



Uranium Medical Research Centre

Uranium Contamination of Afghanistan An urgent appeal on behalf of the people of Afghanistan January 2003

This is an appeal for immediate aid to finance the laboratory analysis of forty (40) human, biological specimens and geological samples taken from Afghans and communities likely exposed to Uranium internal contamination during the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) bombing campaign.

Background

In May 2002, the Uranium Medical Research Centre Inc. (UMRC) < www.UMRC.net > sent a field team to interview and examine residents and internally displaced people in Afghanistan. See: *Excerpts from Field Team Trip Report - Project: Afghanistan:*

Independent monitoring of the weapon types and delivery systems indicate that radioactive, toxic Uranium alloys and hard-target Uranium warheads were being used by the Coalition Forces. See: *Dai Williams' excellent documentation on OEF weapons* < www.eoslifework.co.uk > ; *Prof. Marc Herold:* < <http://pubpages.unh.edu/~mwherold/AfghanDailyCount.pdf> > and, < <http://prop1.org/nucnews/briefslv.htm> > .

Nangarhar Province was a strategic target zone for Operation Enduring Freedom high and low altitude, precision-guided bombing and first time deployment of a new generation of deep penetrating, "cave-busting" and seismic shock warheads. See: < www.antenna.nl/wise/uranium/dhap99.html > .

The UMRC field team identified several hundred people suffering from illnesses and medical conditions displaying complex clinical symptoms similar to those of Gulf War veterans. There is no proven symptomatology of a specific uranium contamination. The symptoms are multi-organ alteration probably due to inhalation of uranium dust. To confirm or rule out apparent contamination, UMRC collected urine specimens and soil samples and transported them to an independent science research laboratory in England for uranium radio-isotopic analysis.

The situation facing Afghanistan

In August, UMRC completed its preliminary analysis of the laboratory results from Nangarhar. Without exception, every person donating urine specimens tested positive for Uranium internal contamination. The results were astounding: The donors present concentrations of toxic and radioactive Uranium isotopes between 100 and 400 times greater than in the Gulf War veterans tested in 1999.

If UMRC's Nangarhar findings are corroborated in other communities across Afghanistan, the country faces a severe public health disaster. Uranium contamination becomes a permanent feature of any environment bombed by these weapons. Every subsequent generation is at risk. The results are potentially devastating. See: < www.UMRC.net > for *Symptoms of Uranium internal contamination*. Swift action is needed to survey the scope of this contamination and assist the government of Afghanistan to manage the public health consequences.

Urgent need to finance medical scientific analysis

We urge you, for the sake of the people of Afghanistan, to assist UMRC to complete this work to determine the scope and range of Uranium contamination in Afghanistan. It costs 1000 USD (1000 EUR) to have one urine or geological sample analysed by the science laboratory. A specialised and very expensive procedure called Thermal Ionisation Mass Spectrometer is required and laboratory staff must conduct rigorous and detailed preparations and measurements of samples.

In September 2002, the UMRC field team returned to Afghanistan to broaden its survey of residents and communities. Surveys revealed a potentially much broader area and larger population of contamination than initially anticipated. Many (30%) of the members of the families interviewed displayed symptoms similar to Gulf War illness. Examined new-borns also present medical problems and congenital effects of contamination. Village elders report over 25% of infants are inexplicably ill.

Forty (40) urine specimens were taken from adults and children exposed to the bombing in Kabul as well as Mazar-i-Sharif, Tora Bora, Kandahar and Jalalabad. Geological samples were taken from inside bomb craters, neighbourhood common areas, markets, children's play areas, gardens, farm fields and watercourses adjacent to OEF bombed targets.

What will be done with the results?

Results will be compiled and reports published in medical and science journals. The results will also be reported to the Minister of Public Health, Government of Afghanistan. A scientific report will be distributed to the United Nations and the governments of the NATO countries participating in Operation Enduring Freedom. Their military personnel and all international humanitarian staff stationed in Afghanistan are also at risk.

Your financial donation is vitally important

Although you may support UMRC with any amount, please consider sponsoring one or more Afghan samples at 1000 USD (1000 EUR) per sample. Donations can be made directly into UMRC's bank account as a transfer from your bank. Please use: *TD Canada Trust, CAD Account 0685-520-3413 // USD Account 0685-730-2599; Swift Code TDOMACATTTOR; Transit No. 17562; Institution No. 004.*

You can mail a cheque, money order or bank draft to UMRC – please contact us by telephone or e-mail to make arrangements. *Canada 001-416-465-1341 or e-mail to <Info@UMRC.net> .* All donations are confidential. In Canada and the United States, UMRC Inc. is a registered non-profit corporation, which supplies official receipts for tax deductions.

About UMRC

Professor Asaf Durakovic, MD, Ph.D., is Medical Research Director, UMRC.

UMRC is the first organization to scientifically identify the indisputable proof of Depleted Uranium contamination of US, British, and Canadian veterans of Operation Desert Storm, Persian Gulf War. UMRC's Gulf War studies has been published in medical and scientific peer-reviewed journals, presented to international medical conferences, and distributed to NATO governments.

UMRC staff have met with the Minister of Public Health, Government of Afghanistan to present the preliminary findings. The first round of Afghan results were presented in a 90-minute interview of Dr. Asaf Durakovic on Al Jazeera TV's program, *Without Borders*, in November 2002. The scientific results of the September Afghan trip's inventory of forty (40) urine and geological samples -- the specific object of this appeal -- are scheduled to be presented in February 2003.

We urge you to help fulfil these commitments and provide the scientific proof of Uranium internal contamination as a direct result of Operation Enduring Freedom bombing and implications for the public health and future generations of the people of Afghanistan.
All UMRC activities and expenses are financed by donations.

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