

# GRASSROOTS ACTIONS FOR PEACE NEWS

April, 2005

Have you been wondering what GRAP is up to? Well, here it is: First, thanks to the 66 supporters who sent dues to Grassroots last Fall.

The **very good news** is that Ed Fields, a professional programmer, has offered to create and maintain a website for Grassroots **gratis!** To get excited about the potential for Grassroots, go to [www.efields.com/grc](http://www.efields.com/grc) for a sneak preview, or look at the site he manages for the Town of Carlisle, [www.carlisle.org/](http://www.carlisle.org/).

Since the terribly discouraging elections, Grassroots continues to work on issues where strong grassroots support is needed no matter who is in the White House. We're working to

- STOP the horrific use of depleted uranium weapons;
- STOP the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Environmental Protection Agency from de-regulating radioactive materials like depleted uranium, so they can be dumped into landfills and recycling streams for consumer products;
- STOP construction of a Level 4 bioweapons laboratory (the most dangerous) from being built in the middle of Boston; and
- SUPPORT domestic and international non-violent conflict resolution, through a cabinet level Peace Department.

## Specific actions regarding Depleted Uranium

Gretel Munroe has organized a number of events to educate and voice opposition to the use of depleted uranium weapons:

- Gretel, Mary Latucca and Carol Dwyer gathered signatures on an international petition to ban DU weapons in front of the Concord Post Office;
- Photos showing Iraqi children suffering from exposure to depleted uranium dust were exhibited at the Somerville Library, and will be seen at the Medford Library in June.
- A DU poster teach-in and petition signing was held at the Medford Unitarian Universalist Church, using posters made by Ashley Galvin and Jenny Kastner for Grassroots' DU Exhibit at the Boston Social Forum last June;
- At a dramatic February hearing of the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the Connecticut Legislature, Gretel and Carol testified in favor of proposed legislation requiring all returning Connecticut veterans to be tested for DU exposure. Gretel's paper, "Health Effects of DU" is an important contribution to the literature, and it was provided to the legislators by the Military Toxics Project. Due in part to stunning testimony by Gulf War veteran Melissa Sterry, the Committee voted unanimous support for two bills, one for testing veterans for DU exposure and the other, to study health effects and set up a health registry.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS

**Urge Congressmen Meehan and Markey** to support Jim McDermott's legislation to study the health effects of depleted uranium and clean up contaminated sites; and Congressman Serrano's Bill HR202 to test returning Iraq War vets for depleted uranium exposure.

**Help plan and find venues for “Deadly Fire” video presentations and discussions.** Contact Linsey Hurley (978) 266-0055 if you can assist now or in the future.

**Help distribute flyers and petition at the Mayors for Peace March and Rally in Central Park on Sunday May 1.** Contact: Gretel Munroe (781-391-7578) Contact Ann Eno [annenough@aol.com](mailto:annenough@aol.com) for transportation to New York City. The following day, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference opens at the UN, and Grassroots will take part in a DU workshop there on May 3.

STOP THE NRC AND EPA FROM DE-REGULATING RADIOACTIVE URANIUM WASTE and allowing this waste to be dumped into landfills and recycling streams for consumer products. **Help circulate petitions at the Musketaquid Earth Day Saturday April 30. (A grand event!)** Judy Scotnicki will have petitions at the CREW table after the parade.

HELP STOP CONSTRUCTION OF BU’S DANGEROUS BIOWEAPONS LAB IN THE MIDDLE OF BOSTON. The organisms BU will use in this laboratory are deadly. BU has not been truthful with the public when safety lapses like the recent Tularemia infections occurred. State Rep Gloria Fox’s HB1397 would regulate and monitor such labs to make sure they operate safely. Currently there are regulations for restaurants and landfills but NO Federal or State regulations for Level 4 bioweapons laboratories.

**Urge our State Reps (Cory Atkins, 5<sup>th</sup> District) and Senators (Susan Fargo, 5<sup>th</sup> District) to support Gloria Fox’s legislation HB 1397. Please mail the enclosed postcards to your State Representative and Senator.**

HELP CONVINCING MEEHAN AND MARKEY TO SUPPORT A DEPT OF PEACE  
Congressman McGovern spoke about his support for a cabinet-level Department of Peace on March 5<sup>th</sup> to a large gathering at First Parish Church, Concord. Representative McGovern is one of the 54 co-sponsors of this legislation, first submitted in 2001 by Rep. Dennis Kucinich, and gaining support each year. GRAP was one of the sponsors of this very successful meeting.

**Mike OBrien [mtolincoln@comcast.net](mailto:mtolincoln@comcast.net) is coordinating in Markey’s district, and Lin Fields [lin@efields.com](mailto:lin@efields.com) and Emily Alston Follansbee [emaround@verizon.net](mailto:emaround@verizon.net) are coordinating in Meehan’s district. Lin writes:** “We are asking people to sign petitions in support of the Department of Peace. This summer, Emily and I hope to bring THOUSANDS of signatures to Marty Meehan, in support of a Department of Peace. We hope to have a “petition contact” for each town in the 5<sup>th</sup> district. We are still in the planning stages and all ideas are welcome!

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**Please, if your email address has changed, notify Jim West at [J.west33@verizon.net](mailto:J.west33@verizon.net),  
So as to receive Grassroots’ infrequent emails, please don’t block his address!**

We will send Grassroots News by snail mail to all 307 people on our mailing list twice a year – in the Spring and Fall, and email to notify those for whom we have addresses about additional activities we are organizing, co-sponsoring or endorsing.