

الجمهورية العربية السورية Syrian Arab Republic

بــــــان

الســـفير ميلد عطيــة

منظمة حظر الأسلحة المندوب الدائم لدى الكيميائية

رئيس وفد الجمهورية العربية السورية أمام الدورة التاسعة والعشرين لمؤتمر الدول الأطراف في اتفاقية الأسلحة الكيميائية

بيان في إطار حق الرد على ممثل المملكة المتحدة

29-25 تشرین الثانی 2024

H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH

Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic

To the OPCW

Right of Reply (UK)

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Mr. Chairperson,

The representative of the United Kingdom demanded in his statement that "Assad" and ISIS be brought to justice. We reject this statement in its entirety and are surprised by the confusion of the cards and the departure from diplomatic etiquette in this way.

Let us talk about the involvement of the United Kingdom in the conspiracy against Syria. Accusing Syria of using Chemical Weapons is a false and dishonest accusation and falls within the framework of Western hypocrisy, which The United Kingdom and other allied countries have been accustomed to. It is ultimately part of a dirty war against my country, Syria, which began in 2011 and is still ongoing until now. This approach and its continuation are not new to the United Kingdom.

These incidents are fabricated by Western countries, and The United Kingdom is at the forefront of these countries through its tools and arms from terrorist groups, and the terrorist White Helmets group, which the UK established, and which played the most prominent role in fabricating most of the alleged incidents of using chemical weapons in Syria.

I ask the representative of the UK, what are your forces doing in the North and Northeast of Syria, and in its Southeast? They are training, protecting, financing, arming and covering up for the terrorists and their crimes. This is proven and does not need evidence, and we have a lot of conclusive evidence that we do not have time to mention now.

Here are some examples of the British aggression against my country, Syria:

In July 2014, the BBC revealed that the United Kingdom had drawn up a plan in 2012 to train and equip an army of 100,000 "Syrian rebels with the aim of defeating Syrian President Bashar al-Assad."

Although members of the British Parliament voted against allowing direct intervention in Syria, since 2012, British forces have been present within the so-called International Coalition, and these forces provide support to terrorists and Kurdish separatists against the Syrian government.

In May 2016, Britain established a military base for training and coordination purposes in the "Al-Tanaf" area near the Iraqi-Jordanian border in southern Syria. Its mission includes training and arming forces affiliated with Syrian factions opposing the Syrian Government, which are primarily affiliated with ISIS and other Al-Qaeda organizations.

During this year, the British media, The Guardian, BBC, and The Times, published what the British Ministry of Defense announced, that the British military police arrested five members of the British Special Air Service (SAS) on suspicion of committing "war crimes" during operations in Syria, according to the British newspaper "The Guardian".

Based on the above, we categorically reject what the UK delegate has stated, and we demand that he and other representatives of countries hostile to Syria stop these false accusations.

We agree with the need for accountability and this demand is justified, and I assure those who requested it that the Syrian people demand this, and will not forget or forgive, because the one who should be held accountable is the one who shed Syrian blood, sponsored terrorists, provided them with all forms of support, and practiced all types of aggression against Syria since 2011 until now, and today they are practicing economic terrorism to starve the Syrian people through unilateral coercive measures, after they destroyed most of the industrial, agricultural, health, and historical infrastructure, even the antiquities were not spared from their aggression.

As for what the Turkish representative said, Syria has destroyed all its weapons, and if he says that there are hundreds of tons of weapons, we hope he can

show us where. There may be tons of them in the areas under the Turkish care and support for the terrorists in Northern and Northwestern Syria.

I thank you and I hope that this statement will be considered an official document of the 29^{th} Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Public OPCW Website and Catalyst.