

SUPPORT ICBUW

Since 2003, ICBUW has made considerable progress towards a uranium weapons treaty. Thanks to the work of dedicated campaigners, scientists and politicians in dozens of countries we have achieved:

BELGIUM: the world's first domestic ban on uranium weapons, which also bans investments in uranium weapon manufacturers. (2007, entered into force 2009)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: has called on EU member states to adopt a common position in favour of a ban, and to help provide clearance and assistance for affected communities.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: four landslide resolutions highlighting the potential threat from DU weapons. (2007, 2008, 2010, 2012)

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT: a call for a moratorium (2009)

COSTA RICA: a ban on the production of uranium weapons in its Free Trade Zones (2009). Followed in 2011 by its Congress banning the use, trade, production, distribution and storage of uranium weapons on Costa Rican territory.

We have worked closely with military unions and veterans, with arms researchers and journalists, with diplomats and medical and scientific experts.

We have sought to publish detailed, reliable and up to date information and maintain our website as a valuable global resource.

We have the minimum of staff and a significant part of the work is carried out by unpaid volunteers from around the globe.

Our advocacy is funded by small private donations and donations in kind from members. To help support this important work, please consider making a donation to ICBUW:



November 6th Day of Action event in Brussels by the Belgian Coalition Stop Uranium Weapons

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD: donate online to ICBUW via Paypal on the ICBUW website: www.bandedpleteduranium.org. You do not need to have a Paypal account to donate in this way.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER: donate directly to ICBUW via a national or international bank transfer. Instruct your bank to send funds to: ICBUW, IBAN: GB71 CPBK 0892 9965 220469 SWIFT/BIC: CPBK GB22 XXX

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TAKE ACTION



FROM HOME: Your political representative is a crucial first link for generating change. Why not write or email them and tell them exactly what you think about uranium weapons. Achieving global change means starting at home first.

Why not also write to the media or form a group? ICBUW can provide you with campaigning advice and reliable information. We can also help connect you with others.

GET CONNECTED: join our Facebook Cause via our website or follow us on Twitter at @ICBUW #banDU



SIGN THE INTERNATIONAL PETITION: sign online at <http://bit.ly/ICBUWpetition> or print out copies for your friends to sign. Why not organise a street action and get people to sign up? It's a great way of getting people interested and engaged. For

PDF copies, visit: <http://bit.ly/petitiondownload>



DIVEST YOUR MONEY FROM COMPLICIT BANKS: Banks play a crucial role in financing product development, acquisitions and expansion in the arms industry and many support companies making uranium weapons. This is campaigning that anyone with a bank account can take part

in, not only individuals but also schools, businesses and other organisations. To find out whether your bank is involved in financing uranium weapons, visit: <http://bit.ly/complicitbanks>



JOIN OUR DAY OF ACTION: November 6th is the International Day of Action Against Depleted Uranium Weapons; set to coincide with the United Nations' Day for the Prevention of the Exploitation of the Environment during War and

Armed Conflict. Events take place worldwide and are limited only by your imagination. Get inspired and take part, visit <http://bit.ly/611DoA> for ideas.

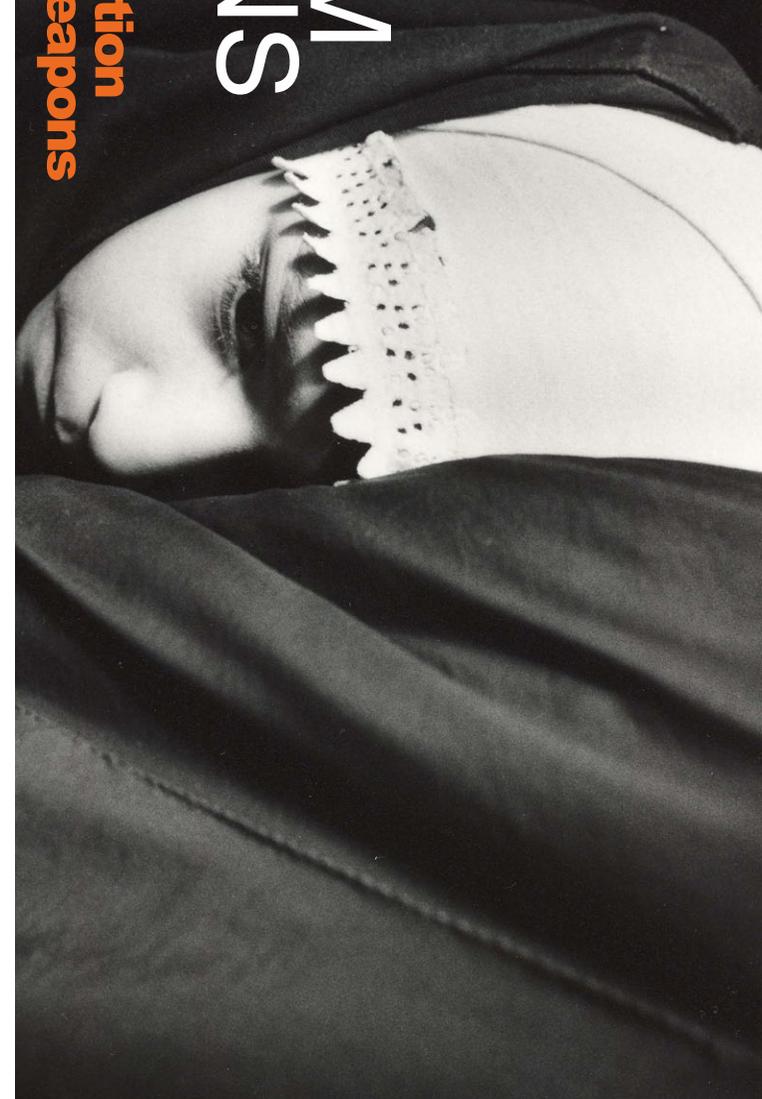
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**BAN
URANIUM
WEAPONS**
International Coalition
to Ban Uranium Weapons



THE PROBLEM

Uranium weapons are not nuclear weapons; they are conventional weapons whose main component is depleted uranium (DU), which is a radioactive and chemically toxic heavy metal that is 1.7 times denser than lead. DU is a by-product of the enrichment of uranium for nuclear fuel and weapons. Its density is attractive to the military, who have developed solid bullets in a variety of sizes to use as armour-piercing ammunition.

The US, UK, Russia, China, France and Pakistan all manufacture uranium weapons; a further 14 states are known to stockpile them. As far as is known, only two countries have definitely used them in battle: the USA and the UK. Between them, the US and the UK have used at least 410,000 kg of DU in Iraq and the Balkans.

When DU bullets - or penetrators - hit hard targets, they spontaneously burn at high temperatures, producing a fine dust. When ingested or inhaled, this radioactive and toxic dust presents a hazard to human health. Penetrators that miss their target gradually corrode, leaching the toxic and radioactive uranium into soil and groundwater.

The use of DU creates a long-term health hazard for civilians and the military alike; it interferes with post-conflict reconstruction; spreads fear and is difficult and expensive to remove. The properties of DU weapons ensure that it is impossible to completely decontaminate sites where they are fired.

THE SOLUTION

ICBUW believes that DU weapons breach both the spirit and letter of International Humanitarian Law. However, just as anti-personnel land mines and cluster bombs were finally outlawed by new, specific treaties, we believe that a global uranium weapons treaty is the best way to achieve a lasting ban on their use.

A uranium weapons treaty would ban the use, sale, production, testing and transfer of uranium weapons; it would order the destruction of stockpiles, release money from the international community for decontamination and support medical care and environmental monitoring for communities affected by the weapons. A treaty ban would also help stigmatise the weapons and help to prevent states who do not sign up to the treaty from using them.

Uranium weapons create toxic remnants of war with an inherent risk of indiscriminate harm. Their use is incompatible with the most basic principles of civilian and environmental health protection and we need your help to achieve a uranium weapon free world.

Turn over for some ideas for how you can help...

WHY WE NEED A URANIUM WEAPON TREATY...

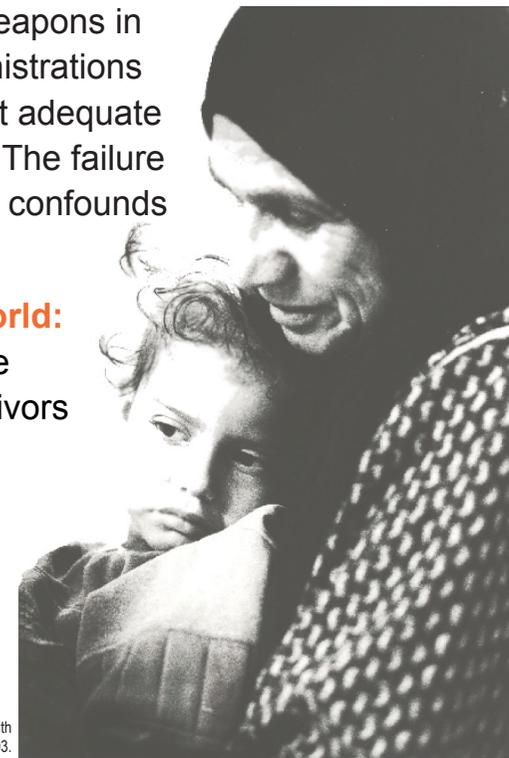


There will never be a safe or legal uranium weapon: contamination from uranium munitions presents an indiscriminate and long-term threat to human health and the environment and the properties of uranium munitions ensure that these hazards are unavoidable.

The potential health risks are clear: although there have been no long-term full-scale studies into civilian health in areas where uranium weapons have been used, the results of laboratory research, illness in veterans and reports of cancers and birth malformations indicate that there is a strong potential for harm. There is an urgent need for a precautionary moratorium and assistance and monitoring for exposed populations: even without a fully established causal link. DU users have yet to make a compelling case to support their claims that DU is harmless.

A lack of capacity and transparency are making meaningful research impossible: it may never be possible to undertake sufficiently detailed epidemiological research into the health effects of uranium weapons in post-conflict environments. Furthermore, it is likely that administrations struggling to cope with reconstruction will never be able to put adequate safeguards in place to prevent dangerous civilian exposures. The failure of states to disclose where they have used uranium weapons confounds research and clearance and adds to the risk to civilians.

By working together we have the power to change the world: The campaigns against landmines and cluster munitions have shown that, by working together, civil society, states and survivors can set new legal standards for the protection of civilians and the environment in armed conflict. In this way it is possible that an internationally binding uranium weapons treaty would set a valuable precedent for the protection of human and environmental health from all toxic remnants of war and release funds for medical assistance and decontamination.



Photographs by Naomi Toyoda - above left, DU puncture holes in an Iraqi armoured vehicle. right, a young girl with leukaemia and her mother, Basra, 2002, overleaf, young girl in a leukaemia ward, Baghdad 2003.