

# Extracting CBW

## from security equations in the Middle East

Dr Jean Pascal Zanders  
*The Trench*

*WMD in the Middle East*

*Roundtable organised by the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and Near East South  
Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAS) of the US National Defense University (NDU)*

*Geneva, 17 – 18 April 2018*

# I know nothing, therefore ...

- I will not lecture you
- I will not give you policy options  
(all of which you have heard before)

So ...

- You will have to teach me

But ...

- I am a critical student
- And I am difficult to convince
- So, I will ask you tough questions, which you **must** answer

# CBW in the Middle East

- Write down in 2-3 lines how you view the problems with CBW in the Middle East?
- Do you assess the security challenges posed CW and BW as equivalent?
- Why?
- List 5 steps you think are necessary to address the threats CBW pose to security in the Middle East?
- Are the BTWC and the CWC part of the solution?
- Why?

# Cleavages in the Middle East

- In your mind, which cleavages drive insecurity in the Middle East?
- Which cleavages are key in the debates on regional nuclear disarmament?
- Why?
- Which cleavages are key in the debates on regional chemical disarmament?
- Why?
- Which cleavages are key in the debates on regional biological disarmament?
- Why?

# Chemical warfare in Syria

- Why is it possible that chemical warfare in the Syrian civil war has been able to continue for over 5 years now?
- Who do you hold primarily responsible for the CW attacks?
- Who do you consider accessories to the attacks?
- Which country or organisation should lead in terminating chemical warfare?
- What options exist for regional mediation?
- Are there issues you view as more important than halting chemical warfare? Which ones? Why?

# Chemical warfare since World War 2

- List the incidents of major chemical warfare since 1945
- For each incident, list the perpetrator of chemical attacks
- For each incident, list the victims of the chemical attacks
- Identify the commonalities among perpetrators and victims
- How do your conclusions correlate with regional cleavages?

## Your concluding thoughts ...

- Where would you recommend starting to discuss CBW disarmament for the Middle East?
- Who should take the lead?
- What roles do you see for:
  - Governments outside the region?
  - International organisations?
  - Regional organisations?
  - Non-governmental actors (professionals, scientists, civil society, ...)
- Is there merit in sub-regional discussions?
- How do you see regional actors taking ownership of the disarmament process?



# THE TRENCH

**Recalling** where science, industry and military art converged  
**Challenging** entrenched positions

[www.the-trench.org](http://www.the-trench.org)

*E-mail*

[jpzanders@the-trench.org](mailto:jpzanders@the-trench.org)