

Iraqi Minister of Environment Appeals to Japanese Government for assistance in dealing with DU contamination

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Ms. Nermeen Osman, Iraqi Minister of Environment visited Japan last week to attend a UNEP meeting in Kyoto, said in an interview : 105 sites have been found contaminated by the DU shells used during the Iraq War of 2003, and she was to visit Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and that of Environment to ask for assistance in decontamination and health measures for residents.

She also said: Although researches on the DU effects on human health are still under way, it is clear that there is danger of damage to human health; cancer incidences have also risen. While they are taking measures to keep residents from entering the contaminated areas, they are carrying out works to remove contamination.

Furthermore, she said: she would like to ask Japan, A-bombed country, for assistance in treatment of victims, etc.

[The UNEP meeting in Kyoto was held to assess the advancement of the UNEP-Japan joint enterprise to recover Mesopotamian Marsh, which has been damaged severely during the Hussein era and due to use of landmines and chemical weapons during the recent wars.]

Original article in Japanese available here:

<http://www.tokyo-np.co.jp/article/world/news/CK2008090502000117.html>