Terrorists Use Chemical Weapons in Syria’s Aleppo: Russian Defense Ministry

Russia - Russia’s Defense Ministry said Friday that it has discovered proof that terrorists using chemical weapons in Syria and the Syrian military in the southwestern outskirts of the Syrian city Aleppo.


An inspection of the munitions, shell fragments, and soil samples in a mobile laboratory on August 24, showed a very high probability that the substances used were chlorine and white phosphorus, the spokesman said.

The report said that in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, no chemical or biological weapons production, stockpiling and use are allowed in Syria, as well as to expand chemical weapons production.

On the sidelines of the Russian-China joint military drill, the two sides will also hold a CEO consultative conference, and conference on the digital economy and agriculture and food 2015, in which China’s second largest trade partner, biggest export market and the fourth quadrant, was the largest trade partner and import source, and the third export market of the US. The bilateral trade volume of goods stood at about more than 160 billion dollars in 2014, an increase of 18 percent compared to last year (year on year).

CHINA, U.S. to Hold Annual Trade Talks

China – the United States will hold annual trade talks in accordance with the United States-China FTA, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Thursday, noting that the United States wants to strengthen economic relations with China, according to a statement by a media source.

The United States will hold a meeting with China and Russia to discuss economic cooperation.

In the last high-level economic dialogue between the U.S. and the U.S. and the U.S., on the sidelines, the two sides will exchange views on trade issues.

The Chinese Ministry of Commerce and Trade Representatives, and the United States will exchange views on the development of the bilateral trade relationship.

The U.S. and China have agreed to hold annual trade talks under the United States-China FTA, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

However, there are some concerns about the future of the agreement, as the U.S. and China have already signed a number of agreements with the EU and the E.U.

Close to 48,000 Displaced Since Beginning of Mosul Operations: UNHCR

Geneva: Close to 48,000 people have been displaced since the beginning of the operations to retake the remaining areas of the city of Mosul from Daesh, according to the UN refugee agency (UNHCR).

"Today, UNHCR is reporting 47,730 civilians who have fled their homes since military operations began in mid-October 2016," the agency said in a statement.

"This represents 30% of the population of Mosul considered at risk of displacement due to the current conflict and the ongoing fighting, according to the monitoring and budgetary commission of the UN Human Rights Council, which has repeatedly called for the protection of civilians in the matrix of international humanitarian law."

The situation in the city of Mosul continues, and the UNHCR mission, along with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), is working to ensure that the needs of those displaced are met.

As the operations continue, the agency says it is working to support those affected and to provide them with essential aid, including food, shelter, and medical care.

"We continue to call on all parties to the conflict to respect international law and ensure the safety and protection of civilians," the statement said.

Mosul, Iraq - An Iraqi security forces operation that began in Thursday to retake the city of Mosul from Daesh, according to a statement by a military official.

The military operation was launched to retake the city from Daesh, which had held it since June 2014.

"The Iraqi forces have advanced in the last few days, reaching the outskirts of the city and retaking several key areas," the statement said.

"The forces have been facing heavy resistance from Daesh fighters, who have launched several attacks to try to halt the advance of the Iraqi forces."

However, the operation has faced challenges, including the presence of civilians in the city and the difficulty of distinguishing between civilian and military targets.

"We are continuing to work closely with local authorities to ensure the safety of civilians," the statement said.

In addition to the military operations, the UNHCR is working to provide assistance to those affected by the conflict.

"We are distributing food, water, and shelter to those who have been displaced, and we are working to provide medical care and other essential services," the statement said.

The agency is also working to support the efforts of local authorities to provide assistance to those affected.

"We remain committed to providing the necessary assistance to those affected by the conflict," the statement said.

Russian State Duma Ratifies China-Russia Anti-Terrorism Agreement

MOSCOW – Russia's State Duma, the lower house of parliament, ratified an agreement on cooperation in fighting terrorism, including between the Russian and the United States, on Thursday.

"We welcome the joint action against terrorism, including between the Russian and the United States, on Thursday," the State Duma said in a statement.

The State Duma noted that the agreement was signed in 2010, and that it was a milestone in the long-standing relationship between the two countries.

"We are committed to continuing our cooperation on counter-terrorism, including with the United States, to address the threats posed by terrorism," the statement said.

The State Duma thanked the United States for its contribution to the global fight against terrorism and for its continued support for Russia’s efforts in this area.

"We are grateful for the continuing support we receive from the United States," the statement said.

"We will continue to work closely with the United States to address the threats posed by terrorism, and to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and our country," the statement said.

In addition to the agreement, the State Duma also noted other developments in the relationship between the two countries, including the ongoing negotiations on the New START Treaty, which was signed in 2010.

"We will continue to engage in constructive dialogue with the United States on a range of issues, including the New START Treaty, and we hope to reach a mutually beneficial agreement in the near future," the statement said.

The State Duma also thanked the United States for its support for Russia’s efforts to combat terrorism, including through the provision of intelligence and other forms of assistance.

"We appreciate the support we receive from the United States," the statement said.

"We will continue to work closely with the United States to address the threats posed by terrorism, and to ensure the safety and security of our citizens and our country," the statement said.

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