

**Ms. Homeyra Karimivahed**  
**Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons (ODVCW)**  
**Iran**

**Presentation to the Fourth Review Conference of States Parties (RC-4)**  
**Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**  
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**Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

We are the survivors among the civilian victims of mass destruction weapons in the eight-years' war between Iraq & Iran. For years, we have participated in the OPCW annual assembly and taken the podium to talk about victims' pains.

Our continuous participation in the OPCW annual assembly is to explain to others the depth of our injuries and what chemical weapons have done to us. Certainly, not history nor a sound humanist conscience would ever forget, as it never forgets Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The message from chemical weapons victims of Sardasht is Global Peace and Friendship and we make our best endeavors, along with the Organization, to enhance the worldwide implication of the international Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

Among the Objectives of the Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons (ODVCW), which enjoys your endorsement by signing the Peace Inscription, is to be the last victim of such weapons in the world. But unfortunately, we still witness the use of this devastating weapons in some countries and every day we see the increase in the number of Chemical Weapons' Victims.

We are not here to introduce ourselves as the Chemical Weapons' Victims since you already acknowledge that and know everything about the injuries imposed on us because of these weapons.

You are also fully aware that medical science is incapable of providing any cure for the effects of chemical weapons in victims' body. Therefore, humanitarian duties of International Community and Organizations, such as OPCW, based on the Right to Health as a social right, which has been mentioned in the Statute of the World Health Organization and Art. 25 of the International Declaration of Human Rights, demands an easier life for those who survived the Chemical Weapons.

Chemical Weapons' Victims cannot normally absorb the Oxygen from the air, hence, they always need to carry Portable Oxygen Tanks or Portable Oxygen Concentrators to survive. More sorrowfully, with the increase in age the pains and problems of Chemical Weapons' Victims grow bigger and more difficult to cope with. For victims in such a condition, availability of medicine and medical equipment is a vital and critical issue.

Despite this fact, certain States Parties have implemented unprecedented unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran and her Nation. One State Party, in addition to primary sanctions, threatens other states that are interested in trade with Iran, including the trade of medicine and medical equipment, to apply secondary sanctions on them.

Notwithstanding that “on paper” there are medical and humanitarian exceptions to these sanctions, the experience of previous sanctions teaches us that by imposing sanctions on the means of financial transactions in actual practice seriously jeopardizes the possibility of trade in medicine and medical equipment. We can already see that even before the November deadline for sanctions, many medicines became scarce, rare or hard to find.

The question is that we – the Chemical Weapons’ Victims – with no hope for full treatment – don’t we have any right to spend the rest of our life with less pain?

Don’t we need your help??

**Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:**

The Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons (ODVCW) requests your support to preclude imposing further miseries on victims by unjust policies and request your support for all Chemical Weapons’ Victims against the sanctions on medicine and food. This aim cannot be reached unless by humanitarian actions to guarantee easy access to medicine to victims. This has been emphasized by the Provisional Order of the International Court of Justice in October 2018.

We also request that in order to provide the victims with fundamental equipment and infrastructure facilities, countries and companies that supported the previous Iraqi regime with chemical weapons, including producers, traders, and distributors of chemicals, whose liability is no less than those who order or commit such crimes, be obliged to provide adequate resources for education of local experts to meet the medical needs of Chemical Weapons’ Victims.

Finally, I thank you for dedicating your time to hear the words that try to convey a message from innocent victims to the world. We full-heartedly believe that a word that comes from the bottom of the heart of an innocent victim of war finds its way to the fertile hearts that generate Peace and Love, and we wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the OPCW server and website.

**The Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons  
(ODVCW)**