

Conference against Turkish use of chemical weapons says to EU that 'Silence is complicity'

The Geneva Conference was held on January 28, 2022 by the Initiative Against Chemical Weapons in Kurdistan at the University of Geneva to expose Turkey's use of chemical weapons in Kurdistan.



<https://anfenglishmobile.com/news/conferece-against-turkish-use-of-chemical-weapons-says-to-eu-that-silence-is-complicity-57805>

1) Please present yourself, who you are and from where do you speak!

I am Abbas Mansouran, Epidemiologist- Shiraz (Pahlavy) University Iran, Bacteriologist, and MPH in Community Medicine, Actual Immunology and Viral Genetics at Stockholm University -Sweden and since 2013 research principal in Sweden.

As a volunteer from Sweden I joined the **north-eastern Syria** community health care committee to participate in Health Care System and medical education in Rojava.

2) In the time of the Turkish aggression against Serekaniye and Girespi in 2019 you had been working as a doctor in Rojava. During your duty there you have been confronted with various atrocities of Turkish war crimes. Can you explain more about what you have been confronted with?

On 6 October 2019, the Trump administration ordered American troops to withdraw from northeastern Syria,

The Turkish military operation began on 9 October 2019 when the Turkish Air Force launched a destructive land and airstrikes to Qamishloo and Serekany e.

October 13th, 2019, Sunday

I joined the medical staff of the Main Combat Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Tel tamer and Heseke from Qamishlou to help the injured. There in this front I visited many patients with severe burns and injuries.

Among wounded I noticed clear different **characteristics** . This recognition was based on my long time experiences when I was one the founder and as the responsible of the committee for control of Hospital Acquired Infections, (HAI CC) at the Shiraz university hospitals, Fars province in Southern Iran during The first half of 1980s.

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As pointed, on October 2019 of Turkish attack, I encountered the features of burns injuries in Turkish attack were clearly very different from typical burns. It was immediately apparent that injuries were specifically manifestations of chemical weapon use. Clinically and shapes of burns were pointing to that Turkish Armed Forces have been using chemical munitions.

I can emphasize that white phosphorus and possibly some other unknown chemical such as Dense Inert Metal Explosive (DIME) munitions were used in October 2019 and afterward in Rojava. The carcinogenic effects of heavy metal tungsten alloys (HMTA Cobalt such as microfibers... can be outcome of DIME " Neoplastic transformation of human osteoblast cells to the tumorigenic phenotype by heavy metal–tungsten alloy particles: induction of genotoxic effects". Has been reported by researcher in *Carcinogenesis*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 115–125, January 2001

3-There are various reports of Turkish bombardments targeting civilian settlements but also various reports that indicate the usage of white phosphorus as an offensive weapon? White phosphorus is not designated a prohibited chemical weapon but its direct use against targets especially targeting civilian areas poses a crime of war. Can you tell us more about turkey's use of white phosphorus in Serekaniye and Girespi? What kind of injuries did you witness in your time in the hospital?

The witnesses and survived patients who had observed the attacks talked about an air bombing of very bright white flames. We know that the White phosphorus shows such a flame when exposed to air.

White phosphorus is a white waxy solid which burns with white flame when expose to Oxygen and burns even in deep tissue penetration as long as the presence of oxygen.

White Phosphorus **Incendiary ammunition** is a type of firearm ammunition that burns rapidly, causes fires, can adhere to clothing and deeply penetrate skin, causing severe and often fatal burns. WP continues to burn even when deprived of atmospheric oxygen and do so until complete depletion of the phosphorous material. This chemical can cause heart, liver, and kidney damages, and inhalation of white phosphorus smoke may cause fatal respiratory tract damage.

From 13 October (2019) we admitted hundreds of patients, mostly civilians including children, women and men with severe injuries as a result of attacks by **Turkey and its Islamist proxy forces**.

The Injuries were from Serê Kanî (Ras al-Ain) Girê Spi (Tel Abyad) and surrounding villages.

- 1- who mostly had been burned by airdropped bombs.
- 2- Most of the victims we admitted were civilians
- 3- All the patients I visited reported that they had been victims of munitions dropped or fired from unmanned drones in different places and in different air attacks.
- 4- The injuries were black in appearance, deep, variable in size, and consisted of multiple spots.

- 5- The skins of victims had been covered by a cool smoke.
- 6- Pieces of bombs which have adhered, and deep penetrations had caused spots which looked like droplets.
- 7- Some of the injured had breathing problems and severe respiratory tract irritations.
- 8- Smoke had settled over bodies with the appearance of charcoal dust.
- 9- Some patients had very severe eye burns.
- 10- Hair and eyebrows were unburned but some deep spots in different size were considerable.
- 11- Due to the large number of wounded, the lack of facilities staff, and the necessary medicines, as well as the lack of suitable and hygienic rooms for hospitalization and the fact of rotten and unhygienic rooms, beds and the walls of Haseke Hospital, the procedures of disinfection was impossible.
Some victims had lost Most of patients developed life threatening infection by multi-resistant super bacteria such as Pseudomonas spp, E.coli and Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) as a cause of Nosocomial and Community-Acquired Infection.
- 12- Their arms or legs.
- 13- All victims suffering from a kind of neurotoxicity manifested in peripheral nerves and were irritable and painful sensitive feeling when I touched even the unburned skin.
- 14- Some victims exhibited hearing loss.
- 15- Most of them exhibited symptoms similar to those attained from landmines, but no evidence of shrapnel in the wounds was observed.
- 16- Some of the injured required laparotomy, lung and urinary catheterization.
- 17- IN first days some of the hundreds of patients I met, around 30 showed above mentioned manifestations.

- 18- An unknown number were burned on the spot and turned into coal and taken to morgues, some were sent to Iraqi Kurdistan, and a number fell into the hands of the occupiers in the occupied territories.
- 19- Among many dead and sever injuries who transferred to Bashur, around 30 victims, mostly civilians were admitted to Heseke's main hospital with these severe and unusual.

Certainly Turkey's government had used and is using prohibited white phosphorus and other chemical weapons.

On Monday October 21 2019 Anthony Loyd **The Times brave reporter broadcasted** from Hesake, Syria the evidence of Turkish phosphorus attack. The Times report said the “terrible wounds” suggest Turkey “is using white phosphorus against Kurdish civilians,”

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/syria-invasion-phosphorus-evidence-mounts-against-erdogan-7v2thnhtd>

During October 2019 was nor the first and neither the last crime against humanity. Clinically injuries from Gire spi and all front of October 2019 attack had the same features of Serekaniye's victims.

4-Did you address the international institutions after the results of the chemical test? Was there any condemnation from these institutions referring to turkey's war crimes?

Yes First of all, it was requested from the United Nations for investigation. QSD, and The Kurdish Red Crescent **-KRC- (Kurdistan Hivaye sur) which is an independent organization as a local organization for north -east of Syria called UN authorities for investigation but UN refused.**

We urge international organizations to send their delegations to investigate and visit some injures and wounded sustained in attacks.

In shortage of the medical facilities in East north of Syria and lack expert teams, blockage and withdrawal of NGOs by Turkish invasions, we lost many lives.

We asked the international institutions after the results of the chemical test. UN committee for Human Rights, and other departments, but no action was taken.

We have submitted all the necessary and undeniable documents including the laboratory result which revealed the use of prohibited white phosphorus against civilians to these **international institutions.**

The used Chemical weapon violate the Convention on Conventional Weapons of the United Nations.

The **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**, officially the **Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction**, is an arms control treaty administered by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), an intergovernmental organization based in The Hague, The Netherlands.

According to my knowledge we heard only a very mild voice on October 18 - 2019 as following:

“The OPCW is aware of the situation in northern Syria and is collecting information at OPCW Headquarters with regard to the alleged use of chemical weapons,” a spokesperson for the organization told Newsweek on Friday, October 18.

“So far, the OPCW has not yet determined the credibility of these allegations.”

The weapons used are in violation of United Nations treaties. The use of these weapons is a violation of international treaties and the treaties of the Security Council against the use of these weapons against civilians in Syria.

When in February 2020 the I as the members of delegation from Rojava travelled to Geneva, request to meet *OPCW* authorities to submit of documents, they refused to meet our delegation and only send answered by Email mentioned “white phosphorus is a prohibited weapon”.

We had expanded a 19-page report, Videos, photos, interviews from witnesses, staff and KRC which were prepared and completed by the Rojava Human Rights Defenders Initiative committee, our medical team and Kurdistan Red Crescent and delivered to UN authorities in

Geneva and OPCW and have had Mass media conference on January 10, 2020, after it was announced via a statement in Paris on January 27, and delivered to the International Human Rights Organization as well as have a mass media conference in UN headquarter in Geneva.

The purpose of the report was **Documenting the Crimes carrying** by the Turkish state and by its mobilized proxies against civilians and resistant in the region especially during the attacks that targeted the Serêkaniyê district on October 9, 2019.

According to my knowledge an extensive legal procedure is being implemented, especially in relation to the ongoing chemical attacks of October 2019 and ongoing Bashur Kurdistan (South).

The aim of international efforts must be focused on calling an International Criminal Tribunals for justice. **Those** who **committed crimes** on this large and systematic scale are war criminals and should be prosecute and investigate for **international crimes**—including **genocide, crimes against humanity** and war crimes.

5- Why do you think they are staying silent in front of all of these crimes? What is the role of western weaponry in the war of aggression against the communities of North and Eastern Syria?

Do you know the origin of the phosphorous artillery shells used in Northern Syria?

*The **Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES)**, known as **Rojava** can be a model not only for Middle East, but also for many countries. The de facto autonomous region is a paradigm that has terrified all colonialists, exploiters and reactionaries around the world.*

The metropolitan capitalist rulers have armed Turkish forces with chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Their satellites and proxies all serving for a their economic and political interests.

These intervening powers in northern and eastern Syria including NATO members have given the military mission and signals for occupation and mass killing to Turkish government.

The United Nations and its Security Council are in fact not the international assemblies but They are two governmental vessels.

They advance the political and economic interests of looters and tyrants against workers, toilers and women and ecosystem.

There is strong and clear evidence that the arms companies of the most powerful countries have sold weapons of mass destruction to the Turkish government. Thus, these countries ignore the crimes

committed against the freedom fighters and the defenceless and besieged people in north-eastern Syria.

There are documents indicating the cooperation of many countries with Turkey. They sell mass destruction weapons deliberately and willingly. They are responsible for the crime against humanity in supporting Turkish government and its alliances.

They continue their alliance with Turkey within the framework of the NATO. This means that they support the occupation of the area.

UK sells white phosphorus to Turkey as evidence grows of chemical attacks on Kurds | News | The Sunday Times (the.times.co.uk)

Britain still exporting arms to Turkey despite evidence of chemical weapons use against civilians in Northeast Syria

The Turkish state uses chemical weapons in Başûr Kurdistan. This dates back to 1990. The Turkish state has used chemical weapons in every place where resistance has emerged.

It appeared in many reports that the Turkish state used chemical weapons indiscriminately, taking advantage of the silence of international organizations.

Among the previous reports, the German Social Democratic Party one on the Balikaia massacre, which they put on the agenda of the

German Federal Council. Because Germany was directly involved in this massacre

University of Munich showed that the parts contained traces of the internationally banned gas cyanocarbon. One of the German ZDF TV announced in one of its programs that since 1995 Buck & Depyfag (Explosive Fabric) has been selling bombs known as RP707 to Turkey.

Example: The Times revealed in 1990 that the British government sells internationally prohibited weapons to Turkey.

In 1995, the British University of Bradford prepared a report and indicated that the Turkish Chemical and Mechanical Industries Corporation manufactured 120 mm cyanocarbon gas bombs and sold them on the international market. Despite all these evidence, **OPCW** never investigated these crimes.

6. What are your expectations to international institutions and the western and European civil society? How we can act to stop Turkish fascism from continuing its brutal campaign against the people of the region?

By an international solidarity and active participation in resistance.

By call the mass opinion to condemn the war crime of Turkish state and its alliances

The establishment of the International Courts to fulfil their responsibilities and conduct a clear investigation for these issues and punishment of war crimes that occurred during the Turkish invasions is a vital issue.

The International Court of Justice is should take the necessary measures against the Turkish state and other criminals. And call for compensation for the affected area and families.

The success of these attempts will be achieved with the cooperation and the struggle of freedom-loving people at the international level.

As I mentioned in a conference held on February 2020 in the United Nations in Geneva, the entire world, particularly above all, the European Community are indebted to the resistance of north and east Syria, named Rojava.

The glorious resistance in area stopped the wide spreading of ISIS -the enemy of humanity which threatens the world. The resistance paid and is paying a high price with the lives of thousands of freedom fighters

Most importantly, these measures must be taken:

- * **Address international institutions after the results of the chemical test?**
- * Submitting existing documents and complaints about the use of chemical weapons during the attacks on Serekaniye and their continued use in Başûr Kurdistan for an international and tribunal Court.

**Demanding the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the international public opinion and the free and independent international courts to do not to remain silent on this matter.

The success of these acts will be achieved with the cooperation of free mined forces and people operating at the international level.