



By: TA | AP Brief

# The use of prohibited chemical weapons by the Russian military had become standardized



Two Dutch intelligence agencies said that Russia is increasing its use of prohibited chemical weapons in Ukraine, including the World War I-era poison gas chloropicrin.

The Netherlands' military intelligence and the security service, together with the German intelligence service, found that the use of prohibited chemical weapons by the Russian **military** had become "standardized and commonplace" in Ukraine.

According to the findings, the Russian military uses chloropicrin and riot control agent CS against sheltering Ukrainian soldiers, who are then forced out into the open and shot.

Dutch Defense Minister Ruben Brekelmans called for more sanctions against Moscow, and continued military support for Kyiv.

Brekelmans, who stayed on in a caretaker role after the Dutch government **collapsed** last month, said that he doesn't want to see the use of chemical weapons become normalized.

Lowering the threshold for use "is not only dangerous for Ukraine, but also for the rest of Europe and the world," he said in a statement.

## Several incidents in Ukraine

Russia has signed up to the Chemical Weapons Convention, which bans the use of chloropicrin and CS as weapons.

The convention's watchdog, The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, or OPCW, has found several **incidents** in Ukraine involving CS, but the group hasn't conducted a full investigation, which must be requested by the member states.

The executive committee for the OPCW is holding a regular meeting next week, where it's expected to discuss the conflict in Ukraine.

Russian authorities didn't immediately comment on the findings, but they have denied using chemical weapons in the past, instead alleging that Ukraine has used the

banned substances.

According to Ukraine, Russia has carried out 9,000 chemical weapons attacks in the country since the start of the full-scale invasion in 2022.

In 2024, the U.S. State Department said that it had **recorded** the use of chloropicrin against Ukrainian troops.