

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR THOMAS SCHIEB, PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE OPCW**

**at the 107th EC Session**

**Under agenda item 6g “Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use”**

(The Hague, 8 – 11 October 2024)

Germany strongly condemns Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine which it has been waging for more than 2 ½ years, in a manifest violation of the UN Charter. Throughout this war, Russia has been violating international law on a large scale, including the CWC by using riot control agents as a method of warfare.

Art. 1, para. 5 of the Convention strictly prohibits the use of riot control agents in warfare for a good reason: The use of chemical weapons in World War I did not start with chlorine, it started with tear gas. The authors of the Convention knew that RCA use in war is only the thin end of the wedge, and they were convinced that the use of RCA needed to be forcefully deterred.

Between February 2023 and September 2024 Ukraine recorded over 4.200 incidents in which Russian forces used riot control agents as well as the listed choking agent Chloropicrin.

Those of you who might question the Ukrainian findings, I would like to refer to the multiple reports from Russian sources confirming the use of RCA by Russian forces in Ukraine.

Russia’s violations of the CWC by now include the alleged use of the choking agent Chloropicrin, a scheduled chemical. This adds another dimension to the matter. We are extremely worried about this.

I would like to recall, that Germany on behalf of 12 States Parties requested the EC, pursuant to Art. IX, para. 3, to assist in clarifying the situation. Attached to the respective Verbal Note 26/2024 from 1 July we had submitted information on three self-incriminating reports from Russian sources showing the Russian military using RCA against Ukrainian forces.

Unfortunately, despite the fact that the EC has been officially seized with this matter, it apparently had no effect on Russia’s activities in breach of the CWC to date.

It is outrageous that Russia, a founding state of the Chemical Weapons Convention, is obviously using prohibited chemical weapons against Ukrainian armed forces. Russia has to stop violating the convention; it needs to provide satisfying answers to the overwhelming allegations, instead of continuing to respond with the usual mix of denial, distraction and disinformation!

I would like to ask the Permanent Representative of the RF to take the grave concern, expressed by many in this room, seriously. It is absolutely inappropriate and unacceptable to call our expressions of concern “cloned interventions”, as the Permanent Representative of the RF did this morning.

The reason why we have to raise these issues again and again is that Russia is not cooperating, not providing any convincing answers, but keeps on creating a smoke screen to conceal serious breaches of its CWC obligations.

Non-compliance with the CWC needs to have and will have consequences. This is why we will keep raising our concerns as long as it takes.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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