



Statement by the Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, H.E. Mr José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo, on the occasion of the Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare

As delivered on 1 December 2020, The Hague, Netherlands

Director-General of the OPCW, Mr Fernando Arias;
Excellencies,
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

The ceremony of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare is a most solemn occasion for all members of our Organisation.

This is a moment to remind ourselves of the human cost of chemical warfare and reaffirm the dedication of the international community to the OPCW's mission.

This is an opportunity to remember those who have died or suffered as victims of chemical weapons. It is also a moment to renew our commitment to avoid anyone else may suffer from these inhumane weapons. May their sacrifice not be in vain.

The impetus behind this mission is essentially humanitarian: to make certain no one else ever has to endure the agony or face the consequences caused by this terrible armament.

In paying due respect to the victims, we must commit ourselves to not only honouring their memory, but also promising future generations chemical weapons shall be eradicated.

With these sentiments in mind, may I ask us all to rise for a minute of silence.

[...]

Thank you very much for your attention.
