

U.S. Provides Saudi Arabia Skin-Melting Chemical for Yemen War



Damascus, September 21 (RHC)-- Saudi Arabia is using the skin melting chemical, white phosphorus in its conflict with Yemen, according to social media reports, and the U.S. acknowledges that it has supplied the Kingdom with the chemical.

It is unknown exactly how Saudi Arabia is using the Napalm-like chemical, but recent photos and videos published on social media appear to show white phosphorus canisters being used in a mortar shell. Military officials in the U.S. confirmed that they have previously supplied Saudi Arabia with white phosphorus but refused to say how much and when the chemical was sold to the Saudi's.

When white phosphorus is used in munitions it can cause horrific damage, with the highly flammable chemical burning skin down to the bone. While internationally there is no outright ban on white phosphorus, it has been sold by the U.S. to other countries under the condition that it is only used for the purpose of creating smoke screens and signalling to troops.

The U.S. became involved in the Yemeni conflict as an ally of Saudi Arabia in March 2015, along with the U.K., Turkey, China and France and other middle eastern allies. Saudi Arabia backs loyalist supporters of the President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi who are fighting Iran-backed Houthi forces.

The U.N. estimates that over 10,000 people, including almost 4,000 civilians, have been killed in the

conflict, the majority from Saudi bombings. Ongoing fighting has also displaced around three million Yemenis. Human rights organizations are now concerned that white phosphorus is being used against Yemeni civilians, with many groups previously saying that the Saudi Arabian monarchy should be suspended from the U.N. Human Rights Council for its human rights abuses in Yemen.

The Barack Obama administration earlier this month offered a record \$115 billion in arms, military equipment and training to the Saudis, according to a report from the Center for International Policy. Saudi-led bombings in Yemen reportedly use U.S. cluster munitions, a widely banned weapon which both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia have not signed.

Two British parliamentary reports said that that an international investigation should be launched into whether British weapons were being used by Saudi forces to target Yemeni civilians.

Israel, another state receiving huge amounts of military funding from the U.S. has admitted to using white phosphorous in attacks against Palestinians in Gaza.

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