

Administration of Donald J. Trump, 2018

Joint Statement by the United States, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom on the Nerve Agent Attack in Salisbury, United Kingdom

March 15, 2018

We, the leaders of France, Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom, abhor the attack that took place against Sergei and Yulia Skripal in Salisbury, United Kingdom, on March 4, 2018. A British police officer who was also exposed in the attack remains seriously ill, and the lives of many innocent British citizens have been threatened. We express our sympathies to them all, and our admiration for the United Kingdom police and emergency services for their courageous response. This use of a military-grade nerve agent, of a type developed by Russia, constitutes the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War. It is an assault on the United Kingdom's sovereignty and any such use by a state party is a clear violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and a breach of international law. It threatens the security of us all. The United Kingdom thoroughly briefed its allies that it was highly likely that Russia was responsible for the attack. We share the United Kingdom's assessment that there is no plausible alternative explanation, and note that Russia's failure to address the legitimate request by the government of the United Kingdom further underlines Russia's responsibility. We call on Russia to address all questions related to the attack in Salisbury. Russia should, in particular, provide full and complete disclosure of the Novichok program to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Our concerns are also heightened against the background of a pattern of earlier irresponsible Russian behavior. We call on Russia to live up to its responsibilities as a member of the U.N. Security Council to uphold international peace and security.

NOTE: The joint statement referred to Nick Bailey, a detective sergeant in the Wiltshire Police department who was hospitalized following the attack in Salisbury. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Categories: Joint Statements : France, Germany, and United Kingdom, nerve agent attack in Salisbury, U.K.

Names: Bailey, Nick; Skripal, Sergei Viktorovich; Skripal, Yulia Sergeevna.

Subjects: Arms and munitions : Chemical and biological weapons; Chemical Weapons, Organisation for the Prohibition of; Russia : Attempted assassination of former intelligence operative in Salisbury, United Kingdom; United Kingdom : Attempted assassination of former intelligence operative in Salisbury; United Nations : Security Council.

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