

-Humanitarian Law RULES!

Center for the Study of Humanitarian Law
Newsletter

The Non-Compliance of Chemical Weapons Destruction in Syria Set Bad Sample to the Rest of the Parties' of the Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC)

The Syria Arab Republic known as "Syria" has been in civil war since 2011. In 2012, the Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed for the first time that Syria possesses chemical weapons and stating that these weapons would never be used against the Syrian people, but only against "external aggression". However, the first allegation of chemical used was reported on December 2012.

In 2013, Syria ratified CWC. Being a Party to this Convention, Syria has obligation to declare whether it possesses chemical weapons or chemical production facilities. In addition, it must not develop, produce, transfer, stockpile, engages in military preparation to use chemical weapons. It also obliges to destroy all chemical weapons and chemical production facilities over its territory.

After the CWC binding to Syria, its government submitted details information on Sarin (Chemical Compound) production methods to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Soon after that, International Operation to remove and destroy the component and precursor chemical weapon in Syria was created. On 04th January 2016, the OPCW made a press release on the completion of destruction of all Chemical Weapons declared by the Syria.¹

Unfortunately, there were still many alleged cases of the use of chemical weapons in Syria. One of the recent accident is a major chemical weapons attack in Douma on 07 April 2018 that took several dozen civilians lives. The Government denied using chemical weapon while western countries accused the Assad's regime of using chemical weapon in this case. To respond to the attack in Douma, on 13th April 2018, the US, UK and France launched airstrike on three the government's sites under the name of humanitarian intervention and prevent chemical weapons from being used, and claiming that these targets involved in chemical weapons facilities. It is violated to its obligation to the CWC if the Syria government continues using chemical weapons ; however, is it the last resort to launch airstrike on Syria to respond to such alleges violation?

¹ *Destruction of Declared Syrian Chemical Weapons Completed* [Online], Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapon, [Accessed date: 21 June 2018], Available at: <https://www.opcw.org/news/article/destruction-of-syrian-chemical-weapons-completed/>

LIBRARY HOURS

May 2018

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5.30pm

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