

Indonesia moves to ban chemical weapons

by UPI

JAKARTA - The Indonesian government plans to bring its laws in line with the Chemical Weapon Convention it ratified in 1998, an official said Wednesday.

Industry Minister Fahmi Idris told reporters after a meeting of a special committee on the draft law that the government wants to implement the convention, Antara News Service reported.

"We already have various regulations on the use of hazardous chemicals but do not have a regulation on the use of chemicals as weapons," he said.

Indonesia, which has a number of factories manufacturing fertilizer, produces phosphor and other chemicals that can be used on weapons. Idris said the country has never made chemical weapons.

The law would regulate the use and shipping of chemicals, require companies to report on their production, shipping and storage of chemicals, and set up cooperation with other countries to track chemical weapons.

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