

**Date:** October 16<sup>th</sup> to Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003 — **Location:** University of Hamburg, Germany

## Executive body:

**GAAA** – Gewaltfreie Aktion Atomwaffen Abschaffen (Nonviolent Action to Abolish Atomic Weapons)

Present supporters: **IPPNW**, Germany, **Pandora** DU Research Project, Great Britain, **Nuclear Energy Information Service (NEIS)**, USA, **Deutsch Friedens Gesellschaft – Vereinter Kriegsdienstverweigerer**, Germany, **Voices in the Wilderness**, USA, **Campaign against Depleted Uranium (CADU)**, GB, **ASTA Hamburg Universität**–Germany, **Grandmothers for Peace International**, USA, **Nuclear Free Future Award**, Germany, **Traprock-Peace Center**, USA, **Action des Citoyens pour le Désarmement Nucléaire (ACDN)**, France, **Friedens und Begegnungsstätte Mutlangen**, Germany, and the **Hamburg Forum**

## Conference Objectives

\* **Organized exchange between scientists and experts** from over all the world in the field of research on uranium and depleted uranium (DU), and their effects on health and environment both in their processing and their military employment, **particularly in Iraq.**

\* **Further education and enhancing the networking of peace- and disarmament organizations** who are working on this issue for years, and organizing a campaign to formulate an action plan to abolish the civil and military use of these weapons, to provide for medical follow-up of exposed populations, to call for the maximal clean up of affected areas, and the implementation of existing international law and custom regarding the illegality of these weapons.

## Conference Subject

**For more than a decade** the international community has faced the fact that governments – particularly the US and British — are developing and improving their weaponry with waste uranium, especially employing so-called depleted uranium of the isotope U 238.

*“If DU enters the body, it has the potential to generate significant medical consequences. The risks associated with DU in the body are both chemical and radiological.”*

cited from: Army Environmental Policy Institute (AEPI), *Health and Environmental Consequences of Depleted Uranium Use in the U.S. Army*, Juni 1995

**In the 1991 Gulf War** the USA and Great Britain employed armor-penetrating DU ammunition for the first time on a very large area – according to their own data 320 metric tons of DU mainly in **southern Iraq**. Meanwhile DU and other uranium ammunition have become a warfare standard: 3 tons were fired in Bosnia, 10 tons in Yugoslavia, 1,000 tons in Afghanistan, and a further estimated 1,000+ tons in the recent war against **Iraq**.

*“No available technology can significantly change the inherent chemical and radiological toxicity of DU. These are intrinsic properties of uranium.”*

cited from: Army Environmental Policy Institute (AEPI), *Health and Environmental Consequences of Depleted Uranium Use in the U.S. Army*, Juni 1995

*“Short-term effects of high doses can result in death, while long-term effects of low doses have been implicated in cancer.”*

cited from: Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), *Kinetic Energy Penetrator Long Term Strategy Study*, Danesi, Juli 1990

**The Conference** will offer a forum for nuclear physicists, chemists, medical doctors/physicians, and biologists to present and discuss the latest results of the independent research on DU and all other weapons produced using uranium isotopes.

### **For example: the Gulf War Syndrome –**

so far 260,000 soldiers who participated in the 1991 Gulf War are reported to be suffering from chronic exhaustion, depression, respiration difficulties, liver- or kidney problems, and significantly increased cancer rates.

### **For example: Birth Defects –**

the significantly increased rate of which concerns both the children of Gulf War veterans and of the population of **southern Iraq**.

### **For example: Contamination of the Complete Food Chain –**

by Uranium/Uranium oxide dusts distributed by air motion and deposited in soil and groundwater mainly in **southern Iraq**.

**For example: Leukemia -**

which affects children in **southern Iraq** at a five- to six-fold rate compared to the time before 1991.

*"Inhaled insoluble oxides stay in the lungs longer and pose a potential cancer risk due to radiation. ingested DU dust can also pose both a radioactive and a toxicity risk."*

aus: United States General Accounting Office (GAO/NSIAD-93-90) *Operation Desert STorm: Army Not Adequately Prepared to Deal With Depleted Uranium Contamination*, Januar 1993

**In spite of their own studies testifying to the high toxicity of Uranium and DU** (as quoted above) Pentagon officials keep strictly in line with the U.S. government, which unanimously with the British government vigorously denies any connection between the use of radiological ammunition and the serious diseases of those who have been exposed to its radiation and toxic effects. In pursuit of this policy, the U.S. government has imposed pressure on the United Nations until the latter dropped their plan to perform a study on this issue in December 2001.

**In contrast to the above, the EU countries are taking the alarming results seriously** which have been contributed by scientists of all faculties as well as organizations of Gulf War veterans and peace activists; we greet their growing concern as most encouraging.

**We deem the international exchange of research results a compelling imperative, particularly after the recently ended war against Iraq has again exposed both its population and the troops engaged in combat to enormous levels of radiation.** The experience of the past decade has taught that acquiring credible, independent research will depend essentially on the initiative of peace- and disarmament activists.

## **Working Method**

The conference's four-day schedule details as follows:

**The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>** day consists of three two-hour panels each, in which three to four international experts shall present their working results to each other and to the audience under professional moderation.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> day** is dedicated to the structured compilation of working results.

**The 4<sup>th</sup> day** serves to integrate, summarize and present the inter-disciplinary working results with the priority goal to develop and international action plan and movement to oppose these weapons.

## **Reporting Experts / Participants**

In all, we plan to have about 30 expert participants report to the plenary conference. Among others, we have invited:

**Dr. Saoud N. Al-Azzawi**, Environmental Research Dept. of the University of Baghdad, Iraq

**Dr. Rosalie Bertell**, Endometriologist of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health, Canada

**Dr. Chris Busby**, Chemophysicist and initiator of the LLRC (Low-Level-Radiation Committee), GB

**Dr. Leuren Moret**, Geosciences, formerly with Livermore Nuclear Weapons Laboratory, and Lawrence-Berkeley National Laboratory, USA

**Ted Weymann**, presenting research results of **Dr. Asaf Durakovic**, Nuclear Medical Physician at UMRC, Canada

**Prof. Al-Abboudi Abdul Kadhum**, hematological effects of radiation on camels, Algeria

**Dr. Doug Rokke**, formerly head of U.S. military DU battlefield cleanup operation in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, USA

**Heike Schröder**, chromosome aberration analyst, Germany

**Dr. Katsuma Yagasaki**, Nuclear Physicist, Okinawa, Japan

**Karen Parker, JD**, international law expert, USA

We expect at least 350 participants to join in the conference.

**We invite everybody to attend!**

**Please register in time - just send us an e-mail to: [marion@motherearth.org](mailto:marion@motherearth.org)**