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Minister Jacob Edery. (Archives)

Last update - 06:42 22/10/2006

# Israel admits using phosphorus bombs during war in Lebanon

By Meron Rappaport, Haaretz Correspondent

Israel has acknowledged for the first time that it attacked Hezbollah targets during the second Lebanon war with phosphorus shells. White phosphorus causes very painful and often lethal chemical burns to those hit by it, and until recently Israel maintained that it only uses such bombs to mark targets or territory.

The announcement that the Israel Defense Forces had used phosphorus bombs in the war in Lebanon was made by Minister Jacob Edery, in charge of government-Knesset relations. He had been queried on the matter by MK Zahava Gal-On (Meretz-Yahad).

"The IDF holds phosphorus munitions in different forms," Edery said. "The IDF made use of phosphorous shells during the war against Hezbollah in attacks against military targets in open ground."

Edery also pointed out that international law does not forbid the use of phosphorus and that "the IDF used this type of munitions according to the rules of international law."

Edery did not specify where and against what types of targets phosphorus munitions were used. During the war several foreign media outlets reported that Lebanese civilians carried injuries characteristic of attacks with phosphorus, a substance that burns when it comes to contact with air. In one CNN report, a casualty with serious burns was seen lying in a South Lebanon hospital.

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In another case, Dr. Hussein Hamud al-Shel, who works at Dar al-Amal hospital in Ba'albek, said that he had received three corpses "entirely shriveled with black-green skin," a phenomenon characteristic of phosphorus injuries.

Lebanon's President Emile Lahoud also claimed that the IDF made use of phosphorus munitions against civilians in Lebanon.

Phosphorus has been used by armies since World War I. During World War II and Vietnam the U.S. and British armies made extensive use of phosphorus. During recent decades the tendency has been to ban the use of phosphorus munitions against any target, civilian or military, because of the severity of the injuries that the substance causes.

Some experts believe that phosphorus munitions should be termed Chemical Weapons (CW) because of the way the weapons burn and attack the respiratory system. As a CW, phosphorus would become a clearly illegal weapon.

The International Red Cross is of the opinion that there should be a complete ban on phosphorus being used against human beings and the third protocol of the Geneva Convention on Conventional Weapons restricts the use of "incendiary weapons," with phosphorus considered to be one such weapon.

Israel and the United States are not signatories to the Third Protocol.

In November 2004 the U.S. Army used phosphorus munitions during an offensive in Faluja, Iraq. Burned bodies of civilians hit by the phosphorus munitions were shown by the press, and an international outcry against the practice followed.

Initially the U.S. denied that it had used phosphorus bombs against humans, but then acknowledged that during the assault targets that were neither civilian nor population concentrations were hit with such munitions. Israel also says that the use of "incendiary munitions are not in themselves illegal."

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1.	<b>Israel must pay for this war crime</b>	01:56   Franklin	22/10/06
2.	<b>you will reap what you sew</b>	02:08   Lebanese	22/10/06
3.	<b>Is it surprise?</b>	02:15   Kevin Klauss	22/10/06
4.	<b>Legal or not?</b>	02:39   Walid	22/10/06
5.	<b>Lebanon got what it deserved</b>	02:56   Y	22/10/06
6.	<b>Cancer to our planet...</b>	03:07   Guess who	22/10/06
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8.	<b>Who is the agressor?</b>	03:12   Alex	22/10/06
9.	<b>Katiushas are legal arms?</b>	03:18   Cristina	22/10/06
10.	<b>#5 To Y</b>	03:19   Franklin	22/10/06
11.	<b># 1. have you heard the saying sow the wind reap the whirlwind.</b>	03:24   ralph	22/10/06
12.	<b>hez used ball bearing in their rockets!!!!</b>	03:27   vik	22/10/06
13.	<b>Hezbollah hid behind civilians</b>	03:34   Ron	22/10/06
14.	<b>To franklin</b>	03:35   Cristina	22/10/06
15.	<b>To #11</b>	03:44   Franklin	22/10/06
16.	<b>response to Franklin # 1</b>	03:55   Eli	22/10/06

20:52 Four people die after receiving flu vaccinations in 2 separate clinics

21:10 MKs propose nixing secret ballot in vote for president

20:15 Knesset committee accepts proposal to close pubs by 2 A.M.

18:36 PMO: Olmert, Abbas agree to continue talks on meeting

21:06 Danish firm to release computer game based on Israeli-Palestinian conflict

16:07 Mideast Jewish refugees launch campaign for international recognition

19:31 Peretz to head 2 ministerial panels dealing with social welfare issues

17:26 Lebanese security: 12-year-old killed by cluster bomb in south

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17.	# 13	04:15   Moe	22/10/06
18.	Curiouser and curiouser . . .	04:17   Veritas	22/10/06
19.	Rocket launchers were hidden in groves	04:19   jason	22/10/06
20.	Third protocol ,who cares.	04:27   maoriboy	22/10/06
21.	the purity of arms and the most moral nation in the middle east	04:34   raj	22/10/06
22.	Cristina#9. You`re equating Hezbollah to IDF	04:36   Paul	22/10/06
23.	Curious veritas, maoriboy and spin #18 & 19	04:55   Andrew	22/10/06
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25.	What would have happened if...to Steve#7	05:42   Otto Rand	22/10/06
26.	#23 Andrew	05:49   maoriboy	22/10/06
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28.	To Eli in Sydney	06:03   Otto Rand	22/10/06
29.	Who cares -there is nothing wrong with insineration devices	06:11   Sal	22/10/06
30.	Equating Hezbollah to IDF (Paul 22)	06:29   sk	22/10/06
31.	use of phosphorus bombs	06:54   steve	22/10/06
32.	This whole discussion is idiotic!	07:03   Alex	22/10/06
33.	Leadership must be punished	07:26   Ben Plonie	22/10/06
34.	Phosphor bombs	07:48   Oddvark	22/10/06
35.	An outright lie or mere verbal subterfuge?	07:48   Richard Silverstein	22/10/06
36.	To#30 SK, and #22 Paul, Both R wrong	08:09   Linda	22/10/06
37.	Eli	08:14   Walid	22/10/06
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39.	Monstrous supporters of these terrible things	08:45   Marilyn	22/10/06
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41.	Dear Alex # 32. Follow the goods and not the bads	08:47   Defender of freedom	22/10/06
42.	Andrew	08:50   Walid	22/10/06
43.	InCineration is inhuman No 29	08:54   L:ebanese admirer	22/10/06
44.	Israelis killed Jesus, what else	08:59   American	22/10/06
45.	"Israel has acknowledged for the first time"	09:12   john	22/10/06
46.	Alex	09:12   Walid	22/10/06
47.	Christians in Israel are treated badly by Israelis	09:20   Christian	22/10/06
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49.	phosphorus	09:34   yo	22/10/06
50.	from an Israeli neighbor in the south	09:41   to walid	22/10/06
51.	Time for peace.	09:43   lebanese pacifist	22/10/06
52.	"only used such bombs to mark out target or territory."	09:43   Maureen Ann	22/10/06
53.	they deserved it	09:45   Mark	22/10/06
54.	Israel - a Godless nation	09:48   justajew	22/10/06
55.	Lebanese writers, pls write	09:50   Walid	22/10/06
56.	THe Army of Allah Used cluster rockets against Israeli Civillians	09:55   PETER SM	22/10/06
57.	Becoming the monster.....	09:56   Jim	22/10/06
58.	# 50: Israeli from the north	10:00   Wa7eed	22/10/06
59.	V ERITAS.Who said Hisbala ONLY fought from behind civillians	10:01   PETER. S.M	22/10/06
60.	Execution means ( to #44)	10:02   Dr D	22/10/06
61.	"international law does not prohibit it"	10:05   flavius josephus	22/10/06
62.	For Justajew # 54	10:06   Clickfool	22/10/06
63.	I do understand that my day consists of 24 hours.	10:06   27 million Lebanese	22/10/06

64.	On the killing of Jesus # 44	10:13   Clickfool	22/10/06
65.	IDF	10:17   Khalil	22/10/06
66.	OTTO RAND Re rational solution.None of your options satisfy	10:22   PETER. S.M	22/10/06
67.	How is Israel supposed to act?	10:31   Ronnie Wolman	22/10/06
68.	For Ronnie Wolman, who asks what the choices were	10:45   Clickfool	22/10/06
69.	My Israeli Neighbor to the South	10:49   Walid	22/10/06
70.	clickfool"theft and murder of innocents"	11:00   harzion	22/10/06
71.	clickfool "corrupt gangsters"	11:02   harzion	22/10/06
72.	MAORIBOY Inviting Pres.Assad to address the Knesset is "not	11:03   PETER SM	22/10/06
73.	clickfool what on earth is britain doing in afghanistan?	11:05   harzion	22/10/06
74.	clickfool and "moneychangers tables"	11:08   harzion	22/10/06
75.	clickfool the sas in northern ireland	11:14   harzion	22/10/06
76.	THE FOOL and lies of omission.Hisbula declared WAR	11:18   PETER SM	22/10/06
77.	clickfool not to forget mr blunkett	11:20   harzion	22/10/06
78.	Dictatorships	11:24   Lebanese admirer	22/10/06
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80.	Clickfool (62) divine intervention	11:37   Gabriel	22/10/06
81.	Answer to Walid.	11:39   David Nigel Braham	22/10/06
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83.	To Alex	12:10   gershon	22/10/06
84.	To American # 44 Jesus	12:19   Altalena	22/10/06
85.	to Cristina (#9)	12:21   imad	22/10/06
86.	A Light Unto Nations	12:22   Out Of Darkness	22/10/06
87.	to Y	12:26   al	22/10/06
88.	war is war	12:27   f	22/10/06
89.	Khalil	12:33   Walid	22/10/06
90.	Take Olmert, Peres Hanutz to the International Criminal Court	12:49   carl	22/10/06
91.	There is NO any convention that forbids using of phosphorus	12:56   Shiri	22/10/06
92.	#72 PETER SM believes the invite to Assad was genuine	13:20   Johnboy	22/10/06
93.	Peter SM	13:31   Walid	22/10/06
94.	To Carl 90. Court	13:39   Altalena	22/10/06
95.	#64, regarding your response	13:44   antisatan	22/10/06
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117.	Margie in TEL AVIV.	15:15   David Nigel Braham	22/10/06
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120.	To Walid.	15:26   David Nigel Braham	22/10/06
121.	For Jasmine Murphy, again # 111	16:03   Clickfool	22/10/06
122.	#112 Honest Abe is not that Honest	16:03   Ronnie Wolman	22/10/06
123.	Ronnie Wolman	16:07   Stephen Connor	22/10/06
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127.	27 million Lebanese - #63=	16:27   BouSameer	22/10/06
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129.	To Tim. 114. Borders	16:37   Altalena	22/10/06
130.	Margie in Tel Aviv	16:41   Walid	22/10/06
131.	Napalm Bombs	16:44   * BEN JABO	22/10/06
132.	Jasmine Murphy	17:01   Walid	22/10/06
133.	Use every available weapon, even poisonous gas!	17:10   Le Maudit Anglais	22/10/06
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136.	David Nigel Braham	17:19   Walid	22/10/06
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151.	Great sadness	18:46   B	22/10/06
152.	Walid-some reflection is in order pt.4	18:47   peter	22/10/06
153.	Were civilians the target?	19:03   Tosefta	22/10/06
154.	Two billion times worse	19:12   WWW.AFGHANDUFUND.ORG	22/10/06
155.	@147 Walid	19:13   Jasmine Murphy	22/10/06
156.	Means of destruction	19:27   Hank A.	22/10/06
157.	Number 44.	19:36   Sangean Delbert	22/10/06
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160.	Walid	19:56   F.Y	22/10/06
161.	ô NATION OF UNJUSTICE,DISAPPEAR ! Oum kalsoum`s song	20:02   wahbi	22/10/06
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