



September 15, 2016

Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü
Director-General
Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR - The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

We are writing to you on behalf of the U.S. chemistry enterprise to express concerns about recent reports from Aleppo about the use of chlorine compounds as chemical weapons. Our organizations deplore the use of chlorine in this manner. The indiscriminate attacks, possibly carried out by a member state of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is of concern to chemical scientists and engineers around the globe and we stand ready to support your mission of implementing the CWC.

Our organizations, the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the American Chemistry Council (ACC), represent both the leading practitioners of chemistry and chemical engineering and the largest chemistry and allied products corporations operating in the United States.

The American Chemical Society is a global non-profit scientific and educational organization, chartered by United States Congress, with more than 157,000 chemical scientists and engineers as members. The world's largest scientific society, ACS advances the chemistry enterprise, increases public awareness of chemistry, and brings its expertise to national and global matters. ACS also is a world leader in providing scientific information to advance innovation and to help address the world's most pressing challenges.

The American Chemistry Council represents a diverse set of companies engaged in the business of chemistry. An innovative, \$797 billion enterprise, we work to solve some of the biggest challenges facing our nation and our world. In keeping with its commitment to fostering progress in our economy, environment and society, ACC delivers value through advocacy, member engagement, communications and scientific research. As you well know, ACC and its counterpart organizations in the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) require support for the Chemical Weapons Convention as a fundamental requirement for membership in ICCA.

We recognize OPCW's leadership in this area and the importance of work such as the August 2016 report by the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism that concluded that the Syrian Arab Republic's armed forces were definitively responsible for two chlorine gas attacks: in Talmenes (April 21, 2014) and Sarmin (March 16, 2015).

Chlorine chemistry should only be used for purposes of improving people's lives, such as provision of clean drinking water, life-saving pharmaceuticals and crop protection compounds, not for weapons of terror or other inhumane purposes.

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The continued leadership of your organization is central to protecting the Syrian people in the months and years ahead and others worldwide where, and when, evidence is found of chemicals being misused as weapons.

If our organizations can be of assistance to OPCW in the pursuit of its goals and mission we would welcome the opportunity to discuss those needs with you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Connelly, Jr.
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer
American Chemical Society



Cal Dooley
President & Chief Executive Officer
American Chemistry Council