

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAUREATES
FREIBURG, GERMANY - 15 - 18 MARCH 2018



Laureates' Symposium



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Paul Walker

United States

“Chemical Weapons Use - Syria, Malaysia,
and Salisbury”



Chemical Weapons: Syria, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom

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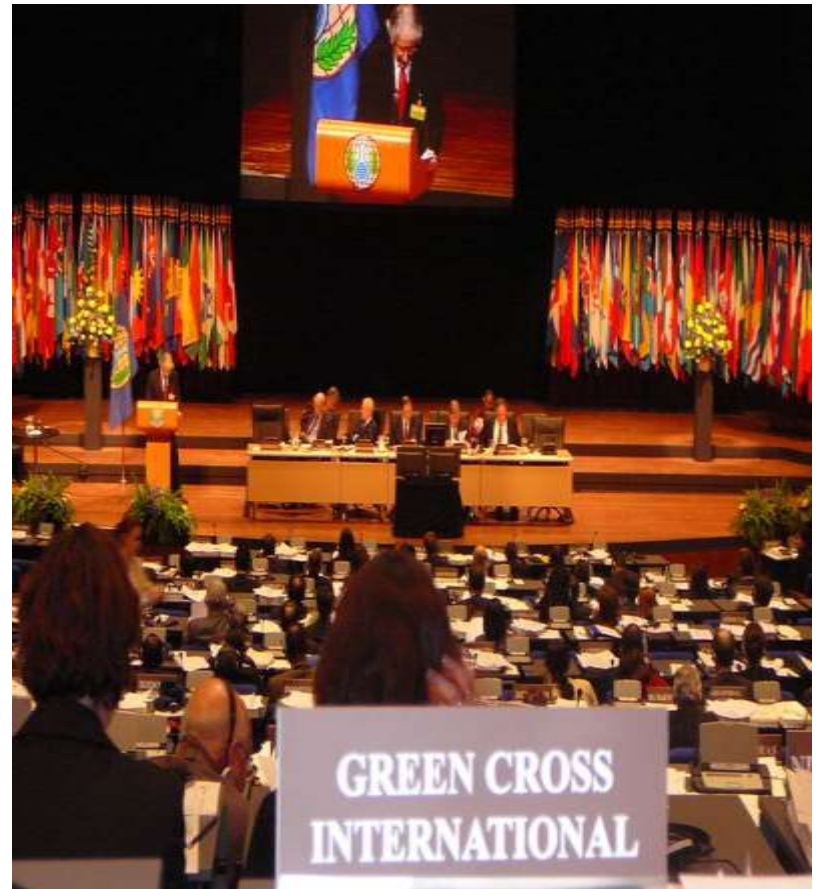
Geneva, Switzerland & Washington DC, USA

7th International Convention of Environmental
Laureates

March 16, 2018

Chemical Weapons Convention

- Entered into force 1997
- 192 States Parties today
- Bans development, testing, production, storage, use, & transfer of all chemical weapons
- Verified destruction of 96% (69,411 MTs) of 72,304 MTs in 8 countries





Challenges to CWC

- Four countries still not CWC members – Egypt, Israel, North Korea, & South Sudan
- Annual budget -- \$65M
- National implementation
- Use of chemicals as weapons in Syria, Malaysia, & UK



AP / Peter Dejong



8 Declared CW Stockpiles

■ Russia	40,000 metric tons
■ USA	28,600 metric tons (31,500 US)
■ India	1,055 metric tons (est)
■ South Korea	605 metric tons (est)
■ Libya	26 metric tons
■ Albania	16 metric tons
■ Iraq	na
■ Syria	1,308 metric tons (est)
■ TOTAL	72,304 +/- metric tons



Use of CW in Syria

- Syria joined CWC in September 2013
- Over 100 alleged cases of CW use since 2012
- August 2013 – 1,400 people killed in Ghouta
- March 30, 2017 & April 4, 2017 in Ltamenah & Khan Shaykhoun





OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM)

- Established May 2014 “to establish facts surrounding allegations of the use of toxic chemicals” in Syria
- Determined that sarin nerve agent & chlorine have been used in Syria





OPCW/UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM)

- “To identify, to the greatest extent feasible, individuals, entities, groups or Governments who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, in the Syrian Arab Republic”





JIM Conclusions

- Forensic and other evidence proves Syria's use of both sarin and chlorine in 4+ cases
- Also proves use of chlorine use by ISIS in at least one case
- JIM vetoed by Russia in November 2017





Kuala Lumpur Assassination

- Kim Jong-nam killed February 13, 2017 by VX nerve agent in Kuala Lumpur airport
- North Korea alleged to have organized attack by two young women
- Malaysian trial now ongoing with not-guilty pleas





Assassination Attempt in Salisbury, UK

- Former Russian KGB agent, Sergei Skripal, and daughter critically injured by “Novichok” nerve agent in Salisbury
- Forensic tests by Porton Down indicate that agent was Russian advanced chemical weapon





Statement by France, Germany UK, and US on Salisbury Attack

“This use of a military-grade nerve agent, of a type developed by Russia, constitutes the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War. It is an assault on UK sovereignty and any such use by a State party is a clear violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and a breach of international law. It threatens the security of us all.”



Conclusions

- The use of chemical weapons (and chemicals as agents) by Syria, North Korea, and Russia are all serious violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention and international law
- These chemical weapon attacks and assassinations are also war crimes and crimes against humanity
- The OPCW must condemn these violations and continue on-site FFM investigations.



Conclusions (2)

- The United Nations must continue to seek accountability with post-JIM investigations.
- The OPCW States Parties might consider “challenge inspections” in Russia for “Novichok” R&D
- Both Russia and Syria could lose all rights and privileges at OPCW for treaty violations
- We all need to condemn this use of banned weapons of mass destruction



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