



**ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION  
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

**Statement by H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü,  
Director-General of the OPCW**

**Commemoration of the 1988 Halabja Chemical Weapons Attack**

**16 March 2015  
The Hague**

Twenty-seven years ago, on 16 March 1988, the peaceful residents of Halabja were subjected to a brutal attack with chemical weapons.

The attack left the city in ruins and its people permanently scarred. And it etched itself deeply in the collective memory of the international community, jolting us into action to conclude a global ban on chemical weapons.

On behalf of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, I convey our deepest condolences and assurances of support to the authorities and people of Halabja.

We stand in solidarity with victims of chemical war and terror, wherever they may be in the world.

Their suffering reminds us that we cannot afford a moment's rest – not until all chemical weapons have been eliminated and we have secured a future in which such weapons can have no place.

We have made great strides towards that goal, armed with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We best honour the memory of Halabja by cementing the success of global chemical disarmament and ensuring that no person ever again suffers the horrors of chemical warfare.