

Presentation to the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the State Parties (CSP-26)
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
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Good day to the Chairperson of the 26th Conference State Parties, the Director General of OPCW, the Members of the Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition, Member State Representatives, Delegates, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to make this Presentation on behalf of my Non-Governmental Organization, Center for Countermeasures Against Chemicals and Biological Warfare Agents, CCACBWA, in Lagos, Nigeria.

Mr. Chairman,

Millions of people have been affected by the chemical and biological agent threat which damages their tissues and cells, reducing the lifespan of the people. We can no longer tolerate the terrorist, hidden organizations, spies and some government entities using these chemical and biological weapons to decimate, dehumanize, and cause the death of people. Also there are at least two chemical weapons stockpiles that still need destruction across the globe.

Mr. Chairman,

Recently, what happened in Syria, Russia, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, and the United Kingdom can no longer be tolerated and sanctions should be imposed on the Member State when these chemical warfare or toxic agents are used in their territory or are used in other territories.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to bring your awareness to the current ongoing unrest in Hong Kong, Nigeria and some other parts of the world. As a matter of urgency and necessity, it is mandatory for the OPCW to investigate the abuse used of tear gas by some government entities which contain toxic agents, hereafter, violate the CWC rules of the OPCW. Tear gas, formally known as a lachrymator agent or lachrymatory, sometimes colloquially known as mace, is a chemical weapon that causes severe eye and respiratory pain, skin irritation, bleeding, and blindness. In the eye, it stimulates the nerves of the lacrimal gland to produce tears. Common lachrymators include pepper spray (OC gas), PAVA spray (nonivamide), CS gas, CR gas, CN gas (phenacyl chloride), bromoacetone, and xylol bromide. Use of tear gas in warfare, as with all other chemical weapons, is prohibited by various international treaties that most states have signed.

Nevertheless, we (CCACBWA Lagos) are aware that police and private self-defense use is not banned in the same manner.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to let you know that police and some member states have been abusing this privilege, and as such it has caused many deaths and respiratory diseases to the people of this world. On these accounts, we (CCACBWA Lagos) would like the Technical Secretariat of OPCW to ban the use of any tear gas or chemical arms from use by police, individuals, and all state actors and non-state actors.

Mr. Chairman,

As my final note, I would like to thank all state actors/ member states and other stakeholders that are free of chemical weapons or have not been using chemical warfare agents against humans. This is respect given to their people and to the world at large. We also align with the statement written by Dr. Michael Crowley (University of Bradford, UK) and Dr. Malcolm Dando (University of Bradford, UK) for CSP-26. Thank you everyone for your time and attention. I would like this statement to be in the official Documents for the CSP-26 and published on the OPCW Website.