Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK)

Foreign Secretary statement on UN Joint Investigative Mechanism vote

2017-10-24

Speaking following the United Nations Security Council vote, Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said:

We are deeply disappointed that the mandate for the

UN

Joint Investigative Mechanism (

JIM

), which is impartial and independent, has not been renewed.

Last year the

JIM

found that the Syrian regime used chemical weapons against its people on no fewer than 3 occasions. The

JIM

will be reporting in the coming days on responsibility for a further 2 chemical weapons attacks, including in Khan Sheikhoun in April.

Russia’s veto at the

UN

Security Council means that in a month the

JIM

will cease to exist. It will no longer be able to do its work to investigate who is responsible for use of chemical weapons in Syria. The veto suggests that the Syrian regime has something to hide and risks letting both Asad forces and Daesh off the hook for these heinous crimes. In

2013, Russia said it had secured Syria’s agreement to destroy all its chemical weapons. Since then, the

JIM

has found the Syrian regime used chemical weapons 3 times. Russia’s response is not to redouble its efforts to ensure disarmament, but to shut down the investigation.

While we are deeply disappointed, the United Kingdom will not let Russia’s actions stop us from working with international partners to seek justice for victims and to prevent the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere.

Further information

Follow the Foreign Secretary on Twitter

@BorisJohnson

and

Facebook

Follow the Foreign Office on Twitter

@foreignoffice

and

Facebook

Follow the Foreign Office on

Instagram

,

YouTube

and

LinkedIn

Media enquiries

For journalists

Email

newsdesk@fco.gov.uk

Source: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-statement-on-un-joint-investigative-mechanism-vote