



## Condemnation of Chemical Weapon Use in Syria

The use of chemicals as a weapon is in direct violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and abhorrent to society. The undersigned condemn the continued use of chemical agents as weapons against the citizens of Syria. The most recent alleged chemical use occurred on Saturday, April 7, in an attack in Douma, Syria, that reportedly killed at least 40 people. Rescue workers reported an overpowering smell of chlorine in the affected area.

CWC, of which 192 nations are signatories, outlaws the production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their precursors. CWC is implemented by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

These indiscriminate chemical attacks, possibly carried out by member state(s) of CWC, are, if verified, in direct violation of the convention. We support the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) currently being conducted in Douma by OPCW, which is gathering information from all available sources to determine whether chemical weapons were used. FFM will report its findings to States Parties to CWC, which will determine next steps.

We stand ready to offer our assistance as OPCW conducts their investigation in this urgent matter.

American Chemical Society  
American Chemistry Council  
American Institute of Chemical Engineers  
French Chemical Society (SCF)  
South African Chemical Institute