

ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS



Director-General

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OPCW

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Dear Mr Connelly Jr. and Mr Dooley,

Thank you for your letter of 15 September in which you raise your concerns at the continued use of chlorine as a weapon within The Syrian Arab Republic. These attacks are of grave concern to us all. Not only are they inhumane but they could erode the hard won norm upholding the global ban on the use of chemical weapons.

Defending this norm against the use of chemical weapons requires all of us to speak out and act. In this, your voices of condemnation against the use of toxic chemicals as weapons is particularly important. I thank you for your engagement and your readiness to work with us.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), through its Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), continues to analyse all allegations of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic. Where those allegations are credible, the FFM carries out in-depth analysis, including collecting available information and evidence and when possible interviewing witnesses and victims. The FFM then report their findings to our States Parties. This is a crucial step in ensuring accountability for these horrific crimes. The OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism established by the UN Security Council has conducted its investigation on the basis of the FFM reports in order to identify the perpetrators of the attacks.

Let me assure you that the OPCW remains open to receive any information related to any chemicals that might be relevant to ensuring compliance with the Convention, including the use of chlorine, and we warmly welcome your offer of assistance in carrying out the OPCW's mandate.

I have asked my colleagues to liaise with your respective organisations in order to explore ways how we can further co-operate on this issue.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.


Ahmet Üzümcü

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

Mr Cal Dooley
President and Chief Executive Director
American Chemistry Council