



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Field,

Suspected chemical weapons use in West Papua: OPCW action needed

As you may be aware, the Indonesian armed forces have been accused of deploying chemical weapons – suspected to be white phosphorus, banned under international law – in West Papua, its eastern-most territory.

Under the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction* (the *Chemical Weapons Convention*), which Indonesia has signed and ratified, states are banned from using and stockpiling chemical weapons.

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) must be urged to investigate the issue as an international priority. **We request that you immediately send an official request to the OPCW asking the organisation to verify the incident and investigate the suspected breach of Indonesia's obligations under the *Chemical Weapons Convention*.**

According to photographic evidence, witness testimony and journalistic reporting, on December 15, 2018, in the Nduga Regency of West Papua, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) used burn-causing weapons – possibly white phosphorus – on West Papuan civilians. The alleged use occurred in the context of ongoing Indonesian military and police operations in the region.

The use of chemical weapons is a matter of great international concern. When such weapons were deployed in Syria, the world rose in horrified unison. When such weapons have been used in West Papua, few have taken note. The United Kingdom must take the lead internationally on this issue.

We attach a briefing on the issue from the International Lawyers for West Papua, a group of respected global lawyers, for your information.

We would appreciate if you would inform us as soon as the requisite letters to the OPCW have been issued.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Sobel MP



Alan Brown MP	Martin Whitfield MP
Ann Clwyd MP	Martyn Day MP
Anna McMorrin MP	Mary Glendon MP
Anneliese Dodds MP	Mike Hill MP
Ben Lake MP	Patrick Grady MP
Bob Stewart MP	Paul Sweeney MP
Catherine West MP	Paul Williams MP
Chris Law MP	Roger Godsiff MP
Chris Stephens MP	Ronnie Campbell MP
Darren Jones MP	Rosie Duffield MP
David Drew MP	Sir Peter Bottomly MP
Dennis Skinner MP	Stephen Doughty MP
Diana Johnson MP	Valerie Vaz MP
Ged Killen MP	
George Howarth MP	
Grahame Morris MP	
Janet Daby MP	Baroness Burtsett
Jim Cunningham MP	Baron Thomas of Gresford
Jim Shannon MP	Countess of Mar, Margaret Mar
John Howell MP	
John McNally MP	Lord Alton of Liverpool
Jon Cruddas MP	Lord Griffiths of Burry Port
Jonathan Edwards MP	Lord Harries of Pentregarth
Kelvin Hopkins MP	Lord Kennedy of Southwark
Kerry McCarthy MP	Lord Mackenzie of Framwellgate
Lloyd Russell Moyle MP	Lord Warner of Brockley
Liz Saville Roberts MP	
Marie Rimmer MP	