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The rule of law at the national and international levels

General and complete disarmament: implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

Letter dated 22 November 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In view of continuous attempts of the Kiev regime, with the active encouragement and support of its Western sponsors and, first of all, the United States, to accuse the Russian Federation of violation of its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, I would like to draw your attention to the following:

The Russian Federation categorically rejects the false accusations against the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of alleged plans to use toxic chemicals and riot control agents in one way or another in the zone of special military operation for the purposes prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

At the same time, the Russian Federation presents an information document that contains data on numerous facts of preparation and the carrying out of provocations by the Kiev regime with the use of toxic chemicals and riot control agents against civilians, officials and military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, in violation of the obligations of Ukraine under the Chemical Weapons Convention (see annex). This information was distributed to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as an official national document (C-29/NAT.2, dated 19 October 2024).

In introducing this information, the Russian Federation calls for its objective evaluation in order to set common sense against the flood of propaganda of the Kiev regime with the support of the “collective West” that has turned the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons into a tool to solve the geopolitical problems of certain countries in order to maintain their dominance in the international arena. The Russian Federation calls upon the States Members of the United Nations to respond



appropriately to the continued violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention by the Kiev regime, encouraged by its Western sponsors.

I would be grateful for the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 84 and 98 (j), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vassily **Nebenzia**

Annex to the letter dated 22 November 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Russian Federation

The continued use of toxic chemicals by Ukrainian armed formations

The Russian Federation continues to monitor and document the use of listed chemical agents, riot control agents and other chemicals not listed in the schedules of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction by Ukrainian armed formations in the zone of the special military operation. Detailed information about the mass-scale use by the Kiev regime of toxic agents in violation of the obligations of Ukraine under the Chemical Weapons Convention and about acts of provocation organized by the Kiev regime and its Western sponsors with a view to accusing the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of the same actions was shared with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly in October 2023 and March 2024. In addition, in the period 2022–2024, OPCW was informed on an ongoing basis about acts of provocation organized and carried out by the special services and nationalist groups of Ukraine against industrial enterprises.

In recent months, the situation has not changed: Ukrainian armed formations continue to systematically use toxic chemicals, including those listed in schedules 2 and 3 of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and riot control agents against units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and civilians. During the special military operation, more than 400 cases (see photo 1) of the use of non-lethal toxic chemicals by Ukraine have been recorded; most of them have been officially confirmed through relevant tests.

Uncrewed aerial vehicles continue to be used to drop all kinds of improvised munitions and grenades filled with toxic substances, as well as containers with chemicals that in some cases are unidentified. For example, the so-called “Baba Yaga”, an uncrewed aerial vehicle originally designed for agricultural use with a payload capacity of more than 20 kg that the Kiev regime initially planned to use to deploy containers with toxic substances and spray them as aerosols (see photo 2), and first-person view (FPV) drones loaded with containers with toxic substances (see photo 3) are used.

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Investigations into the use of toxic chemicals by Ukraine are conducted by the Russian Federation in accordance with the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention using field and stationary laboratories (see photos 4, 5 and 6), which are able to reliably identify the type of chemical compound and often the country of manufacture. In-depth analysis of samples is carried out at the chemical analysis laboratory of Research Centre No. 27 of the Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, which is an OPCW-certified laboratory.

The Kiev regime uses a wide range of toxic chemicals, but the main agents whose use by Ukrainian militants has been documented by the Russian Federation

continue to be the irritant chloropicrin and hydrogen cyanide, which are listed in schedule 3 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the riot control agents chloroacetophenone (CN) and CS gas, and mixtures of chloropicrin and chloroacetophenone.

Chloropicrin was first used by Ukrainian neo-fascists during the siege of the Trade Unions House in Odessa on 2 May 2014 against opponents of the armed coup d'état carried out in Kiev with the support of Western countries in February of the same year. Owing to exposure to heat from a fire started by neo-Nazis who threw Molotov cocktails at the protesters, chloropicrin decomposed to form phosgene, causing numerous casualties.

Cases of the use by Ukrainian armed formations of munitions containing chloropicrin, chloroacetophenone and mixtures thereof are constantly recorded. Numerous chemical incidents involving the use of chloropicrin by Kiev militants have occurred, including near the city of Donetsk and in Gorlovka and Artemovsk in the Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation; in Kremennaya in the Lugansk People's Republic of the Russian Federation; in Rabotino in Zaporozhie Oblast of the Russian Federation; and in the Graivoronsky District of Belgorod Oblast of the Russian Federation.

It is rather telling that a number of the toxic agents and formulations thereof found in the possession of Ukrainian militants had been produced and were in service only in the United States of America. This situation clearly points to the specific sponsors of the Ukrainian security services and the Kiev regime as a whole, which have long since had no scruples about participating directly in the terrorist activities of their protégés.

CS gas grenades produced in the United States were used against Russian soldiers in Krasny Liman, Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation, and Boguslavka, Kharkov Oblast. Hand grenades with chemical irritants labelled "Teren-6" (found at the positions of the Armed Forces of Ukraine captured in the Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation in late 2023 and early 2024; see photos 7 and 8) have been repeatedly used by neo-Nazis when storming Russian positions in the Donetsk People's Republic (specifically in Artemovsk and Mariupol and near Avdeevka) and the Lugansk People's Republic (Zaliman). A stash of these munitions was found in the vicinity of a village in the Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation.

There have been recorded cases of Ukrainian armed formations launching artillery strikes against positions of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation using 152 mm calibre ammunition filled with toxic chemicals, usually chloropicrin. Such cases occurred, for example, in August 2023 in Rabotino in Zaporozhie Oblast of the Russian Federation and in May 2024 in the Graivoronsky District of Belgorod Oblast of the Russian Federation.

Ukraine has been using North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-style 155 mm cluster smoke munitions filled with a metal chloride smoke mixture; it did so, for example, on 10 August 2024 in Sudzha in Kursk Oblast. The combustion products of this mixture have a strong irritant effect on the upper respiratory tract and can also cause fatal poisoning due to the formation of toxic substances (zinc chloride, carbon monoxide and phosgene, which is listed in schedule 3, toxic chemicals (item 1), of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention).

There is evidence that militants of the Kiev regime used adamsite and chemical mixtures based on sulphuric and nitric acid – toxic agents that affect the upper respiratory tract of humans, causing the heart rate to slow, blood pressure to increase and sudden respiratory arrest – in April 2024 near Kleshcheevka, Donetsk People's

Republic of the Russian Federation. Civilians in the Donetsk People's Republic and the Lugansk People's Republic of the Russian Federation have repeatedly reported that Ukrainian armed formations have used warfare "chemicals" against them.

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During the special military operation, there have been about 20 recorded cases of the use by Ukrainian security services of toxic chemicals to poison food, resulting in the deaths of at least 15 people. Cases of poisoning of officials of the administrations of the new regions of the Russian Federation have been confirmed. Chemical analysis revealed the presence of biotoxins, in particular ricin (schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention), BZ (schedule 2 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention) and phenolic compounds.

In August 2022, the leader of a Russian region was hospitalized with symptoms of acute poisoning. Chemical forensic and toxicological tests were conducted at the laboratory of Research Centre No. 27 of the Ministry of Defence of Russia to identify toxic substances in samples of the victim's blood, leading to the detection of ricin.

Also in August 2022, five soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation who had been serving in the zone of the special military operation were found to have been poisoned. Three of them died from the poisoning. Tests led to the detection of narcotic and psychotropic substances and a BZ analogue in the blood of the victims.

In February 2023, seven soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the zone of the special military operation were found to have been poisoned after eating food. Tests on samples confirmed the presence of markers of hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride, which are in schedule 3 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In September 2023, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation foiled yet another attempt by the Ukrainian security services to commit a terrorist act using toxic chemicals (for vials with toxic chemicals seized from a cache following the arrest of Ukrainian citizens, see photo 9) in Melitopol in Zaporozhie Oblast of the Russian Federation. Tests revealed an analogue of the BZ chemical warfare agent produced in the United States. The investigative authorities of the Russian Federation opened a criminal case under articles 205 (Terrorist act) and 355 (Development, production, stockpiling, acquisition or sale of weapons of mass destruction) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation against three Ukrainian citizens who were arrested while organizing the terrorist act and confessed to doing so.

Also in February 2024, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation uncovered and foiled unlawful activities of a clandestine cell of the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC), a Ukrainian paramilitary terrorist organization operating in the interests of the Main Directorate of Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. On the instructions of their sponsors from RVC and the Ukrainian military intelligence service, members of the cell had been planning to use a highly toxic chemical substance to poison food items that were to be sent as humanitarian aid to Russian soldiers and civilians in the zone of the special military operation.

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At the end of March 2024, three types of smoke grenades with different fillers were used by Ukrainian armed formations in the area between the villages of Nikolaevka and Kurdyumovka in the Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation. Smoke grenades dropped from unmanned aerial vehicles hit personnel of the armoured infantry units of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, killing

two people. The personnel were exposed to, and poisoned by, a large amount of aerosol containing chlorinated hydrocarbons, zinc chloride and CS ingested through the respiratory tract (for the parts of the gas mask canister of a killed Russian soldier from which samples were taken on 30 March 2024, see photos 10 and 11).

On 1 April 2024, during search and reconnaissance operations in an abandoned building near Yasinovataya in the Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation, Russian soldiers discovered a stash of weapons and munitions, including two improvised devices consisting of seven tubes with unidentified substances (two with white powder, four with a dark liquid and one with a grey substance; see photos 12 and 13). Through chemical analysis of the contents, the white powder was identified as phenol (a highly hazardous chemical), the dark liquid as chloropicrin and the grey substance as C4 plastic explosive. Ukrainian militants had planned to use those devices as improvised chemical munitions.

The use of hydrogen cyanide by militants of the Kiev regime against civilians and Russian soldiers has been repeatedly documented.

For example, in May 2024, in the village of Semenovka, located 10 km from Avdeevka in the Donetsk People's Republic, munitions containing that substance were dropped from Ukrainian uncrewed aerial vehicles. According to eyewitnesses, the affected civilians exhibited symptoms typical of hydrogen cyanide poisoning, namely, difficulty breathing, vomiting and a bitter almond taste.

Another case of the use of hydrogen cyanide was recorded in June 2024. Following an uncrewed aerial vehicle attack on the positions of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation in the Graivoronsky District of Belgorod Oblast, ammunition fragments were found, and laboratory tests confirmed the use of that toxic chemical.

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The Kiev regime has set up a network of chemical laboratories for the production and filling of toxic chemicals. During a survey in May 2024, a laboratory with chemical equipment for the production of toxic agents was discovered in a destroyed building in an industrial area in a village near Avdeevka in the Donetsk People's Republic of the Russian Federation (see photo 14). Specifically, an industrial rotary evaporator, a filtration extraction system, chemical reactors, carbon dioxide cylinders, cabinets with laboratory glassware, reagents and personal respiratory protection equipment, including gas masks produced in the United States, and a protective suit made in Poland known as "skin" were discovered.

During laboratory analyses conducted in accordance with OPCW requirements, sodium cyanide (see photo 15), sulphuric acid (see photo 15) and trace amounts of cyanide anions were detected in the samples. The presence of these chemicals clearly indicated that the laboratory had been used for the production of toxic agents with general poisonous effects, namely, hydrogen cyanide and cyanogen chloride.

In their testimonies, Ukrainian prisoners of war have confirmed that such laboratories exist and that work is carried out in them to produce toxic chemicals and fill munitions with them. There is evidence that United States specialists have been involved in such work and that these entities have participated in the production of kamikaze drones.

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The Kiev regime, with the assistance of its Western sponsors, has developed new tactics for combat using a "special chemical belt" (see photo 16 for the proposed areas for the placement of toxic chemicals). The tactics involve detonating containers of hydrogen cyanide and ammonia when Russian troops advance. In September and October 2023, those chemicals were delivered to areas of Kramatorsk in the Donetsk

People's Republic of the Russian Federation and Kupyansk in Kharkov Oblast for placement along motorways and at major interchanges.

According to the Kiev regime's plans, such tactics were intended to significantly hamper the offensive operations of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and to provide Kiev with additional time to prepare defensive lines in Zaporozhie Oblast of the Russian Federation and Kharkov and Sumy Oblasts.

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The requests of Ukraine for financial assistance, antidotes, gas masks and other personal protective equipment are evidence that it is preparing to use toxic substances. In 2024, the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the European Union sent requests to the European Union Military Staff for the delivery of: general military protective kits and gas masks (283,000 items each); and protective gloves and chemical decontamination kits (500,000 items each). The list of requested items also included 150,000 antidote kits and 20,000 tests for the rapid detection of chemical warfare agents (see photo 17).

In 2023, NATO countries had already supplied Ukraine with more than 55,000 sets of personal protective equipment, 600,000 vials of antidotes for organophosphorus nerve agents and 750,000 vials of agents for neutralizing mustard gas, lewisite and hydrogen cyanide derivatives.

Furthermore, a number of Western countries – the United Kingdom, Germany, Ireland, Canada, the Netherlands, the United States, Czechia, Japan and others – provide generous financial support, including through OPCW, for the activities of Ukraine under so-called “protective” measures.

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The incidents cited as examples, in addition to the information already made available in October 2023 and February 2024, serve as clear evidence of the numerous cases of the use by the special services and militants of the Kiev regime of toxic chemicals and riot control agents as a means of warfare and for terrorist purposes, coupled with the acts of provocation at chemical industry facilities in Donbass. The systematic use of such toxic chemicals is a direct violation by Kiev of articles I and II of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Russian Federation has repeatedly pointed out that the false accusations made by Ukraine against the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation about the alleged use of toxic chemicals during the special military operation are nothing but an attempt – at the behest of the United States and its Euro-Atlantic allies – to discredit the Russian Federation and to absolve Kiev of responsibility for the repeated violations of its obligations under the Convention.

We trust that the States parties to the Convention, having familiarized themselves with the information on the real state of affairs in the zone of the special military operation in relation to the Convention, will come to objective conclusions in that regard. Common sense must prevail over the insatiable ambitions of the countries of the “collective West” to turn OPCW, together with other specialized multilateral entities, into a tool to serve their geopolitical interests and to impose highly questionable values of culture and civilization and double standards on the vast majority of the global community.

The Russian Federation will continue to document and bring to the attention of the States parties to the Convention and the States Members of the United Nations information about the use of toxic chemicals by the armed formations of the Kiev regime against Russian soldiers and civilians, and about acts of provocation planned by Ukrainian militants against chemical facilities in Donbass and other regions of the Russian Federation.

All photos are available at <https://disk.yandex.ru/d/xFIFW41Z9jK8AA>.