



THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

21 March 2013

Excellencies,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 21 March 2013 in which you request me to investigate several incidents of alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria.

As you know, I share your deep concern about all these allegations. In my communication to the Syrian Government today, I stated that, while the investigation mission will look at the specific incident brought to my attention by the Syrian Government, we will also take seriously other allegations that chemical weapons were used elsewhere in the country.

I have also emphasized the primary responsibility of the Syrian Government to ensure the safety and security of any chemical weapons or materials and assure the international community that any chemical weapons stockpiles in the country are safeguarded.

It would be appreciated if additional information could be received from your Governments pertaining to the alleged incidents, in order for me to accede to your request. In providing such additional information, your Governments may wish to refer to appendix I of A/44/561 (annex) which provides an indicative list of the type of information to be provided as available in reporting the possible use of chemical, bacteriological (biological) or toxin weapons.

His Excellency  
Mr. Gérard Araud  
Permanent Representative of France  
to the United Nations  
New York

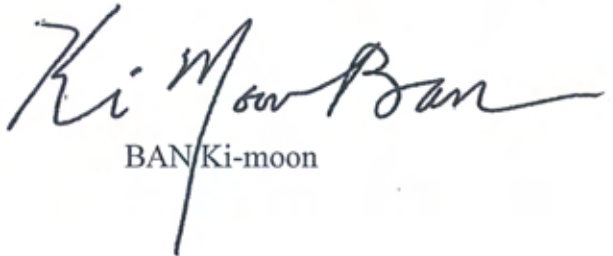
His Excellency  
Sir Mark Lyall Grant  
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom  
to the United Nations  
New York

13-02599 EXA/13/00/ BIS/03/003 POL/03/004

MAR 22 2013

My senior advisers will be contacting the Syrian authorities regarding the modalities for the investigation mission to allow it to start its important work in Syria as soon as possible in the coming days. I will keep you posted as developments unfold. I count on your continued support in this important endeavour.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



BAN/Ki-moon

Via UK Mission

ACTION

COPY

Mr Feltma / Mr Kane  
DSG  
Cdc  
A.G



United Kingdom  
Mission to the  
United Nations

21 March 2013

Dear Secretary General

We wish to bring to your attention recent allegations from various sources that chemical weapons have been used in Syria, including in the two locations of Khan Asal in Aleppo, and Ataybah in the vicinity of Damascus, resulting in civilian deaths and serious injuries. We also wish to bring to your attention allegations of use of chemical weapons in Homs on 23 December 2012.

We express our deepest concern at all these allegations that, if confirmed, would constitute a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol or other relevant rules of customary international law.

Given the gravity of these allegations, we judge it essential that all the pertinent facts concerning these allegations are swiftly investigated.

We therefore request that you launch an urgent investigation into all allegations as expeditiously as possible under the auspices of the Secretary General's Mechanism for the Investigation of Alleged Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, as derived from the mandate established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/42/37C of 30 November 1987, and subsequently reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/66/253 and by the United Nations Security Council in its Resolution 620 (1988) and to report back on the results of this investigation to Member States.

Yours

Gerard ARAUD  
Permanent Representative of France

Philip Parham  
Philip PARHAM  
Deputy Permanent Representative of  
the United Kingdom

EXR/13/001 ; POL/07/001



**Fw: Syria: Chemical Weapons**

Susana Malcorra to: SGCentral

Cc: Andrew Gilmour, Jan Eliasson

21/03/2013 09:57 AM

For Immediate action.

CdC

*Susana Malcorra  
Chef de Cabinet  
Executive Office of the Secretary-General  
Room NL-3018  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York, NY 10017*

----- Forwarded by Susana Malcorra/NY/UNO on 21/03/2013 09:58 AM -----

From: <Philip.Parham@fco.gov.uk>  
To: <malcorra@un.org>  
Cc: <willingston@un.org>, <gerard.araud@diplomatie.gouv.fr>  
Date: 21/03/2013 09:56 AM  
Subject: Syria: Chemical Weapons

Dear Susana

Here is our letter to the Secretary-General as foreshadowed in our conversations.

Best wishes

*Philip*

Philip Parham | Ambassador & Deputy Permanent Representative | United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations |  
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Human Rights Council Candidate 2014-2016

Richard Moon, United Kingdom

ACABQ Candidate 2014-2016

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\*\*\*\*\* Letter to SG 21 March 13.pdf