

Mrs Rachel Squire MP
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Townhill Institute

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Saturday 13th December 03

Dear Mrs Squire.

The use, clearance and effect of cluster bombs & D.U. in Iraq.

I wish you to seek answers from the Defence Ministry on my behalf regarding specific areas of concern that I have on the above subject.

Firstly by way of explanation as to my motives I should give you some personal background information on myself lest you to take my request out of context which is something that I think has happened with other matters that I have raised with you in the past.

Personal background.

I was born in Wetherby in 1945. My father died in 1947 and my mother died in 1950 leaving myself my brother and two sisters orphaned. My sisters were fostered by relatives in England and my brother and I were fostered by relatives in Rosyth.

In 1960 when my brother was aged 20 he contacted bone cancer in the leg and had his right leg amputated from the hip. As a young man sleeping in the same bed as my brother I well remember the nights he spent in agony from pains in his stump and equally painful "phantom" pains. The effort I made in trying to comfort my brother caused me many sleepless nights but was as nothing to his suffering.

I am having sleepless nights again and they usually coincide with late night television viewing of the suffering of orphans and amputees in Iraq who have suffered at the hands of the indiscriminate use of cluster bombs and other munitions used by the Allies in the invasion. Most upsetting is the hypocritical and opportunistic treatment given to the orphan Ali who is being cynically manipulated to portray the Allies as being genuinely concerned for the well being of all survivors when in fact I suspect the opposite is the case. Even if I am wrong on this Ali will never cuddle his mum and dad with his state of the art prosthetic limbs and he will never feel his sisters and brothers hands in his as they go to play.

Could you please enquire on my behalf and revert to me in writing on the following:

1/ How many cluster bombs (ground & air launched/pods and bomblets) were deployed in Iraq by U.K. forces?

2/ How many Iraqi civilians have been killed (the so called collateral damage) in the Iraq conflict by the use of cluster bombs by U.K. forces? (Please obtain figures for men women and children individually)

3/ How many Iraqi civilians have been: a/ killed, & b/ maimed, by setting off unexploded cluster bomblets deployed by U.K. forces? (Please obtain figures for men women and children individually)

4/ How many U.K. government bomb disposal personnel have been deployed in Iraq to clear unexploded ordinance fired/dropped by U.K. forces?

5/ How many tonnes of Depleted Uranium were dispersed into the atmosphere as a result of D.U. shells being fired in Iraq by U.K. forces?

6/ How many U.K. government D.U. decontamination personnel have been deployed in Iraq to clear the residue of spent D.U. ordinance expended by U.K. forces?

I realise that you may not wish to enquire about these matters in a written Parliamentary Question as to publicly associate yourself with such matters may damage your prospects of elevation within the government and I will understand if you wish me to keep this matter as confidential.

I would like to place on record that I am not a pacifist but I objected to this war which I considered immoral and illegal to such an extent that in February of this I took part in the anti-war march in Glasgow. The first time in my life I have ever taken part in a march or rally. I strongly resent the fact that murder and maiming was carried out in my name and wish to find out the governments view as to the extent of same and what measures are being taken to prevent any further carnage.

Please accept this note as being an accurate record of my concerns and do not consult websites or any extraneous sources in dealing with this complaint or attribute motives to my request which are not expressed in this note.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Minogue.