



## General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/HRC/Sub.1/58/NGO/5\*  
8 August 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and  
Protection of Human Rights  
Fifty-eighth session  
Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda

### **SPECIFIC HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES: TERRORISM AND COUNTER- TERRORISM**

**Written statement\*\* submitted by the 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.

[4 August 2006]

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\* Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 entitled "Human Rights Council", all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights, including the Sub-Commission, were assumed, as of 19 June 2006, by the Human Rights Council. Consequently, the symbol series E/CN.4/Sub.2/\_/, under which the Sub-Commission reported to the former Commission on Human Rights, has been replaced by the series A/HRC/Sub.1/\_/ as of 19 June 2006.

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

GE.06-13257

## **Title: The Tragedies of Iraqi People — Military Conflicts and Depleted Uranium<sup>1</sup>**

### **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, and of their suicide attacks. Doctors, engineers and teachers and their families are the targets of kidnapping for ransom.

Those concerned in the military conflicts never mind at all involving innocent citizens. Even more, they make workers on strike the targets of attacks. They also make citizens the targets in order to inflame collision between religious parties. 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 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.

### **The Danger of Depleted Uranium**

Another tragedy will be the damages by depleted uranium, which U.S. Forces used as munitions. Its influences are never halted or are not 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. There are some Japanese journalists who have visited Iraq. They found tanks destroyed by DU munitions and left behind in the south of Iraq and reported that near the tanks, extremely high levels of radiation were measured. It is possible that those diseased children inhaled dust of DU and suffer from diseases such as leukemia. A doctor of Mansour Teaching Children's Hospital told that four to six children were dying every day in the hospital. One of those journalists visited the same hospital repeatedly. When he showed a picture of the girl he had taken 6 months ago, a doctor just told that the girl had died soon after the picture was taken, and pointed out some of children in his picture one after another, saying " This one, too." "This one, too." This episode explains the current severe situation in Iraq. Depleted uranium weapons brought disasters in family life in Iraq. The incidences of newborn babies who have congenital disorders are observed in higher percentage in Basra. These innocent children, in fact, have been

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<sup>1</sup> Uranium Weapons Prohibition Treaty Realization Campaign also shares the views expressed in this statement.

deprived of their rights to be born with good health and grow normally. They lost their chances to get education.

However, such serious situation still gives priority 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 left behind now.

**Immediate Cease-Fire is 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 expanding the 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. Also we 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.

We request Sub-Commission to call immediate cease-fire to all the parties concerned.

We also request Sub-Commission 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 tragedies that people in Iraq are facing.

Finally we request Sub-Commission to restart the research on the WMD and their illegality, and especially on the compensation for their victims.

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