

**Thank you. Your request has been submitted.**

This is a request filed under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Request Date: **3/19/2009**

Request Reference Number: **B9177**

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The time period of my request is from 1/1/1982 to the present.

Description of request:

**1) Records of the sale and export of incendiary weapons /smoke generating projectiles containing white phosphorus to the State of Israel and any other third country/state and/or any private entity or company between 1990 and the date of this letter. 2) Records of the use of incendiary weapons/smoke generating projectiles containing white phosphorus by U.S. forces in Iraq between March 2003 and the date of this letter. 3) Records of the use of incendiary weapons/smoke generating projectiles containing white phosphorus by the State of Israel and its military forces during its military operations in South Lebanon between 1982 and 2006 and in Gaza, Palestine from 2008 until 2009. For background, the following reports described the use of white phosphorus weapons by Israel's military forces from 1982 until 2009. 1) A report from Amnesty International from February 23rd, 2009 titled "Israel OPT/Fuelling Conflict: Foreign Arms Supplies to Israel/Gaza" identified the markings of one of the projectiles found in Gaza and traced the source of the weapon back to the U.S. Army weapons arsenal in Pine Bluff in Arkansas. Specifically, the report stated: "[...] There is evidence that white phosphorus was used by Israeli forces across Gaza. Amnesty International came across many white phosphorus 155mm artillery carrier shells throughout Gaza with markings M825 A1 - a US-made munition. These are the same markings of the 155mm white phosphorus shells photographed in Israeli Defense Forces' (IDF) stockpiles [...]. "Several white phosphorus artillery shells hit the UNRWA field operations headquarters in Gaza City on 15 January, causing a large fire which destroyed tens of tons of humanitarian aid, including, medicines, food and other non-food items. Amnesty International delegates who visited the site found the marking PB-91K018-035 on the fragments of one of the artillery shells which is the lot number and indicates that they were assembled by Pine Bluff Arsenal (PB) in 1991 (91) in October (K).[...]" 2) An article from the British "Guardian" from October 23rd, 2006 stated: "The Israeli government has admitted that it used controversial phosphorus weapons in its attacks against targets during its month long war in Lebanon this summer. The chemical can be used in shells, missiles and grenades and causes horrific burning when it comes into contact with human flesh. White phosphorus (WP) weapons are not forbidden by international law but some human rights groups believe they should be re-classified as chemical weapons and banned. "The Israeli admission was made by the cabinet minister, Jacob Edery, who was questioned on the subject by Zahava Gal-On, a member of the Knesset. Mr Edery told Ms Gal-On: 'The IDF [Israel Defence Force] holds phosphorus munitions in different forms. The IDF made use of phosphorus shells during the war against Hizbullah in attacks against military targets in open ground.[...]"**

For faster processing please restrict the parameters of this FOIA request to the State

- Archiving System (SAS)--over 25 million electronic records consisting of telegrams from mid-1973 to present.

I am willing to pay fees for this request up to a maximum of \$

In order to help to determine my status to assess fees, you should know that I am

- a representative of the news media affiliated with expose-the-war-profiteers.org and this request is made as part of a news gathering effort and not for commercial use.(Additional documentation or comments will be required. See
- affiliated with an educational or noncommercial scientific institution, and this request is made for a scholarly or scientific purpose and not for commercial use.(Additional documentation will be required. See
- an individual seeking information for personal use and not for commercial use.
- affiliated with a private corporation and am seeking information for use in the company's business.

Additional Comments

**I request a waiver of search fees for this request. Disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in my commercial interest. My website, expose-the-war-profiteers.org is a non-profit service, created to inform the general public about the activities of the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. civilian and military intelligence services, their affiliated private contractors, firms and state allies within the U.S.A. and abroad. The subject matter of the requested records specifically concerns identifiable operations or activities of the U.S. government. The disclosure of these records is likely to contribute to public understanding of specific government operations or activities, because very little about the industry responsible for making these weapons is known to the public.**

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Sincerely,

**Martin Ottmann.**

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