



NV/ODG-114/21

The Technical Secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter referred to as the “OPCW”) presents its compliments to the Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale No. 68, dated 9 July 2021 conveying information from the Syrian National Authority related to a reported incident that took place on 8 June 2021 at the declared Site #9.

The Secretariat acknowledges with appreciation the information provided by the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat recalls that the Syrian Arab Republic declared the Site #9 in its initial declaration as Chemical Weapons Production Facility (“CWPF”), Chemical Weapons Storage Facility (“CWSF”), and as Research and Development (“R&D”) laboratory. Under the purview of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, the Secretariat verified the removal and destruction of chemical materials and munitions declared at this site as well as the destruction of the declared CWPF.

The Secretariat further recalls that this site has been the subject of consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team (“DAT”) and the Syrian National Authority with regard to outstanding issues related to initial and subsequent declarations submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic. In order to further assess the current status of this site, the Secretariat kindly requests the Syrian Arab Republic to provide all available information, including pictures, videos, or any other materials, that would complement the initial information provided through Note Verbale No. 68. Notwithstanding the above, the Secretariat will further liaise with the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the future activities to be conducted at this site.

With regard to the two chlorine cylinders related to the chemical weapons use in Douma in April 2018, which were reportedly destroyed during an attack on the Site #9 that occurred on 8 June 2021, the Secretariat recalls the last inspection of these cylinders conducted on 16 November 2020. The Inspection Team was mandated to assess the condition of the two cylinders, to prepare them for transportation, and to transport them to the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, The Netherlands.

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Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the OPCW
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In the course of this deployment, on 18 November 2020, the Syrian Arab Republic notified the OPCW Inspection Team that the cylinders could not be shipped outside of its territory. The Secretariat notes that, at the time of the inspection, the mentioned cylinders were stored and inspected by the OPCW Inspection Team at the declared Site #8, approximately 60 kilometres from the Site #9.

Consequently, the Secretariat refers to its Note Verbale NV/ODG/215081/18, dated 18 May 2018, requesting the Syrian Arab Republic to “ensure the safe and secure storage of the two cylinders and maintain them in a secure facility until such time as they can be subject to additional evaluation by the Secretariat, if necessary”. The Secretariat also reminded the Syrian Arab Republic that “it is not to open, move, or alter the containers or its contents in any way without seeking, in writing, the prior written consent of the Secretariat”.

Considering that the movement of the cylinders from the Site #8 to the Site #9 was not notified to the Secretariat, the Syrian Arab Republic is hereby requested to provide all relevant information, including supporting documents, pictures and/or videos regarding this movement. Furthermore, the Secretariat requests the Syrian Arab Republic to gather, preserve and document the current status of any remains of the two cylinders available on-site and to share this information with Secretariat at the earliest.

The Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic requested the Secretariat to consider the information provided in the mentioned Note Verbale as “Unclassified”. The Secretariat recalls that information contained in the Note Verbale, namely the name of the declared chemical weapons site, was classified by the Syrian Arab Republic as “OPCW Protected” or “OPCW Highly Protected”.

Upon request by the Syrian Arab Republic, the Secretariat will distribute the Note Verbale No. 68, together with the Secretariat's response, to all States Parties, publish it as an official document of the ninety-eighth session of the Executive Council and publish it on both the public site of the OPCW and the Extranet, understanding this as a request to release the information pursuant to Article 2(c)(ii) of the Confidentiality Annex, and the relevant provisions of the OPCW Policy on Confidentiality.

The Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.



The Hague, 15 July 2021

Permanent Mission
Of The Syrian Arab Republic
To The Organization For The
Prohibition Of Chemical Weapons
The Hague



RECEIVED

No: 68
Date: July 9th 2021

09 JUL 2021

Note Verbal

DECLARATIONS BRANCH

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons OPCW presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat - Office of the Director General, and has the honor to convey the following information from the Syrian National Authority.

On the 8th of June 2021, at exactly 23:40 p.m., The 'Al-Nasiriyah1' site (one of the 5 underground facilities - tunnels - that were sealed with the knowledge of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW) was flagrantly attacked by the Israeli enemy using missiles. The offensive left the following losses:

- 13 rooms were totally destroyed. Those were prepared for different uses (offices, warehouse, guards bedrooms, workshops for the watch squad, electricity generators)
- Losses in weapons and munitions
- Losses in firefighting equipment
- Loss in ordnance
- Missions accounting and Mobilization.
- The 2 chlorine cylinders related to the alleged Douma incident of (2018).

The Syrian National Authority further pointed out that this information was prepared after the relevant authorities finished taking stock of the losses that rose from the flagrant Israeli aggression on the site.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic kindly request the Technical Secretariat to consider this Information as unclassified, distribute it to all states parties, and publish it on the OPCW's extranet and internet as an official document of the 98th Session of the Executive Council.

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons the assurances of its highest consideration.

**The Organization for the Prohibition
Of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
The Hague.**

