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From: "Judy Hogan" <judyhogan@mindspring.com>
To: "John Edwards" <senator@edwards.senate.gov>, "Gove...
Date: Wed, Dec 29, 1999 9:13 AM
Subject: What we are leaving behind after we bomb!

'99 DEC 29 AM 10:01

Dear friends and Congresspeople, newspapers, etc.

I was much distressed to get this information yesterday. As you know I have been working to get CP & L to use a safer method of storing spent uraniums fuel rods at Shearon Harris and its other plants. I am only 8 miles by air from Shearon Harris. CP & L has not yet seen the light, but I remain hopeful. They did provide me on Christmas eve with a tone alert radio, because I had not been able to hear their sirens inside the house. I'm sure they're doing everything they can to be careful as we approach the New Year, although despite this, they have had 5 small accidents (and automatic shutdowns of reactor) in last year or so. But this is what we are doing abroad. I had been against our bombing of Kosovo and also against the Iraq war ("Desert Storm"), and of course I'm against our continued bombing of Iraq. I learned how many children died after that war because we ruined their infra-structure. Yes, Hussein was/is a bad leader, but we? I feel very discouraged that our government would do this, is now doing this bombing using spent uranium, and leaving behind disastrous effects for centuries to come. Read on, and write your newspapers and congresspeople. Oh, and you might mention that you don't want radioactive material recycled into cookware, braces, etc., either. Has our government completely lost its senses? Yet citizens can still have an effect in our country. Your letter may not seem like much, but I know that every letter is carefully attended to because so many people don't bother to write. You'll see the e-mail addresses of the local Congresspeople on this, and the local newspapers. But if you live out of state, call your library and get the e-mails or addresses! Happy New Year. Let's hope we are wiser in the future! Judy Hogan PO Box 253, Moncure, NC 27559-0253 919-545-9932
cc: Senator John Edwards, Gov. James Hunt, Chatham Commissioner Gary Phillips, NC Senator Eleanor Kinnaird, US Representative David Price, N & O, NRC, NC Warn, CP & L (Caves & Bonds), Durham Herald Sun, Chatham Crossroads, Chapel Hill News, Chapel Hill Herald, Independent, Apex Herald & friends of mine

>Subj: Plowshares act on 4th Sunday of Advent
>From: John Dear, Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA (Nyack, NY)
>Subject: Plowshares act on 4th Sunday of Advent
>Date: December 19, 1999
>
>The PLOWSHARES VS. DEPLETED URANIUM disarmed two
>A-10 Thunderbolt planes, nicknamed Warthogs, at Warfield Air
>National Guard Base in Essex, Maryland, in the early morning hours
>of December 19, 1999, the fourth Sunday of Advent.
>
>From a phone conversation initiated by Philip Berrigan about 6:00 a.m.
>today (Dec. 19, 1999), we learned that he and three others - Susan
>Crane, Rev. Steve Kelly S.J., and Elizabeth Walz - were arrested at the
>National Guard base by Federal Air Police as they were disarming two
>Warthogs. What we learned from the phone conversation was that Phil
>and Elizabeth worked together on one plane, hammering on the Gatling
>gun in the nose of the plane and on the pylons under the wings, and

PDR PR 20 64FR 35090

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>pouring their blood into the engines of the plane. Meanwhile Steve and
 >Susan did similar transformation to a second plane and that, in addition,
 >Steve climbed onto a wing, peeled back the vinly cover and poured his
 >blood into one of the engines of the plane. They hung their banner:
 >PLOWSHARES VS. DEPLETED URANIUM on the site.

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>All four were stopped by Federal Air Police who were not quite content
 >with the speed with which Steve and Susan complied with their orders
 >and sprayed Steve with pepper spray - "to get my attention," as Steve
 >articulated it on the phone. Susan was tackled by security when she did
 >not desist.

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>The four were transported to the police precinct in Essex where they
 >are being photographed and finger-printed. It is likely that they will see
 >a Commissioner later in the day. Charges, at this time, are trespass and
 >destruction of property. It is unknown whether that will be government
 >property, federal property or what.

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>The four directed us to papers they had prepared ahead of time: a
 >statement, an indictment against the planes themselves and those who
 >use them for destructions, fact sheets on the Warthog and on Depleted
 >Uranium and its use in recent wars. We attach these papers with this
 >account.

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>Their Statement:

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> PLOWSHARES VS. DEPLETED URANIUM
 >December 19, 1999 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
 >Attack a village with an A-10 Warthog and leave a trench.
 >Attack a village with an A-10 Warthog firing depleted uranium and leave
 > a poisoned graveyard -- the people dead, plants dying or
 > sterile, the earth eternally toxic.
 >The A-10 is an aircraft built around a gun -- a 30 mm 7 barrel Gatling
 >that can spew 3.900 rounds per minute. This criminal plane fired 95% of
 >the depleted uranium deployed by the U. S. during the Gulf War, leaving
 >behind 300-800 tons (Dutch Laka Foundation) poisoning humans and the
 >elements in Kuwait and Iraq.

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>Sanctions (a crime against humanity) and depleted uranium (a war crime)
 >have killed 2 million Iraqis since the war's end. Said Dr. Jannan Ghalib
 >while showing Olivia Ward of the Toronto Star a photograph album of
 >malformed babies: This one, no head. This one, legs fused together.
 >Another, no limbs and tiny buds on the misshapen chest. Then a face
 >with no eyes, just flaps of skin over the empty sockets. Another with a
 >huge water swollen head with no brain. (Atomic Veteran s Radiation
 >News, Vol. 3, No. 6)

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>Depleted uranium is a delayed response weapon which burns its way
 >through tank armor and oxidizes, throwing radioactive particles as far
 >away as 25 miles. When ingested, these particles cause chemical and
 >radioactive damage to the bronchial tree, to kidneys, liver and bones,
 >causing somatic and genetic trauma. Cancer often results.

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>Iraq and Yugoslavia are template wars, blueprints for future imperial

>wars -- targeting the total of a society -- military, civilians, the unborn,
>the infrastructure, the ecology, the health and spirit of a people. These
>wars even overflow against the troops that fight them. 90,000 American
>
>Gulf War veterans are now chronically ill. A U. S. Department of
>Veterans Affairs study of 251 veteran s families in Mississippi shows
>that 67% had children with severe illnesses or birth defects.
>
>The U. S. has made another fatal mistake with depleted uranium -- it
>has given it away to a score of other countries, openly inviting them to
>make their own weapons, fight their own nuclear wars and infest the
>planet with more radiation.
>
>December 19th ends Advent - a time of reparation and conversion. We
>mark this day by mourning the civilians killed in America's wars - nine
>civilians to every soldier, and by converting one hellish instrument of
>their death. They die forgotten and alone - no grateful nation to sorrow
>their passing - no flags nor official ritual. They are expendable; they are
>the true cannon fodder.
>
>We come to the Maryland Warfield Air National Guard Base to convert
>the A-10, as Roman Catholic Christians, in obedience to God's prohibition
>against killing. Also, to embody Isaiah s vision of a disarmed world where
>
>hearts are converted to compassion and justice and the weapons are
>converted to the tools of peace. Finally, to atone for another nuclear war
>
>in Iraq, and a third in Yugoslavia. So help us God.
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>WHY THEY CHOSE THE WARTHOGS - DEPLETED URANIUM
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>1. DU is a dense radioactive waste used in munitions because it can
>pierce 4 inches of armor. It is radioactive; it is a heavy metal; it
>poisons
>environment and people. It has a half life of 4.5 billion years.
>
>2. Uranium-238 is mined and U-235 and U-234 removed in an enrichment
>process for nuclear weapons and power plants. What remains, depleted
>of
>the enriched isotopes, is a radioactive waste. Stockpiles of depleted
>uranium have accumulated since the 1940's, (about 500,000 tons). The
>government has been looking for a use for this radioactive waste to
>reduce storage difficulties and costs.
>
>3. DU has physical properties that are useful to the military. It is almost
>twice as dense as lead. On impact, it ignites and aerosolizes, spreading
>fine dust particles of DU that can travel far as 26 miles.
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>4. The US began producing DU ammunition in 1978; the munitions were
>first used during the Gulf War. 940,000 DU shells were fired from U.S.
>planes and 14,000 DU shells were fired from tanks. 300-800 tons of DU
>particles and dust were scattered over ground and water in Kuwait,
>Saudi

- >Arabia and Iraq. The majority of the DU rounds fired in the Gulf were
- >from the Fairchild A-10 "tank-killer" aircraft. About 564,000 pounds of
- >DU were fired from A-10 planes during the Gulf War.
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- >5. DU weapons are toxic, radioactive weapons which cannot be
- >contained in time or space, and are indiscriminate weapons which violate
- >international law.
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- >6. In the US Army base in Doha, Kuwait, an ammunition vehicle caught
- >fire on July 11, 1991. An estimated 9,000 pounds of DU were burned.
- >During the Gulf War, 29 US vehicles were contaminated with DU through
- >friendly fire incidents. Soldiers inside the vehicles were wounded;
- >soldiers assigned to recover the vehicles were contaminated.
- >Thousands
- >of Iraqi vehicles were contaminated by DU. American soldiers entered
- >these vehicles to salvage equipment, look for souvenirs or pose for
- >pictures. They were not warned that there was DU dust on the
- >equipment
- >and in the air.
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- >7. Of the 697,000 US troops in the Gulf, over 90,000 reported medical
- >problems. DU could be responsible for respiratory, liver, and kidney
- >dysfunction, memory loss, headaches, fever, low blood pressure and
- >birth
- >defects.
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- >8. The people of Iraq - particularly in the south - have been contaminated
- >through the air, water, soil and crops. Doctors in Iraq have documented
- >an increase in leukemia and other cancers.
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- >9. DU threatens unborn generations. Children are the most affected
- >because DU accumulates in their bones, replacing calcium. High rates of
- >leukemia, lymphoma, bone cancer have been recorded in Iraq. DU
- >causes
- >birth deformities: children are born with shortened or webbed arms and
- >legs, lacking eyes, mouth, brain, and abnormalities in the number and
- >shape of organs.
- >
- >10. The military use of DU has contaminated areas of Iraq, Kuwait,
- >Saudi Arabia, and Bosnia, US military bases in Vieques, Puerto Rico and
- >Okinawa, Japan as well as neighbors of weapons manufacturers, such
- >as in Colonie, NY where the National Lead Plant was manufacturing DU
- >penetrators. Research and development of DU penetrators and armor
- >has
- >been done at the nearby Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.
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- >Further reading:
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- >Metal of Dishonor: Depleted Uranium, Ramsey Clark, Rosalie Bertell,
- >Michio Kaku et al, International Action Center, 39 W. 14th St, Room 206,
- >NY, NY 10011 email: iacenter@iacenter.org
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- >LAKA Foundation, Kotelhulsplein 43, 1054 RD, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- >email: laka@laka.antenna.nl

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- >Swords to Plowshares (Veterans Group) 995 Market, 3rd floor,
- >San Francisco, CA 94103
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- >Military Project, 471 Main Street, 2nd Floor, Lewiston ME 04240 email:
- >mtp@igc.apc.org
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- >From: John Dear, Fellowship of Reconciliation, USA (Nyack, NY)
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CC: "Raleigh News & Observer" <forum@nando.com>, "NRC ...