

Joint Statement

Western Leaders urged to turn words into action and Protect Civilians

SNHR

SYRIAN NETWORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

الشبكة السورية لحقوق الإنسان

Thursday, July 6, 2017

The Syrian Network for Human Rights, founded in June 2011, is a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization that is a primary source for the United Nations on all death toll-related statistics in Syria



[6 July 2017] In light of the Syrian regime's continued unlawful use of chlorine gas, Syrian activists and civil society organisations, including the [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#) urge Western leaders to protect civilians from all indiscriminate attacks. In particular there are growing calls from Syrians towards the French President Macron to fulfil his [promise](#) to meet additional chemical attacks against civilians with consequences.

"Just last week, the OPCW Fact Finding Mission confirmed the use of sarin gas in Khan Sheikhoun on 4 April, which killed at least 87 people when sarin was dropped from regime aircraft" said Fadel Abdul Ghany, Executive Director of SNHR.

"Yet the regime's response to the OPCW report is to intensify its attacks against civilians with only more chemical attacks. In Eastern Ghouta, a town currently bearing the brunt of the regime's aerial onslaught, more than 30 people have been affected by chlorine gas in the past few days alone," Mr. Abdul Ghany continues. "We have seen time and again that each time a red line is declared, Assad brazenly crosses it with no repercussions, yet it is the Syrian people alone who suffer from lack of action.



We are calling upon President Macron:

**Meet Assad's continued use of
chemical weapons with consequences.**

**For us, it is not a matter of principle.
It is a matter of life or death.**

- Fadel Abdul Ghany - Syria Network for Human Rights



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«It is clear to all that the Assad regime has zero regard for international norms and practices. Reports by UN bodies such as the OPCW have no bearing on this regime. It is high time to stop this culture of impunity if the political process is to succeed. Therefore we call on Western leaders who all condemned the regime on the eve of the OPCW report to turn their words into action and protect civilians across Syria. In particular we call upon President Macron to be a leader who keeps his word - to meet Assad's continued use of chemical weapons with consequences. For us, it is not a matter of principle - it is a matter of life and death».



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Photo: AFP





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