

MEETING ABSTRACTS

CHEMICAL WEAPONS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LAW

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The history of the use of toxic substances goes back to the distant prehistory of mankind. Over time, man has acquired and perfected the knowledge gained in his life and gradually passed it on from generation to generation. The authors recall the basic milestones before and during the emergence of chemical weapons, focusing on the widespread use of chemical weapons during the First World War. However, other armed conflicts are also mentioned, when chemical weapons were used as an important means of warfare (for example, Vietnam War, the Iraq-Iran War, etc.).

Selected specific cases of misuse of chemical warfare agents for terrorist purposes are also underlined and briefly described. Chemical warfare agents as the main content of chemical weapons have a high toxic potential (basically super-poisons) and their misuse for terrorist attacks is quite high.

The next part of the thesis presents some important acts of international law, such as the so-called Geneva Protocol from 1925 and other legal activities of an international nature and impact. Subsequently, the main principles, requirements and obligations of the ban on chemical weapons under the important international agreement Chemical Weapons Convention 1993 (1), which entered into force in April 1997, are discussed in detail.

National legislation, Czech national law (2) and its implementing decree (3) are presented in detail in the following part of the article. The authors of the article present a brief analysis and evaluation of the current situation in the researched area of the prohibition of chemical weapons. At the same time, in the form of an academic discussion, they present some of their own proposals and recommendations for improving the current situation in the field of chemical weapons bans, focusing on the Czech Republic.

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Keywords: chemical weapons; chemical warfare agents; international law; national law; national decree

References

1. International Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons 1993 (CWC): Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, Paris, 13 January 1993.
2. Act No. 336/2020 Coll. amending Act No. 19/1997 Coll., on Certain Measures Related to the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and on Amendments to Certain Other Acts.
3. Decree No. 459/2020 Coll., Which implements the Act on Certain Measures Related to the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.