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IRAQ: 'Special Weapons' Have a Fallout on Babies

Ali al-Fadhily and Dahr Jamail*



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:: Autodeterminazione e resistenza irakena di Aldo

Bernardini, Ordinario di Diritto internazionale all'Università di Teramo

:: ONU - XX Assemblea Generale (1965): La XX Assemblea Generale dell'ONU (1965) dichiarò "la legittimità della lotta da parte dei popoli sotto oppressione coloniale, per esercitare il loro diritto all'autodeterminazione e all'indipendenza". Inoltre, l'Assemblea invitò "tutti gli Stati a fornire assistenza morale e materiale ai movimenti di liberazione nazionale nei territori coloniali".

:: ONU - Risoluzione 1514 "L'Assemblea Generale dichiara che: la soggezione dei popoli a dominio straniero, conquista e asservimento costituisce una negazione dei diritti umani fondamentali, è contraria alla Carta delle Nazioni Unite ed è un impedimento alla promozione della pace e della cooperazione mondiali. Tutti i popoli hanno diritto all'autodeterminazione; in virtù di tale diritto essi devono liberamente determinare il loro status politico

FALLUJAH, Jun 12 (IPS) - Babies born in Fallujah are showing illnesses and deformities on a scale never seen before, doctors and residents say.

The new cases, and the number of deaths among children, have risen after "special weaponry" was used in the two massive bombing campaigns in Fallujah in 2004.

After denying it at first, the Pentagon admitted in November 2005 that white phosphorous, a restricted incendiary weapon, was used a year earlier in Fallujah.

In addition, depleted uranium (DU) munitions, which contain low-level radioactive waste, were used heavily in Fallujah. The Pentagon admits to having used 1,200 tonnes of DU in Iraq thus far.

Many doctors believe DU to be the cause of a severe increase in the incidence of cancer in Iraq, as well as among U.S. veterans who served in the 1991 Gulf War and through the current occupation.

"We saw all the colours of the rainbow coming out of the exploding American shells and missiles," Ali Sarhan, a 50-year-old teacher who lived through the two U.S. sieges of 2004 told IPS. "I saw bodies that turned into bones and coal right after they were exposed to bombs that we learned later to be phosphorus.

"The most worrying is that many of our women have suffered loss of their babies, and some had babies born with deformations."

"I had two children who had brain damage from birth," 28-year-old Hayfa' Shukur told IPS. "My husband has been detained by the Americans since November 2004 and so I had to take the children around by myself to hospitals and private clinics. They died. I spent all our savings and borrowed a considerable amount of money."

Shukur said doctors told her that it was use of the restricted weapons that caused her children's brain damage and subsequent deaths, "but none of them had the courage to give me a written report."

"Many babies were born with major congenital malformations," a paediatric doctor, speaking on condition of anonymity, told IPS. "These infants include many with heart defects, cleft lip or palate, Down's syndrome, and limb defects."

The doctor added, "I can say all kinds of problems related to toxic pollution took place in Fallujah after the November 2004 massacre."

Many doctors speak of similar cases and a similar pattern. The indications remain anecdotal, in the absence of either a study, or any available official records.

The Fallujah General Hospital administration was unwilling to give any statistics on deformed babies, but one doctor volunteered to speak on condition of anonymity -- for fear of reprisals if seen to be critical of the administration.

"Maternal exposure to toxins and radioactive material can lead to miscarriage and frequent abortions, still birth, and congenital malformation," the doctor told IPS. There have been many such cases, and the government "did not move to contain the damage, or present any assistance to the hospital whatsoever.

"These cases need intensive international efforts that provide the highest and most recent technologies that we will not have here in a hundred years," he added.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) expressed concern

:: Lynching Saddam by Gabriele Zamparini

The newsletter archive



L'Impero si è fermato a Baghdad, by Valeria Poletti

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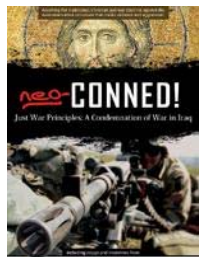
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Mar. 31 about the lack of medical supplies in hospitals in Baghdad and Basra.

"Hospitals have used up stocks of vital medical items, and require further supplies to cope with the influx of wounded patients. Access to water remains a matter of concern in certain areas," the ICRC said in a statement.

A senior Iraqi health ministry official was quoted as saying Feb. 26 that the health sector is under "great pressure", with scores of doctors killed, an exodus of medical personnel, poor medical infrastructure, and shortage of medicines.

"We are experiencing a big shortage of everything," said the official, "We don't have enough specialist doctors and medicines, and most of the medical equipment is outdated.

"We used to get many spinal and head injures, but were unable to do anything as we didn't have enough specialists and medicines," he added. "Intravenous fluid, which is a simple thing, is not available all the time." He said no new hospitals had been built since 1986.

Iraqi Health Minister Salih al-Hassnawi highlighted the shortage of medicines at a press conference in Arbil in the Kurdistan region in the north Feb. 22. "The Iraqi Health Ministry is suffering from an acute shortage of medicines...We have decided to import medicines immediately to meet the needs."

He said the 2008 health budget meant that total expenditure on medicines, medical equipment and ambulances would amount to an average of 22 dollars per citizen.

But this is too late for the unknown number of babies and their families who bore the consequences of the earlier devastation. And it is too little to cover the special needs of babies who survived with deformations.

(*Ali, our correspondent in Baghdad, works in close collaboration with Dahr Jamail, our U.S.-based specialist writer on Iraq who has reported extensively from Iraq and the Middle East). (END/2008)

:: Article nr. 44812 sent on 12-jun-2008 18:54 ECT

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e liberamente perseguire il loro sviluppo economico, sociale e culturale".

:: Convenzione di Ginevra, Protocollo Addizionale I (1977): La lotta armata può essere usata, come ultima risorsa, come mezzo per esercitare il diritto all' autodeter- minazione.

:: Tribunale penale internazionale In base allo Statuto del Tribunale penale internazionale, sono definiti "crimini di guerra": (1) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente contro popolazione civili in quanto tali o contro civili che non prendano direttamente parte alle ostilità; (4) attacchi lanciati intenzionalmente nella consapevolezza che gli stessi avranno come conseguenza la perdita di vite umane tra la popolazione civile, e lesioni a civili o danni a proprietà civili ovvero danni diffusi duraturi e gravi all'ambiente naturale che siano manifestamente eccessivi rispetto all'insieme dei concreti e diretti i vantaggi militari previsti.

:: [Iraq anthem](#) (click to listen)

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Comment by masher1 - 12 Jun 2008 - 17:41 [REGISTERED USER]

Let me slap one statement down RIGHT here right now...
Depleted Uranium IS NOT "low-level radioactive waste". It is still a Gama emitte r. Gamma is DANGEROUS. The only LOW-LEVEL thing i see surrounding this nuclear w aste as weapons issue is the UNDERSTANDING of how DANGEROUS this chemical gas wa rfare weapon is in light of the 4,500,000,000 year HALF LIFE. Get a book. Do a G oogle. Do what ever you have to but LEARN about Groves and his new army of rad killers. Kill a whole area off from the child up is JUST what the users of these weapons want. 4.5 billion years of death to what ever area THEY contaminate. I would search out some info on Chernobyl's nasty after effects on the un-born life living in the area of building #4 that year.

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:: All events

Comment by sad in texas - 13 Jun 2008 - 07:12 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

Where the hell is the "Pro-Life" movement, NOW? These rotten hypocrites are the very ones raving about "the sanctity of human life" all the while they are ravin g about "kill all the terrorists". Imho, they are completely given over to the dev il and literally to crazy to hear themselves.

This hasn't looked like the America I grew up in for a long, long time. Please k now that the majority of Americans do NOT condone ANY of what has happened. The "media" says the opposite, but talking to people on the street, it doesn't appea r to be anywhere close to the truth.

I am so, so sorry. God Help us all.

Comment by ashamed in the usa - 13 Jun 2008 - 07:31 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

The use of Depleted Uranium and White Phosphorus is a WAR CRIME. Those in my nat ion that allowed the use of the toxins, should be tried then, hung or shot.89% o f Americans want Bush and his murderous Regime to be Impeached.The people never wanted this war.

This war has brought great shame to our nation. I understand if you cannot forgi ve us. But if you can, we are humbled if you do. Each of us in our lttle way mu st work to stop violence. It is what GOD wants from all of us.

ASHAMED IN THE USA

Comment by ashamed - 13 Jun 2008 - 08:20 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

very disturbing. the arab word stood and continues to stand by and watch iraqi's and palestinians die a merciless death.

im ashamed to be of arab decent.

Comment by candu - 13 Jun 2008 - 08:21 [REGISTERED USER]

Americans had better take to the streets and take down this criminal regime.Or they will be blamed too.
It is one thing to say you don't condone it yet another to do something about it .
Make no mistake about this.
America targeted falsely and then executed a war using ww3 weapons
on a 3rd world country who's only crime was to balk at the central banking system and began selling oil in non US dollars

To the American military people you have sunk to the level of

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war
criminal. Torture, use of illegal weapons and on a 3rd world
nation that was unarmed and defenseless .

America your days can only be measured in numbers now. You have gone
to
war against the saints.

Comment by fight the power - 13 Jun 2008 - 13:23 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

I'm in America, but am ashamed of the atrocities committed by the criminal regime that has seized control of the government here. Unfortunately, I have tried to awaken many Americans, but many feel helpless against the ruthlessness and growing police state tactics being used against the people here and abroad. Most people do not condone Bush's war crimes. I knew it was a hoax from the start, but most people here are hypnotized by the mass media and went along with the lies. Most refuse to believe the truth that the WTC-911 attacks were orchestrated by elements within the command structure of the US military & government. That is the only logical explanation of what happened. Unfortunately, average American people are about to be the victims of the destruction of the US economy and the 2nd Great Depression. It also appears that they will be the victims of the next world war that the PTB are creating. America is being destroyed because ideas of freedom are antithetical to world government and totalitarianism.

Comment by melissa - 13 Jun 2008 - 15:15 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

I'm sorry. There's nothing we can do here in America. We are terrorized by our own criminal government who would not hesitate to do this to us, as well. America has become violent, insipid, stupid and afraid. Profits over people. I'd expatriate if I could.

Comment by michaelm - 13 Jun 2008 - 15:33 [REGISTERED USER]

Israel has the objective of eliminating us all for two reasons;

Most other peoples look better than they do and are genetically healthier, as the Askenazi variant - the dominant group there - has a dubious genetic history, and some of them look it, on account of religiously imposed genetic isolation for too many centuries in eastern Europe, the fear being that intermarriage would result in the absorption and thus disappearance into the larger host communities.

Apart from their thus acquired looks, there is also something warped mentally, also a casualty in too many of them, as they seem to orgasmically delight in exploding by sniper bullet a 12yo Palestinian girl's head, and have it recorded on video cam integral to the rifle - for replay.

Normals wouldn't think of doing any such thing, but these Israelis can't get enough of it, and clearly are remorseless in their inner being, which is why 1,000+ Palestinian kids have been killed in the last 8yrs to 11 Israeli kids.

Because most other people look better than they do, it is an affront to their self accorded special status - God's Chosen, and so need eliminating by any means, and DU is good because it will forever blight the land and for as long silently kill others.

It sounds crazy, but their religion is something of a death cult, as their rabbis make unbelievable statements about the value of Palestinian/Arab/Lebanese lives relative to that of their own kind.

The second reason is that to them we are useless eaters, using up their

resource s, and to be exterminated without showing their hand by using wherever possible bovine proxies - and Americans seem to fill this bill very well - as the planet belongs to the Ashkenazi jew - so they think, which makes us all trespassers all owed here on sufferance.

Any means or combination is permitted, and world war, used twice already by them , has one more kick in it, as apparently thought by Ariel Sharon's then close ad visor, Raa'nan Gissin, who said in Arizona in April 02, that the world would be dragged into WW3 whether it liked it or not !

It's obvious that they think that the immediate hundreds of millions of deaths w ould be good for Israel, and likely have it figured that if they survive intact, they will spend as long as it takes exterminating the debilitated remnants of t he planet's populations.

It should not surprise that Israel's bovine proxy is carrying out as close as po ssible a genocidal war by every means against the Iraqi people without it being too obvious, and that the liberal application of 1200 tons of DU dust is only a small instalment of vastly more destruction being planned for the rest of the pl anet's non jewish humanity.

The next stage is to kick off the destruction of Iran and it's 70,000,000 people in the hope that WW3 results, and their best friend the US, is incinerated in a nuclear exchange with Russia.

One reason they have been successful to date in killing large numbers of people i s that the baffled survivors - because they are normal - can't imagine that orga nized purposeful psychopathy on a mass scale could exist, especially as they acc ord to themselves the unique mantle of suffering which was just an elaborate lie .

Comment by ajweishar - 13 Jun 2008 - 15:42 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

U.S. Army Regulation 700-48 is not being followed and has not been since the war began. It requires immediate hazmat cleanup whenever DU is used. The U.S. media refuses to acknowledge or address the deadly effects of these weapons.

Comment by whereisgod?not in jerusalem! - 13 Jun 2008 - 18:58 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

michaelelm has hit the nail on the head...lets just hope that the idiot scientis ts who are changing the weather fuck-up and the DU winds start blowing over isra el...and then those ugly,genocidal, elitist,sons and daughters of askenazi whore s will get a taste of their own arrogance....mind you, they are already genetica lly perverted ugly sons of bitches that we goys won ´t even notice any difference!

Comment by shaffn9 - 13 Jun 2008 - 22:17 [USER NOT REGISTERED]

Bush is an evil man.

Comment by wargames - 14 Jun 2008 - 07:25 [REGISTERED USER]

More and more evidence is coming to light revealing the atrocities perpetrated a gainst the people of Iraq and Afghanistan by the criminal Bush regime. If you w ant to see what we Americans have done in Afghanistan, buy "Afghanistan After 'D emocracy" by Mohammed Daud Miraki. Go to his website (of the same name as the book) and order it. These are war crimes and crimes against humanity that make what Hitler and Stalin did pale in comparison. Evil as they were, they wouldn't have dared to use DU weapons on the battlefield, weapons that would have condemned their own troops to a slow, painful death, and those troops'

children to horrible deformities. These are the worst war crimes in history, and because we, the people of the United States, have not removed the Bush regime from office and seen to it that they were prosecuted, we share in the responsibility for them. We stand condemned before God and the world for these crimes.



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