

Global health advocacy: demanding clean-up of war contamination



Dr. Alaani, Fallujah, Iraq

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Friday, March 11th, 2016

The 5th International Convention of
Environmental Laureates

Freiburg, Germany



Dr. Alsabbak, Basra, Iraq



PSR
PHYSICIANS
FOR SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



Body Count



**Long-Term Health Consequences of Exposure
to Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan**



Physicians for Social Responsibility Publication of March 2015:

“US war has, directly or indirectly, killed around 1 million people in Iraq, 220,000 in Afghanistan and 80,000 in Pakistan, i.e. a total of around 1.3 million. Not included in this figure are further war zones such as Yemen ... this is only a conservative estimate.”

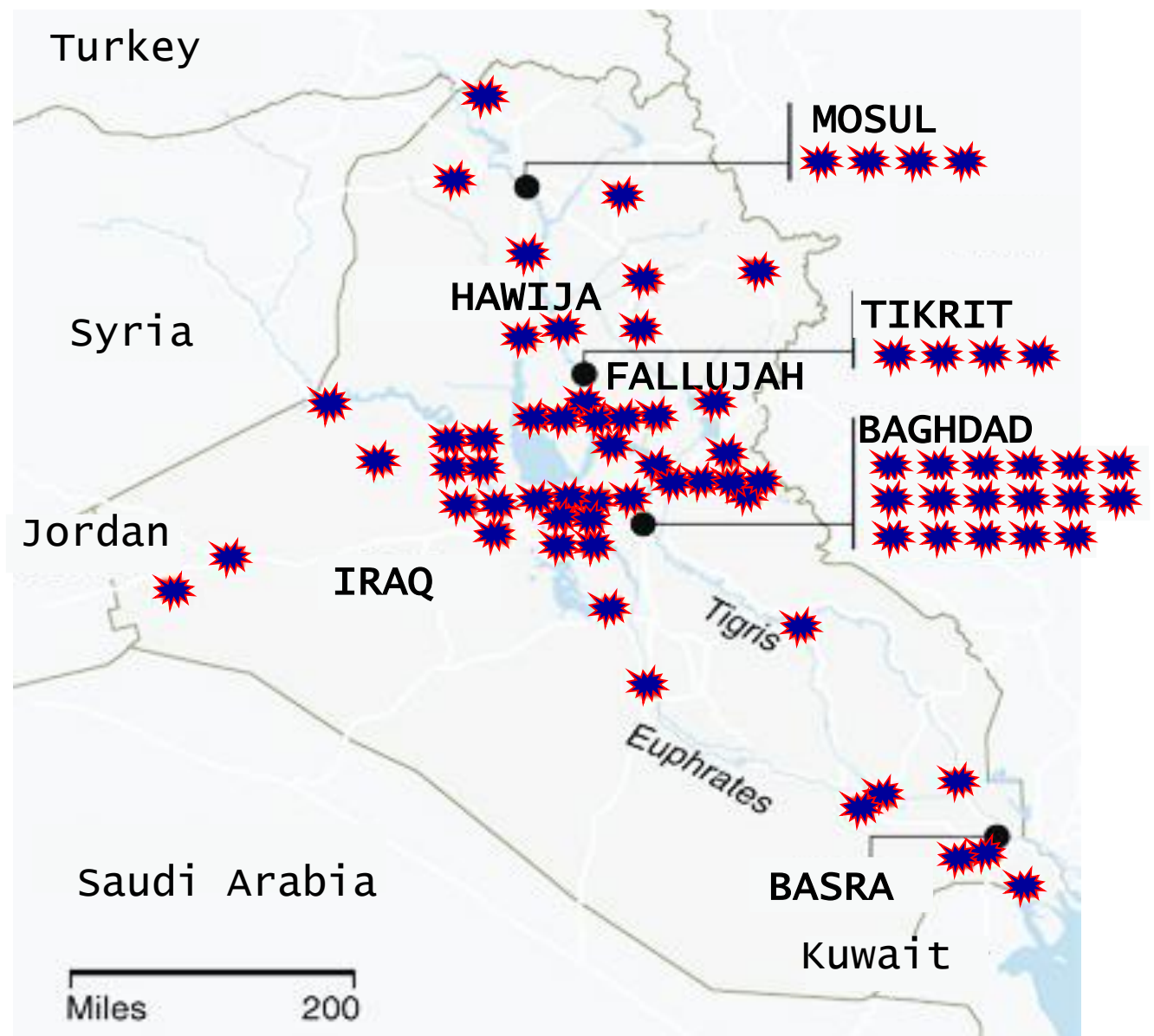
Institute of Medicine Publication, 2011:

Air monitoring of one major U.S. military base (*Joint Base Balad*), near Baghdad, revealed Dioxins, Furans, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) and Particulate Matter (PM).

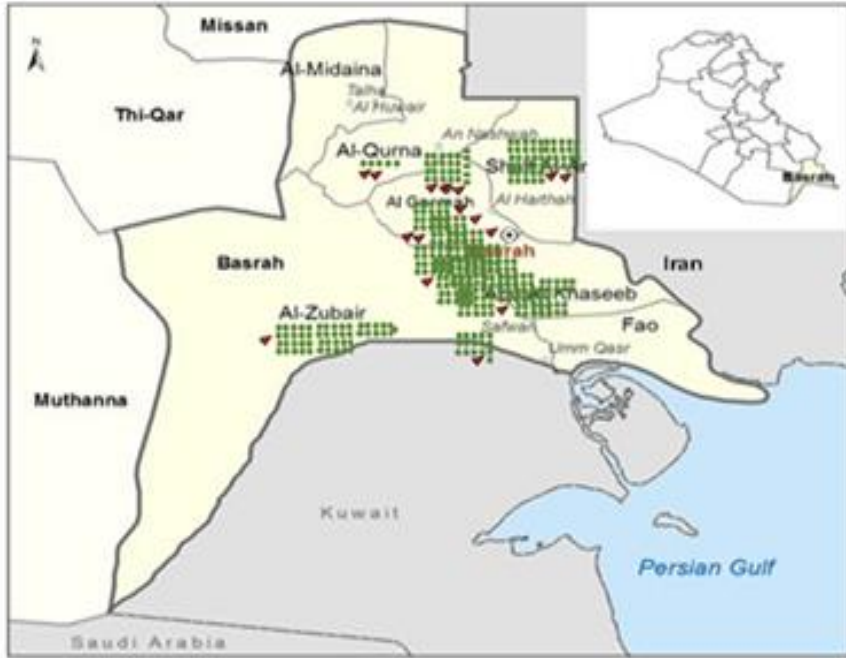
“...Cumulative exposure to mixtures of chemicals...by inhalation” Exposure to all, is associated with long-term health effects in adults.

Locations of major U.S. military bases in Iraq

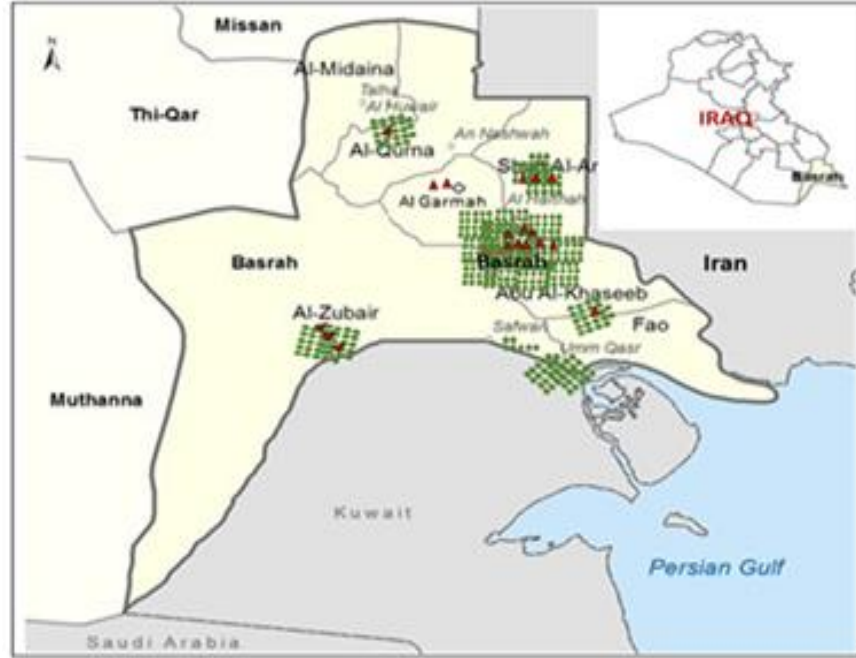
Solvents
Rust removers
Petroleum fuels
Pesticides
Toxic heavy metals
Radioactive materials
Asbestos and other fibers
Engine maintenance products



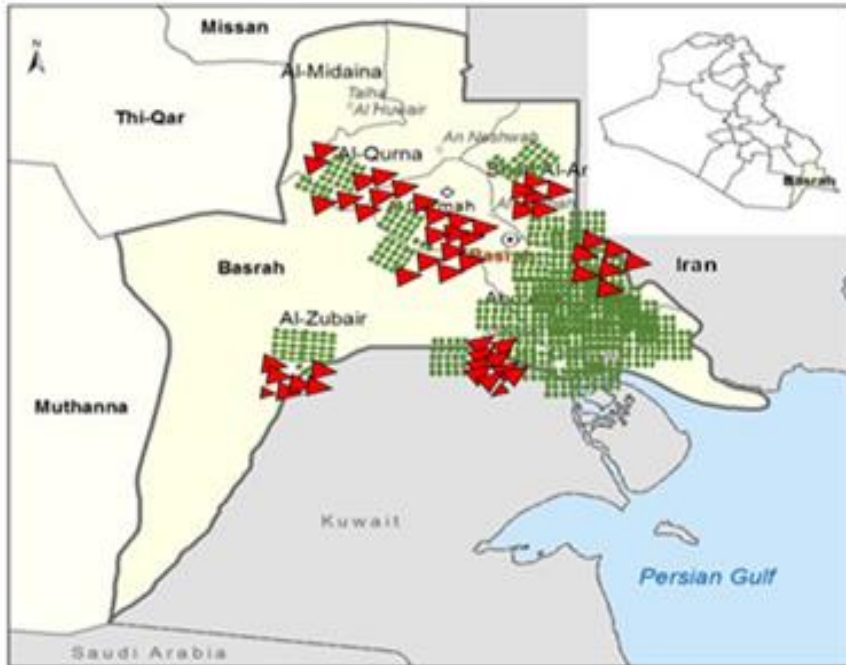
١٩٨٩
1989



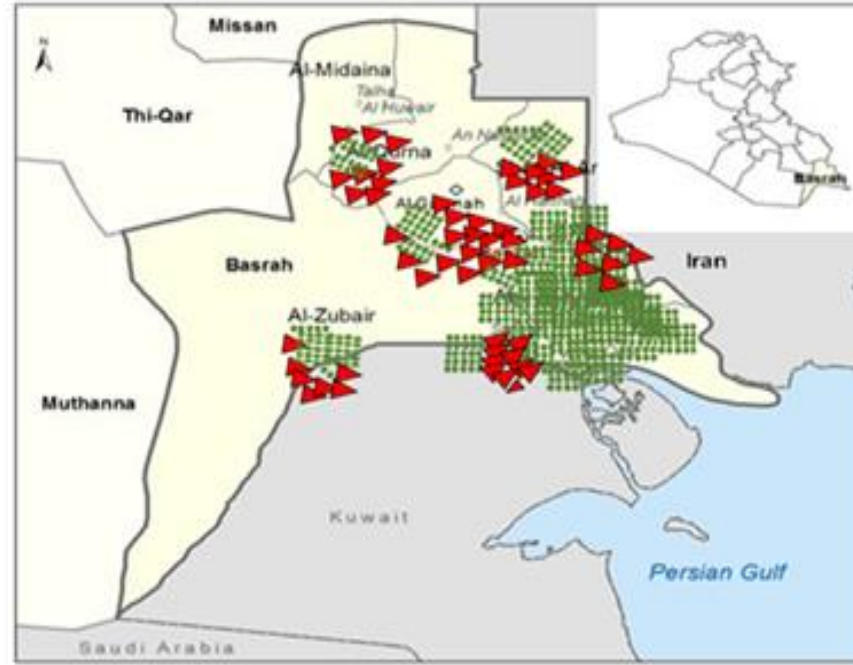
١٩٩٠
1990



٢٠٠٦
2006



٢٠٠٨
2008



Lead in deciduous teeth of children

Birth defect--Basra, Iraq

Healthy—Beirut, Lebanon

Healthy—Isfahan, Iran

5 Yrs

14 Yrs

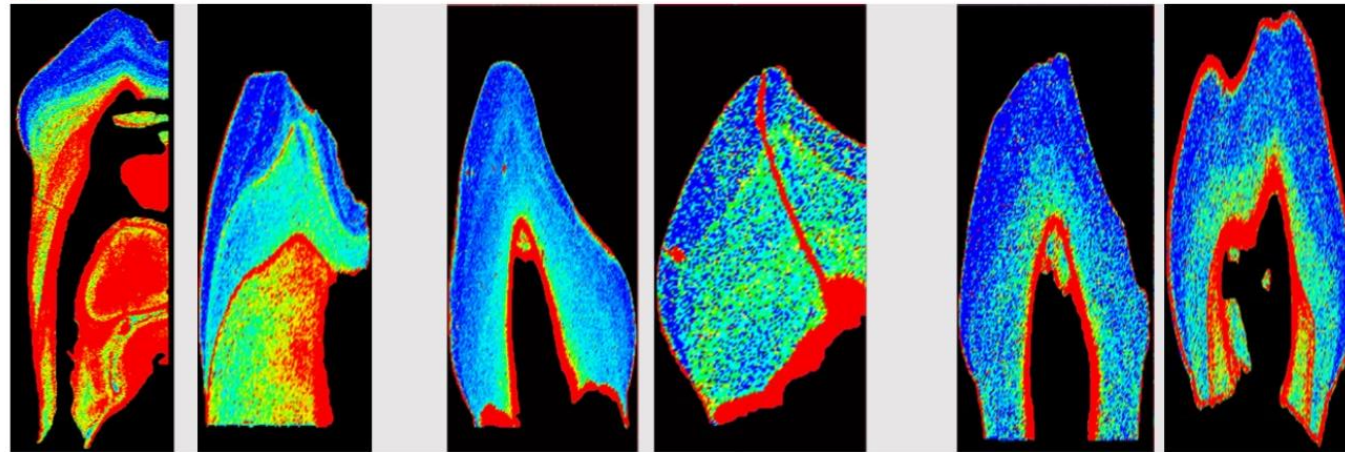
12 Yrs

14 Yrs

12 Yrs

9 Yrs

Pb



Residence Bombed	Country	Child's age	$^{208}\text{Pb}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^{25}\text{Mg}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^{52}\text{Cr}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^{55}\text{Mn}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^{66}\text{Zn}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^7\text{Li}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^{232}\text{Th}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm	$^{238}\text{U}/^{43}\text{Ca}$ ppm
Yes	Iraq	5	0.17 - 0.87	94 - 540	1.03 - 5.2	0.10 - 0.52	1.8 - 4.5	0.022 - 0.08	0 - 0.2	0 - 0.13
Yes	Iraq	8	1.9 - 48	288 - 1408	0.77 - 2.2	0.16 - 0.55	1.1 - 5.5	0.006 - 0.06	0 - 0.09	0 - 0.06
Yes	Iraq	14	0.13 - 1.35	192 - 1408	0.77 - 1.65	0.22 - 1.1	1.1 - 5.0	0.011 - 0.08	0 - 0.09	0 - 0.06
-	Lebanon	7	0.034 - 0.34	-	-	0.24 - 1.6	8.0 - 400	0.007 - 0.15	0 - 0.1	0 - 0.1
Yes	Lebanon	12	0.05 - 0.68	-	-	0.16 - 1.2	2.4 - 16	0.004 - 0.07	0 - 0.1	0 - 0.1
-	Lebanon	13	0.034 - 0.34	-	-	0.24 - 0.80	1.6 - 4.0	0.007 - 0.07	0 - 0.1	0 - 0.1
-	Lebanon	14	0.034 - 0.17	-	-	0.16 - 0.64	0.8 - 4.0	0.015 - 0.15	0 - 0.1	0 - 0.1
-	Iran	9	0.043-0.43	94 - 563	1.16 - 3.22	0.19 - 1.03	1.3 - 7.7	0.016 - 0.08	0 - 0.2	0 - 0.1
-	Iran	12	0.039-0.19	256 - 1664	0.44 - 1.43	0.11 - 0.55	1.1 - 5.5	0.017 - 0.08	0 - 0.09	0 - 0.06

Responsible agencies have failed to protect public health

IN FLINT:

Flint is a Black-majority city.

Center for Disease Control (CDC),

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA),

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

In FALLUJAH:

WHO and Iraqi Ministry of Health



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News

WHO suppressed evidence on effects of depleted uranium, expert says

BMJ 2006 ; 333 doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.39027.603264.DB> (Published 09 November 2006)
Cite this as: *BMJ* 2006;333:990

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The Lancet, Volume 382, Issue 9899, Pages 1165 - 1166, 5 October 2013
doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(13)61812-7 [Cite or Link Using DOI](#)
[Published Online: 01 October 2013](#)

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Questions raised over Iraq congenital birth defects study

[Paul C Webster](#)

III- Here is a listing of international law protecting the environment and natural resources:

- [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal](#)

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal is the most comprehensive global environmental agreement on hazardous and other wastes.

- [Canadian Environmental Law Association \(CELA\) Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide \(ELAW\)](#)

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA) Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW) is an international organization established in 1970 to use existing laws to protect the environment and to advocate environmental law reforms.

- [Center for International Environmental Law \(CIEL\) Environmental Law Foundation](#)

The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) Environmental Law Foundation is a non-profit organization that uses international law and institutions to protect the environment and to ensure a just and sustainable society.

- [Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force in 1993. It has three main objectives: 1. The conservation of biological diversity 2. The sustainable use of its components of biological diversity 3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of the utilization of genetic resources.

- [Environment and Security \(ENVSEC\)](#)

Peacefully resolving the overriding political, economic, and social issues that affect the environment and human security. UNDP, UNEP, and UNCTAD have created a pool of expertise and resources towards that end.

- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#)

The UNFCCC was established to provide the decision-makers and others interested in climate change with an objective source of information about climate change.

- [Kyoto Protocol](#)

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. These amount to an average of five per cent against 1990 levels over the five-year period 2008-2012.

- [North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation \(NAAEC\)](#)

Since 1994, Canada, Mexico and the United States have collaborated in protecting North America's environment through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). The NAAEC came into force at the same time as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and marks a commitment that liberalization of trade and economic growth in North America would be accompanied by cooperation and continuous improvement in the environment by each country.

- [Ramsar Convention](#)

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, is an international treaty that provides the framework for national legislation and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

- [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#)

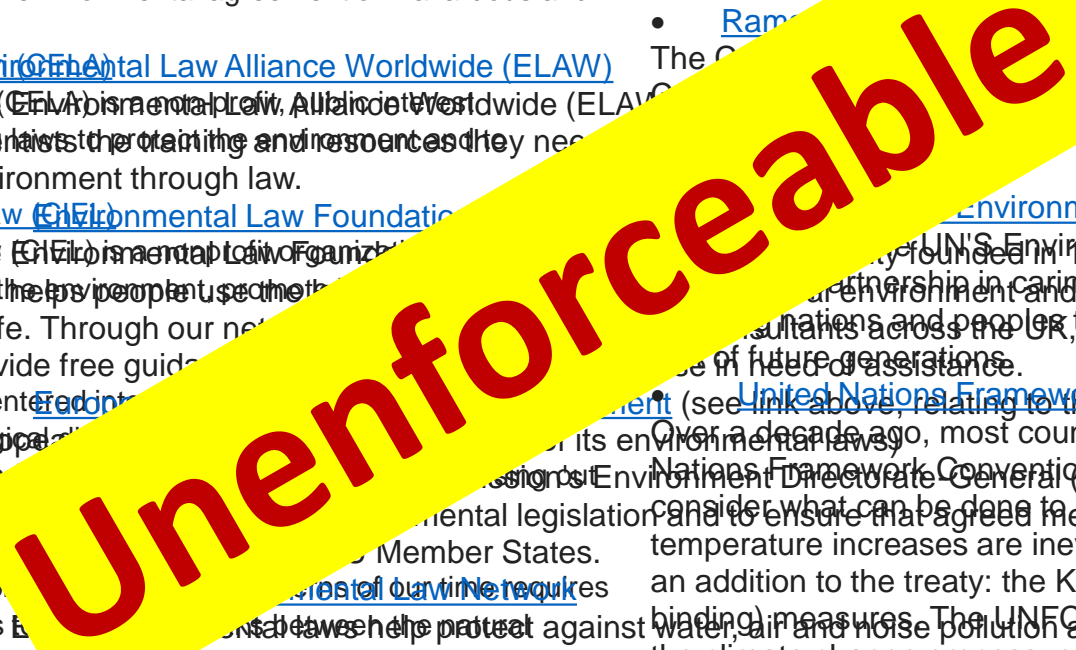
The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was founded in 1972. Its mission is: To provide leadership and support in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and assisting nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising the health of future generations.

- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#)

Over a decade ago, most countries joined an international treaty -- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) -- to begin to consider what can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with whatever temperature increases are inevitable. More recently, a number of nations approved an addition to the treaty: the Kyoto Protocol, which has more powerful (and legally binding) measures. The UNFCCC secretariat supports all institutions involved in the climate change process, particularly the COP, the subsidiary bodies and their Bureau.

- [Vienna Convention to Protect the Ozone Layer](#)

"The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer" is a treaty on the framework for international cooperation concerning the protection of the ozone layer, which was adopted in 1985 and entered into force in 1988. It provides for observations, research and information exchange on the ozone layer.



Cleanup of U.S. Military Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan

Cleanup of U.S. Military Burn Pits in Iraq and Afghanistan

< Policy Statements and Advocacy

< Policy Statements

Policy Statements

Policy Statement Database

Policy Statement Development Process

20155 Environmental cleanup in Iraq, Afghanistan

APHA, "Calls on federal policymakers to ...to pass legislation requiring the U.S. military to repair any ecological damage created as a result of military action abroad. ...



Arrest the lead poisoners - from Flint to Fallujah:



A8

NY

THE NEW YORK TIMES INTERNATIONAL THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2014

'Environmental Poisoning' of Iraq Is Claimed

1. All 102,000 Flint residents have been exposed to **lead** & dangerous **bacteria**, including Legionella.



THIS IS WHAT AUSTERITY LOOKS LIKE.

2. Flint's City Council urged the **Emergency Manager** to switch back to Lake Huron water repeatedly, yet the state did not acknowledge the city's concerns until months later.
3. In Oct. of 2014 Flint's GM Plant reconnected to Lake Huron water after it determined that the Flint water was **corroding** car parts. State officials repeatedly told residents it was safe to drink & bathe in the **toxic** water.

Residents have had concerns about their water for over a year. They face a state government who values money over the well-being of its citizens & a suspension of local democracy. Only through community organizing & perseverance are their voices finally being heard.