

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
FOR H.R. 4909  
OFFERED BY MR. YOHO OF FLORIDA**

Page 520, after line 9, insert the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

3 (1) as a result of over five years of civil war in  
4 the Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian deaths have  
5 climbed to more than 250,000 deaths, and more  
6 than 6,000,000 Syrians have been displaced;

7 (2) The United Nations Mission to Investigate  
8 Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the  
9 Syrian Arab Republic released its report on Sep-  
10 tember 16, 2013, confirming that surface-to-surface  
11 rockets containing the nerve agent Sarin were used  
12 in the Ghouta area of Damascus on August 21,  
13 2013, an attack which killed over 1,400 people ac-  
14 cording to a United States Government assessment;

15 (3) the Organization for the Prohibition of  
16 Chemical Weapons (hereafter in this section referred  
17 to as “OPCW”) Executive Council adopted a deci-  
18 sion on September 27, 2013, which required Syria to

1       destroy its chemical weapons program by June 30,  
2       2014;

3           (4) a White House statement on August 18,  
4       2014, marking the end of chemical weapons destruc-  
5       tion operations on the MV Cape Ray said that “seri-  
6       ous questions remain with respect to the omissions  
7       and discrepancies in Syria’s declaration to the  
8       OPCW and about continued allegations of use”;

9           (5) chlorine gas attacks in northern Syria have  
10       been repeatedly reported since mid-April 2014;

11          (6) although chlorine is not required to be de-  
12       clared or destroyed under the Chemical Weapons  
13       Convention, its use in warfare is still prohibited  
14       under the Convention;

15          (7) the OPCW established a Fact-Finding Mis-  
16       sion to investigate allegations of the use of  
17       weaponized chlorine;

18          (8) in the OPCW’s second report released on  
19       September 10, 2014, the investigators concluded  
20       they have “compelling confirmation” that a toxic  
21       chemical was used “systematically and repeatedly”  
22       as a weapon against villages in northern Syria and  
23       that “chlorine, either pure or in mixture” was used  
24       in attacks on the villages of Talmanes, Al Tamanah,  
25       and Kafr Zeta;

1           (9) on March 6, 2015, the United Nations Se-  
2           curity Council adopted Resolution 2209 (2015), con-  
3           demning the use of chlorine gas as a weapon in  
4           Syria and that those responsible for the use of chem-  
5           ical weapons including chlorine must be held ac-  
6           countable;

7           (10) in a June 16, 2015, hearing of the House  
8           Foreign Affairs Committee, United States Perma-  
9           nent Representative to the United Nations,  
10          Samantha Power, testified that there are alarming  
11          and grave reports that the Assad regime has been  
12          turning chlorine into a chemical weapon;

13          (11) Secretary of State John Kerry stated on  
14          June 16, 2015, that he was “absolutely certain”  
15          that the Assad regime has used chlorine against his  
16          people;

17          (12) despite the adoption of United Nations Se-  
18          curity Council Resolution 2209, the Assad regime  
19          has continued its chlorine attacks;

20          (13) chemical weapons, including chlorine, are  
21          but one of the many heinous and violent methods  
22          with which the Assad regime kills its own citizens;

23          (14) barrel bombs dropped from helicopters are  
24          the primary method of delivery for the Assad re-  
25          gime’s chemical weapons; and

1           (15) the Assad regime’s control over Syrian air-  
2           space facilitates his regime’s use of chlorine gas  
3           against his citizens.

4           (b) CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS.—

5           (1) The Congress condemns the Assad regime  
6           for its atrocities against the Syrian people, including  
7           its use of chlorine as a weapon.

8           (2) The Congress condemns the use of any toxic  
9           chemical, including chlorine, as a weapon in the Syr-  
10          ian Arab Republic.

11          (3) It is the sense of Congress that those who  
12          have engaged in such unlawful actions should be  
13          held accountable by the international community and  
14          the Congress urges the President to report to Con-  
15          gress on the use of chemical weapons, including  
16          chlorine, in Syria.

17          (4) It is the sense of Congress that no party in  
18          Syria should use, develop, produce, acquire, stock-  
19          pile, retain, or transfer chemical weapons, including  
20          weapons employing chlorine.

21          (5) It is the sense of Congress that the Presi-  
22          dent of the United States should continue offering  
23          material support to appropriate programs and indi-  
24          viduals collecting evidence of the use of chemical  
25          weapons inside of Syria.

1           (6) It is the sense of Congress that the Presi-  
2           dent of the United States should assist in the cata-  
3           loguing and preservation of evidence of use and re-  
4           sponsibility of use of chemical weapons.

5           (7) It is the sense of Congress that the Presi-  
6           dent of the United States should facilitate the future  
7           transfer of evidence of the use of chemical weapons  
8           to an appropriate legal forum for use in prosecuting  
9           those responsible for the illegal use of chemical  
10          weapons.

