paragraph 21, measure under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter would be imposed in the event of non-compliance.



The Syrian regime didn't care heavily for that, as the regime continued carrying out chemical attacks, where most of these attacks were through dropping barrel bombs loaded with a poison gas, likely chlorine, from Syrian regime helicopters, or through ground shells and hand grenades that are loaded with poison gases. Also, the regime resorted to small-scale attacks that don't result in a large number of victims and wounded in a manner that would have embarrassed the decision-makers and compelled them to take action.

After tens of incidents of chemical weapons use, Security Council Resolution 2235 was adopted in August 2015, which established, for the first time, a Joint Investigative Mechanism whose mandate was to identify the criminal who used chemical weapons.

Nonetheless, the Syrian regime used chemical weapons several times to the point where sarin was used in a widespread manner, as was the case in Khan Sheikhoun city on April 4, 2017, and about 91 civilians, including 32 children and 23 women, suffocated to death. However, even after the American administration bombed Shayrat Military Airbase, the airbase from which the warplanes that bombed Khan Sheikhoun took off, the Syrian regime used chemical weapons five times at least after Khan Sheikhoun attack – the first of which was in al Qaboun neighborhood, after less than 72 hours had passed since Khan Sheikhoun attack. In most of these attacks, the Syrian regime used hand grenades loaded with a gas we believe it was chlorine in the context of military advancement on battlefronts the Syrian regime was seeking to seize from armed opposition factions.

The toll of Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons distributed by Security Council Resolutions

SNHR has released about 27 extensive and brief reports that recorded the toll of attacks by Syrian regime using chemical weapons from the first alleged use until August 21, 2017. There have been 207 attacks as follows:

- No less than 33 attacks before Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted on September 27, 2017
- 174 attacks after Security Council Resolution 2118 was adopted:
 - o 105 attacks after Security Council Resolution 2209 – March 6, 2015
 - o 49 attacks after Security Council Resolution 2235 – August 7, 2015, which established the Joint Investigative Mechanism in order to identify the criminal who used chemical weapons.



In total, these attacks resulted in the killing of 1420 individuals, who are recorded by names and details, as follows:

- 1356 civilians, including 186 children and 244 women (adult female)
 - 57 armed opposition fighters
 - Seven Syrian regime forces captives who were arrested and kept at an opposition prison.
- Additionally, no less than 6672 individuals were injured.

Through its chemical attacks, the Syrian regime has breached the customary international humanitarian law that unconditionally prohibits the use of chemical weapons. Furthermore, the Syrian regime has, beyond any doubt, breached the CWC which he signed on in September 2013, which provides for the prohibition of the use of poison gases, and for those weapons to be destroyed. Thirdly, the Syrian regime has breached the relevant Security Council Resolutions – particularly 2118 of the year 2013, 2209, of the year 2015, and 2235 of the year 2015. Moreover, the use of chemical weapons constitutes a war crime according to Rome Statue of the International Criminal Court.

The Syrian regime will not stop perpetrating violations that qualify as crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocides without a serious pressure towards a political transition that take Syria into democracy and respecting freedoms and human rights, but the Syrian regime remains, to this day, unprepared to agree to any fair political solution.

Russian and China have used veto seven times over the course of the Syrian crisis in favor of the Syrian regime, which disabled the Security Council completely and prevented it from protecting the international law and the international order. Also, making efforts towards forming a general opinion against the Syrian regime at the United Nations General Assembly hasn't been accomplished, given that dictatorships always stand by each other's sides. serious questions must be asked by legislators, especially the supporters of the Responsibility to Protect norm, as to what the next step should be in this case, because over seven years the Syrian regime has felt that they have a green light that allows them to commit unrestricted crimes, and will undoubtedly continue to use chemical weapons against the Syrian people.





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