

Pinhole Pictures

presents

DOWNWIND

Depleted Uranium Weapons in the Age of Virtual War

(2001) 50 minutes

"Downwind" draws a line from Hiroshima through the Nevada nuclear test site to the sands of Iraq and Kuwait, where thousands of soldiers and civilians were exposed to toxic, irradiating dust particles by the use of depleted Uranium tank penetrators.

Used extensively in the 1991 and 2003 Gulf Wars, and in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan, these DU weapons effectively destroy heavy armor and fortified bunkers, yet they release very fine Uranium Oxide particles, which may be inhaled or ingested.

Though the long-term effects are highly contested, there is little indication that the United States military informed soldiers or civilians about the possible adverse health and environmental effects.

Blending broad issues of History and memory with the near ubiquitous control of war imagery by the military, Downwind raises questions about the true human cost when the desire for total victory outweighs the moral obligations of 'humanitarian intervention'.

Director's Bio

Jawad Metni is a director and cinematographer with 10 years experience in documentary films. His credits as cinematographer include *The Plutonium Circus* (1995), which he also co-produced, *Hell House* (2001), *The Federation of Black Cowboys* (2003), and *Obstacle* (2004), a documentary on Israel's controversial security wall in Palestine.

He directed *Raging Boil*, which premiered at the New York Underground Film Festival in 1995. He recently completed *Trading with the Enemy*, a documentary on Cuban cigar contraband and sex tourism in Cuba. In 2004, he directed *Rumble in Mumbai*, a documentary on the 2004 World Social Forum held in Mumbai, India.

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