

**Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to
the OPCW
at EC-111 on 11 March 2026
under agenda item 6 f RCA/RUS/UKR**

Mr. Chairperson,

If we want to see the Convention upheld, we have to continue calling out those instances where it is being breached. This was the case with Assad's Syria, and this is the case with Russia's use of chloropicrin and riot control agents in its war of aggression against Ukraine. As you know, the use of riot control agents in warfare constitutes a direct violation of Article 1 of the Chemical Weapons Convention. As does the use of the choking agent chloropicrin listed in Schedule 3 of the Convention.

We are not talking about individual instances, we are talking about thousands of cases, with the corresponding logistics, modus operandi instructions, and official backing enabling them across the Russian forces employed against Ukraine. The current number of cases in which riot control agents and other toxic chemicals have been used by the Russian military against Ukrainian forces stands at over 12.500.

Three Technical Assistance Visit reports of the Technical Secretariat have confirmed the presence of CS in grenades on the Ukraine frontline, while in June 2025, Dutch and German intelligence agencies have ascertained that Russia has also used the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian troops in Ukraine. It is evident that the Russian leadership and the Russian Radiological, Chemical and Biological Defence Troops are actively facilitating and endorsing the widespread use of chemical agents.

We call on Russia to immediately cease its use of chemical weapons, and to adhere to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We call on all States Parties abiding by the Convention to speak out as well.

It is of critical importance that those responsible for the violations of the Convention be officially identified by the TS and eventually held accountable.