

Unitarian Universalist Association Depleted Uranium Munitions Study 2003 Action of Immediate Witness

Whereas depleted Uranium (DU) is radioactive and toxic, and can cause cancer and genetic damage;.

Whereas DU is a by-product of uranium enrichment for nuclear weapons and energy production, and is used militarily in armor-piercing munitions, bombs and missiles because its density gives it great penetrating power, and

Whereas DU explodes on impact to form shrapnel and fine, inhalable dust;

Whereas about 300 metric tons of DU munitions were used in Gulf War I and an estimated 1000 metric tons were used in Gulf War II, where it remains in the environment with a radioactive half-life of 4.5 billion years;

Whereas our Gulf War veterans and many citizens of Iraq have experienced health related problems, including increased rates of cancers and birth deformities in their children, that many say are related to DU exposure, and

Whereas DU exposures have occurred in U.S. factories producing DU munitions and the communities surrounding them, and at firing ranges where DU weapons are tested;

Whereas no comprehensive studies of health effects of DU on veterans or others have been carried out, and

Whereas United States Representative Jim McDermott, a physician, has introduced H.R. 1483, the Depleted Uranium Munitions Study Act of 2003, to mandate studies by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Centers for Disease Control of health effects, and studies of environmental contamination and cleanup by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Therefore be it resolved that the 2003 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association endorse the Depleted Uranium Munitions Study Act and urges all the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Associations to do likewise.

Be it further resolved that the 2003 General Assembly requests that the Unitarian Universalist Association communicate the Assembly's endorsement of the bill to all members of the United States Congress and that member congregations that endorse the bill to communicate their action to their representatives in Congress.