

NEWWEAPONS COMMITTEE

understanding effects of new war technologies



PRESS RELEASE

Israel is experimenting new non-conventional weapons in Gaza

Mounting evidence is emerging that Israel is experimenting new non-conventional weapons on civilian population in Gaza. “It is happening again what we saw in Lebanon two years ago”, says Paola Manduca, genetics teacher and researcher at the University of Genoa and member of New Weapons Research Committee (NWRC), “where Israel used white phosphorus, Dense inert metal explosive (DIME), thermobaric bombs, cluster bombs and uranium ammunitions and experimented novel weapons and delivery modalities. Still today there are unexploded bombs and radioactivity on the ground”.

Emerging evidence now shows that at least some of these weapons are in use in the Gaza Strip, though it is not possible to verify this directly, due to the lack of access to the area. “The images of the dead and wounded and the news from witness coming from the area of aggression show significant resemblance with those gathered and verified during the July - August war in 2006 in Lebanon”, explains Mrs Manduca. Mads Gilbert, a Norwegian doctor, member of a non-governmental organization Norwac, who works currently at the Gaza's largest hospital, Shifa, denounces that “many arrive with extreme amputations, with both legs crushed”, wounds, he explains, “that I suspect are inflicted by Dime weapons”. The images arriving from Gaza seem to confirm these suppositions as well. The burns suffered by some children in Gaza result very similar to those documented in 2006 by doctor Hibrain Faraj, a surgeon at the Hiram hospital in Tyre and by doctor Bachir Cham at the Hospital du Sur, Sidon. “At the moment”, points out Mrs Manduca, “we have reports from doctors and informed witnesses that make us believe new types of weapons are being tested today in Gaza, apart from those used in 2006. This makes it necessary for further technical and scientific researches to be undertaken”.

In the last two years NWRC, together with Lebanese and Palestinian doctors, has produced scientific data using techniques of histology, scanning electron microscopy and chemical analysis on bioptic samples from victims of the 2006 aggressions. It has collected clinical evidence and documentation that proves the use of thermobaric bombs in open spaces, DIME and sublethal targeted weapons in 2006 in Lebanon, and DIME and sublethal targeted weapons in Gaza. NWRC submitted in 2007 a report on the subject to the UN Human Rights Council, and in 2008 at the International Citizens Tribunal on War Crimes in Lebanon and to the Italian Parliament's committee of inquiry on depleted uranium. NWRC has also been working together with international scientists who documented the use of uranium ammunitions in Lebanon.

NWRC is a group of independent scientists and doctors based in Italy which studies the non-conventional weapons and their middle-term effects on the residents of areas afflicted by the conflicts. NWRC aims at: obtaining proofs of weapons utilized; assessing the long term risks on individuals and populations also after the end of the war; learning how to take care of and protect survivors utilizing the tools of clinical and predictive investigations.

Press contacts

Fabio De Ponte

TEL. +39-347-9422957

MAIL: info@newweapons.org

WEB: www.newweapons.org