

Statement

OPCW Meets Today to Discuss Its April 2020 Report, Which Found the Syrian Regime Responsible for Using CWs against Latamena City

The Syrian Regime Has Used Chemical Weapons 184 Times Since Ratifying the Chemical Weapons Convention

Today, Tuesday, July 7, 2020, the state parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons 'CWC' (the states parties are all but three of the world's countries) will meet with the aim of discussing [the report](#) prepared by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons' (OPCW) Investigation and Identification Team, which conclusively found the Syrian regime to be unquestionably responsible for using chemical weapons three times against Latamena city in the suburbs of Hama governorate in March 2017, two of which involved the use of sarin gas.



The Syrian regime [ratified the CWC in September 2013](#) after being threatened with the use of military force against it in the context of its use of chemical weapons against the Damascus Suburbs governorate on August 21, 2013. By ratifying the CWC, Syria became a state party prohibited from using, manufacturing or stockpiling chemical weapons, making it mandatory for the regime to destroy its stockpile of chemical weapons; instead, however, the regime has repeatedly used CWs since ratifying the Convention 184 times in all to date, as documented by the Syrian Network for Human Rights' (SNHR) database, including the three attacks that took place against Latamena city.

The Syrian regime's repeated, blatant and deliberate violations of multiple articles of the Convention, mean that the Executive Council has a responsibility to take action in regard to the Syrian regime's violation of this Convention and to obtain a clear condemnation from the majority of member states. Whilst it's clear that Russia, China, Venezuela, and other states that support the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons will not condemn its use of these weapons, but will instead deny their well-documented use, the Executive Council is still compelled to take all necessary steps to hold the Syrian regime accountable, and to refer the case to the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council, so that the Security Council bears its responsibilities for this blatant and repeated use of weapons of mass destruction in the modern age, which is the greatest threat to international peace and security.

Accordingly, the conference should, [according to Article XII of the CWC](#): Suspend Syria's rights and privileges, request all states parties to take collective measures against the Syrian regime, and make clear and serious recommendations to the United Nations General Assembly, the Secretary-General, and the UN Security Council.

