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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS THAT REQUIRE THE COUNCIL'S ATTENTION

**Written statement* submitted by Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights
(JWCHR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is
circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[19 February 2008]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the
submitting non-governmental organization(s).

The Tragedies of Iraqi People — Military Conflicts and Depleted Uranium

The ongoing military conflicts

After the war and under the occupation, Iraqi people have been facing the tragedies which they never imagined.

More than a hundred of citizens, especially women and children, die everyday, not because of traffic accidents or hunger, but because of the military conflicts among the occupation troops, Iraqi police force and religious private army(so-called militia), and of their indiscriminate attacks on the civilians. Those concerned in the military conflicts never mind at all involving innocent citizens. Even more, they make workers on strike the targets of attacks for political reasons. They also make citizens the targets in order to inflame collision between religious parties. Doctors, engineers and teachers and their families are the targets of kidnapping for ransom. These are obviously the violations of the international laws including Geneva Conventions. The tragedy of Iraq is, these matters are happening everyday and everywhere, and moreover, Iraqi police is one of the active parties of these conflicts.

In Baghdad under the conflicts, the recovery of electricity, water supply and sewage has been interfered, and the situation of public health is in a crisis in the area where people with less income live. Especially, children are affected. Many of them are living on the street, because of the unemployment of their parents and the collapse of the community. The domestic refugees are suffering from lack of food and medical care and safety. The Iraqi Red Crescent cannot, however, work for them in the area of Baghdad for fears of being kidnapped.

The occupation troops and Iraqi police force arrest innocent citizens on the suspicion about terrorism. The Organization for Women's Freedom of Iraq (OWFI) has accused the tortures and rapes in the prisoners' camp for women, which Iraqi government has admitted.

Today, the U.S. troops are waging another military operation in Baghdad, involving civilians and making them flee as refugees. Kurdish forces are employed as Police Forces in Baghdad, which they are afraid will cause another racial hatred between the Kurdish and the religious groups.

The Danger of Depleted Uranium

Another tragedy is the damages by depleted uranium which U.S. Forces used as munitions. Its influences are never halted or estimated. The attempts of experts from foreign NGOs to research and remedy the damages and contamination caused by depleted uranium have been interfered by the terrible disorder and, especially, by kidnapping.

Children's cancer rates in Basra, jumped about 300 % to 400% during a decade from 1990 and 2000, and it is still increasing now. Japanese journalists found tanks destroyed by DU munitions and left behind in the south of Iraq, and reported extremely high levels of radiation nearby. It is possible that those diseased children inhaled dust of DU and suffer from diseases such as leukemia. A doctor of Masour Teaching Children's Hospital in Baghdad told that four to six children were dying every day in the hospital. Mr. Naomi

Toyota, one of those journalists visited the same hospital repeatedly. When he showed a picture of a girl taken 6 months ago, the doctor just told that she had died soon after the picture was taken, and pointed out some other children in his picture one by one, saying "This one, too." "This one, too." This episode explains the current severe situation in Iraq. The incidence of newborn babies who have congenital disorders are also observed in higher percentage in Basra. These innocent children, in fact, have been deprived of their rights to be born with good health and grow up. They lost their chances to get education.

However, such serious situation still gives priority to be solved to other problems which Iraqi people are facing today. Iraq Freedom Congress (IFC) members, recognizing the seriousness of the damages by depleted uranium in the future, tell us, "the priority today is security, electricity, clean water, and human rights." Without peace and stability of lives the problem of depleted uranium could not be dealt with, and so is left behind now.

Immediate Cease-Fire and Withdrawal of the occupation troops are urgently needed for today's lives and avoiding the tragedy in the future

Under this situation the civil resistance, the non-violent mass movement of Iraqi people, led by IFC, is rapidly expanding its influence, which we notice. IFC has established women's shelters and children protection centers. It is organizing "the Safety Forces" and "People's Houses" among people to keep safety and friendship of neighbors, and thus expanding safety areas from which military conflicts and religious antagonism are excluded. IFC says that there was no religious antagonism in Iraq. But the war and the occupation have brought it. The military conflict is the biggest obstacle that bothers the efforts for recovery.

IFC demands immediate cease-fire of all the conflicts, withdrawal of the occupation troops and establishment of non-religious government. We also believe that, above all, cease-fire is the issue of an urgent necessity in order to recover the lives today and avoid the damages by depleted uranium tomorrow. And the withdrawal of the occupation troops is needed to prepare the condition in which the activities of Iraqi people and foreign NGOs are assured in safety.

Therefore we request the Human Rights Council to call for immediate cease-fire to all the parties concerned, and withdrawal of the troops led by U.S..

We also request the Human Rights Council to require other UN organizations in authority to start the survey and remedy of the contamination and the damages of people by depleted uranium, considering the serious situations that people in Iraq are facing.

Finally we request the Human Rights Council to start the research on the WMD including uranium weapons, and their illegality, and especially on the compensation for their victims.

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