

URGENT FAX MESSAGE

To: The Rt. Hon Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

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From: Dai Williams, Independent weapons researcher  
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**Dear Prime Minister**

**PLEASE STOP DIRTY BOMB & MISSILE ATTACKS TODAY**

(Please refer also letters to your of 1 November 2001 and report on 23 October 2002).

This is my latest assessment updated for last night's (Friday 21 March) **Shock and Awe** bombing strike in Iraq with 1000 cruise missiles reported. TV coverage last night was my first view of large numbers of hard target warheads in combat - with very characteristic effects: underground detonation, jets of fire up from the penetration holes, dense black smoke and a shower of incandescent metal in the explosion plume. These are the features of uranium, not tungsten warheads.

War and peace priorities move on day to day and very fast now - for you, me and the world. Peace campaigners have failed to stop the war. But if my weapons analysis over the last 2 years is even partly correct **then it is vital to try to stop continued bombing in Iraq today.** Action must be taken within the next 24 hours or it may be too late to stop a grim escalation of humanitarian consequences of the war - of turning Baghdad and other target areas into a radiologically bombed wasteland.

Mr Hoon or Dr Moonie may re-assure you that Uranium warheads are not radiological bombs using the Pentagon DU Briefing of 14 March. Beware - that is scandalously misleading propaganda deliberately misrepresenting research and health warnings including the Royal Society and UNEP. Ask scientists like Professor Malcolm Hooper, adviser to UK Gulf veterans and Dr Chris Busby, both members of the MOD DU Oversight Board.

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From my analysis **the greatest risk to both civilians and troops in Iraq is the suspected use of Uranium warheads in the smart bombs and cruise missiles now being used in the US Shock and Awe campaign.**

For a summary of **Hazards of Uranium weapons in the proposed war on Iraq** see <http://www.eoslifework.co.uk/u23.htm> and see the online PowerPoint presentation **Last chance to question US Dirty Bombs for Iraq?** at <http://www.eoslifework.co.uk/Uhaz7feb03/index.htm>

On 2 Feb (New York Times) the Pentagon revealed plans to use **9700 guided bombs and 700+ cruise missiles**. These are mostly the same weapons as used in Afghanistan. About 1 in 3 use "**hard target**" warheads specifically designed in the 1990's to destroy Iraq's underground bunkers, command centres and chemical or biological weapons etc. See weapons history in Part 3 of my report **Depleted Uranium weapons 2001-2002, Mystery metal nightmare in Afghanistan?** January 2002, at <http://www.eoslifework.co.uk/du2012.htm>.

These warheads use from 50 kg to 1500 kg of a **secret, "dense metal"** to increase their penetration and incendiary effects. Average about 500 kg. This mystery metal is 2.5 x heavier than steel and 1.7 x heavier than lead. This enables bomb and missile warheads to penetrate 2x deeper than old weapons.

According to **US Patent Office records** this secret metal is Tungsten or **Depleted Uranium**. Where powerful incendiary effects are needed Uranium is the logical military choice. It burns at 5000 degrees. This does not just burn, but **carbonises victims** (recall photos from the 1991 Gulf War).

## URANIUM BLITZ

My analysis of these weapons (main reports January and October 2002) indicates that **US forces will use 1500+ tons of Uranium guided weapons in the Shock & Awe phase of attacks**. (3000 weapons x 500 kg see above). Key weapons are the AGM-86D, Tomahawk, AGM-142 and AGM-130C cruise missiles plus the 2 ton GBU-28 and 37 Bunker Buster guided bombs and the most widely used 2000 lb guided bombs - GBU-15, 24, 27 (Paveway) and GBU-31 (JDAM).

**The only description for this is a Uranium Blitz.**

If military advisers deny this ask them what the metal is that produces showers of white stars in the explosion clouds seen on TV last night. Nickel Cobalt Steel or Tungsten? - no way. Uranium is the only hi-density metal in cruise missiles and guided bombs that burns in air. Uranium warheads explode at 5000 degrees - the highest non-nuclear explosion temperature. Hence the fire storm inside targets.

Uranium bombs produce dense black smoke. This contains fine Uranium oxide dust, 60% less than 1.5 microns. Much of this will stay in the atmosphere for several months. Civilians and troops breathing this dust are at risk of short term toxic poisoning and long term radiation damage e.g. leukaemia, lymphomas and birth defects.

Please note I talk about **Uranium weapons**, not only depleted uranium. The Afghan bombing victims tested by **UMRC** last June had severe uranium contamination - 100 x normal. This was from **undepleted uranium** - same effects as DU but the contamination is effectively camouflaged to standard medical and environmental testing. It is also brilliant political camouflage because all questions to Governments have been restricted to Depleted uranium weapons.

## PRIORITY TODAY - PLEASE STOP THE DIRTY BOMBS

We cannot stop the war now. But I can appeal to you and other international leaders to demand that US and UK forces cease using ANY Uranium weapons in the US and UK attacks on Iraq IMMEDIATELY. Germany, France, Russia, China etc also have my reports.

The 1000 cruise missiles used yesterday almost certainly contained 250-500 tons of Uranium warheads in Baghdad. This is as much Uranium contamination in one night as the whole 300 tons used in the 1991 Gulf War.

**WORSE IS TO COME.** The B52 bombers from RAF Fairford each carry 24 x 2000 lb guided bombs. Many of these will be hard target guided bombs most commonly:

- **GBU-28 & 37 Bunker Busters** - 2 ton bombs with 1500 kg suspected Uranium ballast
- **GBU-24, JDAM GBU-31 and AGM-130C** - hard target 2000 lb warheads with 500 kg suspected uranium in each. Lockheed Martin patent 1997 for tungsten AND Uranium versions <http://www.eoslifework.co.uk/u23.htm#USpatreport>

These B52s can deliver 12 tons of Uranium contamination per sorti - more than the total 10 tons of Uranium declared by US forces in the 1999 Balkans War. As in Afghanistan the guided bombing will follow the cruise missile attack.

**Baghdad (and other targets) may already be covered in 250 tons of Uranium fallout from Tomahawk and CALCM AGM-86D cruise missiles. If US bombing continues this may increase to 500-1000 tons within the next week.**

Civilians have absolutely no breathing protection against these weapons. Significant numbers are likely to start getting sick within 2-3 days.

**Uranium warheads are radiological bombs - "dirty bombs"**. They are weapons of mass destruction. Their use is a war crime. So the use of UK air bases for US bombers to deliver these weapons is a very grave issue for the UK Government.

**Action needed in the UK:** If the US Government insists on continuing its air war then I request that you as Prime Minister must:

- a) withdraw permission to use UK bases for US bombers and**
- b) withdraw UK troops from all regions that will become heavily contaminated.**

## **Need for immediate UN monitoring in Iraq**

**Stopping US Dirty Bombs** is only part of the problem. The ones that have already been used will have contaminated large areas. The radioactive dust cloud as bombing plumes merge over the next 48 hours will form a lethal haze over large areas.

**Independent environmental and health monitoring is needed immediately in Iraq.** Military forces cannot be trusted to do this reliably. The UNEP and IAEA have the relevant expertise. But their operations must have a cast iron guarantee that US military, security or commercial interests will not be allowed to subvert their operations as NATO did in the Balkans.

The **UN Security Council** must hold an emergency meeting to decide **how to monitor and regulate the use of WMDs by US and allied forces in Iraq.**

**UN Humanitarian organisations** (UNHCR etc) will then need to arrange **rapid evacuation** of all contaminated areas - a massive refugee exodus. Every day this is delayed will increase cumulative exposure risks to civilians and health hazards.

Environmental monitoring will be needed for many months. It will be most necessary in Southern Iraq, Kuwait and Western Iran as Iraqi air masses usually drift to the south and east.

## US Dirty War and Humanitarian Disaster

The US Defence industry needs a war every 2 years to use up current weapon stocks and to test new systems. **US forces will use the maximum amount of their current weapons inventory in Iraq to clear their stocks.** They have a long history of "over-bombing" tracing back to Europe and Japan at the end of World War 2..

**It is absolutely vital that all further US dirty bombs are vetoed as fast as UK politicians can act to challenge Government with these issues.**

**European MEPs already voted for an immediate moratorium on Uranium weapons on 13 February in Strasbourg.**

US and UK ground forces will be determined to finish their invasion to destroy the Saddam regime. But since all strategic military and political targets will already have been targeted in the first 48 hours **the ground war should be completed without needing additional hard target bombing support.**

**UK military commanders** may be far happier with this "stop the bombing" change anyway. There is no way that UK troops can operate for extended periods in regions heavily contaminated with alpha radiation dust that will last for months or years.

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This updated assessment is based on information gathered from respected public domain sources over the past 2 years and from latest media war reports.

I hope that scientists, NGOs, peace groups, politicians and the international media can raise these issues for international debate and action within the next 24 hours. After the bombing it will be too late to stop the contamination. Priorities will move on to health and radiation monitoring and to evacuation. The international media were forbidden access to the post bombing situation in Afghanistan. Full disclosure must be demanded for Iraq to minimise the new humanitarian disaster that has already begun.

The propaganda from the Pentagon and MOD that Uranium contamination is not dangerous is as dangerous as it is deluded. It even risks exposing UK and US troops to 5x higher risk of Gulf War syndrome from uranium contamination than in 1991 - fratricide (friendly fire killing). The risks for Iraqi civilians are awesome and may amount to genocide.

I would like to be wrong about these weapons. But if I am right these is only one last chance to challenge the use of these weapons to prevent an even greater humanitarian disaster in Iraq - today.

It seems that you have been terribly deceived about the use radiological bombs by US and possibly even UK forces. Please review your action today Prime Minister. Please demand that the bombing stops before hundreds of tons more radioactive waste is spread over Baghdad and other parts of Iraq.

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