

# Syria, Iraq and Depleted Uranium

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Militarization and WMD](#)

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As the U.S. considers expanding its war on Syria to overt military aggression, Iraq provides some warning of the human cost of accepting the policies of madmen. In Iraq military action starting with "Desert Storm" in 1991, caused the near total destruction of Iraq's society, culture, environment and eventual losses of millions of innocent people. Health and mortality information risks heavy suppression and manipulation since it provides evidence concerning a crime. In [Spain](#), the *Brussels Tribunal's* cogent case attempting to prosecute George Bush, Tony Blair and others for genocide in Iraq was rejected by the court. Lack of legal recourse for the people of Iraq before a non-partisan international court marks the International Criminal Court's failure to bend the major powers from illegal wars of aggression.

Primary alleged crimes of the U.S. and NATO coalition's war on Iraq remain unaddressed:

1. aggression and the betrayal of Iraq's sovereignty.
2. massive military bombardment of civilian areas.
3. intentional destruction of the civilian infrastructure and water supply.
4. use of depleted uranium weaponry to cause the slow death of civilian populations and render portions of the land unable to sustain health and life in the future.

While these points are neglected by the media, current information concerning use of depleted uranium is so notably missing there may be an attempt to remove the issue from the public's awareness ([1](#) and [2](#)). While depleted uranium is a lethal radiological weapon, relevant public information is suppressed, excised, falsely countered and ignored.

Serbian sources claim that a UNEP 1999 Environmental Law report revealing the permanent damage to Yugoslavia was entirely suppressed, but with a portion leaked to an American journalist. In North America where the weapons are made, it's not a welcome issue. Depleted uranium use indicates the intention of genocide against a people, their ability to reproduce, the health of their [children](#), and continuation as a people.

A year after its slated release date, a report by the United Nations World Health Organization on congenital birth defects in areas of Iraq subjected to depleted uranium

weaponry, hasn't appeared though it was completed in October 2012. This oversight is brought to the public's attention in articles by Mozghan Savabieasfahani in *Aljazeera*, and Sudeshna Chowdhury in *Inter Press Service*. The withholding of the WHO report suggests extreme pressure on the World Health Organization by nations which have something terrible to hide. It would be difficult for the report to sidestep epidemic rates of cancer in

Iraq regions where depleted uranium was used. Chowdhury's article, "WHO's Iraq Birth Defect Study Omits Causation," indicates the WHO report purposefully avoids considering the causes of the overwhelming birth defects, disease, and death rates. The report relies in part on Iraq's Ministry of Health for information. The Health Ministry is part of a government set up under occupation by the United States. If the WHO report is allowed to appear, it may cover, dissimulate, mask, and avoid blaming the major powers.

The issue of depleted uranium's effects however, will exist as long as there are Iraqis, Yugoslavs or Afghans, – and U.S. and Coalition veterans. And because of their knowledge, victim peoples are further endangered. The proof of the damage resulting from unjust wars of aggression stays in the memories of the victim parents, the lives of the children who survive despite deformities, in the statistics for deaths by cancer which don't begin to translate the burden of suffering for entire families.

Not only in Iraq, but Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Libya, the people are finding they do not have the value of sparrows, and their lives and their children's lives are taken from them without cause, by policies and military planners who have set themselves apart from humanity. At its inception the Convention on Genocide foresaw complicity of those in power to cover each other's crimes and so is applicable without statute of limitations. To hide crimes of power, the present is hidden from us. For the future then, whatever the WHO report reveals or hides about the deformed children of Fallujah for example, there are studies (several are alluded to in Ms. Chowdhury's article) that address effects of depleted uranium from the perspective of people who care about people more than politics:

"Depleted Uranium Radioactive Contamination In Iraq: An Overview," Prof. Souad N. Al-Azzawi, Aug. 2006, *Brussels Tribunal*.

["The perpetual death from America,"](#) Mohammed Daud Miraki, 2002, reprinted, *nightslantern.ca*.

["The silent genocide from America,"](#) Miraki, 2003, reprinted *nightslantern.ca*.

"In a state of uncertainty," IKV Pax Christi, January 2013, *Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs*.

"Crimes of the Century: Occupation & Contaminating Iraq with Depleted Uranium," Al-Azzawi, June 24, 2005, *Brussels Tribunal*.

"Innocent New Lives are Still Dying and Suffering," Fact Finding Mission on congenital birth defects in Fallujah Iraq in 2013, April 2013, *Human Rights Now*.

"Uranium and other contaminants in hair from the parents of children with congenital anomalies in Fallujah, Iraq," Samira Alaani, Muhammed Tafash, Christopher Busby, Malak Hamdan, Eleanore Blaurock-Busch, Sept. 2, 2011, *Cell & Bioscience*.

The people of Syria are already plunged into disaster with UN assessment of the number of refugees the largest since the Rwandan genocide. As U.S. and NATO threats of direct military action against Syria continue, North Americans proceed with their lives as if there's nothing wrong. As if the big lies reflect the common good. As if the murder of hundreds of thousands of distant people for the profits of a few, is somehow moral, legal, necessary, or safe to cooperate with the obvious terrible crimes of imperialism. It isn't.

Partial sources online: "What's delaying the WHO report on Iraqi birth defects?" Dr. Mozghan Savabieasfahani, June 6, 2013, *Aljazeera*; "UN health agency, Iraq studying birth defects," AFP, Oct. 5, 2010, *Google News*; "Serbia: NATO's Uranium Embrace," Anna Filimonova, Jan. 29, 2013, *Strategic Culture Foundation*; "Depleted uranium 'threatens Balkan cancer epidemic' ," Alex Kirby, July 30, 1999, *BBC News*; "The Responsibility of the US in Contaminating Iraq with Depleted Uranium," Prof. Souad N. Al-Azzawi, Nov. 9, 2009 (presented at the *Kuala Lumpur International Conference to Criminalise War*, October 2009), *uruknet.info*; "WHO's Iraq Birth Defect Study Omits Causation," Sudeshna Chowdhury, July 17, 2013, *IPS*; "Iraqi cities 'hot' with depleted uranium," Sara Flounders, August 2003, *International Action Center*; "'Merciful angel' still killing," March 6, 2013, *International Radio Serbia*; "'Fallujan Babies' and Depleted Uranium — America's Toxic Legacy in Iraq," Dahr Jamail, March 18, 2013, *Al Jazeera*; "The Balkan DU Cover-up: Washington is Pressuring NATO and the UN to Keep the Lid on Investigations," Robert James Parsons, March 22, 2001, *The Nation*.

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