

# Suppressed WHO Reports on Rise of Cancer and Birth Defects in Iraq. Cover-Up of War Crimes Committed against the Iraqi People

By [Global Research News](#)

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Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [United Nations](#)

In-depth Report: [IRAQ REPORT](#)

*An initial WHO study completed in 2004 had documented the impacts of depleted uranium. It was suppressed.*

*The WHO has now suppressed a second report undertaken jointly with Iraq's Ministry of Health. The joint WHO-MoH study pertained to the prevalence of congenital birth defects. It was scheduled to be released in November 2012.*

*In suppressing these reports, the WHO is complicit in covering up extensive war crimes committed against the people of Iraq.*

Michel Chossudovsky, Global Research, September 14, 2013

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## WHO Suppressed evidence on effects of depleted uranium, expert says

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Poor reproductive and birth outcomes in Iraq, since the U.S. invasion, have received much global attention (1, 2). A joint study by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) began in May-June 2012 to look at the prevalence of congenital birth defects in several governorates of Iraq (3) and was scheduled to be released in November 2012 (4).

In March 2013, a BBC documentary, ("Born under a bad sign"), offered a glimpse at the results of the WHO report. A MoH official told the BBC that "All studies done by the Ministry of Health prove with damning evidence that there has been a rise in birth defects and cancers". Other MoH researchers confirmed that the situation with birth defects constitute a "big crisis" for the "next generation" of Iraqi children (5).

In May and July 2013, researchers petitioned the WHO and MoH to release their report (6, 7). In response, the WHO indefinitely postponed the release of that report.

This turn of events has bewildered many, especially in light of the WHO's past failure to report similar data adequately. In November 2006 the British Medical Journal published an article entitled "WHO suppressed evidence on effects of depleted uranium (DU), expert says". (8).

Furthermore, recent revelations by Hans von Sponeck, the former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations, suggest that WHO may be susceptible to pressure from its member states. Mr. von Sponeck said that “The US government sought to prevent WHO from surveying areas in southern Iraq where DU had been used and caused serious health and environmental dangers” (9).

Serious study design flaws, principally the WHO’s avoidance of any inquiry into causation of Iraqi birth defects, is also alarming (10). Nevertheless, saving Iraqi children’s lives requires the immediate release of this indefinitely postponed WHO report.

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