

Modern Weapons

The Geneva Convention and SIrUS

The Geneva Conventions were the results of efforts by Henry Dunant, who was motivated by the horrors of war he witnessed at the Battle of Solferino in 1859. The adoption of the First Convention followed the foundation of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in 1863. This convention was modified in 1949, 1977 and 2005.

It was at Dum-Dum near Calcutta that the British Army modified a bullet in order to improve its stopping power. What exactly this bullet achieved is controversially described, but the name was adapted to bullets with a rather flat front. With the bullets having by now gaining speed, they tended to traverse the body, being deadly only when they thereby penetrated vital structures such as the heart or big vessels, but otherwise drew their victim out of combat. The alteration changed the effect of the bullet: it now caused larger tissue destructions, spreading off from the place of entrance. This caused immediate condemnation, already in 1899 in the Hague Declaration [1]. The text utilized that of the St Petersburg Declaration in 1868, which had condemned exploding bullets with the same effect.

The following century, inspired by the great calamities of the World Wars, had the effect of bringing further restrictions to the means of warfare (from nerve gas to land mines), but with the exception of the recent ban on cluster bombs (see below). The SIrUS initiative of ICRC (an attempt to put a general ban on weapons causing "Superfluous Injury or Unnecessary Suffering") to which I had the honour to participate, attempted to ban also weapons that were not invented or sufficiently elaborated (e.g., laser beams causing blindness); however, this attempt was not successful. In the third Millennium, all humanitarian efforts seem to have been blocked by evil forces. We now talk about 'man-stopping ammunition,' an old and forbidden concept.

A-Weapons

Only two nuclear bombs have been dropped over civil targets – those of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, largely unnoticed, much more radioactive stuff in the form of so-called "depleted uranium" [DU] has been distributed over countries like Serbia (by NATO, 1999), Afghanistan (by USA, since 2001), Lebanon (by Israel, 2006) and most intensively Iraq (1991 and since 2003). DU is also a suitable way to get rid of the waste products of nuclear power. The "Gulf-war-syndrome" from which many of the Allied veterans from then are suffering, is probably caused by DU also babies fathered by American former soldiers showed an alarming increase in birth defects – and that was just what it caused on the 'guests.' Imagine what it caused upon those living among the radiation. Cancer rate in Iraq has increased tenfold, and the number of birth defects has multiplied fivefold times since the 1991 war. DU is the probable cause [2].

B-Weapons

The problem with biological weapons is that the Germs are not discriminating between friend and foe – unless (most of) the friends are protected and the foes are not. *It is hoped by the potential users of the B-Weapons that it might be possible to protect the own population while the man-guided pandemic rages.* So far, experiments with Ciprofloxacin against Anthrax, Tamiflu against the laboriously revived "Spanish Flu" from frozen graves of the 1918 victims and vaccination against smallpox have not proved convincing results – probably only therefore have we not seen any such pandemics. But be sure, somewhere in the world, somebody is still working with the biological weapons [3].

1 [http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/irrc_849_Coupland_et_Loye/\\$File/irrc_849_Coupland_et_Loye.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/Web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/irrc_849_Coupland_et_Loye/$File/irrc_849_Coupland_et_Loye.pdf)

2 http://www.gulfwarvets.com/du_cancer_rates.htm

3 <http://www.schou.de/terrorwar/The%20Unnoticed%20B-Weapon.pdf>

C-Weapons

That also chemical weapons are employed, is actually a war crime, although in accordance with the present-days deterioration in human values that the Bush administration in the US and the Sharon/Olmert in Israel can call their own product. **White phosphor** was used in 2004 over Falludja – only, of course, to make light in the dark (but an ample amount of photos shows the 'enlightened' victims). Also Israel has in its recent war-fares against Gaza and Lebanon used some other sort of chemical weapon, Dense Inert Metal Explosives (DIME), an experimental kind of explosive, against its adversaries [4].

E-Weapons

As such I characterize electrical weapons, notably the Taser [5]. It is distributed as a milder alternative to shot-guns but has been widely abused by police forces, thereby having caused more than 300 deaths (Spring 2008). The manufacturing firm is eager to fight these adverse cases – in prosecuting the doctors who claim that their patient's death was caused by taser shocks [6,7]. However, there is ample evidence [8,9] proving that tasering can lead to cardiac arrest. In some of the witnessed, abusive cases, you can even talk about an 'electrocution.'

Landmines and Cluster bombs

It may cause wonder that operation with landmines is still not considered what it actually is – a war crime. At another place, I have dealt extensively with these vicious devices [10].

As was the case with the landmine treaty, various countries made their best (and partially successful) attempts to dilute the contents of the treaty text, to be signed in Oslo on December 8, 2008. There will be a transitional time of several years to get rid of the supplies (hopefully not by using them). Then there was the definition: Less than 20 kg must a cluster bomb weigh, be dispersed when used and contain more than 10 sub-ammunitions. Permitted is conversely a bomb that is larger, contains up to 10 small bombs, is target-related and contains self-destruction mechanisms. Also ammunition without explosives is allowed. It is also accepted that military missions are carried out with other nations that use cluster bombs, even when the very mission is included. Several NATO-members had wanted such a possibility, in order not to compromise their cooperation with Big Brother.

Both the landmine treaty and negotiations about the ban on cluster bombs have been ignored by the producer- and user-countries USA, Israel, India, Pakistan, Russia and China. Weapons of the kind are even evil and so are those who stick to them.



Landmine victim in Cambodia (Photo Hans Boie)

War-Crimes

The unlimited search for new weapons to increase suffering in this World must be seen in connection to the moral decay in the third Millenium [11]. The torture scandal, including the so-called 'rendition' of prisoners to countries where they can be tortured [12] is

4 <http://www.news.com.au/heraldsun/story/0,21985,24905242-5005961,00.html>

5 <http://www.schou.de/terrorwar/Taser%20Just%20a%20Small%20Jolt.pdf>

6 http://rawstory.com/news/2008/Judge_orders_all_references_to_Taser_0504.html

7 <http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/2008/05/02/20080502taser0503.html>

8 <http://www.infowars.net/articles/may2008/220508Tasers.htm>

9 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/27/27910/1.html>

10 <http://www.schou.de/phem/landmine.html>

11 <http://www.schou.de/terrorwar/Changing%20Moral%20in%20the%203rd%20Millenium.pdf>

12 <http://www.schou.de/terrorwar/Torture-Scandal.pdf>

symptomatic of this mental change. This has first of all taken place in the USA, for which I find Michael Rivero's comment a suitable conclusion: "The US should just withdraw from **any** human rights accords to which it has been signatory just declare loudly to the rest of the world that the US does torture, and the sign-off on torture comes from the highest levels of this administration" [13].

May 30, 2008
Revised February 21, 2009