

XXVI

TECMUN Jr.

Organisation for the
Prohibition of Chemical
Weapons

Dearest

delegate,

First and foremost, in this letter, I wish to address you, not as your president, but as an ardent lover for the model we are all gathered here for. Due to my experience, I have come to learn that the ultimate objective of every Model of the United Nations, is not simply to pretend to be something for three days, perfect said position and win a debate. On the contrary, the whole objective is for you to understand the power of your own voice by the adoption of a position in which change at a global scale is possible. It allows you to understand problems taking place in different parts of the world, analyze their repercussions and resolve them in a matter of three days with the best resolutions possible.

Overall, every single one of these models helps you develop your abilities and each one brings the proximity toward change closer, if you are invested and informed enough. Nevertheless, in my personal experience, the MUN granted me the opportunity to meet passionate individuals with an equal fervor for change as mine, and has developed my voice and the power it contains, if used correctly, through the wonders of a globalized world. So, to all of you, delegates and chair, through my experiences and your own, I urge you to understand the circumstances you are in at the moment. It is true, that every nation you are representing today is mere pretend, but global issues about to be resolved in this committee, are not. Every single committee in this model is working towards the solution of a factual and contemporary problem, and it is your job to bring peace to a world filled with fear and war. Finally, delegates, take advantage of the privilege that allows you to be here and make the most out of this three days. Not only will you go back to your life a more knowledgeable person, but you will feel rewarded for placing your mark in the world. It starts here, in TECMUN, but this is merely a stepping stone for what i know you will achieve later on in your life. You are just starting, don't give up.

Sofía Mitre de Jacobis

President of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

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Outline of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter referred to as OPCW) is an independent and autonomous international organisation with an active and working association with the United Nations. It was established in 1997 as a result of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Nowadays, the OPCW headquarters are located in The Hague, Netherlands, and currently hold 192 Member States, all of which are assisting and operating together to attain the Organisation's goal: a world free of chemical weapons, mainly used for warfare. However, the OPCW can only provide assistance in the form of supplying trained personnel, sponsoring chemical research, guaranteeing legal assistance, along with others.

Tópico A

Production of chemical weapons by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its consequences, focusing on the exportation of raw materials to the Syrian Arab Republic

*Por: Sofía Mitre de Jacobis
Miriam Ramírez García Figueroa
Ana Elisa Pérez Navarro
Emiliano Galicia Ríos*

Introduction

The Organisation of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter referred to as OPCW) was created in 1997, as a result of is the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) whose mission is to completely destroy all existing chemical weapons (hereinafter referred to as CW) under international verification, including their use in warfare. It is an independent and autonomous international organisation with an active and working association with the United Nations (UN).

Currently, countries like the Arab Republic of Egypt, the State of Israel, and more worryingly, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), haven't signed nor yet ratified the CWC, therefore these States do not form part of the OPCW, and cannot fulfill the Convention's objective: the complete eradication of chemical weapons. A number of key issues arise from the fact that, according to the DPRK, they do not have any kind of chemical weapon in its possession, and one of them being that the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Korea states otherwise; they currently estimate that their northern neighbor could have up to 5,000 metric tons of chemical weapons in its territory, and that according to the UN, it has been reported that there have been about 40 shipments going to Syria from the DPRK in which materials needed for the creation of CW were sent, such as acid-resistant tiles, valves and thermometers. The Syrian Arab Republic (SAR) is a member of the OPCW, contrary to the DPRK, but with international safety and security as a priority of the OPCW, this organisation must pay attention and find a solution to this situation that may escalate into international conflict.

Background of the countries involved

Democratic People's Republic of North Korea

First and foremost, it was previously mentioned that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not a member of the OPCW due to not having signed the CWC, however, they signed the Geneva Protocol in 1925. This treaty consists of the prohibition of chemical weapons entirely in warfare, nevertheless, it does not forbid any state of producing nor possessing any kind of chemical weapon injunctions. Nonetheless, around three decades later, the Korean War broke forth; this intense conflict between the United States of America, South and North Korea, China and the Soviet Union lasted three years. The first country previously mentioned, commenced the nuclear and chemical attack against North Korea through air strikes, killing

around 20% of the population and as a consequence, North Korea sought a less costly alternative to nuclear weapons in order to defend itself, thus the indigenous chemical industry and chemical weapon production in North Korea emerged, specially regarding the 'Three Year Economic Plan'. Contrariwise, the significant progress was not made until the first 'Seven Year Plan' imposed on the Kim Il Suns' government whom also made a "Declaration for Chemicalization" whose aim was to further develop an independent chemical industry in order to support the economy and the chemical weapons. The DPRK established the basic organization of the current Nuclear and Chemical Defense Bureau since then.

Furthermore, inhumane and illicit to international law acts have taken place in the DPRK. For instance, the South Korean government has reported experimentation of chemical weapons on human beings. Likewise, in 2013, Human Rights in North Korea, citing defector testimony, alleged that the DPRK was testing chemical weapons on political prisoners and disabled children at Detention Camp 22 (Hoeryong Concentration Camp) and an island off South Hamgyong Province. Additionally, in February 2014, the United Nations Human Rights Council reported accounts of chemical weapons use on disabled people, nonetheless it could not independently verify the accuracy.

While the DPRK claims the absence of chemical weapons in its own territory, they are ranked globally as third largest possessor of said weapons. In May 1979, the DPRK only possessed defensive CW capability, though in less than a decade, the South Korean MND reported that they possessed up to 250 metric tons of chemical weapons, including Mustard Gas (blister agent), and some nerve agents. Above all, the DPRK has not produced their CW alone *in perpetuum*: scarcity requires external sources, and in this case, both the Soviet Union and China have helped the DPRK in developing its nascent chemical industry. Also, countries like Japan, have tried to export chemicals for weapons production; China and Malaysia, where it was discovered in the fall of 2004 that a considerable amount of chemicals had arrived to the DPRK. Additionally, Thailand has been involved in other rare exportations where South Korea had originally exported the chemicals, which mentioned countries then re-exported to North Korea. The incredible and disturbing datas appear when the current century began, as revealed by the MND's, the production of CW in the country had climbed from 2,500 to 5,000 metric tons of chemical agents, including nerve agents.

Not only is the DPRK capable of producing chemical weapons, but it has shown the world that it is ready to do anything with the purpose of self-defense as proved by their nuclear

weapons programme, in which they have developed and tested around six nuclear missiles. The difference between their nuclear and chemical weapons programme is little, yet of extreme relevance: they have been selling and exporting raw materials needed for the production of chemical weapons, especially to the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR).

Syrian Arab Republic

In 2011, the Syrian Arab War erupted; the pursue for democracy against the absolutist administration of president Bashar al-Assad. The war divided the Syrian state into rebel forces, Kurdish forces, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, and commonly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria [ISIS]), and finally the Syrian government. As a result of the war and the enduring growth of the Syrian conflict, both the rebels and the government have settled in the use of chemical weapons to ensure the victory, but the contrariety to the DPRK belongs to the fact that the SAR forms part of the OPCW, and cannot possess nor utilize CW.

Since the civil war erupted, multiple events declare Syria guilty, by several countries and by the UN, of having used chemical weapons against their own people during the crisis. To illustrate, in 2012, the Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman Jihad Makdissi confirmed for the first time that the Assad regime has chemical weapons, but declared that they were never to be used against their own citizens. Approximately a year later, the spokesman allegation was proved untrue, due to the fact that according to an investigation by the UN, the nerve agent sarin was used multiple times during that year. Even after the incorporation of the SAR to the OPCW, the allegations of said country using CW prevail to the current year. The SAR has been known for their use of, previously mentioned, sarin, VX nerve gas, chlorine and sulfur mustard gas, and as a member of the OPCW, allegedly these attacks and the use of CW is required by international law to cease. Nevertheless, after several attacks in rebel held cities, such as Douma, the SAR government has been shifting the blame to the rebels and has acquired the international support of Russia and Iran, who both have defended the Syrian government by denying that the attack occurred, and transferring the blame to the Syrian Civil Defense Force (commonly known as the White Helmets).

The working relation between DPRK and SAR, concerning the exportation of raw materials

Historically, North Korea and Syria have had a working relationship, having supported latter's says chemical-weapons program since the 1990's. Part of these decade-lasting support from North Korea to Syria includes its undoubtful involvement in the Syria-Iraq conflicts and

its clear assistance to the Syrian government in their ongoing civil war ever since it began back in 2011. However, this relationship between North Korea and Syria traces all the way back to 1960, when North Korea aided Syria in the Arab-Israeli wars by helping them develop their own ballistic missiles, along with a plutonium-production facility which was subsequently destroyed by Israel in 2007.

On a 200-page by the U.N., it was revealed that North Korea has been providing Syria with materials and aid to produce chemical warfare at least since 2012, when a series of 40 unreported shipments began. The materials within these shipments included acid-resistant tiles, valves, pipes and thermometers, and they were also helped by several North Korean missile specialists who have been sent to Syrian weapon-making centres. However, these sequence of 40 shipments are only a fraction of several illegal ones North Korea has carried along the years, including those made in 2017 to provide not only Syria, but Myanmar too, with items with utility in ballistic missile and chemical weapons programs.

Despite the illegality of its actions, North Korea achieves these shipments by different means, such as identity fraud and a constant renaming of previously flagged ships to avoid recognition. North Korea also hides illegal products such as weapons inside shipments of legal ones, like it happened with the Chong Chon Gang back in 2013, a ship that was supposed to carry sugar from Cuba to North Korea but was discovered to be carrying Cold War-era military equipment when intercepted in Panama. Along with these methods, North Korea has agents in different countries who are well trained in moving money, people, and goods by using citizens of other countries and front companies.

Ever since this illegal shipments and actions were noticed, the U.N. applied several sanctions to the North Korean government. The latest of these, back in 2017 and triggered by tests of ballistic missiles, called for a total ban of their major exports, which included coal, iron, lead, and seafood, along with limitations to the companies classified and financial institutions, who are responsible for several frauds and deviation of money. At the same time, these sanctions limit the number of North Korean workers overseas and intend to strengthen prohibitions on port calls by ships who have been previously involved in illicit trade. Regardless of how strong these sanctions are, North Korea has always shown itself capable of continuing with their illegal no matter how many sanctions they receive. Even if they lose money while ignoring the sanctions, North Korea still takes pride on the remaining money they have gained from their illegal actions.

Relation of the OPCW with involved countries

Since 1997, the government of the Republic of Korea has not succeeded in convincing the DPRK to sign the CWC, which makes North Korea one of the few countries that haven't annexed yet. It has been proven that said country has a considerable and capable chemical industry, although aging, capable of producing and utilizing dual-use chemicals such as phosphate, ammonium, fluoride, chloride and sulfur. In recent past, the DPRK has continued to acquire dual-use chemicals that could be utilized in its chemical weapons program from abroad, therefore, said country has rejected efforts by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Japanese government to hand in their CW. In theory, North Korea's access to the CWC could provide long-term economic benefits for the DPRK through treaty-based chemical and technological trade. In the short term, OPCW is still on the path to convincing the DPRK to join, however, North Korea has a firm stance that it will not join the CWC.

Aforementioned, DPRK has been known for the exportation of thermometers, acid-resistant tiles, and valves to the SAR. This is a globally convoluted concern since Syria signed the CWC in 2013 and began forming part of the OPCW since then among other member states. Allegedly, their use of chemical weapons was supposed to conclude, but there have been several attacks and incidents since the annexation. To illustrate, the disastrous tragedies that occurred due to the use of chemical weapons as in the city of Douma, Syria. Since then, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has been collecting information from all available sources and analyzing it utilizing armamentarium provided by the OPCW.

Actions taken by the OPCW

Previous Actions

Heretofore, the OPCW has contributed to international safety by persuading the non-member States to sign the CWC and therefore to become a part of the implementing body. Once they annex, the organisation can and will provide assistance regarding the complete demilitarization of CW in a ten year period. It can also provide Fact-Finding Missions (FFM) with the purpose of the assemblage of information in regards of attacks or to prove accusations of other members parties true or untrue. Several FFM were sent to the Syrian Arab Republic once it was a part of the organisation and aided the eradication of every CW. However, the OPCW does not have any jurisdiction in countries that haven't signed the CWC, which means that the OPCW cannot assist in North Korea, even though it has been proven that the annexation

could convey long-term economic advantages for the DPRK through treaty-controlled chemical and technology trade, as previously mentioned.

As for the Syrian Arab Republic, considering that the strikes did not cease when the annexation of the OPCW concluded, in 2015, the UN Security Council (UNSC) endorsed resolution 2235, which established a Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). It was created with the objective of identifying, to the greatest extent feasible, individuals, entities, groups or governments who were wrongdoers, organizers, supporters or somehow involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in established country, in this case, the Syrian Arab Republic, for a one year extension (In 2016 said time was extended to another year). According to the findings of the JIM, the U.S. Department of Treasury declared the first sanction to Assad's regime, however, the UNSC failed to adopt a draft resolution for the imposition of a sanction by cause of China, Bolivia and the Russian Federation, who declined said draft. After that, the JIM expired due to the fact the latter country vetoed its renovation.

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Glossary

A

Acid-Resistant Tiles: Used for floors and drain/trenches of depth not more than 800 to 1000 mm.

Armamentarium: The medicines, equipment; used as a storehouse for weapons.

B

Blister Agent: A chemical agent that affects the skin and in particular moist areas of the body such as the eyes and membranes in the respiratory and digestive systems.

C

Chemical Weapons: All toxic chemicals and their precursors, except when intended for those purposes foreseen by the Convention as not prohibited, as well as munitions and/or devices specifically designed to cause death, harm, temporary incapacitation or sensory irritation through the release of a toxic chemical, and any equipment specifically designed for use directly in connection with the employment of such munitions and devices.

D

Demilitarization Concerning the CWC: the irreversible conversion of toxic chemicals into a form unsuitable for the production of chemical weapons and action upon munitions or other delivery devices that renders them unusable. The most common forms of destruction are incineration and neutralisation.

Dual-use: The term applied to a chemical or piece of equipment that has both peaceful and chemical weapons applications.

I

Illicit: That is not morally proper or acceptable.

In Perpetuum: Forever

International Law: A body of rules established by custom or treaty and recognized by nations as binding in their relations with one another.

J

Jurisdiction: The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

M

Metric Tons: Weight unit, equivalent to 1000 kilograms.

Ministry of National Defense (MND): A cabinet-level agency responsible for all defense and military affairs.

N

Nerve Agent: A highly toxic and potentially lethal organophosphorus compound that affects the nervous system by inhibiting the enzyme that aids the transmission of nerve impulses. Just one drop of a nerve agent absorbed through the skin can cause

death. Nerve agents are divided into two chemical families: G-agents and V-agents.

Nuclear Weapons: They get their energy from splitting or joining tiny particles inside an atom; huge amounts of radiation, which can cause sickness and horrible illnesses. The destruction lasts longer than the initial blast.

R

Raw Materials: The basic material from which a product is made.

T

Treaty: Written agreement between two or more countries where whatever is established is approved by the leader of the parties involved.

Tópico B

Measures to eradicate the use and production of chemical weapons in the Member States of the OPCW that lack jurisdiction in their own country due to a state of crisis

*Por: Sofía Mitre de Jacobis
Miriam Ramírez García Figueroa
Ana Elisa Pérez Navarro
Emiliano Galicia Ríos*

Introduction

At the present moment, the mission of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter referred to as OPCW), has not been concluded; a world free of chemical weapons and the threats of their use. Currently, there are countries, like the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Arab Republic of Egypt, that hold no part in the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter referred to as CWC), nor in the OPCW, thus these countries are a threat to international peace and security. However, even though countries foreign to the Convention are and could be a menace, countries that are, in fact, annexed to the CWC and OPCW and still possess chemical weapons (CW) are even more of a threat. These countries, one of them being the Syrian Arab Republic (SAR), go under the radar, and resort to falsehood and dishonesty to mask the fact that they are using CW. Other countries are victims of chemical terrorism, such as the Republic of Iraq; the authorities have no control nor jurisdiction as to the attacks, making this an issue to the stability of a country, who earlier this year, claimed that they were officially free of CW. Now, these countries form part of the OPCW and have signed the CWC, which means they have the support of every other 190 countries part of this Organisation; national complications, due to globalization, affect every surrounding country and every single state on Earth.

Background of the countries involved

Syrian Arab Republic

In 2011, the Syrian Civil War erupted; a calling for democracy against an absolute regime led by president Bashar al-Assad and the response of the government toward peaceful protestants was exceptionally violent. As a consequence, an ample sectarian division of different groups and ideologies began to reside in Syria, which resulted in an abundance of clatter and consequently the heavier use of force from the Syrian government. Whereupon, a protest turned into a civil war; as the years went by, and the conflict grew prominently, the Syrian Arab Republic divided itself due to the state of crisis; certain sections of Syria currently are held by rebels, such as Golden Heights and Idlib, some other parts are held by Kurdish forces, like Raqqa. Moreover, some territory belongs to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (hereinafter referred to as ISIL, and commonly known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria [ISIS]) and finally the vast majority of the Syrian territory, including the capital, belongs to the government.

Violence escalated quickly and many battles took place for control of territory. According to an investigation lead by the UN, in 2013 and from then forward, there was

presence of the nerve agent sarin within Syrian territory, and aside from said chemical weapon, the SAR has also been known for its use of VX nerve gas, chlorine and sulfur mustard gas, exactly why, even after the incorporation of the SAR to the OPCW, the accusations from within and from other countries concerning the use of CW prevail until the current year. Nevertheless, the Assad regime, when accused of being responsible of several CW attacks, the authorities either shift the blame to the rebels or simply deny any involvement in recent onslaught; even when evidence, for instance, the aircrafts used at the time, indicates the contrary.

Republic of Iraq

The use of Iraq's chemical weapons date back to the decade of 1960 during the Iran-Iraq war. The latter was known for its use of the nerve agent tabun and mustard gas on large proportions against Iran and the Kurdish citizens residing in the north. Thereafter, due to the escalation of danger regarding the CW, in 1991 the United Nations Security Council, under Resolution 687, called for a permanent ceasefire agreement in which Iraq was required to destroy all of its chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

An investigation made by C.J. Chivers revealed that approximately 5000 chemical warheads, aviation bombs and shells were recovered after the 2003 Iraq war. A posterior and consecutive investigation led by the same man discovered that old weapons, produced before 1991, were being sold in the black market; these were Borak rockets and most of them contained sarin. Additionally, a UN report made in 2004 on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) program found that a facility, that in 2014 would be seized by the Islamic State (IS) because it was a CW productions facility, found that this facility "contained 2,500 122mm chemical rockets filled with sarin, 180 tons of sodium cyanide, and numerous empty shells and containers contaminated with mustard residue." (NTI, 2015) As a conclusion, according to several investigations led by independent countries or by transnational organisations such as the UN, Iraq is still in possession of chemical weapons and these are being used by the militant jihadist organisation, IS. Kurdish and Iraqi military officials allege that CW has been used by the terrorist group against the Peshmerga forces, several times. Specifically, the Security Council of the Kurdistan Region has offered video and laboratory results that it claims prove that chlorine gas was used on January 23, 2015 in a suicide attack on a truck.

Actions taken by the concerned States' governments

Syrian Arab Republic

Needful to say, the Bashar al-Assad regime was seen as a refreshing change in Syria's political setup. However, behind all the initial freedom, there was an entirely corrupt government. On account of citizens demanding a change in leadership, Bashar sidelined and ignored many prominent factors; like the Syria's poorest regions in the east which was inhabited by radical Sunnis which eventually piled up as a huge war that destroyed Syria and later led to the formation of ISIS. Post 2011, the actions and decisions that have been taken are just a mirror brutal image of what a leader does when his authority is challenged. The government, in 2011 during the previously mentioned calling for democratic reforms, decided they would have none of it and violently cracked down on civilian demonstrators. Regardless of the response of rebel groups, Assad's regime continued to massacre Syrians. The main thing happening in the country caused by this civil war is that his regime is responsible for murdering a huge number of people. According to the United Nations, at least 191,000 people were confirmed killed – based on nearly 320,000 reported killings – in Syria as of April 2013.

Furthermore, one of the more prominent violations has been the use of chemical weapons throughout the whole civil war. Since the very first chemical “accident”, the government does nothing but deny everything although there is existing proof that Assad's forces were the aggressors of many attacks with CW. For instance, the Assad's army has repeatedly used barrel bombs, and in densely populated cities like Aleppo, giving as a result devastating losses to human life and city infrastructure.

When it comes to actions taken by the Assad regime after the war erupted, the changes have been brutally and sadly drastic. From targeting journalists due to Bashar's wishes only, to agree to get rid of all their CW and yet use them on battlefield years later without any explanation; and not only denying everything about being linked to them but also blaming the rebels about it. Overall, the government has done nothing of even trying to counteract the CW effects in the civil war. The closest thing to be considered as part of a partial progress – in spite of not being their own initiative – was made in October 2013, after accepting the agreement between Russia and the US, the process of destroying the weapons began in and the people working on this project were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later that month. But once again, in April of 2017, there was reportedly another chemical weapons attack on a town in north-west Syria, which killed and injured many people.

Republic of Iraq

When it comes to the Iraqi government and what it has done to counteract the use of CW within the borders of its country, the most recent recognition is that in March of the current year, they have welcomed an official certification that represents the destruction of all its

chemical weapons, notwithstanding the last, authorities from Halabja fear that there are some remnants. Due to the last, this country will be subject to regular inspections for another ten years; such as the head of Halabja's Chemical Weapons Victims Society whom expressed nothing but doubt that all the country's chemical weapons have been destroyed. Questioning the news, and because of the terrorism threat that people are living, members considered as icons, agreed that Iraq still has some chemical weapons, hidden in Muthana province. Fikmat Hayak, member of the Halabja Victims Society, confirms that the Iraqi Baathist regime buried and covered with concrete the weapons; consequently, there is still a possibility that ISIS may had obtained CW due to the lack of jurisdiction so as control over mentioned weapons.

On one hand, the Iraqi government has acceded to the process that the CWC imposes in order to have no concerns over the production nor development of new CW. On the other hand, the government does nothing to make easier the routine for the CWC-mandated inspections by the OPCW. For example, before joining the CWC, the Iraqi Intelligence Service maintained undeclared a set of infrastructure linked to CW. At the beginnings of this century, many countries were concerned about Iraq reconstituting programs which involved CW; however the Duelfer Report found that everything was successfully dismantled, nonetheless, evidence suggested that the Iraqi government may had hoped to reconstitute the programs later.

Relation of involved countries with the OPCW

The Syrian Arab Republic signed the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2012, under Bashar Al-Assad regime, and during that same year the OPCW adopted a timeline for the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons. Allegedly, and according to the OPCW, the last of the declared weapons were removed in 2014 but the secretariat couldn't confirm with certainty that the SAR did not possess and more CW due to the fact that only some of them were declared. Since then, multiple attacks have been reported, investigated and confirmed by the conjoint mission of the OPCW and the UN (JIM) and from OPCW fact-finding missions; for that matter, the UN Security Council adopted the resolution 2209 in 2015, which condemns the use of chlorine gas as a weapon in Syria. In recent past, a special session of the OPCW conference of states-parties voted to award the OPCW the mandate to investigate and attribute responsibility for chemical weapons attacks in Syria confirmed by the use of more Fact-Finding Missions.

Following, the Republic of Iraq acceded to sign the CWC in 2007, and since then there have not been any more major news regarding chemical attacks from controlling parts of said country. Matter of fact, the OPCW director congratulated Iraq on their complete destruction of

CW remnants. However, Iraq –as mentioned previously– has had several terrorist attacks by the Islamic State; a group who isn't in their control, and has caused several international, as well as national casualties.

Actions taken by the OPCW

Since its beginning, OPCW made one of its priorities the availability of assistance both from and for the organization itself as well as countries who were part of the Convention. According to the Article X of the Chemical Warfare Convention (CWC), any State Party of the Convention has the right to request for assistance and protection in the face of a threat or in the event of toxics being used as weapons against them. Once a State Party has requested assistance, the Secretariat acts as a mediator and begins an investigation on the event; at the same time, they inform every other State Party of the need of assistance of the member who requested it and these can help either with funds, equipment, or personnel. An example of this assistance service was shown in 2016, when Libya asked for help in the destruction of their remaining chemical warfare to avoid its use by terrorists, resulting in the rapid response and aid of several parties, who helped deliver all of Libya's chemical warfare to Germany, where they were destroyed.

Another tool used by the OPCW to maintain order in their States Parties and to achieve a world free of chemical warfare are inspections. These inspections serve the purpose of ratifying that none of the countries who are part of the CWC have violated the previously established agreements by creating, developing, stockpiling, producing, or using chemical warfare. They can be taken into action both by orders of the OPCW or after allegations or suspicions of another member of the CWC of any of the violations previously mentioned. By this service, the OPCW investigates and makes sure no country is producing or even using chemical warfare, and these inspections can be made even in countries who are not members of the CWC only if the Secretary General of the UN approves it.

Syria has been one of the States Parties of most importance for the OPCW, who began its labor in Syria back in 2013, when they joined the Chemical Weapons Convention and declared their stockpiles for a rapid destruction plan to commence soon after. Thousands of chemical weapons previously owned by the Syrian Arab Republic have been either destroyed or neutralized ever since, with the assistance of more than 30 other members of the OPCW, including the United States and the United Kingdom. However, it was thanks to the Fact Finding Mission that all of this was possible, having as its goal the investigation of allegations

surrounding the use of toxic chemicals and weapons since 2014. They have confirmed the use of chemical weapons several times, leading to the investigation of the acclaimed actions, as well as the destruction of any chemical warfare remaining and achieved the destruction of every piece of chemical warfare claimed by the Syrian government by 2016.

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Glossary

B

Biological Weapons: A disease-producing agents —such as bacteria, viruses, rickettsiae, fungi, toxins, or other biological agents—that may be utilized as weapons against humans, animals, or plants.

C

Ceasefire: An agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting in order to allow discussions about peace.

Chemical Terrorism: Terrorism using chemical agents. These chemical agents include poisonous gases, liquids or solids that have toxic effects on people, animals or plants. Most chemical agents are capable of causing serious injuries or death.

Chemical Weapons: All toxic chemicals and their precursors, except when intended for those purposes foreseen by the Convention as not prohibited, as well as munitions and/or devices specifically designed to cause death, harm, temporary incapacitation or sensory irritation through the release of a toxic chemical, and any equipment specifically designed for use directly in connection with the employment of such munitions and devices.

J

Jurisdiction: The official power to make legal decisions and judgments.

N

Nuclear Weapons: They get their energy from splitting or joining tiny particles inside an atom; huge amounts of radiation, which can cause sickness and horrible illnesses. The destruction lasts longer than the initial blast.

S

State of Crisis: Situation in which a State is affected by one or more severe problems; an unstable period of extreme trouble or danger.

Stockpiles: The accumulation of chemical weapons (munitions or agents) as reserves.