

Germany investigates chemical material exports to Syria

German authorities are investigating unauthorized chemical material exports by German companies and their partners to Syria, which were allegedly used by Syrian government forces to carry out chemical attacks against civilians. The Swiss company Novartis said it had granted a Syrian pharmaceutical company called Mediterranean Pharmaceutical Industries (MPI) contract-manufacturing and local distribution rights for products such as the pain relief skin gel Voltaren. Novartis noted that while it supplied the active ingredient for the product in 2014, it was MPI's responsibility to procure other ingredients such as isopropanol or diethylamine and that the Swiss group played no role in that.