



# Rockland troops contaminated by DU in Iraq

## **DU munitions are classified by a United Nations resolution as illegal weapons of mass destruction**

Four soldiers from Orangeburg-based 442nd Military Police Company of the Army National Guard serving in Iraq, are poisoned by dust from depleted uranium (DU) shells fired by U.S. troops.

**"We were all healthy when we left home. Now, I suffer from headaches, fatigue, dizziness, blood in the urine, unexplained rashes,"** said Sgt. Jerry Ojeda, 28. (*The Journal News*, 4/10/04)

**"I got sick instantly in June,"** said Staff Sgt. Ray Ramos, a Brooklyn housing cop. **"My health kept going downhill with daily headaches, constant numbness in my hands and rashes on my stomach."** (*NY Daily News*, 4/3/04)

Several of the soldiers said that doctors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Fort Dix **refused for months to test them for DU**. The soldiers were examined and tested at the request of *The NY Daily News* by an independent uranium expert, Dr. Asaf Duracovic. He concluded that four had "almost certainly" been exposed to radioactive dust released by DU shells fired by our own troops. (*NY Daily news*, 4/6/04)

"These are amazing results, especially since these soldiers were military police not exposed to the heat of battle," said Dr. Asaf Duracovic. **"Other American soldiers who were in combat must have more depleted uranium exposure,"** said Duracovic, a colonel in the Army Reserves who served in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. (*NY Daily news*, 4/3/04)

"A large number of American soldiers [in Iraq] may have had **significant exposure to uranium oxide dust**," said Dr. Thomas Fasey, a pathologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center and an expert on depleted uranium. **"And the health impact is worrisome for the future."** (*NY Daily News*, 4/3/04)

<b>US soldiers:</b> 706 died (105 died in April, 2004) 7,096 wounded (3,089 wounded in April, 2004) ( <a href="http://www.lunaville.org">www.lunaville.org</a> ) <b>Iraqi Civilians: 8,918 ó 10,769</b> died ( <a href="http://www.Iraqbodycount.net">www.Iraqbodycount.net</a> )	<b>Casualties of War (up to 4/23/04)</b>
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DU is a component of toxic nuclear waste. **It is toxic as both radioactive and heavy metal.** The extremely dense DU has been used by the U.S. for tank armor and armor-piercing weapons. **When DU shell is fired, it ignites upon impact, and vaporized into tiny particles of radioactive dust. Once inhaled, they lodge in the body and emit radiation indefinitely.** A single particle of DU lodged in a lymph node can devastate the entire immune system according to British radiation expert Roger Coghill (*Toronto Star*, 7/31/99)

**Kidney dysfunction, lung damage, bloody stools, extreme fatigue, joint pain, unsteady gait, memory loss and rashes and, ultimately, cancer and premature death await those exposed to DU.**

**The Army and Air force fired at least 127 tons of DU shells in Iraq last year,** Pentagon spokesman Michael Kilpatrick said. No figures have yet been released for how much the Marines fired.

Bush Sr.'s Gulf War I was also a nuclear war. **320 tons of DU were used against Iraq in 1991.** The Gulf War Veterans Association reports that **at least 300,000 Gulf War I vets have now developed incapacitating illness** ([www.gulfwarvets.com](http://www.gulfwarvets.com)). To date, **209,000 vets have filed claims for disability benefits based on combat injuries and illness in that war** (*WorldNetDaily.com*).

Nothing compares to the **astronomical cancer rates and birth defects suffered by the Iraqi people** who have endured vicious nuclear chastisement for years. Pictures of grotesquely deformed Iraqi infants born since 1991 are overwhelming ([www.web-light.nl/VISIE/extremedeformities.html](http://www.web-light.nl/VISIE/extremedeformities.html)).

Like those born to Gulf War I vets, **many babies born to troops now in Iraq will also be afflicted with hideous deformities, neurological damage and/or blood and respiratory disorders** (*Los Angeles Times*, 11/14/94).

**This is a war even the victors will lose  
Bring our troops home now!**

Join <b>Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice</b> for weekly peace vigils at Middletown Rd. & Rt. 59 in Nanuet, <b>every Saturday</b> 1-3 pm. For info: <b><a href="http://www.rocklandaction.org">www.rocklandaction.org</a></b> , or call The Fellowship of Reconciliation at 358-4601
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