

FW: minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists

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1 attachments (45 KB)

Minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists with Soumik and Marcs comments.docx

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Johan de Wittlaan 32 ,2517 JR The Hague , Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0) 70 4

Email.



Working Together for a World Free of Chemical Weapons

From:

Sent: 30 August 2018 10:18

To: Marc-Michael Blum <marc.blum@opcw.org>; Soumik Paul <soumik.paul@opcw.org>

Subject: RE: minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists

Thanks Marc for your comments. I've addressed all three, I hope, in the minutes. I've reworded the two possibilities to make the language more neutral. For accuracy, I think it's important to have a record of their comments though, as it was a point raised by them. In addition to showing them open source videos, we did also brief them on the scenario and informed them of symptoms and times of onset reported by witnesses. Let me know if both of you are satisfied with this.

Regards

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Tel.:

Email:



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Mail -

From: Marc-Michael Blum
Sent: 28 August 2018 20:21
To:
Subject: Re: minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists

Dear

Sorry for a late reply on this. My comments:

- Non-OPCW participants: these were not forensic toxicologists but three toxicologists who are also clinical pharmacologists with a professional background in medical CW protection. Also a fourth participant was present who is a bioanalytical and toxicological chemist.
- I find the summary in minutes misleading that the other side in the end offered a conclusion with two possibilities: real chemical attack or staged. All we "gave" the experts where open-source videos and photos – so their insight was (and had to remain) limited. That the possibility of a staged attack was raised is part of required scientific skepticism but was in my opinion mainly fueled by the fact that the circumstances of death for the victims do not match chlorine rather than corpses arranged for propaganda purposes. Regarding the observed symptoms I would write that the they were not matching the chemicals listed by you but would remove "other known toxic gases" and rather put that no obvious candidate chemical causing the symptoms could be identified.

Cheers
MMB

Von: [@opcw.org](mailto:>@opcw.org)
Datum: Dienstag, 21. August 2018 um 10:17
An: Soumik Paul <soumik.paul@opcw.org>, Sami Barrek <sami.barrek@opcw.org>, Marc-Michael Blum <marc.blum@opcw.org>
Betreff: FW: minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists

Dear Sami/Marc, could I ask you to cast an eye over the minutes and let me know if there is anything amiss. Thanks Soumik for your comments.

Regards

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Johan de Wittlaan 32 ,2517 JR The Hague , Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0) 70 416

Email: [@opcw.org](mailto:>@opcw.org)



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From: Soumik Paul
Sent: 21 August 2018 09:12
To: [@opcw.org](mailto:>@opcw.org)
Subject: RE: minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists

Hi

Mail -

This is accurate.

I would only elaborate in your Point 2 that the experts were asked to review photographs of alleged victims and give us their opinion on the same.

You have elaborated this fact later in the text - but I would indicate this much earlier.

I would also remove the line on OPCW team having lunch - it is not part of the meeting with the SP.

Just my thoughts,
Soumik

From:

Sent: 20 August 2018 16:41

To: Soumik Paul <soumik.paul@opcw.org>

Subject: minutes of meeting with Forensic Toxicologists

Dear Soumik, to keep a formal record of our meeting with the toxicologists we had in June I've compiled a summary of what I recall and had jotted in my notes. To be confident I've got an accurate record of the discussions, especially the medical parts, can you have a look and let me know if there is anything you think might be inaccurate or absent. Once I've got your comments I'll pass it on to Sami and Marc for a final check.

Regards

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Johan de Wittlaan 32 ,2517 JR The Hague , Netherlands

Tel.: +31 (0) 70 416

Email: info@opcw.org



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