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Presentation to 21th CWC Conference of States Parties (CSP)

The Hague, The Netherlands

December 2016

In the name of God

Mister Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Guests, CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor for us to join you at this event and take part in it. Twenty-eight years ago today, Halabja was five days away from Newroz, the Kurdish New Year. The mountain snow had melted and they were covered with green grass, and recently flourished flowers. People were preparing themselves and lit the fire of Newroz to start a new year. But this year it was all different, in the morning of March 16, 1988, Saddam's war planes started bombarding.

Parents took their children to the basements thinking it was one of the regular bombardments that the Bathe regime was doing to them, and children were wondering about what was going on. The bombardment kept going, the sound got louder and windows started shattering. After some minutes, families started smelling something similar to apples in the air. Not knowing it was a scent of death, they came out and found death all over the city.

On that day, the oppressor took lives, mostly women and children, shattered families, and tore down houses. But it couldn't kill their hope for a better life, their resistance against injustice and oppression, and their quest for freedom.

In the most brutal chemical attack against civilians in the history of mankind, 5,000 innocent people died and 10,000 were wounded, and 67 percent of the casualties were women and children.

Today after almost three decades, after having all of those tragic memories of Halabja, fear of chemical weapons are again coming back to the Kurdish houses, and this time by the most brutal terrorist group, the Islamic State, against our Peshmergas, the Kurdish military forces.

Peshmergas hold a frontline over 1,000 kilometers long and have been subjected to the use of chemicals more than 18 times. They are fighting the terror on behalf of the whole free world.

There are bunkers of old toxic chemicals in Iraq that ISIS got very close to and attempted to access those chemicals. They were not able to do it this time, but the danger is still there.

There are all of those dangers while Peshmergas do not have any kind of equipment to protect themselves against the usage of the chemical weapons. They do not even have simple gas masks for protection.

We as the Halabja Chemical Victims Society ask the international community to support the Peshmerga against the possible usage of chemical weapons in order to avoid the repetition of another catastrophe in the history of mankind and in the Kurdish people's memories.

Also those bunkers of chemicals in Iraq need to be destroyed before any unauthorized and untrusted hands can access those dangerous chemicals.

I am sure somewhere in the world this moment, a tear is falling on the face of a child: alone, and helpless. Let's this time not imagine, but believe.

“Believe all the people, living life in peace... and the world will live as one.”

Let's believe on building a new future. A future with no hatred, war and violence.

A future without chemical weapons.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I request that this statement be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.