



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Fifth Meeting
26 September 2014

EC-M-45/NAT.10
26 September 2014
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE FORTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Your Excellency Director-General,
Your Excellencies heads of delegation,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, it is my pleasure to thank H.E. the Chairperson, H.E. the Director-General of the OPCW, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü, as well as his aides and the Technical Secretariat staff for their great efforts. We have viewed the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission investigating the chemical attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic, which was issued on 10 September. We appreciate the work of the Fact-Finding Mission and their enormous efforts to overcome the difficulties they have encountered in their work and in issuing this report.

1. There is a systematic and repeated use of chlorine gas, which caused thousands of victims among the Syrian people.
2. These attacks were conducted using helicopters, according to the testimonies of most witnesses. This confirms the responsibility of the Syrian regime for the use of such weapons, as the opposition, simply, does not possess such aircraft.
3. The report mentions that these attacks are continuing, some of which occurring as late as August, which demonstrates that the Syrian regime does not value Syrian lives, that it is ignoring international decisions prohibiting the use of such weapons, and determined to continue using them.
4. The repeated use of such weapons raises uncertainties about the accuracy of the data contained in the Syrian initial declaration. Until now, it has not been ascertained 100% that there are no chemical weapons remaining in the possession of the Syrian regime. The recent revelation that there were still three other facilities in the possession of this regime confirms that it was not completely transparent and credible with the OPCW and the international community with regard to its chemical weapons. The existence of these facilities would not have been revealed had it not been for the excellent verification and follow-up by the OPCW. In this respect, we encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue its efforts to obtain the required information from the Syrian regime.



5. We express our deep concern over the findings of this report, which indicates very clearly that the Syrian regime has violated the Chemical Weapons Convention and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations.
6. The use of chemicals and weapons, under any circumstances, cannot be tolerated. It is outrageous, reprehensible and must be condemned in the strongest terms, as being contrary to the ethic and legal norms of the international community.
7. We encourage the Fact-Finding Mission to continue its work so that the Syrian regime officials responsible for these barbaric, unscrupulous and inhuman attacks can be brought before international justice.

Finally, I wish that this statement be published as one of the official documents of the Forty-Fifth Meeting of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW official website.

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