



Media Note  
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## Albania – First Country to Destroy All Of Its Chemical Weapons

We are pleased to note that on 11 July 2007, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) confirmed the destruction of the entire chemical weapons stockpile in Albania assisted and funded by the United States. Costs were approximately 48 million dollars.

Albania is the first nation to completely and verifiably destroy all of its chemical weapons by eliminating in total 16,678 kilograms of chemical warfare agent. The Albanian stockpile included mustard, lewisite, adamsite, and chloroacetophenone. The United States assisted with and funded the destruction operations under the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. The State Department Nonproliferation and Disarmament Funds paid for site security upgrades.

This chemical weapons destruction campaign was conducted to fulfill Albania's obligations under the multilateral Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Any State Party to the CWC that possesses chemical weapons is obligated to declare and destroy them. Destruction is verified on-site by OPCW inspectors.

In total, six States Parties have declared and secured over 71,000 metric tons of chemical warfare agents. As of June 2007, over 33% of that total has been destroyed under international monitoring. The CWC requires that all chemical weapons stockpiles are to be destroyed by 2012.

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