

Mohammad Reza Hajipour
Association for the Defence of the Rights of Veterans and Victims of Chemical Weapons in
Fars Province (SCWVSF) – Iran

Statement to the 22nd Conference of the States Parties to the
Chemical Weapons Convention

The Hague, the Netherlands
27th November – 1st December 1, 2017

In the Name of God

Mr. Chairman, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am a victim of chemical weapons.

During World War I, modern chemical weapons were first used. After World War I, the largest and most extensive use of chemical weapons was undertaken by Saddam Hussein, the former leader of Iraq against the Iranian people in the western and southern regions of the country. The defenseless people of these Iranian cities and villages were blasted by many types of these hazardous chemical gases. Their whole body was impacted and injured.

During this imposed war of the 1980s, there were about 100,000 people seriously exposed. More than 60,000 of them are constantly suffering and being treated for respiratory, ocular, and dermatological diseases today.

As long as all countries in the world have not joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, we remain concerned about the victimization of other human beings. We don't want any other person to suffer like we do.

We do not speak of grudges and hatred today. We are not speaking of revenge. We speak of hope and lasting peace. Our hope is for not witnessing again what we have seen and experienced. It's about the desire to eradicate chemical weapons in the world for a lasting peace for all of us.

We are recognized as victims of chemical weapons, but we are ready to dedicate the remainder of our lives as peacekeepers and ambassadors of friendship.

We are ready to cooperate with the OPCW, other NGOs, and member states to the Convention for the global prohibition of chemical weapons.

We want the implementation of the regulations which prevent the production and possession of chemical weapons. We are hoping for a day when there are no chemical weapons in the world anymore. A world where children can grow up in peace and the costs of making chemical weapons would be spent to educate them for life and peace.

I end with a message of health and the best for all of you.

Thank you all for your kind attention.