

## The Fallujah Project

In June 2011, two members of the Australian Campaign will travel to Iraq to investigate the impact of uranium weapons with a focus on the city of Fallujah. Since US attacks in the city in 2005 the level of babies born with severe birth deformities has skyrocketed. A recent report entitled "Cancer, Infant Mortality and Birth Sex-Ratio in Fallujah, Iraq 2005-2009" (you can read it online) reports a massive thirty-eight fold increase in Leukaemia (even after the bombing of Hiroshima, leukaemia only increased seventeen fold). Despite this shocking situation, this story has barely made it on to the radar of the Australian or U.S media. But it is a story that needs to be widely told and



*Many bombed buildings in Iraq still record high levels of radiation*

responded to with immediate action. The aim of this trip is to gather information to raise awareness of the issue and give voice to the families of Fallujah through publications and a documentary. If you would like to support this project, please contact Donna Mulhearn at [acbuw@hotmail.com](mailto:acbuw@hotmail.com)

### Further info:

For further information on the Australian Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons see [acbuw.org](http://acbuw.org) or contact [acbuw@hotmail.com](mailto:acbuw@hotmail.com)

***Together we can make a difference.***

***United, we can achieve a ban uranium weapons  
and bring justice to victims.***



## Australian Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons

A coalition of individuals and groups taking action to ensure a safer future for all

[acbuw.org](http://acbuw.org)

**What:** Uranium weapons, often called 'depleted' uranium (DU) weapons, are used because of their high density and unique armour piercing capability. Manufactured from radioactive waste materials produced during the nuclear fuel chain and the production of nuclear weapons, they cause widespread and long lasting contamination of the environment. These weapon systems are radiologically and chemically toxic.

**The Problem:** Many people—innocent civilians especially children, military veterans, industry workers—have illnesses and medical problems, which may be due to their exposure to 'depleted' uranium. In areas such as southern Iraq, where uranium munitions were used by the US and the UK in recent wars, there have been reports of increases in cancers, leukaemia and birth defects.

**Where:** It is now clear that uranium weapons were used on a large scale by the US and the UK in the Gulf War in 1991, then in Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo, and again in the war in Iraq by the US and the UK in 2003. It is suspected that the US also used uranium weapons in Afghanistan in 2001.

**Impact:** The use of uranium weapons results in a human and environmental catastrophe for the affected region as uranium can remain in the air as dust particles for more than 500 years and leech into the soil and water sources.

**What next:** At least seventeen countries possess uranium weapons, the use of which is contrary to existing humanitarian law. We, the people, need to let governments and the United Nations know that these weapons can have no part in a humane and caring world. There is an international campaign to ban uranium weapons (ICBUW see [www.bandepleteduranium.org](http://www.bandepleteduranium.org)) and considering Australia's involvement in recent wars, it is important we are actively involved in this campaign.

***The Australian and International campaigns call for your support to demand:***

- An immediate end to the use of uranium weapons,
- Disclosure of all locations where uranium weapons have been used and immediate removal of the remnants and contaminated materials from the sites under strict control,
- Health surveys of the 'depleted' uranium victims and environmental investigations at the affected sites,
- Medical treatment and compensation for the 'depleted' uranium victims,
- An end to the development, production, stockpiling, testing, trade of uranium weapons.

**A Convention for a total ban on uranium weapons**  
***Be part of something bigger: the International Campaign***

With more than 100 member organisations in 28 countries worldwide, ICBUW represents the best opportunity yet to achieve a global ban on the use of uranium in weapons. Even though the use of weapons containing uranium should already be illegal, an explicit treaty, as has been seen with chemical and biological weapons, landmines and cluster bombs, has proved the best solution for confirming their illegality. Such a treaty would not only outlaw the use of uranium weapons, but would include the prohibition of their production, the destruction of stockpiles, the decontamination of battlefields and rules on compensation for victims.

ICBUW has prepared a draft treaty and is following the successful example of the Cluster Munition Coalition. ICBUW's grassroots member organisations lobby at a national level (that's us!), while ICBUW itself works with supranational bodies such as the European Parliament and the United Nations.

**Australia's Role:** It is vital that Australia supports the draft treaty and this will require a concerted local campaign. Australia did not support a recent UN resolution calling for greater transparency on uranium weapons use, but rather abstained while 148 nations supported it, and only four voted against. We need to send a message to the Australian Government that we want to see our UN vote used to support human rights and victims of war rather than shirk our responsibilities for the sake of the US Alliance.



*Eleven-year-old Areean developed leukaemia in 2003, along with hundreds of other Iraqi children. She is from Basra, in the south of Iraq where depleted uranium was widely used in the 1991 Gulf War contaminating the whole region.*

***What you can do:***

- Write to your local MP or Defence Minister about your concerns,
- Join the Australian Campaign to Ban Uranium Weapons (ACBUW),
- Contact ACBUW to receive updates at email: [acbuw@hotmail.com](mailto:acbuw@hotmail.com),
- Organise a fundraising event to support ACBUW,
- Support independent DU research online at [bandepleteduranium.org](http://bandepleteduranium.org)
- Sign the International Ban DU petition online at [bandepleteduranium.org](http://bandepleteduranium.org)