



ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

Oral statement about chemical terrorism

In this period, the world faces challenges and threats to the security and safety of countries, such as the terrorist threat that takes advantage of technological development and modern means, and constantly seeks to obtain weapons of mass destruction, which increases the danger of this threat, the possibility of radioactive, nuclear and chemical materials remaining within the reach of terrorist groups. Those substances that are often used as alternatives to chemical weapons are manufactured, stored, and transported around the world in almost every country, but there are no clear international standards or legal obligations to ensure the security of these chemicals.

Since 2004, terrorists have become increasingly willing to cause mass casualties and disable and use chemical weapons to achieve these ends, as have the attacks they have carried out in particular in Iraq, Malaysia, Syria and the United Kingdom. Since 2015, terrorist organizations and others have used chemical weapons in dozens of attacks in more than a dozen countries, killing thousands and undermining international efforts to prevent proliferation. These events have caused thousands of casualties and undermined international efforts to prevent proliferation.

Also, the world still remembers what happened on August 4, 2020 in Warehouse No. 12 next to the water in Beirut Port, where 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate were stored, and because a small fire broke out in the warehouse, a cache of fireworks stored in the building in turn ignited the abandoned ammonium nitrate warehouse. The explosion occurred in the port, destroying warehouses, cranes and apartment buildings, and capsized ships. More than 200 people were killed, the powerful explosion destroyed 77,000 apartments, injured 7,000, displaced more than 300,000, and left at least 80,000 children homeless. The Beirut Port explosion demonstrated the disastrous and deadly consequences of backward customs procedures, chemical transportation security and physical protection measures, all of which allowed hazardous chemicals to remain abandoned in the port's storage facilities for years.

Hence, the necessity of preventing terrorists' access to chemicals requires strengthening bilateral or multilateral international cooperation in the field of combating terrorism, extremism and chemical threats. As well as the need to identify the techniques and methods used to obtain them, and to identify the mechanisms adopted to detect any suspicious work.



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Therefore, cooperation between governments, academia, the chemical industry, and multinational organizations is necessary to enhance the collective ability to prevent future uses of chemical weapons as a weapon of mass destruction and to build the necessary response capabilities.

Hence, the Maat Peace, Development and Human Rights affirms that facing this dilemma requires collective action, between academic experts, international security specialists and officials in this field to understand this challenge and address it through the exchange of expertise and experiences and cooperation to address the crimes of chemicals that will change the world, and then recommends: :-

- * Raising awareness of the importance and benefits of adhering to the international legal instruments to combat chemical terrorism and its benefits.
- * Assisting national policy makers and legislators in drafting and reviewing their relevant legislation upon their request.
- * Building the capacity of criminal justice officials to ensure effective investigation, prosecution and prosecution of chemical-related terrorism crimes.
- * Strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters related to chemical terrorism and providing information with transparency.