

*Working together to strengthen the norms
against chemical and biological weapons.*



CBW Challenges Radar no. 10

What's new at CBWNet

The CBWNet project will hold a conference on 22-23 October 2025 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, entitled *Norm Contestation and Compliance: The Prohibition of Chemical and Biological Weapons*. We welcome proposals that focus on CBW norm contestation and compliance issues as well as adjacent areas.

Papers related to this topic should be submitted by 31 August 2025.

[Call for Papers!](#)

CBWNet researcher Dr Alexander Kelle was interviewed for the [Deutschlandfunk Nova podcast "Eine Stunde History"](#), on the History of Chemical Weapons (in German)

CBWNet researcher Dr. Gunnar Jeremias was interviewed by the German broadcaster [Welt-TV](#) about the recent ricin incident in Germany (in German)

News

- On 5 May US-President Donald Trump signed an [Executive Order](#) on Improving the Safety and Security of Biological Research
 - From 6-8 May a regional [workshop](#) for Southeast Asian and Pacific Island States on ‘Strengthening Regional Support for the Global Norm against Biological Weapons in the Context of the BWC, UNSCR 1540, and UNSGM’ took place in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - On 3 and 4 June the OPCW hosted a two-day workshop focusing on [strengthening chemical security legislation and enforcement capabilities across Central Asia](#) in Ankara, Türkiye
 - 17 June marked the centenary of the 1925 Geneva Protocol
 - The OPCW and the Government of the People’s Republic of China, co-organised an international workshop on [AI and chemical safety and security management](#) in Shanghai from 17 to 20 June 2025
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Publications of interest

Publications by CBWNet researchers

- Maximilian Brackmann, Anja Blasse, Júlio Gouveia Carvalho, Cindi R. Corbett, Cédric Invernizzi, [Una Jakob](#), Stefan Kloth, Filippa Lentzos, Ines Mergler, and Per Wikström published a [paper](#) on Assessing Readiness of International Investigations into Alleged Biological Weapons Use
- [Una Jakob](#) has contributed a chapter on Chemical Weapons and Security Threats to the [SIPRI Yearbook 2025](#)
- [Alexander Kelle](#) & Malcolm R. Dando published an article in the *Nonproliferation Review* addressing [behavioral arms control in the century of biology](#)
- [Alexander Kelle](#) and [Ralf Trapp](#) contributed two input [papers](#) on the new Chemical Weapons Convention Coalition report "*The Future of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Recommendations from Civil Society for Addressing Challenges Over the Next Five Years*"
- [Alexander Kelle](#) and Oliver Meier published a Deutsche Stiftung Friedensforschung (DSF) [research report](#)

- [Alexander Kelle](#), Malcolm Dando and Michael Crawley published a chapter on Countering the Continuing Danger from Toxin Weapons in an [edited volume](#) on 50 years of the BWC
- [Barry de Vries](#), [Kristoffer Burck](#) and [Sannimari Veini](#) published [this piece](#) on the *Opinio Juris* blog, discussing The Biological Weapons Convention at Fifty

CWC

- [This article](#) by Mina Rozei in *Arms Control* looks into the OPCW investigation of chemical weapons use in Ukraine
- Mina Rozei published an [article](#) in *Arms Control* addressing the remaining chemical sites in Syria
- The director-general of the OPCW Fernando Arias addresses why the OPCW is more necessary than ever in [this article](#)
- The CWCC published a [report](#) on the Future of the Chemical Weapons Convention
- [This article](#) in *Le Monde* addresses the alleged use of Chemical Weapons by the Government of Sudan
- Gregg Roman published an [article](#) in the *Middle East Forum* addressing Syria's chemical arsenal
- Anagha Subhash Nair published an [article](#) in *Foreign Policy* addressing the long shadow of Syria's chemical weapons
- [This paper](#) by Chris Quillen published in *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* focuses on the alleged Sarin Test by the Aum Shinrikyo sect
- On 20 June 2025, the OPCW has transmitted a [report](#) on a third Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) to Ukraine following an alleged incident of use of toxic chemicals as a weapon

BWC

- Sonia Ben Ouagrham-Gormley published an [article](#) in *Science* on safeguarding against biological weapons
- Michael Redlich from the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs published a [report](#) on biological weapons in the past, present and future

- Alex Lampalzer published an [article](#) in *One Health & Risk Management* on strengthening the BWC in support of global peace and security
- Judith Levy published a [paper](#) for the *Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies* addressing the biological weapons dimension on disarming Syria under the Al-Julani Regime

Biosecurity

- This [paper](#) by Mengdi Wang et al. published in *Nature biotechnology* calls for built in biosecurity safeguards for generative AI tools
- This [report](#) on Military Biodefense was published by the *Bipartisan Commission on Biodefense*
- Daniel P. Regan published an [article](#) in *Lawfare* on Ceding American Biodefense
- Gene D. Godbold et al. published a [paper](#) in *Applied Biosafety* on Limiting "Sequences of Concern" to Those with Proven Pathogenicity
- Christine Parthemore & John Moulton published an [article](#) on the 2025 Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community on the *Council on Strategic Risks Blog*
- Jungeun Lee published an [article](#) in *Frontiers in Public Health* addressing biological threat preparedness through vaccine development and stockpiling
- Xiaowen Sun, Yongzhong Zhang, Chao Zhao, Tiantian Li and Song Bai published recently a [paper](#) in *Frontiers in Public Health* on Modular Emergency Equipment Systems for Bioterrorism Events

AI

- Kristel Tjandra published an [article](#) in *Science* discussing built-in safeguards might stop AI from designing bioweapons
- *RAND* published a [paper](#) that addresses the risks related to biological training data and opportunities for governance
- Jay K. Varma published an [article](#) in *STAT* addressing the AI threat to public health

- This [paper](#) published by *RAND* contributes to identifying and closing gaps in the Federal Select Agent Program
- In this [article](#), published in *Lawfare*, Steven Adler addresses the threats of DeepSeek for bioweapons
- Roger Brent & Greg McKelvey published a *RAND* [working paper](#) on how contemporary AI foundation models increase biological weapons risk
- This [article](#) by Gertrude Hattoh et al. analyses whether large language models can design biological weapons

Other publications of interest

- In this [EUNPDC paper](#) Kolja Brockmann discusses the Australia Group at 40
- UNICIRI published a [Toolkit](#) on Effective CBRN planning and response for policymakers and CBRN Managers
- The *NIOSH* published a [handbook](#) on new and emerging chemical and radiological hazards information identified during a recent hazard assessment
- Iris Magne et al. published a [paper](#) on Collaborative, Collective, and Integrative International CBRN security education
- Jean Pascal Zanders published a historical note on the [1925 Geneva Protocol](#)

Coming up!

- [Working Group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention](#), Sixth session, Geneva, 11 Aug - 22 Aug 2025
- [One Hundred and Tenth Session of the Executive Council](#), The Hague, 7 - 10 Oct. 2025
- [Annual Training Programme on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction](#), hosted by the Asser Institute, The Hague, 13 - 17 October 2025

- [Thirtieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties](#), The Hague, 24 -28 Nov. 2025
- [Working Group on the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention](#), Seventh session, Geneva, 8 Dec - 12 Dec 2025
- [BWC 2025 Meeting of States Parties](#), Geneva, 15 Dec - 17 Dec 2025



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