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Presentation to the 22nd CWC Conference of States Parties (CSP-22)
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
The Hague, The Netherlands
27 November – 1 December, 2017

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

The occurrence of crimes against humanity is one of the earmarks and serious challenges of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, and the chemical bombardment of Sardasht and other chemically bombarded areas during the imposed war by Iraq in the 1980s are among notable instances.

The Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons (ODVCW), in view of its defined aims in its charter from the very beginning of its establishment in illustrating this dreadful and appalling crime and the ensuing consequences after this catastrophe, has made its best attempt to draw the attention of the international community to this phenomenon through efficient methods.

The major purpose of the ODVCW is preventing governments from producing, distributing, and employing such unconventional weapons of mass destruction and also abolishing them under international law.

In the past few years, following the continuation of tragic events and the birth of distressing crises in the world, particularly in the Middle East including the massacre of Khan Sheikhun civilians in Syria last April, the Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons has set a catastrophic-deliberation and modern discourse approach to raise the nature of the crisis (genocide) to support the necessity of the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and to help bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice. This is in coordination with the twentieth anniversary of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and at the same time as the alleged use of chemical weapons by authoritarian regimes and terrorist and insurgent groups.

The ODVCW asks for addressing the historic issue of chemical bombardment of Sardasht through an analytical framework in a structural and scientific frame with reliance on a political philosophic approach in order to pave the way to broaden the world's understanding horizon towards the post-catastrophe obligations with a modern conceptualization of this tragic event.

A post-catastrophe approach towards the chemical attack on Sardasht three decades ago must encompass study and analysis of various dimensions of this historic event, deliberation over the tragedy, and discovering the meaning of this event as the most important epistemological transitional principle regarding the chemical bombardment of Sardasht. We must refrain from showing the innocence of the perpetrators and any new conceptualization as a rational defense of this tragedy.

The national conference for investigating and analyzing the effects of the chemical bombardment of Sardasht after thirty years, on the threshold of the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in three related areas of legal, political, and psychological impacts, can be considered a prominent success at the national level. With the participation of eminent professors focused on these subjects from the most leading universities of the country by the Organization of Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons, this conference is a turning point in enhancing the understanding and analysis over the past three years, a shining gem on the summit of the ODVCW. This endeavor is a decisive step for the entrance of the ODVCW into scientific fields (through the scientific committee for defending the rights of chemical victims of Sardasht) and augments the contemplative and inquisitive role in the subject of chemical bombardment of Sardasht. The presence of distinguished and competent local and national professors for the talks in the conference is a matter of paramount importance and has had considerable importance and benefit for ODVCW and displayed the benefits of the conference by the ODVCW. The above conference is an auspicious start for launching scientific and field projects for the chemical warfare victims and the chemically disabled people of Sardasht. Therefore, the ODVCW, by making use of its capabilities in other dimensions particularly in academic scope, hopes to carry out relevant projects associated with the victims of chemical bombardment and in collaboration with the OPCW.

In conclusion, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the presence of the Director-General of the OPCW, Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, on the twentieth anniversary of the Chemical

Weapons Convention and the thirtieth anniversary of the chemical bombardment of Sardasht. This was held thanks to the efforts of the national disarmament section of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We look forward to hosting an OPCW delegation in Sardasht for the coming anniversary of the chemical bombardment of Sardasht.

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