

Oranizations Panel



Prof. Mohammed Daud Miraki, Afghanistan

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For more than two decades, Afghan people have endured many tragedies, only to be condemned to a perpetual death by the United States of America.

Initially, the former Soviet Union and their installed puppet regime have murdered more than 1.5 million Afghans, littered the country with more than 15 million mines that take Afghan lives every day. It followed by the infighting among the warlords and the former communist regime militias further adding to the misery of our people. People lost their lives along with



their dignity and self-respect in the past two decades. With the emergence of Taliban, the reactionary force that dealt severe blow to the local bandits and warlords, the cycle of death did not. Afghans faced a much disastrous future when they were condemned to the silent genocide of uranium weapons. In fact, the conspiracy of the elite in the United States not only resulted in the deadly attacks of September the 11th, 2001 followed by the invasion of Afghanistan, but also it has begun to tell the world that the use of nuclear weapons is as commonplace as conventional arsenal.

It is necessary to reflect on this and other tragedies in the current global anarchy because we are facing a global menace eager to use any means to reach its evil ends. The significance of this period in human history becomes evident when one encompasses the magnitude of the disaster imposed on people who chose not to be enslaved in the chains of the New World Order. In essence, the United States responds to rejections from weak nations, such as Afghanistan, through the means of Weapons of Mass Destruction and the accompanying perpetual death condemning entire nations forever. After all, in the few billion years required for the half life of uranium, the existence of nations as we know them today is inconceivable, because at the present rate the speed of contamination by far exceeds any hopes of recover. Especially, when the contamination consists of the Weapons of Mass Destruction, uranium.

Afghan people have been condemned for being different, courageous and have the dignity for self-determination, which is something quite foreign to the coward establishment of the USA and her allies. The truth of this matter becomes evident from the following statement by one of the victims of US' aggression:

"What else do the Americans want? They killed us, they turned our newborns into horrific deformations, and they turned our farmlands into graveyards and destroyed our homes. On top of all that their planes fly over and spray us with bullets. We have nothing to lose; we will fight against them the same way we fought against the previous monster [the former Soviet Union]" (Sa'yed Gharib, April 2003)

The courage this poor peasant exhibited is a priceless commodity that you would not find on the New York Stock Exchange. In fact, the uranium weapons may physically disable Afghans of all ages; but it will never cripple their determination to uphold their sovereignty and self-respect.

Unfortunately, the pain that these poor souls endure is not lost amidst the heroism they exhibit daily. They live in utter devastation, wherein one in five children do not make it to their fifth birthday, while the average life expectancy for adults stands at 45. As if all this misery was not enough, the US and its criminal allies had to subject the entire nation to a collective death sentence, a tragedy from which recovery is unimaginable. Moreover, to add insult to injury, the global menace had to call this genocide--"liberation".

The bunker buster bombs contaminated the underground water system, upon which locals rely, especially, in times of drought. Afghans inherited large number of cave systems from generations ago and were part of the daily livelihood and sustenance of communities all over the country. Similarly, various mountain ranges constitute extensions of local ecosystems. Local populations depend on these mountains for water, wood and even cultivation. Some people even cultivate some arable lands in the lower steppes of some of the mountain ranges. This is especially the case

in the southeast and east of the country, part of the Pashtun (Afghan) land where large mountain ranges dominate the land. Therefore, it is impossible for the inhabitants of those areas to avoid exposure to the deadly contaminants. Tragically, the continuous air raids on suspected “hideouts” of Afghan resistance forces, subject locals to daily dose of “fresh” uranium dust.

With this in mind, there are two issues that require attention. First, the continuous bombing has to stop, which is essentially wishful thinking on our part. Bombing and air raids of different types would continue as long as there are resistant fighters challenging US’ crimes. Second, something has to be done to eventually pave the way for some sort of ameliorative action, if any, for the survival of the current inhabitants, and long term prospects of safety of future generations.

This second issue compelled me to form Afghan DU & Recovery Fund, with hopes of paving the way for some sort of ‘cleanup’. However, I know this that it is impossible to have complete cleanup for contaminants that are susceptible to wind patterns, snow and rain water.

Meanwhile, the planning process for such massive undertaking requires a continuous influx of data, which would serve as the feedback mechanism for any strategy we choose to adopt. Eventually, a dynamic database would prove to be invaluable. To achieve such a database, I propose the instillation of permanent monitoring devices initially in the ‘hot spots’, followed by instillation of such monitoring stations all over Afghanistan; this, we believe, to be the most sensible initial steps toward a long term amelioration efforts.

The significance of such database would appear lame at the outset. However, the long-term benefits would not only be crucial for any cleanup, but also would serve as a wealth of epidemiological information, necessary data bank for researchers worldwide. Unfortunately, any such undertaking requires funding, which is quite difficult at this time because most potential donors follow the “flow”, namely demands of the US government.

Finally, let me focus on the relevance of international institutions at the current crossroad in history. At the present time, international institutions and international law are considered worthless dealing with poor nations and their claims of injustice. In fact, a world institution such as the United Nations has become a mere approval stamp for the United States and other

powerful nations. In light of these fundamental global changes, the poor nations should grant no credence to the notion of international law and United Nations because the survival of poor nations is taken hostage by this global fallacy, namely the United Nations as we see it today. It is my firm opinion that it is not a prerequisite to be a strong nation, militarily speaking, to stand for one’s rights. If the New World Order has institutionalized this new Paradigm of Forced Socioeconomic Underdevelopment, it has failed to fully hinder avenues whereby the weak could contest its grievance. The grassroots movements worldwide with the assistance of Internet as the medium of communication could raise the voices of weak nations effectively. As it is evident today from our activities at this conference.

Since the use of uranium weapons has undoubtedly affected all aspects of Afghan society, its people and their habitat, a mere struggle of resistance is not enough, because the use of uranium weapons entails the perpetual condemnation of an entire nation to a silent death. A death that would linger upon us for generations to come, the most precious of our possession, the children of Afghanistan would be the worst of the victims in this tragedy.

What is all this genocide for, simply to gain wealth? That is the manifestation of true evil, a practice fitting for Lucifer, the Satan. Unfortunately, the current global menace, the United States of America, has chosen to be that Lucifer aimed at mass murdering nations.

Sincerely,

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Thank you very much. I am from Hiroshima. I represent the group by the name of „No DU Hiroshima Project.“ As maybe some of you are aware that the notion of a „hibakusha“ -- hibakusha in Japanese means the radiation victims, and this Japanese expression has been used of course in relation to Hiroshima and Nagasaki for many years. But recently this notion has been widened in such a way that it can cover all the radiation victims, at various for example nuclear test sites, and uranium mining sites, and also, during the [two Gulf, Afghanistan and Balkans] wars.

So, in that sense, the anti-DU campaign has become one of the focal points in the peace campaign in Japan, especially in Hiroshima. And, of course the peace campaign based in Hiroshima has been centered around the anti-nuclear movement, but as you know, even in Hiroshima and in Japan for a long time there has been sort of a „split“ in

the peace campaign concerning the nuclear issues because of the difference in political ideology. As you know some people used to say that the nuclear weapons possessed by the Communist Parties are „good“ nuclear weapons. So, because of that there has been a very serious conflict in the anti-nuclear campaign in Hiroshima.

But, there has been also an attempt to overcome this split, and now we in Hiroshima, there is a new coalition which is called „Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition,“ and this „No-DU Hiroshima Project“ is a group which consists of members of this Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Abolition and some other groups. So, this is a new group which has been brought into being because of our understanding there, that there has to be a group, the purpose of which is really focused on the DU issue. So that's why we started „No-DU Hiroshima Project.“

Nobuo Kazashi, NO DU Hiroshima Project, Japan

And this anti-DU campaign has been led by some pioneering works by Japanese photographers and journalists and film makers, such as for example, Mr. [Takashi] Morizumi whose photos have been shown at the [Conference] entrance; and also Mr. Kamanaka, whose new documentary called, „Hibakusha -- at the End of the World,“ has been very popular in Japan. And also, thanks to for example the Iraqi doctors – Dr. [Jawad] Al-Ali and Dr. [Hassan] Gennan, coming to Hiroshima. And Dr. Al-Ali, he came to Hiroshima, Japan even twice. And also, in addition to that, for example people like Mr. Dai Williams came to Hiroshima to give a talk on DU. So, our Campaign is a sort of a condensation of these sort of xxx movements converging on Hiroshima, and our sort of reaction to the radiation problem caused by DU.

And because of the time limit just let me mention one of the activities in which we have been involved. Just before the [2003] Iraq war started, just like all over the world, there has been a very strong anti-war campaign in Japan as well, and on March 2nd this year [2003] about 6,000 people came to Hiroshima from all over the Japan to form this „No War – No DU“ human message [aerial photograph shown]. This is a message formed by about 6,000 people in a park near the atomic bomb [ground zero site]. And we formed this human message not only as a anti-nuclear message, but, in order to put an opinion ad in one of the major American newspapers and which we could manage to do on March 24th. We wanted to make a full-page opinion ad, but we needed to put it out as soon as possible in order to, as you know...but what we wanted was to stop the war. So, what we put in was a half-page opinion ad in the New York Times on March 24th. We stated very clearly, „Hiroshima says, ‘NO!’ to more Hibakusha!“

The [U.S.] White House’s denial of the radioactive and toxic effects of DU weapons is false. And, we had a rather immediate reaction to this opinion ad from both the United States government and the American media. Let me just mention them very quickly. As you know on the White House home page as early as July of this year [2003] the argument appeared which claims that the anti-DU campaign is propaganda, sort of induced by the [Saddam] Hussein government,

right?. It is still posted, and it is still even on the home page of the American Embassy in Japan. I think it is the same easier the American Embassy in your country, which has been translated into Japanese and other languages, and this did appear already as early as January.

But after our opinion ad appeared, and another sort of counter argument from the White House, of the U.S. government appeared on the home page of the Dept. of State, which says, for example, „It’s side of the DU argument mis-examined; Iraq never allowed a follow-up investigation.“ So this kind of arguments full of lies are still posted on the home page of the White House. I think we should not let them go, and criticize. What we need is to bring into light, and continue to bring into light. We’d like to ask the journalists all over the world to join in this attempt.

Nonetheless, in concluding let me mention, on the other hand, there was a very clear, strong positive reaction coming out of the American media to. For example, the Los Angeles Times sent us an e-mail, asking if we want to put another opinion ad in the Los Angeles Times. Of course we could not do it; we needed much money, but the war already started, but I don’t think it was just for the sake of the business on the side of the Los Angeles Times. As a matter of fact, on March 30th and 31st, there were editorials and commentaries, very critical about the DU issue came out in the Los Angeles Times.

So, I think we tended to be critical toward the American media, but I think this is a sign, that inside even the major American media, there are people concerned about the DU issue. So, what we need to do is provide solid information, not in a sporadic way, but we need to raise our voices together, continuously, never giving up.

And one last thing. There is a saying that, „The first casualty of war is truth.“ I think which means that the government needs to tell lies in order to start a war. So, I think we are forced to live in the midst of really gigantic, unbelievable lies. And I think some time ago, the European journalists wrote an article under the name of, „Lies of the Millennium.“ That is to say, the kind of argument that the United States

is giving to the world are lies of the Millennium – the biggest lies of the Millennium. So, I think we should keep trying to bring into light their lies.

Thank you very much.



Rae Street, CADU, GB

WORLD DU/UW CONFERENCE, HAMBURG GERMANY, 17 OCTOBER 2003



Thank you very much. I am Rae Street from CADU, which stands for quite obviously, the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium. I want to start with the idea of cooperation in campaigning, and I will end on that too.

I also belong -- have several hats on in Britain -- and I belong to CND, which has this famous symbol, which most of you from other countries know as the "peace symbol." And, I am actually wearing the T-shirt of the group down in Tucson, Arizona, United States -- "Ban DU!" -- because it's the Ratheon Factory there that actually manufactures these dreadful munitions.

CADU started in 1999. It was launched then because of a moving meeting we had with Felicity Arbuthnot who's here today, who told us about

the conditions in Iraq, and the suffering of the children, and we had Gulf War vets and the meeting was actually organized by the Fire Brigades Union. It's worth remembering that the trade unions have never been mentioned in this conference today, and they are very concerned about this material and the munitions.

I wanted, and a group of us from CND wanted to raise awareness. We were horrified about this, and we thought to ourselves, why hadn't we taken note of this before. So, we set about forming a group and raising awareness. And as campaigners, we used all the tools we knew about, you know about: posters, exhibitions, gathering resources and information. You can find all that; I don't want to take up my time now telling you about that. I've got the sheet which has our website; you can find out all the materials we've got.

One of the things which was always important in our campaigning was to gain the overall political world in which we were working against DU. And very early on we published a very important paper, which I can recommend to you: "DU – and the New World Order." We published that back in '99, and it's just as true today, because depleted uranium weapons are clearly part of the US drive for global power. Many of the speakers have spoken about that, at the Conference, and I don't want to go into that, but you can read the paper.

And I have also written a paper on the place of DU in the US drive for global power and full-spectrum dominance, because I think that the DU munitions have been tested, and proven and are seen by the military of the US as a superior weapon in war. They know they are, by their standards, very effective. An Iraqi survivor said, when he observed in the first Gulf War [1991] when they were used for the first time by the US and the UK, that he actually observed one of these munitions go through and burn up not one tank, but two tanks. It's also a cheap material it's cheap to gain from manufacturing and of course then it makes money for the manufacturers as they sell it back the military. It's also, by some analyses, a radiological weapon, which is actually easing the public consciousness to the actual use of low-yield nuclear weapons in battle.

Given its part in US imperialism, which the UK completely supports under the present government – not the people, but the present leadership of the present government – it's not surprising that we, which I am ashamed of my government, is the only other country to use it. Actually, we use UK don't we? And I hate that term because I don't think we're united, and I'm a Republican, and I don't believe I live in a "kingdom." I use "Britain" very often.

After the presentations you heard before, I am sure that every single person here wants to work for an end to the manufacture, deployment and use of depleted uranium munitions. And so what I want to touch on this afternoon is how we move forward in campaigning, if campaigning means to shift, move public opinion.Phrase was we want to make headway, and that's what all of us want to do. So, let's look at the way we shift, move public opinion.

One thing is to get out the correct information as we see it, which is so often obscured by our governments. We know what; we know how in our modern world they can manipulate public opinion, I mean, just look at the United States – over 60% of the people there believe that Saddam Hussein had something to do with the September 11th attacks. In our world of grand information systems some of our citizens in the world are probably the worst informed in history. So, we have to look at how we can inform public opinion, inform the media. We can do it; we have our ways. We can, of course, use the Internet, and that has been in these last few years a very good source of global exchange of information from peace and justice workers. But, we also have to remember that not everybody has access to that. So we have to look at ways of working in our local communities, and those are the ways you will see as I've listed on our paper; many of you are very familiar with those.

We have to get out information because we are so often tattled about that, on, for example, the science; because, you know, there sometimes seems to be an idea that scientists are pure and good and holy. But, they are not pure and good and holy, scientists, although some of them are very good people. They can be as manipulated by the

politicians as anybody else. And so it's up to us to present and support those scientists who've given us the different tour of information. You heard those appeals from for example, Solange Fernex and from [Dr.] Chris Busby on this whole question of low-level radiation. [applause]

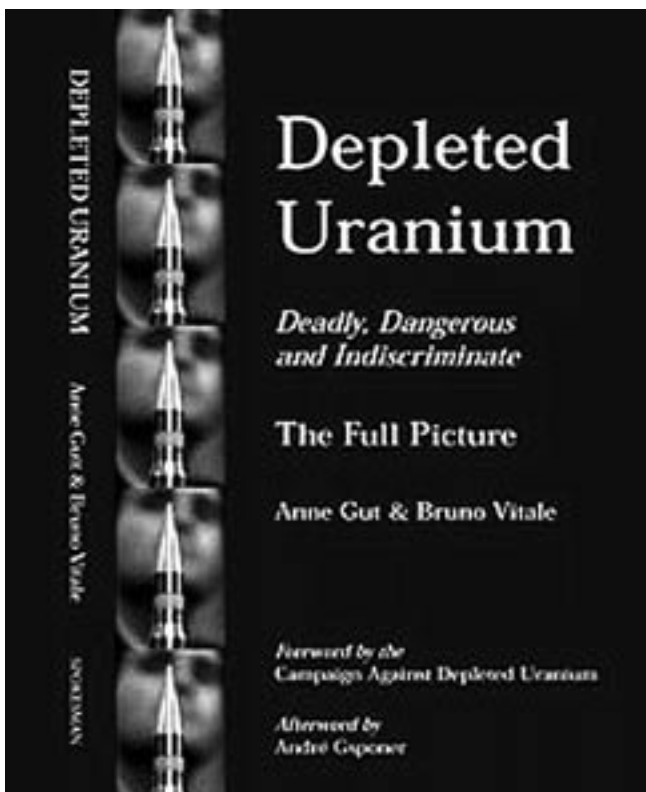
Also, similarly, now here we can appeal to the public, now there's questions of law. If you speak to your neighbor, generally speaking they want to uphold the law. They understand very simple laws; they understand for example, that it is good to observe traffic lights, otherwise you could have complete carnage instead of just the obvious deaths that we accept on the roads. People want to understand international law; so we can help support the lawyers. Also, people do not like to be misled. In Britain the Parliamentarians are furious at being misled. If only they'd listened to peace activists, they wouldn't have been misled.

People... there is a humanitarian instinct in people, and I really want to make this point. This was a shift I think in the last War on Iraq. I think -- and this is because of campaigning organizations -- that the general public in Britain and I think in other countries too for one of the first

times in history realized that, to have a war, even though they all recognized the evil of Saddam Hussein, to have a war on Iraq would make the sufferings of the people worse. And that I think is a shift. People appreciated what was happening to children in Iraq, and the people, because of many things, but particularly [because of] campaigning organizations.

And lastly, lastly, I want to appeal for cooperation, for working together. The success in Britain and in other countries of the huge demonstration again war on the 15th of February was because many, many diverse organizations were prepared to swallow their differences -- and it is difficult, as everybody here knows, it's difficult with political groups, it's difficult with religious groups -- but, on many of the other sections of the population, but they did, and they worked together. And that achieved the great number and diversity of the opposition to the war. So, I want to urge us all, even though we have different views, to work together to gain international cooperation, an international cooperation to end DU; because working together our energies are greater than working singly.

Thank you very much for listening to me.



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DAVEY GARLAND
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17 OCTOBER 2003

Hello. My name is Davey Garland. I'm co-co-ordinator of the Pandora Project. The Pandora Project was set up about 2-½ years ago following the Belgium DU Conference in Brussels. The idea behind the Pandora Project was to create an international information network to distribute information on the DU campaign, but also on related topics where DU is relevant, i.e., within nuclear waste, within testing of DU, within the weapons produced with DU in them; as well as all the other various things, including harassment of DU activists; of veterans; veterans news; etc., etc.

That network grew from about 150 to about 10,000. When I did the bulletin that I produced with my colleagues, and it's not just me, it includes some people in this room, a lot of people who provide information, data, analysis. That analysis comes from veterans, comes from scientists, it comes from activists, and it comes from the broad coalition of people that have come together over these 2-½ years, who are individuals not necessarily aligned to groups but the individuals who are the teeth, the breath, and the guts of the anti-DU movement. You do not need to be in an organization to cause trouble. You can do it on your own. Some people know that here. [applause]

Pandora Project, with its allies came forward to go beyond just the peace movement, and go just beyond the veterans movement. Now we reach the

environmental movement, the anti-globalization movement; we reach some church groups, religious organizations, etc., etc.

I don't have an office; I don't have funding. I don't have any of those things that the larger NGO's have. But, I do have cyberspace. I do have a large network. I go out; I dig; I investigate; and I exploit my natural curiosity with my fellows, who are also in here, one of them includes Piotr Bein, who is as curious about the movement as I am, and about the issues. And those kinds of individuals are again, the source of inspiration for the wider DU movement.

Pandora, like all its other associates, sees the campaign over DU as a matter of information warfare. We are dealing constantly with the issue of truth: who holds the truth; who can distribute the truth and who can try and uncover the truth. We are dealing with a world of misinformation, of cover-up, of lies, and of further misinformation. And I think (can I have a light...Can you hear me now?...okay)

So, the idea is that within the last few years, we have been trying to use this truth to go forward, to create a variety of projects, to create a variety of initiatives that can, as Rae [Street] rightly said: to incorporate and include as many people and audiences as we can around the world.

We have managed and have shown that we don't need a lot of money to get across to the public. We have managed to create a variety of imaginative and creative projects, including a wee comic that some people may have seen outside, which again can make the arguments over DU much more simplistic, much more easy to understand, and so a wider public can understand it.

(Thank you. Don't publicize that too much, otherwise I might get arrested. Thank you. I didn't write that, [the booklet] by the way; it's only allegedly...)

So, basically those projects include such things as that; so more importantly, I think it's trying to back up those who are invisible. As I said, it's the veterans groups, and those victims groups who are unable to sometimes publicize themselves. The Pandora try to do that. We had an exhibition in Scotland a couple of, last year in the Scottish Parliament with the Gulf Veterans in Scotland. That went down very well, and what came of that was a motion in regard, recognizing Gulf War Syndrome.

Another thing that we are doing at the moment, is that we are -- Pandora and a lot of us within the grass-roots movement -- will be getting behind very strongly Nibby [Richard] David, whose campaign and whose legal battle to expose his illnesses associated with exposure to DU is vital because many workers -- and I met some of them down in my part of the world where Nibby is from -- are not here today. Some of them are dead; some of them are very ill; some of them are living in their houses waiting for the bailiffs to come in because they cannot afford to keep themselves going. These people, like Nibby, need all our backing. That is where the movement should be, to back these people. At the same time taking initiatives like Dr. [Mohammed] Miraki's Afghan DU Fund need support; he is struggling to keep going. He needs to kind of publicize what's happening in Afghanistan. It's the same thing about with Felicity Arbothnot's campaign for the child radiation of war campaign which was set up last year.

These things to me, again, are the life and breath of the movement, and must be put forward. Also, is to say very quickly, that I think, if we want to go forward, and we want to really get this information across, then we've got to be creative. That is the biggest tool that we have. You can have all of the computers, you can have all of the money, you can have all of the offices you want. But, unless you think laterally, unless you think creatively, unless you visualize what you're trying to get across to the general public, then no one is going to hear. And Pandora is going to be as creative, as imaginative, and as "trouble-making" and as Dr. [Mohammed] Miraki has said to me just now, to "kick arse" as much as we possible can.

Thank you very much.

TARA THORNTON
MILITARY TOXICS PROJECT, USA
WORLD DU/UW CONFERENCE,
HAMBURG GERMANY
17 OCTOBER 2003

Tara Thornton, Military Toxics Project, USA

Hello. My name is Tara Thornton. I'm the executive director of an organization in the United States called the Military Toxics Project. The Military Toxics Project is an organization that works to unite activists, organizations and communities in the United States that had been adversely impacted by military pollution. Just to give you some perspective, the U.S. military is the worst polluter in the United States. There's over 27,000 toxic "hot-spots" at military sites, 160 of which are on what's called the "national priorities list," or the "Superfund" list, which is the worst toxic dumpsites across the country. So, we have our work cut out for us.

Members of the Military Toxics Project are grass-roots community organizations that live around military bases. So, these are folks that live around military bases that are both active or closed, military production facilities, military weapons producers. We work with military neighbors that live around these facilities; active duty personnel; workers in those factories; and civilian employees that work on military bases as well. So, when we say "grass-roots communities," those are the folks that are impacted.

The Military Toxics Project was formed in 1989. We started working on the issue of depleted uranium in 1993. There was a report that Damacio Lopez from Socorro, New Mexico, and another woman, Grace Petorti (sp?) from Nevada – Damacio was impacted by a site where the depleted uranium was tested; and Grace worked with communities around Fallon, Nevada, where depleted uranium was tested. And they produced a report called, "The Uranium Battlefields At Home and Abroad." And it was the first time really we started to think about depleted uranium weapons after they were used in the Gulf War in 1991, that it's not only the veterans and the civilians in Iraq that have been impacted by depleted uranium, but it's the whole cycle of depleted uranium.

So, we started working with communities that have been impacted around the mining and the milling of uranium, which primarily in the United States is in the Southwest, and primarily on Indigenous lands, Indigenous peoples that have been impacted by the mining and the milling activities.

Then we also work with communities around the enrichment facilities. In the United States there are 3 enrichment facilities: one in Paducah, Kentucky; another one in Portsmouth, Ohio; and another one in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Currently, a company from France is trying to develop another enrichment facility; they just [in 2003] got kicked out of Louisiana; Tennessee has fought them; and now it looks like New Mexico will get even more radioactive pollution, because it probably will end up in New Mexico. So, those are the enrichment facilities.

Then, we work with communities around the production and the manufacturing facilities, the places where the depleted uranium bullets are made; and the shielding on tanks, and the counter weights, and we have actually some members – Gretel Monroe is here from Concord, Massachusetts, where, at Starmet, they made the DU bullets that we used in the Gulf War, the first Gulf War in 1991. But, we also have facilities – General Dynamics, was formerly called Primex, is now General Dynamics, which is still making depleted uranium; and Alliant Technologies. So we have communities living around those facilities that have also been fighting the use of depleted uranium.

Then we work with communities around the test sites of depleted uranium. In the U.S., the Army has 14; NRC -- which is the Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- sites where they can test depleted uranium. And those are sites like Jefferson County Proving Ground in Indiana; Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland; Rareton (sp?) Arsenal in New Jersey; and many others. There are some illegal sites, like the communities in Vieques [Puerto Rico], where supposedly "accidentally," depleted uranium was fired. An interesting point on that just since we're in Germany, that information came out because there was a gentleman named Rainard Knowles (sp?) from Germany,



that asked me about the use of depleted uranium at Grafenwöhr base here in Germany. So I did a Freedom of Information Act request to the military about the use of DU overseas, and they came back and told me it was used in Okinawa, which we knew about since '96; and that it was also fired in Vieques. So, that was another tool for the community in Vieques to use, because they were lied to about the use of depleted uranium there.

And then we go on to use of depleted uranium in the War. So, many of the veterans and civilians who have been impacted by the use of depleted uranium in war. So, I want to say that the Military Toxics [Project] does not speak for these communities. What we do – we're, we fight for environmental justice in these communities because many of those communities are also low-income communities and communities of color that have been adversely impacted by military pollution.

I am not a lawyer; I am not a scientist, or a doctor. So, as an organizer, we work with communities, and we try to figure out what it is we want; and that needs to come from the grass-roots, that needs to come from the bottom up. We figure out who can help us get there, who are our allies in this.

And many of you have seen, we've called for a coalition -- we met with several groups in Brussels before we came here, many of which are

grass-roots organizations, and really felt it was important that we had a strategy coming into this. And we've launched an international coalition to "ban" the use of depleted uranium, or "stop" the use of depleted uranium. I think that's something that's going to be hashed out a little bit more on the wording of that. But we all agree that this is something that we want to stop; we want the use of depleted uranium stopped.

So, I agree with what Rae [Street] has said, also we come here in cooperation; we hope that we can come out of here with one strategy, which is how are we going to get there. We've had a very interesting group of lawyers and doctors and scientists that have spoke to us here; and I hope tomorrow we can come out with a unified platform. I hope that we can have representative from every country involved in this Coalition, and there will be folks hopefully signing people up that want to be more involved in an international Coalition on this, that we can continue work outside of this, after this Conference ends, that this work doesn't stop.

So, thank you.

John Axiak, Malta, For Mother Earth, Belgium

Submitted paper by For Mother Earth about Citizen's Inspection during the organisation presentation session.

What is a citizens' inspector?

The idea of the "citizens inspection" was born some time in 1998, while international attention was focused on the UNSCOM inspections in Iraq. Peace campaigners all over the world were appalled by the fact that while these inspections took place in Iraq, all five permanent members of the UN security Council (China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA) were themselves deploying illegal nuclear weapons of mass destruction in an extremely secretive manner.

Because of the lack of openness about nuclear weapons in these countries, and the absence of UN-inspectors at the sites of nuclear crime, many groups of citizens' decided to take the responsibility of upholding international law, and started citizens war crimes inspections at nuclear related sites around the world.

They found justification for their actions in the international court of Justice's (the judicial organ of the United Nations) advisory opinion on the legality of the Treat or Use of Nuclear Weapons. The court concluded that:

- The treat or use of a nuclear weapon goes against international and humanitarian law regulations the conduct of warfare
- It's use is generally illegal (the ICJ could find no cases when the use of a nuclear weapon could be justified)
- The Nuremberg Principles apply to nuclear weapons
- Reaffirmed the fact that under Article VI of the non proliferation treaty and other international laws states are obliged to disarm their nuclear stockpiles and not to test new nuclear weaponry.

The Nuremberg Principles

The Nuremberg principles were drawn up following the Nazi War Crime Tribunals following the atrocities of World War II. The ICJ opinion identified that the Nuremberg Principles would also apply to nuclear weapons.

Principle I Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefore and liable to punishment.



Principle IV The fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.

Mandate

In accordance with the 1968 treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the ICJ's advisory opinion on nuclear weapons and the Nuremberg principles a mandate for citizen's inspection has been set-up.

The mandate authorizes concerned citizens to conduct on-site inspections in facilities suspected of harboring nuclear weapons in countries who have ratified the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. In general, citizens' inspectors have the right to inspect declared and undeclared sites, bases and facilities suspected of harboring nuclear weapons or related materials; to take possession for destruction; removal or rendering harmless of all nuclear weapons and related sub-systems and components and research, development, support and manufacturing facilities; and to monitor and verify States Parties' compliance with their obligations not to conduct further research, testing,

development, construction, acquisition, deployment or use of new nuclear weapons or to retain nuclear weapons on their territory.

Sign the mandate at

<http://www.motherearth.org/nuke/inspection2.php>

Citizens' Inspectors in Action

One of the goals as citizens' inspectors is to gather as much evidence as possible that relates the site being inspected with nuclear weaponry.

A mean of achieving this goals is to interview military personnel inside the base. The personnel are questioned about their knowledge concerning nuclear weapons being stored inside the base. When the personnel fail to cooperate we mention international laws and treaties that prohibit nuclear weapons.

If permission is not granted by the authorities to inspect the facility, citizens' inspectors gain access to the facility by trespassing into the facility. While inside inspectors walk around the base and record any machinery installation that is possibly linked to the stockpiling, manufacturing or deploying of weapons of mass destruction.

The story so far...

Hundreds of Citizens' Inspections have been held around the world. Perhaps one of the most famous citizens' inspection was the Rooting Out Evil campaign held by a team of weapons citizens inspectors in the United States. The rooting out evil campaign was conducted when the US and UK governments were preparing for the illegal war in Iraq.

On the 6th of October 2003, eleven inspectors entered into Lakenheath military air base in Great Britain. All inspectors were arrested while walking around the base and interviewing military personnel inside.

A list of citizens' inspections that happened around the world in recent times is being compiled. See <http://www.motherearth.org/nuke/inspectbook1.php#4>

What will happen next?

In April 2004 government delegates will meet in New York to prepare for the 2005 non proliferation review conference. A report from citizens' inspectors will be present to the delegates as part of the NGO presentation to the meeting.

For Mother Earth has inspected Volkel (Netherlands), Buchel (Germany) and Lakenheath (England). A report on the inspection at Volkel air base can be found at <http://www.motherearth.org/nuke/volkel.php> Reports on Buchel and Lakenheath airbases are still being written. For Mother Earth has the intention to inspect military sites at Aviano (Italy) and Araxos (Turkey). All of the air bases are suspected of harboring nuclear weapons.

How to support citizens' inspectors?

Support Declaration

"anyone with knowledge of illegal activity and an opportunity to do something about it is a potential criminal under international law unless the person takes affirmative measures to prevent the commission of crimes" (Tokyo War Crimes Trial Tribunal)

Citizens' inspection are willing to go to court and justify the unauthorised (only by local law) inspection that they would have held in facilities suspected of harboring nuclear weapons.

Citizens Inspection in Büchel, Germany 2003





Citizens Inspection in Büchel, Germany 2003

Many people are concerned about nuclear weapons by not everyone is willing to sacrifice getting arrested. We ask those concerned citizens to support citizens' inspections by donating money to the Bomspotting campaign (at least one euro) through a bank account. If money is transferred by bank, people who do a bank transfer show that they are legally an accomplice with citizens' inspectors.

Citizens' Inspection and Depleted Uranium

On the 2nd April 2003, 28 Minnesotans (USA) "crossed the line," entering the world headquarters property of Alliant TechSystems Corporation in Edina with the express purpose of conducting a "citizens weapons inspection." The defendants contended that there is significant evidence that the depleted uranium penetrator munitions produced by ATK containing U-238, a radioactive substance with a half-life of 4.5 billion years, is a prime suspect in escalating rates of cancers and birth defects among residents of southern Iraq and US troops who served in the first Gulf War.

The inspectors found justification in their action through international law. The Geneva and Hague conventions are clear that weapons that cannot discriminate between military personnel

and civilian targets cannot be used in warfare. Because of its radioactivity Depleted Uranium cannot discriminate between legitimate and illegitimate targets, therefore its use is illegal in warfare.

The verdict on the case of the 28 Minnesotans will be heard on the 17th October 2003. The court ruled that all 28 Minnesotans are NOT GUILTY of conducting a citizen weapons inspection by trespassing into corporate property.

John LaForge, USA

NUKEWATCH, Wisconsin

A very special thanks goes to John LaForge who did not present at the Conference to give space to all the other important anti-uranium weapons organizations. In August 2003, John participated in our summer bike tour of U.S. and German military bases and U.S. ammunition depots in Germany at Ramstein, Spangdahlem and Büchel, and elsewhere which deploy U.S. nuclear weapons and DU ammunitions -- where we met citizen initiatives and conducted inspections for illegal weapons of mass destruction.

In a one month, 14 stop speaking tour throughout Germany, John informed people about the danger of uranium weapons, and also about the anti-nuclear and anti-war movements and activities

in the US. After his tour he joined the Hamburg Conference Organizing Committee and worked hard to make the Conference a big success. During the Conference he facilitated the Veteran and Civilian Effects workshop when his expertise was needed.

John also raised 14 EUROS for the Conference playing solo trumpet under a train bridge in Hamburg – where he was almost arrested for disturbing the peace.

We publish here the Inspection Report we wrote with John about our “inspection” of the US Spangdahlem Air Force military base:



28 August 2003

CIVIL INSPECTORS DENIED ENTRY AT SPANGDAHLEM AIR FORCE BASE:

POSSESSION AND USE OF ILLEGAL WEAPONS, VIOLATIONS OF AIR FORCE LAW AT ISSUE

U.S. AIR FORCE BASE, SPANGDAHLEM, Germany, August 28, 2003 – An international team of nine civil weapons inspectors, concerned about the illegal use of poisoned weapons by the U.S. Air Force, today requested permission to enter the U.S. Air Force base at Spangdahlem. The group had earlier asked in writing to meet on 28 August with the base commander, Colonel Stephen Mueller.

The goal of the inspection was to receive confirmation from Col. Mueller that U.S. and German military personnel have been informed of the health and environmental hazards and the illegal status of uranium weapons – sometimes called depleted uranium. The inspectors brought with them information on the laws of war, and U.S. Air Force rules binding on U.S. pilots. Because the uranium weapons are made of toxic heavy metal and long-lived radiological contaminants, they are illegal under U.S. Air Force law and international laws and customs of war that forbid the use of poison or poisoned weapons.

The team also intended to hold surprise interviews with Air Force personnel about their understanding of uranium weapon's hazards. Additionally, some inspectors hoped to conduct a general inspection of the possible storage of heavy "bunker buster" weapons -- suspected of containing large amounts of uranium -- since information on the storage of these weapons is generally kept secret by the military.

The Inspection:

The civilian inspectors -- representing Swedish, U.S. and German peace and environmental groups -- were met by German security troops who are employed at Spangdahlem only as military police protecting base operations. The inspectors interviewed a German soldier who at first said he didn't know about uranium weapons. The soldier later said he had heard about the hazards of uranium weapons, admitted that he would not like to protect weapons of mass destruction (WMD), but asked what he could possibly do about them and whether the team would seriously expect him to give up his income, to desert his military service. He was informed that disobedience of illegal orders would be his duty

under international law. He was also asked what he thinks about that these uranium WMD just recently used against Iraq -- falsely accused of still having ABC- WMD -- and about the Iraqi soldiers who were told by U.S. authorities to desert from their Army. The interview was stopped by the soldier's superior officer who ordered the gate closed, and directed the team to the main entrance.

At the main gate, the team was met by official military police, who were not willing to answer any questions. The inspectors were told that the commander was "flying" and unavailable for a meeting. A request to meet with the Second in Command was also later denied. After more than an hour, a Lt. Col. Laird of the base Security Forces came outside the gate to tell the team that only the base Public Relations office is responsible to meet with the team and would know which of the team's questions could be answered.

Spangdahlem AFB and Uranium Weapons:

Spangdahlem AFB is the only U.S. military base in Germany with the A-10 Thunderbolts. The planes use 30mm uranium anti-tank ammunition and can fire 3,900 such rounds per minute.

This chemically and radioactively toxic ammunition -- so-called depleted uranium or "DU" -- has been used in several military actions. The A-10 Thunderbolt based here -- and operated by U.S. pilots flying directly from Spangdahlem -- fired thousands of 30mm DU shells in the 1999 bombardment of Kosovo and Serbia known as Operation Allied Force. These A-10s have also been deployed at U.S. bases nearer to Iraq from which they were used to bomb Iraqi cities in the recent U.S. and British aggression.

DU munitions are made from uranium-238, radioactive waste left over from the process of uranium enrichment used in reactor fuel and nuclear weapons production. An unknown percentage of the uranium munitions are also known to be contaminated with highly radioactive transuranic (heavier than uranium) elements.

Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health at the U.S. Department of Energy Dr. David Michaels, said in a January 20, 2000, letter that, "One may normally expect that depleted uranium contains a trace amount of plutonium."

On January 17, 2001, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Spiez discovered traces of uranium-236 in the weapons used in Kosovo. Because uranium-236 is made only in a nuclear reactor, the discovery meant that the uranium weapons used against Kosovo were definitely contaminated with

other highly radioactive fission and transuranic products from nuclear fission. The Pentagon was then pressured to acknowledge on February 3, 2001, that some of its uranium weapons are contaminated with plutonium, neptunium and americium.

Background to Inspections

GAAA, was founded in 1996 to pressure the nuclear weapons states regarding formal Treaty obligations to abolish their nuclear arsenals. Since the end of the cold war, GAAA has observed that the biggest nuclear power, the United States, has unilaterally withdrawn from several international agree-

Many of the inspectors are a part of a bike-for-peace tour between nuclear weapons bases in Germany that began Aug. 22nd in Kaiserslauten. The bike tour included stops at US. Air Force bases at Ramstein and Spangdahlem. An additional weapons inspection will take place September 1, at the German military base at Büchel, where German pilots are trained to fly Tornado jet aircraft that can be armed with the U.S. B-61 thermonuclear bombs stored at the base. September 1 is the 20th anniversary of the famous Mutlangen Blockade -- joined by a group of German judges -- against the deployment of the Pershing II missiles. The date is the day



in 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, beginning of the Second World War which would eventually claim 55 million lives. Sept. 1 is now memorialized as a national anti-war day with vigils and demonstrations taking place across the country.

The inspectors at Spangdahlem were: Oscar Schön, from Sweden and with the environmental group Fältbiologerna; Otto Reger, of the German Peace Society of War Resisters, DFG-VK; Marion Kuepker, of Germany's Non-violent Action for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, GAAA; Roland Blach from DFG-VK and

ments regarding nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Simultaneously, the United States, in its 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, has announced the possible use of its nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states that might threaten U.S. interests. The U.S. is also producing new nuclear weapons, in violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, including the so-called "mini-nuke" and "robust earth penetrator."

GAAA coordinator Marion Kuepker said today that, "The overwhelming dominance of United States' military forces worldwide are today meant to threaten the other nuclear weapon states and keep them from interfering with the expanded U.S. policy of stealing the world's resources in the name of 'free trade' and the 'war on terrorism.' These U.S. threats include diplomatic and economic pressure, at the UN and elsewhere, to hide and deny the effects of the regional and indiscriminate use of radiological uranium weapons, which the Pentagon deceptively calls 'conventional'."

GAAA; Sabine Römer and Johannes both of Arbeitsgemeinschaft Frieden, Trier; Till Stübler, Germany, of the anti-globalization group Attac; Achim Schmitz of Pressehütte Mutlangen; John LaForge of Nukewatch in the USA; and Stephanie Lips, of Youth Environmental Project, JUP in Germany.

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL LAW FORBID POISON AND POISONED WEAPONS

The laws of war include all treaties governing military operations, weapons systems, and the protection of victims of war. The main treaties governing military operations are the Hague Convention of 1899 and the Hague Convention (IV) and Regulations of 1907, which, together with the Geneva Conventions, provide a binding legal framework that sets limits on the conduct of war.

The 1899 Hague Convention banned all weapons and material that cause superfluous injury. Article 23 of the 1907 Hague Convention Regulations spe-

cifically recognizes that not all weapons are subject to a “banning” treaty but may be nonetheless banned by existing humanitarian law.

U.S: AIR FORCE LAW FORBIDS THE USE OF ALL POISONS INCLUDING URANIUM WEAPONS

The U.S. Air Force’s law manual, “International Law: The conduct of Armed Conflict and Air Operations,” AFP 110-31, November 19, 1976 (hereinafter “USAF manual”), governs the actions of all U.S. Air Force pilots including operators of the A-10 Thunderbolts. This Air Force manual acknowledges that the Department of the Air Force must adhere to international and U.S. military law regarding bombardment and air operations. (Page numbers that follow are references to the USAF manual.)

“It is especially important,” the USAF manual says, “that treaties, having the force of law equal to laws enacted by the Congress of the United States, be scrupulously adhered to by the United States armed forces.” This is the legal policy of the U.S. Department of Defense. (USAF manual, p. 1-7)



Article VI of the Constitution of the United States says: “...all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or the laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.”

The USAF manual states, “Because of its importance to the international community, to the U.S., and to the DOD, individual service members should understand the law of armed conflict. Although international law chiefly serves to regulate state conduct, combatants individually are responsible for following the law of armed conflict which obligates their nation.” (USAF manual, p. 1-9)

Even without a declaration of war, the United States Department of Defense is legally obligated under the U.S. Constitution to obey the laws of war. “The law of armed conflict applies to an international armed conflict regardless of whether a

declared ‘war’ exists.” (USAF manual, p. 1-10) “The Armed Forces of the United States will comply with the law of war in the conduct of military operations and related activities in armed conflict however such conflicts are characterized.” (USAF manual, p. 1-8)

The USAF manual recognizes that, “The law of armed conflict applies equally to all parties to an armed conflict, whether or not the international community regards any participant as the ‘aggressor’ or ‘victim.’” (USAF manual, p. 1-4)

As the USAF manual says its laws protect “both combatants and noncombatants from unnecessary suffering, and safeguards the fundamental rights of civilians, PWs [prisoners of war], and the wounded and sick. The law also attempts to prevent degeneration of conflicts into savagery and brutality...” (USAF manual, p. 1-5)

The Geneva Conventions require obedience to its provisions in all conflicts. “Article 2 requires parties to the Conventions to adhere to the provisions at all times in their relations even when other parties to the conflict are not also parties to the Conventions. . . . Article 2 further provides that the “Conventions shall apply during any armed conflict, including undeclared war, and during occupation whether it is resisted or not. Thus, artificial distinctions between ‘war’ and ‘armed conflict’ are eliminated.” (USAF manual, p. 11-2)

“The following are relevant examples of treaties to which the U.S. is a party: Hague Conventions IV of October 18, 1907 (USAF manual, p. 1-7); Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare of 1925 [the Geneva Gas Protocol, June 17, 1925] (USAF manual, p. 1-7); Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, August 12, 1949.” (USAF manual, p. 1-8)

Although uranium weapons are not banned by name in an existent treaty, they are illegal under binding Air Force law and international Conventions. “Any weapon may be put to an unlawful use.” (USAF manual, p. 6-1) “A weapon may be illegal per se if either international custom or treaty has forbidden its use under all circumstances. An example is poison to kill or injure a person.” (USAF manual, p. 6-1) The International Court of Justice recognizes this rule in its Advisory Opinion, “Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons” (International Court of Justice Reports, 1996). In paragraph 87 of that Opinion, the Court found that the principles and rules of humanitarian law apply to all weapons, including nuclear ones. In other parts of the Opinion the Court stresses the duty to evaluate legality or illegality prior to use in military operations. (Parker)

The Air Force says of new weapons that have not been outlawed, “a new weapon or method of warfare maybe illegal, per se, if it is restricted by international law including treaty or international custom. The issue is resolved, or attempted to be resolved, by analogy to weapons or methods previously determined to be lawful or unlawful.” (USAF manual, p. 6-7)

“In addition to analogy, the legality of new weapons or methods of warfare is determined by whether the weapon’s effects violate the rule against unnecessary suffering or its effects are indiscriminate as to cause disproportionate civilian injury or damage to civilian objects. The military advantages to be secured by use of the weapon must be compared with the effects caused by its use.” (USAF manual, p. 6-7)

“For example, the following questions are relevant: (1) can the weapons be delivered accurately to the target; (2) would its use necessarily result in excessive injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects, so as to be termed an ‘indiscriminate weapons’; (3) would its effects be uncontrollable or unpredictable in space or time as to cause disproportionate injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects; and (4) would its use necessarily cause suf-

fering excessive in relation to the military purpose which the weapons serves so as to violate that prohibition.” (USAF manual, p. 6-7)

“Any weapons or method of warfare may be employed in an unlawful manner; for example, when used to inflict unnecessary suffering (see paragraph 6-2) or when used in violation of the rules protecting civilians or civilian objects (see chapter 5).” (USAF manual, p.6-8)

The 1925 Geneva Gas Protocol entered into force for the United States April 10, 1975. (p. 1-16) The Geneva Gas Protocol’s treaty provisions prohibit “the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices.” (USAF manual, p.6-3, 6-4) The 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions further prohibit the use of weapons that do long term damage to the environment. With a radiological half-life of 4.5 billion years, uranium weapons fall into this forbidden category.

The 1907 Hague Convention IV, at Section II, Article 23, absolutely prohibits any use of poison. It states: “In addition to the prohibitions provided by special Conventions, it is especially forbidden a) To employ poison or poisoned weapons; b) To kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation army; e) To employ arms, projectiles, or material calculated to cause unnecessary suffering.” (USAF manual, p.5-1)

Poison is defined in the Air Force manual which states that, “Poisons are biological or chemical substances causing death or disability with permanent effects when, in even small quantities, they are ingested, enter the lungs or bloodstream, or through the skin. The longstanding customary prohibition against poison is based on their uncontrolled character and the inevitability of death or permanent disability as well as on a traditional belief that it is treacherous to use poison.” (USAF manual, p. 6-5)

Toxic, radioactive uranium munitions, because they produce death or disability with permanent effects when, in even small quantities, they are ingested, enter the lungs or bloodstream, or through the skin, and because their effects are indiscriminate and uncontrollable, are absolutely prohibited under all circumstances by U.S. Air Force’s own law under the authority of the Hague Regulations.

This general protection clause is violated by the use of uranium munitions in heavily populated areas of Iraq especially in view of the munitions’ indiscriminate and widespread contamination of the environment where it is used. – John M. LaForge

GREAT VICTORY

DURING THE CONFERENCE!

This paper includes contributions from Rick Gravrok, Phil Steger, Steve Clemens, and Jane Evershed.

*The "Alliant 28" found Not Guilty of trespass at Alliant Techsystems
Date of verdict: October 17, 2003*

Judge: Patricia Kerr Karasov Fourth Judicial District Court, Hennepin County, State of Minnesota, State of Minnesota Vs. Elizabeth Amman, et al.



On April 2, 2003, 28 activists crossed the line and entered Alliant TechSystems. On October 17, 2003 a public trial was held -- 19 of the original 28 were found not guilty, 9 original defendants pled "guilty" because they were unable to devote a week out of their work/ school schedules to a jury trial.

Say you're walking down the street and you notice a building that's smoking. You get closer to it, and through the windows, you hear a child screaming for help. You know that it's coming from inside. Your heart is cut to the core by the thought of that frightened child. You may give it a thought, or you may not. But you don't wait a second longer. You enter the building, squinting your eyes against the smoke, covering your mouth with your shirt and pushing yourself in the direction of those frightened and hurt cries.

Would you expect at that the moment you emerge from the building with that child that you would be arrested for trespassing on another person's property? Of course not.

WE SMELL SMOKE at ALLIANT!

Alliant Techsystems (a.k.a. Alliant or ATK), a spin-off from the weapons manufacturing division of HONEYWELL, with sales offices in 44 countries) is manufacturing weapons banned by U.S. and international laws, including those made with Uranium-238, commonly called "depleted uranium". ATK has made over 16 million 30mm shells for the U.S. Air Force's A-10 aircraft and over one million 120mm rounds for the U.S. Army Gatling (7 barrel) guns, all of which contain U-238, a radioactive and highly toxic heavy metal. These were made in Arden Hills, Minnesota at a plant which is now a superfund clean-up site.

On April 2nd, 2003, over 200 people (205 by our count) showed up at Alliant Techsystems of Edina, Minnesota to "investigate the smoke", to do civil obedience (not civil DIS-obedience), to raise attention, and to deliver a letter to Paul David Miller of ATK (to request that ATK take responsibility for damages caused by "depleted"

Uranium and to run the necessary tests to prove that U-238 is harmless). Using provisions from the U.S. Constitution and International Humanitarian Law, the defendants successfully argued that the “manufacture, sale, stockpiling, as well as the use of weapons containing this radioactive waste (depleted uranium) is illegal.

The U.S. Constitution declares that International Treaties signed by the government become “the supreme law of the land.” The Hague and Geneva Conventions and its protocols and subsequent treaties are clear that weapons which cannot discriminate between civilian and military or combatants are prohibited from not only use but also from manufacture and sale. The Nuremberg Tribunals were the vehicle victorious Allied countries used to judge and punish German military, political, and corporate leaders for war crimes, crimes against peace, and crimes against humanity after WWII. The Nuremberg Principles were incorporated into the Charter of the United Nations, a treaty which is now “supreme law” in the U.S. when it ratified it. The 7th Principle declares that “complicity with a Crime Against Humanity or a War Crime” is a crime under International Law. Because of the increasing evidence mounting about the indiscriminate nature of this weapon, the defendants argued they were compelled to act.

All 19 of the remaining defendants testified on Thursday, clearly moving the jury as well as fellow defendants. Steve Clemens introduced the provisions from International Law and he and three other defendants told accounts of what they had seen first hand in visits to Iraq since the 1991 war. Dr. Gene Ott testified about some of the medical consequences he suspects are the results of exposure to the use of these radioactive weapons. We also listened to Carol Nauheimer, mother of Marine Staff Sgt. Patrick Nauheimer. This was her first public speaking ever--she was scared--but she did it anyway. She told how her son developed a “skin rash” during the first Gulf War. The military told him it was a dry skin condition and to put some ointment on it. He struggled to get medical help from the Veterans Administration--to no avail--he died of acute monocytic leukemia. Patrick’s sister Wendi was at the protest too. When 28 of us nonviolently stepped onto their property, and declined to leave, all 28 were arrested for trespassing, including Wendi.

The most moving testimony came from a first-time activist. Wendi Nauheimer had never been in a demonstration before. One week before this

witness against ATK took place, she told Marv Davidov, the longtime peace and justice activist, “They [ATK] killed my brother, Patrick.”

Wendi testified that her brother, a US Marine for 11 years, returned from the desert area of Iraq and Kuwait after “cleanup” of the area where depleted uranium weapons were used with sores on his body. He developed an aggressive form of leukemia and died in 1995, leaving a widow and two young children. Before he died, he told his family, “Something happened to me in that desert.” Wendi believes her brother’s death is at least partially due to the exposure to radiation he received from the waste left by depleted uranium penetrator munitions manufactured by ATK and sold to the Army and Air Force and used in that war.

Another defendant, Katie Gray Brown, testified that her brother-in-law is dying from cancers she believes were caused by the radioactive nature of the shrapnel which lodged near his spine during the first Gulf War. The defendants included six Roman Catholic nuns who testified how our nation’s spending on the military has deprived many needy people in our inner cities.

Sister Char Madigan pled with the jury to join her in working to move from “money-wealth to commonwealth.” She said that ATK cannot hide what it is doing for profit behind “private property” laws but must be exposed and held accountable like the tobacco companies and Enron.

Jane Evershed, a local poet and artist told of being arrested for protesting apartheid in South Africa. Today, that evil system is gone and she believes that some day soon, so will the evilness of depleted uranium weapons be evident to the majority and we will rid ourselves of it as well.

Phil Steger, Director of the Friends For a Non-violent World handled the difficult task of the opening and closing arguments, winning praise from the prosecutor. Because all of the defendants were there without an attorney by their choice, Phil’s eloquence was all the more appreciated by the other defendants since this was his first trial.

Although most defendants were motivated by their Christian faith, Kathleen Ruona, a proclaimed atheist, spoke movingly of “species arrogance” in that the deadly radiation released by these illegal weapons threaten not only humans but other plant and animal life as well. Marv Davidov, a Jewish activist thundered like one of the

Hebrew prophets of old as he decried the racism of our society and then told of his 30-plus year campaign to stop the production of landmines, cluster bombs, and depleted uranium weapons made by Honeywell Corporation and now by the spin-off of that company into ATK. Because of the large and frequent demonstrations against the weapons they were making, Honeywell divested itself of that division.

Marv and "Alliant Action," as well as the newly-created "Philip Berrigan Depleted Uranium Coalition," will continue to work to convert ATK from its present production of "swords" into "plowshares" which can better all humankind. Weekly vigils, begun in 1995, will continue by the entrance to ATK. Come join us!

The following legal language in italics came in the paperwork from our trial judge, the Honorable Patricia Kerr Karasov:

Trespassing defined: The law of Minnesota provides that whoever intentionally trespasses upon the premises of another and, without CLAIM OF RIGHT, refuses to depart from the premises on demand of the lawful possessor, is guilty of a crime.

CLAIM OF RIGHT:

"Claim of right" is defined as: A good faith claim by a defendant that permission was given to him or her to be upon the premises by statute, rule, regulation or other law". A claim of right is not limited to a claim of title or ownership. If a defendant acted in good faith under claim of right, even if reasonably mistaken as to this right, you must find the defendant not guilty, unless the defendant commits the act force or violence or breach of the peace.

A defendant acted with a good faith claim of right if:

1. A defendant believed that he or she had a right to enter on the premises; and
2. There were reasonable grounds for this belief, based on his or her knowledge of a statute, rule, regulation or other law of a federal or state agency.

A "statute, rule, regulation or other law" means any law enacted by the federal or a state government, any treaty to which the United States is a party, or a binding rule of international law.

To add some perspective, of the previous 110 similar trials, in only 16 were the defendants acquitted (13 by juries, 3 by judges at bench trials) and never before has United States and international law been allowed as exhibits for these trials in Minnesota.



Children of the Gulf War US aims to draw attention to the devastation of the war and economic sanctions against Iraq. We are organizing an exhibition of the works of the Japanese anti-nuclear photojournalist Takashi Morizumi. His works convey the real, yet hidden, human and environmental prices being paid by the people of Iraq.

The first U.S. photo exhibit was launched at the Berkeley Main Library in November 2002. Our goal is to exhibit through various communities around the country.

The photo exhibit also exposes the devastation caused by DU - depleted uranium weapons on people and the environment around the world. We are working to ban DU weapons by showing the horrible effects on the civilians and veterans of this new type of nuclear war.

The Children of the Gulf War US Tour Project is based in the San Francisco Bay Area. We are working with organizations in Atlanta, Georgia and Hiroshima, Japan.

Exhibit Description and History

The following is Takashi Morizumi's introduction to the book *Children of the Gulf War*:

Eleven years after the Gulf War, destroyed Iraqi tanks still lie abandoned in the desert along the border of Iraq and Kuwait. Since its invasion of Kuwait, Iraq has been subject to severe economic sanctions. Its economic activities, heavily dependent on imports, are virtually paralyzed. The people are exhausted, their lives a continual ordeal, and the main victims are the Iraqi children.

Takashi Morizumi, Japan

www.savewarchildren.org





I have been documenting the children of Iraq since 1998. Even at large hospitals in Baghdad, medicines have vanished from pharmacy shelves. Medical equipment is broken and unusable. When children are malnourished, even common diarrhea or colds can lead to death. But the most alarming phenomenon is the enormous increase in deaths due to leukemia and other cancers. Iraqi hospitals are filled with children suffering from leukemia, cancer and physical deformities. To treat the enormous increase in patients, the two pediatric hospitals in Baghdad had to build special wings for leukemia patients. However, because of financial limitations, there is a severe shortage of medication. Doctors are overwhelmed with the number of severely ill patients. Deaths from cancer in Basra, the city in southern Iraq closest to the battlefields, increased from 34 in 1988 before the war to 219 five years later in 1996. Since then, they have continued to soar. In 2000, the figure was 586 deaths, a 17-fold increase!

Why is this happening? The most likely explanation is the depleted uranium munitions used by the multilateral forces. Depleted uranium is a by-product of the manufacture of nuclear weapons and fuel for nuclear power reactors. Although it contains only a low level of uranium-235, which is required for nuclear fission, it does remain a radioactive substance.

Taking advantage of the hardness and density of this material, the defense industry has developed a new type of armor-piercing shell, which is fired at high speed against the target. The impact generates intense heat and severe burning. Artillery penetrators and machine-gun bullets made of depleted uranium were first used in the Gulf War, a total quantity estimated at over three hundred tons. The shell disintegrates into particles that permeate the air and soil of the surrounding area and pollute the water. When this toxic metal penetrates the body or is ingested, the incidence of cancer, leukemia, liver and kidney disorders, tumors and birth defects is high. This substance is thought responsible for the increases in leukemia and cancer.

The Gulf War saw the introduction of Tomahawk missiles and other high-tech weapons. Now, it turns out, it was a new kind of "nuclear war." In Bosnia and Kosovo, depleted uranium was also left behind. In Afghanistan, the likelihood that it was used is high. The continual use of depleted uranium weapons in the future is extremely dangerous to human beings and the environment.

The plight of Iraq's children is an alarm warning people about the horror of this new nuclear warfare.