

Open letter by New Weapons Committee to doctors in Lebanon and Gaza circulated in August 2006. Written by Paola Manduca, Geneticist, University of Genoa.

Dear Doctors, I write on behalf of a group of independent scientists who would like to offer their support in investigating the allegation of use of weapons of mass destruction by Israel in the war to Lebanon and in Gaza. Below our first call and the considerations on which we base our work.

I contact you directly with our questions.

Doctors in Lebanon and Gaza still think that it is necessary and possible to conduct an investigation that will produce factual evidences about weapons used?

Do they wish for an independent investigations to be carried by an international group of scientists, in transparency, and are therefore willing to offer their collaboration?

We are making our effort available, as professionals to:

- examine the clinical data that you will provide (clinical charts for each persons, whit clinical data and date, place and time);
- on the basis of the clinical observations, we will formulate informed hypothesis for investigation, based on the research of scientific and weapon-related literature (which we will provide it to all interested participants);
- we can immediately provide help and recommendations on how to collect and what to collect as material evidences for future investigation;
- we could carry out the investigations, or provide the consulting and assistance for these investigations, provided that the materials will be available for cross testing by more than 1 laboratory.

I greatly appreciate if you can also consult with medical personnel in the hospitals where killed or wounded people arrive to understand if the biological aspects of this enquiry can be pursued, through their collaborative effort in collecting biological samples in an appropriate fashion or in making available those collected.

Thanks a lot for an answering to these questions. We have an organization meeting Sunday august 27, and it would be greatly useful to forward the project, if you are interested in it, to receive an answer by Saturday.

Two events have happened recently that need consideration in our task.

One is the establishment by the HR commission of the UN of an enquiry commission on Israel, which has a very wide mandate, including also use of illegal weapons, but a very short time to reach conclusions. Is necessary to know and make known that this schedule is not easily compatible with a scientifically sound research on the matter.

Second is the publication in German (I am waiting for a translation since I cannot read German) of the results of analysis made by a forensic institute in Germany, which allegedly discards the hypothesis of use of illegal weapons. I have no idea of who collected the cases, what was the bases for choosing them, or who commissioned the testing in Germany, so it is difficult to know what this means.

I am presently attempting to contact the forensic Institute in Germany that reports having examined samples from Lebanese people killed on July 17 by Israeli weapons and ask if they will report to us in English, allow us to vision their experimental results, analyze their samples, including testing for other characteristics.