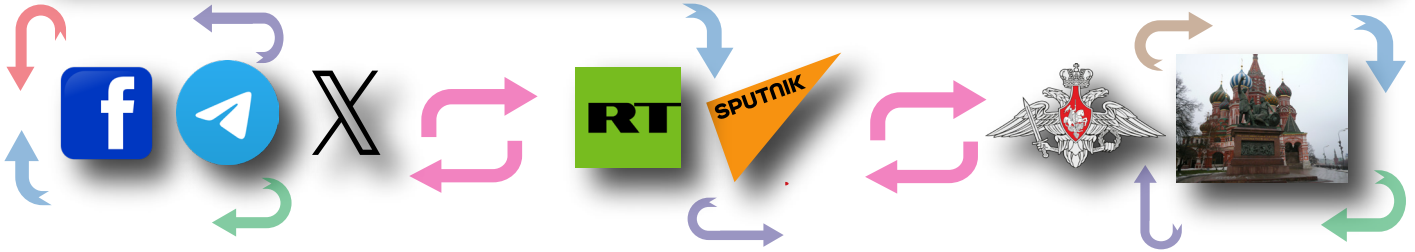


# RUSSIAN INFORMATION MANIPULATION ABOUT CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Russia uses its full disinformation ecosystem to spread falsehoods about chemical weapons—both its own use and claims of other states parties violating the Chemical Weapons Convention.



This disinformation ecosystem includes: Russian bots, trolls, state-run media commentators, and official government accounts using multiple social media platforms to amplify and proliferate their misleading messages.

Russia also relies on its official platforms on the world stage to spread its falsehoods, including through its embassies around the world, statements from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and its representatives at forums like meetings at the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which they regularly use for political theater.

## SYRIA

Russia came to the aid of its Syrian ally after it used chemical weapons. At meetings of the OPCW, the international organization responsible for implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention, Russia's official representatives attempted to deceive other States Parties about Syria's actions, distort facts on the ground about Syria's use of chemical weapons, and undermine international efforts to hold Syria accountable.

## NOVICHOK

Russia used novel chemical weapons such as Novichok as a tool of political assassination and then flooded the information environment with lies to attempt to deflect blame and deny it had violated the CWC.



OPCW



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## UKRAINE

Russia has repeatedly blamed Ukraine, without providing concrete evidence, of using chemical weapons as part of the Kremlin's effort to justify its illegal and brutal invasion and attempt to fracture alliances opposing Russia.

Russia's repeated claims that Ukraine is violating the CWC – claims for which it offers no proof – sets the stage for Russian use of chemical weapons in Ukraine combined with "false flag" operations to deny Moscow has violated the CWC.



## IMPLICATIONS OF RUSSIAN MANIPULATED INFORMATION ABOUT CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Russia's manipulation of the information environment in support of chemical weapon violations by itself and its allies, and repeated false claims of Ukraine use and development of chemical weapons, undermines the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the universally held norm against their use.