



OPCW

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Ninety-Ninth Session

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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MILAD ATIEH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10
IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

This is in reply to the statement delivered by the Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the discussion of item 10 of the agenda of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Executive Council, as we were not given the opportunity to reply during the sitting, although we made a request to the secretariat of the meeting. The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW categorically rejects the slanders and false information given by the Representative of the United Kingdom during the discussion under this agenda item.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the statement delivered by the Representative of the United Kingdom during the discussion under item 10 of the agenda of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Executive Council in the morning of Wednesday 9 March 2022.

We have become accustomed to hearing lies and false accusations from some States during sessions of the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties. However, we did not expect representatives of some States to reach a state of denial of reality and ignore the facts, for mere political reasons.

We request the Representative of the United Kingdom to refer to the United Nations reports on the matter. The information contained in those reports was not released by the Syrian Government. Ignoring this information means one of two things: either they do not follow those reports, or they are ignoring them for political reasons. We refer the Representative of the United Kingdom to many United Nations reports, including the report of the United Nations Secretary-General issued in document S/2022/63, dated 28 January 2022, and other documents, in addition to the latest report of the United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by Da'esh/ISIL (UNITAD) in that regard.

It is normal for the Representative of the United Kingdom to deny the existence of chemical terrorism committed by terrorist groups in Syria, because confirming this fact would deprive her from the continued fabrication of the reports issued now and again by the Fact-Finding Mission and the illegitimate Investigation and Identification Team to accuse the Syrian Government of chemical weapons use.



Denying the existence of chemical terrorism committed by terrorist groups in Syria is a strong message of support to those terrorists, encouraging them to continue committing their crimes and fabricating more scenarios of chemical weapons use to accuse the Syrian Government of such use.

Those who support, fund, and arm terrorists in Syria, facilitate their entry to the country, and provide them with political, military, and security cover have no right to speak about the non-existence of chemical terrorism in Syria. No State knows those terrorists and their crimes more than the United Kingdom and its intelligence. They are the ones who founded, financed, and supported the so-called “White Helmets” terrorist group which is carrying out the directives and instructions of the intelligence of the United Kingdom and its allies to fabricate scenarios of chemical weapons use. The alleged incidents that they have fabricated are far too many to mention here.

The Representative of the United Kingdom insists on continuing to accuse the Syrian Government of chemical weapons use and absolving terrorists of these accusations to justify the repeated aggression of the United Kingdom and its allies, the United States of America and France, on Syrian territories in 2017 and 2018, under the pretext of chemical weapons use.

Instead, the Representative of the United Kingdom and some Western States should have repatriated their terrorists and their terrorists’ families from the camps they have set up for them in Syria. According to United Nations statistics, there are 65,000 terrorists in the al-Hawl camp alone. These States have been refusing to repatriate their terrorists since January 2018 under the pretext that they constitute a threat to the security of their countries. Some of them have only authorised entry to orphans or unaccompanied children. This information is contained in the fourteenth report of the United Nations Secretary-General issued on 28 January 2022.

The Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has demanded that the Syrian Government be held accountable for what she alleges is chemical weapons use. In this regard, the Syrian Government and its people are the ones who have the right to demand that the governments of the States that have created, financed, and supported the terrorist groups, including Daesh and related groups, and covered up their crimes be held accountable.

Such slanders, lies, and misleading information will not dissuade the Syrian Government and people from continuing to fight all forms of terrorism on Syrian territory.

We request that this reply be posted on the Organisation’s public website and Catalyst and considered an official document of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Executive Council.

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