

### **DETERRENCE RESET: PROSPECTS FOR WMD ATTRIBUTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE POST-CW USE WORLD**

Performer: Center for Strategic and International Studies

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FY17-18

#### **ABSTRACT:**

The Center for Strategic and International Studies proposes to deliver a 12-month study on the prospective use of legal and institutional mechanisms to identify and hold accountable the perpetrators of WMD attacks – such as the chemical weapons attacks in Syria and the Middle East – and the implications of such mechanisms for deterrence, nonproliferation, and stability.

The study will review the international community's response to the use of chemical weapons (CW) in the ongoing Syrian conflict and Iraq, to examine the capacity of international institutions to identify and hold any state and/or non-state actors perpetrating, organizing, or sponsoring WMD accountable; explore the legal mechanisms by which justice can be pursued post-attribution; and capture the lessons of repeated use of chemicals as weapons in Syria and Iraq for the broader nonproliferation regime. Using interviews and two workshops, the project will produce and test a matrix of accountability frameworks and the WMD/WME and actors to which those frameworks might be applicable. It will result in a 30-40-page paper and a multimedia video.

The study will serve a public purpose by convening senior humanitarian, legal, and nonproliferation experts not typically involved in WMD discussions, as well as raising the general public's awareness of the steps being taken at the international level to hold those responsible for the chemical weapons attacks in the Middle East accountable.

*Research in Progress* describes ongoing PASCC research. For more information please contact [INSS@usafa.edu](mailto:INSS@usafa.edu).