



1986

IHD

**DIYARBAKIR BRANCH OF
HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION**

**REPORT ON ALLEGATIONS
ABOUT USING OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

26 AUGUST 2011

I. CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Chemical weapons are generally dangerous compounds that are extremely dangerous and fatal for human health. These compounds which are generally used for military purposes cause nervous system to become paralyzed (nervous gases), temporary blindness, deafness, paralysis or vomiting; heavy burns on skin and eyes or respiratory problems. Smoke and napalm bombs used for hiding from enemies and distracting enemies and leaf shredders and weed infertilizers used to spot the place of enemies are agreed as chemical weapons.

Types And Qualities

Suffocating Gases:

- A) **Phosgene:** Colorless gas at 20C, has a odor of green corn and weed just cut, no effect on skin and eyes, has an effect between 1-3 hours, burns and swells the lungs.
- B) **Diphosgene:** Colorless gas at 20C in liquid form, has a odor of green corn and weed just cut, lightly makes eyes water, has a effect between 1-3 hours, burns and swells the lungs.

Nervous Gases:

- A) **Tabun:** Liquid and brown at 20C, lightly smells like fruit (doesn't when it's pure), has a very high effect on skin and eyes, affecting speed is so fast, suffocating and deadly.
- B) **Sarin:** Contains toxic at a highly level and locks the central nervous system of the body. After the explosion, Sarin cause dead in minutes. Gas entering the body by respiration causes irritaion on eyes and skin. Semptoms are runny nose, watery eyes, difficulty in respration, darkening eyes, nausea and headache. This respiration stopping gas causes dead by emaciated muscles.
- C) **Soman:** Liquid at 20C, has a fruity odor if it's not pure, has a highly effect on skin and eyes, affecting speed is so fast, suffocating and deadly.
- D) **Permanent Nervous gases:** Liquid or gas for at 20C, odorless, colorless, has a highly effect on skin and eyes, affecting speed is so fast, suffocating and fatal.

Blood Poisoning:

- A) **Hydrogen Cyanide:** Gas or liquid form at 20C, colorless, has a odor of peach seed, lightly affects skin and eyes, affecting speed is high, stops body's oxygen use and reduce breathing speed.
- B) **Cyanogen Chlorine:** Gas form at 20C, colorless, has a similar odor to hydrogen cyanide, eye watery and irritative, reduces breathing speed and suffocating.
- C) **Arsine:** Gas form at 20C, colorless, has a odor of light garlic, doesn't affect skin and eyes, has a effect between 2 hours and 11 days, toxicates blood, lungs and kidneys.

Blister Gases:

- A) **Distilled Mustard Gas:** Colorless when it is pure, after various fatal mixtures, becomes brown and yellow. When taken by respiration, causes burns on eyes and skin and irritate mucous membrane. This gas burning skin and eyes causes toxicity. Effects of this gas damaging body balance, occur between 1-24 hours.
- B) **Nitrogen Mustard Gas:** Dark liquid form at 20C, in the odor of fish and mold has a more effect on eyes and less effect on skin, has more than 12 hours of affecting speed, causting, affects respiratory systems, tears tissues and wounds vessels.

- C) **Phosgene Oxime:** Solid or liquid at 20C, colorless, has a sharp and penetrating odor, irritating eyes, nose and skin, affecting speed depends on contact, extremely damages eyes and nose mucous membrane and rapidly makes pimples.
- D) **Lewisite:** Dark, oily liquid form at 20C, has a similar odor to rose geranium, damages eye cornea, affecting speed is fast, has effects like mustard gas and can affect whole body.
- E) **MustardLewisite:** Dark, oily liquid form at 20C, odor like garlic, has a high effect on eyes and skin, with its sudden sting effect has a causting effect in about 13 hours and can affect whole body.
- F) **Ethylchloroarsine:** Liquid at 20C, colorless, has a fruity odor but irritating, irritates respiratory systems, affects eyes, burns and a deadly gas.
- G) **Phenylchloroarsine:** Liquid and colorless at 20C, wounds eyes but has a less effect on skin, irritating, causes nausea and vomiting, a causting gas.
- H) **Methylchloroarsine:** Liquid and colorless at 20C, odorless, damages eye cornea, has a high affecting speed, irritates respiratory systems, wounds eyes and lungs.

Emetic Gases:

- A) **Diphenylchlorarsine:** From white solid to brown at 20C, odorless, affecting speed is so rapid, causes headache, vomiting and nausea.
- B) **Adamsite:** From yellow to green solid at 20C, odorless, affecting speed is so fast, can cause headache, vomiting and nausea like cold symptoms.
- C) **Diphenylcyanoarsine:** From white to purple solid, has a odor of mixtures of bitter almond and garlic, has effects similar to Adamsite gas.

Lachrymatory Gases:

- A) **Chloroacetophenone:** Solid form at 20C, has a odor of apple flower, has irritating effects on eyes and skin, affecting speed is instant, lachrymatory and irritates respiratory systems.
- B) **Chloroacetophenone** In Chloroform: Liquid at 20C, has odor of chlorine, can cause severe eye irritation and light skin irritation, instantly effective, lachrymatory, irritates respiratory systems.
- C) **Chloroacetophenone** Vekloropikrin In chloroform: Liquid at 20C, has a odor of fly sheet, instantly effective, shows effects of emetic, suffocating and tear gases'.
- D) **Carbontetrac In Chloride and Chloroacetophenone In Gasoline:** Liquid at 20C, same odor as gasoline, temporary severe eye irritation, light skin irritation, has a instant affecting speed, a powerful lachrymatory gas.
- E) **Bromobenzylcyanide:** Liquid form at 20C, has a odor of spoiled fruit, irritates eyes and skin but not toxic, instantly effective, irritates eyes and respiratory systems.
- F) **O-Chlorobenzylmalonytryl:** Colorless and liquid at 20C, has odor of pepper, not so irritating on eyes and skin, instantly effective.

Somniferous Gases, Pharcoschismic:

- A) **Quinocloynil Menzilate:** Color of grey smoke at 20C, in the form of aerosol, odorless, not effective on eyes and skin, affecting speed is slow, a somniferous gas.

Hider and Veiling Mist Materials:

- A) **Titanium tetra Chloride:** Colorless at 20C, liquid, abrades skin, gives the feeling of light burn.
- B) **Sulphur Di Oxide, Chlorosulphonic Acid Solution:** Liquid at 20C, abrades skin more than Titanium tetra Chloride.

C) **Heksa Chlorotan**: Solid at 20C, when exposed intense shows effects of zin toxicity.

Method of Use of Chemical Weapons:

By spray guns and spray-tanks, in forms of liquid and aerosol, with artillery missiles, inside the rocket or torpedo missiles, with mines, fuses and airplane bombs.

II. SHORT HISTORY OF USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Chemical weapons have been the most effective weapon that states have used against their enemies. According to the historians, the first chemical weapon that is a mixture of red-hot coal, sulphur and pitch have been used in 403 BC during Peloponnesian wars. Then, in 660s AD, Greek Fire containing pitch, sulphur, resin, naphtha, lime and saltpeter was invented. Beginning of modern chemical wars is known as 22 April 1915. In Ypres, a small Belgian town, chlorine gas used by Germans led a big panic by throwing toward English and French forces. During this war, Germans also used Phosgene, another suffocating gas. In USA a chemical weapon center firstly established in 1917, both production and experiments on soldiers were conducted; but protective measures protecting eyes and skin failed after Germans used mustard gas. Mustard gas firstly was used in Ypres against Englishs and it affected 20.000 people in a day. During the World War I both sides used thousands tons of mustard gas. Russian lost the most soldiers because of the primitiveness of masks and delay in treatments. After World War I, threat of chemical war were taken seriously more, researches over protection, treatment, offense and education were focused. New gas masks were developed and researches over oily clothes and rubber equipments and systems carrying gases on tanks and planes were conducted.

When World War II broke out, all powerful states were having chemical weapons and measurements for protection against chemical weapons. The most powerful state was Japan who used these gases against China in lates of 1930s from the point of view of chemical weapons. Various smokes and fire spray gases were used. When Germans bombed Italy in Bari Port, as a result of explosion of 2000 mustard gases in an American ship, 17 ship sank, fires broke out, mustard gases spread out and military unions and civilians were damaged. After World War II, use of chemical weapons were continued. In the mids of 1960s, during Yemeni war, Egypt used mustard and nervous gases against monarchists. Americans used crowd control gases to empty underground tunnels and used herbicides sprays to devastate jungles.

It has been claimed that a biological weapon assued T2 mitotoxin were used in Cambodia. During Iran-Iraqi war, there are informations that Iraq used chemical weapons against Iran. But Iraq used that gases effectively in Halepche Genocide. Halepche as a dark stain in history, was the most terrific genocide that Saddam regime used against Kurds. In that genocide which mustard gas was used, 5000 kurds were killed and 10000 Kurds wounded. Although it has been years since then, there are still effects of chemical weapons.

III. CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC)

It is a solemn agreement of weapon control which forbids production, stock and use of chemical weapons. The absolute name of the convention is 'Prohibition of development, production, stock and use of chemical weapons, and agreement about annihilation of these weapons'.

The agreement is administrated by Organisation For the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Although this organization is a independent formation, there is a wrong opinion that it is a department in UN.

Since May 2009, there are 188 states being side of convention. 2 states also signed the agreement but haven't put it into effect yet.

The effort towards prohibition of chemical and biological weapons amongst states has been started by Disarmament Committee including 18 states. The name of the foundation have been The Conference on Disarmament (CD) in 1984 with several name changings. On 2 September 1992 Disarmament Committee presented their annual report which includes Chemical Weapons Convention to United Nations General Committee. General Committee, approved the convention on 30 November 1992. After that, UN General Secretary opened Convention to sign on 13 January 1993 in Paris. Till 29 April 1997 CWC stayed open to sign. In 1997 Turkey joined the agreement that was open to sign in 1993.

IV. CLAIMS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN TURKEY

During the military conflicts in Turkey which started in 1984 and defined as 'low intense war' human rights violations were experienced systematically and humanitarian law regulations were ignored. During the war times mass destruction weapons id est chemical weapons defined as crime against humanity started to become a current issue intensely after 90s. In 90s, because of the various difficulties that conflict times caused, use of chemical weapons was about to become a current issue. For the first time, in a skirmish experienced in 1994, it has been claimed that chemical weapons were used against PKK militants. But, as there is not that much information about this claim and skirmish, this claim is not taken as data in this report.

Claims that police department used chemical weapons against militants became a current issue in later years; but because of the conditions of that time that claims were not held by independent committee.

Later then, on 11 May 1999 it was claimed that 20 PKK militants killed by chemical weapons in the vicinities of the village Bağlıkaya (Bilika) of distric Silopi of Şırnak. As far as reflected in newspapers, at that time, militants took the tube claimed used for that event and sent to Germany for examination. After examination conducted in criminal laboratory founded in Germany, in the determined report it has been pointed that the material (the tube) was a chemical gas containing deadly chemicals materials. Soon, certain videos were broadcasted on ROJ TV. In that broadcasted videos it has been pointed that the video was about the event and there are some military officers who still are in military, and after the event a military officer came before the corpses and confessed that they used chemical weapons.

It has been propounded that 8 PKK militants, 2 of which were women, were killed by chemical weapons during a skirmish in Çukurca district of Hakkari province on September 2009. Human rights organizations found photographs and materials which indicates that chemical weapons was in charge and sent them to Germany to examine. German newspapers pointed that Turkish army used chemical weapons against PKK militants. As German human rights defenders and politicians were demanding for international enquiry, University of Hamburg proved that Turkish Armed Forces used chemical weapons with reports. Hans Baumann, a photograph specialist, proved that photos were not fake and Hospital of University of Hamburg reported that militants were killed by chemical weapons the most probably, as well.

After this year, news about army officers used chemical weapons were continued to be received. But persuading and sufficient results were not revealed because of the non-operated indepedent specialist committees which are necessary to enquiry the claims.

Finally, a claim was put forward that a PKK militant named Bedran Kaya who was killed on 31 July 2001 in Şemdinli district of Hakkari province was killed by chemical weapons. This claim was occured because there was no bullet mark in his body and people who washed the corpse said that his skin was shedding.

After applications about these events which are experienced a lot in region were received by our association although we suç duyurusunda bulunsak da these applications have not been resulted yet. As Human Rights Association, not to stay ignorant against use of mass destruction weapons, chemical weapons that we see as a crime against humanity, we must report this issues comprehensively because of the claims that put forward, datas that we earn by our investigations, applications that we receive and news about the issues published or broadcasted.

We indicate that datas that are in reports have not been revealed yet but these claims need to be clarified gravely. Because of that, we present all applications and datas to all Turkish and the world's public opinion, and also to state's authorized officers' attention. Our goal is not to stay ignorant to a grave subject and to get claims to be investigated.

Statistics and detailed informations of our report about use of biological and chemical weapons from 1994 to 2011 are below:

DİYARBAKIR BRANCH OF HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
STATISTICS OF REPORTS ABOUT CLAIMS OF USE OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS

- **Claim of use of chemical weapons against militants** : **39**
- **Claim of use of chemical weapons towards ecosystem and land**: **5**
- **Claim of use of biological weapon** : **2**

- **Number of the militants killed by use of chemical weapons** : **437**
- **Number of the animals killed by use of chemical weapons** : **134**

***Zafer Tanriş who applied to our branch office on 29 April 2009 stated that:** *‘‘My brother Gökmen Tanriş left home 16 years ago and we didn’t hear from him again. After that, we heard that he joined PKK and we didn’t know that if he was alive or not. But 10 days ago we learned that he was killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish in Samsavat region between Erzincan and Gümüşhane province in 1944. We demand my brother’s funeral and also want to know if my brother was killed by chemical weapons. We demand you to identify my brother’s corpse and try to take his body by anyway needed.’’* **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that 22 high school students and 6 PKK militants who was about to pick them were slaughtered by chemical weapons on 17 May 1994 in the mountain of Bezar of Adiyaman province before they participate in the organization. Few witnesses saw the event and they made it correct that use of chemical weapons was in charge. Evrim Alataş, a journalist, wrote an essay over his nephew who was killed by chemical weapon in that event and called public opinions attention to use of chemical weapons. According to informations of Dicle News Agency(DIHA) which met with eye witnesses on 13 May 2011, 22 high school students led to mountain road. Eye witnesses express that the young mensaid that they were going to Bezar mountain for picnic and were so cheerful as if they were going to a wedding feast. When they reached the foot of the mountain, they started to climb Bezar mountain. The beginning point was a road where hundreds of cars pass on it daily.The young men spent the night with 6 militants on the mountain. The next day soldiers encircled the mountain according to a denunciation or expressions of a confessor (it is not known officially). And when it came to morning of 17 May, while military helicopters took off from Diyarbakır and Adiyama were flying over Bezar mountain, thousands of soldiers at the edge of the mountain encircled 22 unarmed civilians and 6 PKK militants. According to expressions, 6 PKK militants persuaded the civilians to go top of the mountain and submit if they run into soldiers. PKK militants to protect the youngmen, cut the road and waited for the soldiers. In skirmish 6 PKK militants including İrfan Çintay were killed. In the same hours before the Şexbor, Bowık and Qotr villager’s eyes cobra helicopters rained bombs over the youngmen who were not armed with any weapon but just their hands.On the Bezar, which was like a fire ball, the youngmen who raised their hands to submit were killed by 3 hours of helicopter bombartment. Eye witnesses of that time still remember the burns on the youngmen’ body and the heavy chemical odor spread out of mountain sharply. Human rights organizations calls attention to powerful evidences of chemical use on Bezar. That was not enough to torment and bodies tied to mules and horses were dragged till the road before the eye witnesses. After then, 28 the young bodies were picked to a truck trailer and taken to Adiyaman and bodies were waited for long in a police station’s garden. Those who witnessed Bezar slaughter said

that they still feel the grief in their hearts. Watchman (Hüseyin Ergün) of Şêxbor pilgrimage, a sanctuary for Alaouite sect, which is at the foot of Bezar mountain, were experiencing difficulty in expressing about what happened. "They were just students" he said and also said that he watched them playing football before going to mountain. In the hours of slaughter Ergün pointed that he climbed to the mountain to put his sheep out to pasture. And he said "At noon i was terrified with a 'boom'. I started to climb by saying ' Oh my God! What was that?'. While sheep were going down, I went upper part and run into soldiers. Thousands of the soldiers were around the mountain and they send me to the lower and remote parts of the mountain. Helicopters coming from Diyarbakır's way were bombing the mountain and helicopters were coming one after one. One day later i went to the scene of bombing. Whole land was in blood and their clothes, gloves and shoes were burned. I cried and said to myself 'they were not armed, they were yielded'. They dragged the children to animals and tied them, then load the bodies to a truck one right after the other to take them to Adıyaman province."

Head of Malatya Branch of Human Rights Association of that time Hasan Buran said that right after the applications were applied about the issue, they went to Adıyaman province and run into a terrific view. Also Buran said that *"on 16th of May, families of the youngmen applied to us by saying that their children were lost. After then, Ali Çintay, father of İrfan Çintay, came to me said his child and 27 more people were killed in an ambush. Then we went to Adıyaman with a committee with applying to public prosecutorship. When we arrived to the police station near to Adıyaman Commando Union, we saw 28 corpses lined up. Most of the corpses were burned and their inner organs were out of the body, most part of the bodies were shattered in pieces and these pieces were put in tinplates to identify. We took 4 corpses with families. We buried Fidel töre, İrfan Çintay and Yusuf Bektaş in Gölpinar village, and Ferhat Buran, my cousin, in Hisardere vilage."* Then Buran said 11 corpses were taken with difficulty in indentificationand others were buried in mass graves. After displaying bodies in the garden of police station, funerals of 17 the youngmen' bodies which was not able to be identified after slaughter, were buried in Adıyaman Homeless' Graveyard without religional duties. People of Adıyaman changed the mass grave to a monument and decorated the monument with flowers. Name of the victims who were slaughtered on Bezar mountain: Ali Elçi, Kamber Yamaç, Kamber Yavuz, Doğan Öter, Fidel (Şükrü) Töre, Hüseyin İlhanlar, İsmail Tümen (Mehmet Emin), İrfan Çintay (Rüstem), Şeyho Çayır, Mustafa Sincer, Bahri Ekinci, Hüseyin Bozkuş, Kamber İlhan, Hüseyin Çintay, Ferhat Kanlıbaş, Yusuf Boztaş, Cemal Bağcı, Ferhat Buran, Hüseyin Sarıtaş, Ergün Bozkuş, Yusuf Turan, Seyit Ahmet Özdemir (Edip), Deniz Güner, Yusuf Pektaş.

*According to DIHA's information on 30 November 2009, a mass grave were found in Yalınca (Dim) village of district of Gürpınar of Van province. It was showed that the mass grave belongs to 42 PKK militants (1 woman) who were killed in 1994 in Çiyareşk region where is among Hakkari, Şırnak and Van. Eye witnesses expressed that the operation was conducted by thousands of soldiers from Diyarbakır, Hakkari, Van and Şırnak with the support of Cobra helicopters and village policemen from near villages. Eye witnesses also claimed that in the skirmish which was intense in Hacıbey stream (Çemê Hacıbey), region between Tüzek and Duav village, chemical weapons were used and corpses were left in scene for 2 days, then corpses were dragged by mules, horses and cars, and brought to Tüzek village. After then eye witnesses expressed that corpses brought to Tüzek village were carried by helicopters and civilian vans to Yalınca (Dim) village, corpses carried by helicopters threw from helicopters to town center. Eye witnesses also put forward that corpses were waited for a day in town center to menace villagers. Eye witnesses recorded that corpses were buried in a

pit dug by bulldozers at the lower part of the village graveyard. According to information, a soldier who was in charge at that skirmish and didn't want his name to be said, expressed what was experienced: "I was doing my military serving in that region. The day of the skirmish we were sent to another village to control. But they informed us by radiophone that there was a skirmish. After first radiophone talk, we were informed that 1 lieutenant and 2 privates were killed. We went to the scene right away. While we went there, attacks were continued. The scene was a smooth area. Soldiers were firing from everywhere and 2 helicopters also were firing. After hours they said that whole group was killed. After the skirmish, corpses were left there for a day. A day from then corpses were dragged with mules and horses, and taken to Tüzek village. I went with corpses. There was no bullet mark on some corpses. But there were black burn marks on other corpses. Villagers stayed there said that chemical weapons were used." Sıddık Gül, Democratic Society Party Administrator of Van province, was in the village during the event and expressed what he experienced: "Corpses of 42 PKK militant's corpses who was killed in a skirmish in 1994 were brought to our village. At that time, I was in the village. When I went closer to the corpses there wasn't bullet marks on some corpses. There were black marks and burns on their bodies. Soldiers were taken photographs while cutting militants ears. Over that I met with a noncommissioned officer and he warned the soldiers." Hüseyin Akdağ who buried corpses in Yalınca village, explained that corpses were waited in town center for a day, and then buried in a hole dug by them. Akdağ said that "Corpses were not able to be identified. Faces were not able. Some of the corpse's arms, ears and even fingers were cut. That pictures were terrific. I haven't been able to forget that day, never..."

*It was propounded that soldiers used chemical weapons in the operation which was conducted in Geliyê Şêx Cuma region between Şirvan district of Siirt province and Bitlis in 1995. According to eye witnesses 80 PKK militants were killed as a result of use of chemical weapons and they were buried in a mass graveyard. According to Firat News Agency (ANF)'s information on 17 July 2011, eye witness who knew the operation and skirmish and who didn't want his name to be known said that "An operation was conducted in Şêx Cuma region in 1995. Soldiers lost so many against 110 militants used chemical weapon. Guerilla union was formed with men and women. It was final times of the operation, soldiers went mad because of their loss. As a last resort they used chemical weapons. Because of this application 80 guerilla were killed. Village policemen also participated in the operation. They know these attacks as well. Besides, they also know where 80 guerrillas killed in that slaughter were buried.

*It was propounded that 9 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in Üçköy village of district Midyat of Mardin province in 1996. According to villagers' expressions, 9 militants were buried in a mass graveyard by gendarmerie commandship. A villager who is an eye witness and didn't want his name to be known spoke to DIHA: "9 PKK militants were brought to police station's court with the claim of killed in a skirmish. Then a bulldozer came and they wanted to bury them. Soldiers dug a small hole at the edge of old road of the village and buried them one right after the other. It was not a skirmish, chemical weapons were used. Because we didn't hear sound of skirmish. But they wanted that to be known as a skirmish. Because the scene of skirmish is near to us. If anything happened, we could have heard. Then villager looked the corpses brought. But there wasn't any bullet mark or blood. As if they had been killed by chemical weapons. Corpses were shattered as a result of chemical weapons. It was chemical materials killed them and soldiers dragged the bodies.

*It was propounded that 21 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in Çemişgezek district of Tunceli province on 17 April 1997. Although their code names and birth dates is known by Privileged Attorney Generalship of Malatya, their corpses have not been given to their families for 14 years. Not giving of the corpses to families strengthens the claims of use of chemical weapons. In investigations conducted by Human Rights Association branch office of Tunceli, first day of when skirmish broke out although police department knew the names, they refused to give the corpses to their families. Human rights association's administrator Reyhan Kuloğlu, attorney of the families, expressed that all the applications they made were resulted with failure. And she said " Privileged Attorney Generalship of Malatya made a decision of non-prosecution about the mass graveyard in Çemişgezek. Based on this we filed an appeal to 4th Assize Court of Diyarbakır. Our appeal also were refused. They showed us the way of civil tribunal. Our objection was about not giving the corpses to families and burying them one after the other in a mass graveyard although their names were known. A wounded PKK militant from that skirmish gave 21 names to attorney generalship. Kuloğlu said: "According to informations that Kamber Yıldırım captured PKK militant in Çemişgezek on 11 April 1997 gave, although names of 21 PKK militants were submitted to polices one by one, polices buried them and did not give the corpses to their families. Because of that, while their identities and participations dates and places were evident, not notifying the families is a crime. Attorney generalship made a decision of non-prosecution after all. We have informations and documents. We think that the reason why they didn't give the corpses was the corpses was so damaged. And this strengthens the claim of use of chemical weapons.

*It was propounded that 15 PKK militants and 2 civilians were killed by chemical weapons in an operations conducted in Newala Çargê hamlet of Tanze (Heybeli) village of district Sason of Batman province on February 1999. Soldiers and village polices gathered the corpses, cremated them and covered them with soil by burying. Families of the guerrillas demanded governorship of Batman and gendarmerie commandership of Sason to submit the corpses to themselves. Corpses of the militants were taken to an unknown place and hidden by Commandership of Batman. Hiding of the corpses strengthens the claim of use of chemical weapons. **(Batman Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that 20 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in an operation in Bilika village of Silopi district of Şırnak province on 11 May 1999. This claim were proved by militants who took the chemical weapon tube and sent it to Germany. It was become absolute that the tube examined in criminal laboratory in Germany included chemical weapon and chemical gases which are deadly. Videos emerged proves that chemical weapons were used in the operation claimed that conducted by Necdet Özel today's Chief of Defence. According to Firat news' informations dated 1 August 2011, in videos taken and broadcasted by Roj TV, a heavy bombardment to a cave's entry at a slope in the vicinities of Bilika village is seen. After the bombardment, a ranked military officer goes towards the corpses lined up in the entry of the cave and says: Fighter of Sivas (a province)! This one was wounded. And this man was from Syria. There are 6 women below. Because our soldiers threw gas and grenades, they come up against toxication but still, they enter like heroes and monsters. They started to extract the corpses. With this, there still 7 women inside. 13 corpses in total." It is seen that operations were conducted by Necdet Özel in videos. While Necdet özel meets a small force, he tells Zeki Çolak, today's Commander of 7th Army Corps Diyarbakır, "I congratulate you Commander Zeki. We came here with commando forces but we didn't know they were here. Yesterday morning i get confessioners." After this small conversation, Zeki Çolak takes Necdet Özel to top of the emplacement. Necdet Özel peeps the environment with a binocular in the emplacement. In the meantime, ranked soldiers near to him describes the place of the

cave. After a while, photographs of some militants' corpses were captured in the cave named after Şkefta Berxwedan (Cave of Perseverance). A deformation on militants' clothes caused by burning and explosion was not seen in photographs. The Ballıkaya Event, hit the headlines at that time and Democratic Socialism Party of Germany (PDS) brought it to the agenda of German Parliament. PDS, gave this message with demanding of investigation about any use chemical weapon : "To tolerate a member state of NATO to use chemical weapons against rebels at the end of 20th century is not acceptable." Call of Hannover, a Germany based organization, sent a mail to Gerd Peppe who is responsible for humanitarian affairs of Foreign Ministry. In his mail, he emphasized that guerrilla corpses are open to international investigation with gas tubes found in there and demand German government to become a part of it."If this efforts come to reality, Turkish government will be offender to Geneva agreement by violating it" reminded Branscheidt and said: "We demand you to deal with this subject at least as a humanitarian matter due to your duty given by government." International news agencies such as Reuters and AP gave place for this event, as well. Name of the victims killed: Aziz TANIT, Ercan EROĞLU, Sayın BAYRAM, Hasan BEKİR, Yusuf TURAN, Vezir OSMAN, Ömer KAMBER, Abdurrahman MÜZE, Hamdi YILMAZ, Seyithan ALGAN, Rahime ARZU, Mizgin MUHAMMED, Leyla İbrahim HÜSEYİN, Selva BUZDAĞ, Meysa ŞÊXA, Muhammed ALİKO, Velit Muhammed REŞO, Canda Kobani, Nergiz Derik ve Sosin Afrin code named militants.

*A severe skirmish experienced between militants and soldiers in Geliyê Karako hamlet of Kokarsu (Arpêt) village of Tatvan district of Bitlis province on 7 October 1999. According to records of that time 28, informations that earned later 34 were killed in skirmish. Before making a statement about their identities, they were buried in a mass graveyard. One month from 1 October 1997, family of Sibel Küçükbilezikçi who was stated to be killed in that skirmish, applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Diyarbakır to demand judicial help to take their daughter's corpse. But they couldn't take the body for a long time. It was propounded that the corpses were not given because of the use of chemical weapons. As a result of Human Rights Association's efforts, her body were taken by her family but any investigation about use of chemical weapons in skirmish was not conducted by attorney generalship.**(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*In the course of operations conducted simultaneously to 20 separate prisons on 19 December 2000 in Turkey, it was propounded that chemical gases were used. According to news of BİA-net on 5 February 2003, Birsen Kars and Gülizar Kesici who were in Bayrampaşa prison and wounded heavily by use of chemical weapons made a denunciation about officers. Kars and Kesici submit a petition to attorney generalship of Bayrampaşa Courthouse demanding "to determine and conduct an investigation about who used chemical weapons and who ordered to use during the operation". Kars and Kesici indicate that we were exposed various gas bombs and while we were getting out of the ward we were burned with black colored gas, and 6 prisoners were killed in that operation. Although there was nothing on our clothes, there were 30% burn on our skin. We stayed in hospitals for months and in spite of the fact that it has been 2 years, our treatment is still applied. Their expressions on their petition is: "We, Gülizar Kesici and Birsen Kars, we were staying in C-1 ward of Bayrampaşa Prison in the course of the operation conducted on 19 December 2009. While sleeping at dawn, the operation was started by firing bullets and bombs suddenly to our ward. We were exposed to various bombs for hours. While getting out of the ward, we were burned with a black colored bomb. 6 of our friends were killed burning. And we were heavily wounded. Although there was nothing on our clothes, our skin was burned 30%." In the continuation of petition a "incoherent" material was determined by forensic medicine. " Again, 'high kinetic

energized weapons' were used and this was determined in expert's report. We demand that those who used chemical weapons that caused death of our 6 friends and also wounded us heavily, and who ordered to use them to be identified, to conduct an investigation and to be judged." According to BIA-net's news on 25 July 2011, in 'coming back to life' operation in which 12 people were killed and 55 were wounded, Altan Sabsız, Gendarmerie Specialist Sergeant in Bayrampaşa Prison, said that those who killed by burning didn't burn themselves as claimed and although those who were in the burning ward wanted to yield but gates didn't open. In his assertion in 1st Assize Court of Van on 5 July, he said "Struggling with various gas bombs that i don't know their quality, those who wanted to yield wanted to get out but they were not allowed to do, they didn't put the fire out and blankets daubed withflammable materials were threw to burning prisoners." Assertion of Sabsız were sent to 13th Assize Court of Bakırköy in which 39 privates were judged.

*It was propounded that 20 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons and extrajudicial execution in an military operation conducted in Gelincik hamlet of Elmacık village of Yedisu Distric of Bingol province on 12-13 May 2011. As a result of eye witnesses and expressions of families of the militants,Human Rights Association founded a committee and went to Yedisu district to examine. The committee seeking for claims of use of chemical weapons and extrajudicial execution found important datas which verifies that claims to be real but no investigation was conducted by officers.**(Detailed report of Human Rights Association's Delegation can be seen here: www.ihd.org.tr)**

*Deep burns were found on the corpses of 7 HPG militants who were killed in a military operation conducted in Beşiri district of Batman ion August 2003. It was propounded that 7 militants were killed by chemical weapons in that operation. Eye witnesses propounded that besides deep burns on their corpses, their skin was burned and shedding as a result of chemical materials but no investigation was conducted by officers.

***Human Rights Association's investigation report of claims about 6 armed militants who were killed by chemical weapons and torture in Çaçi mountain region of Eruh district of Siirt province and not submitting their corpses to their families:**

Case:

Lalehan ULUCA who dwells in Van province, applied to Human Rights Association branch office of Siirt on 11 May 2004. She said that she received an unknown phone call on 10 May 2004 and it was about her sonfrom whom she didn't hear anything for 4 years and his 5 friends who were made ineffective by chemical weapons, tortured and killed by gun shot on Çaçi mountain between Kuşdalı (Şavuran) and Gedikaşar (Ersi) vilages of Eruh district of Siirt province on 6 May 2004. And she demanded help from our association in the course of identification, after identification to take the corpse and to determine the reason why her son were killed.

Composition of the Delegation:

Upon the applications made to our association, to interview with victims's family, eye witnesses (if there is any) and authorities, to provide public opinion for real facts after investigations, to contribute to protection of right to live protected by various national and international laws and to demand to institute an inquiry to seize the offenders who violates it if there is any Human Rights Committee were founded including Mihdi PERİNÇEK, Human Rights Association general executive committee member and representative of east and south east anatolia region as chairman, Vetha Aydın Human Rights Association chairperson of Siirt

branch and Muharrem Erbey Human Rights Association general secretary of Diyarbakır branch office.

Attempts of the Delegation:

Human Rights Committee took written statements of Lalehan Uluca, mother of Mahfuz Uluca, and M. Sait Uluca his uncle, in a meeting in Human Rights Association's office in Siirt. Upon Lalehan Uluca's demanding, Siirt notary office gave the procuration to Muharrem Erbey (Lawyer) and with the procuration the committee went to Eruh distric about 14:00. Human Rights Association's identification were committed and recorded in Eylence Gendarmerie Commandership about 15 km to Siirt. And then, the committee went to Eruh and interviewed with Niyazi Yar public prosecutor, about claims and identification.

Determinations That Department Made:

1. Applicant Uluca, Okatan, Kılıç and Sümer families demanded in persona and by their attorneys to take their children's corpse from where they were buried but this demand were refused by Public Prosecutorship of Siirt and Siirt governorship.

2. Applicant Salih Okatan don't know where his son was buried and his demand haven't been performed although he demanded to receive his son's corpse by his attorneys. Corpse of Kadir Sümer, son of applicant Hiyal Sümer, was submitted to headman of Demirkaya village of Siirt province and buried there. Similarly corpse of Mehmet Emin Kılıç, son of applicant Ömer Kılıç, was submitted to headman of Sağlarca village and buried there. While corpses have to be waited in the nearest morg for 15 days to be identified by their families and to find their families according to the law, 15 days were not waited and the corpses were buried.

3. Upon allowance by public prosecution office of Eruh, because corpse of Mehmet Okatan was buried in rural area, informations about if he was buried with his religiousal duties are unknown.

4. In that area, transportation to Gedikaşar (Ersı) village where is known as habitation of 'Sorani Nomads' is easy and it takes 10 minutes to reach Eruh county town from there by car moreover, the scene was 30 minutes far from Gedikaşar village by walk nonetheless corpses were not submitted to Eruh municipality for burial.

5. Human Rights Committee determined that in submitting corpses to families executive and legal obstacles were manipulated in the events of death in skirmishes.

Points That Must Be Clarified

1. In the applications of families of PKK members killed in skirmishes in the vicinities of Siirt lately, they stated that corpses were not submitted to them and in their attempts to receive the corpses difficulties were made. Are this situation and deaths related to the claims that chemical weapons and torment were used by violating the laws?

2. Was punishment of families intended with disrupting families' attempts to receive the corpses and making executive and legal difficulties?

3. Corpses of Mehmet Emin Kılıç and Kadri Sümer who were killed in a skirmish which resulted with 6 dead militants and a wounded soldier in Demirkaya village of Siirt province, were not waited in a morgue for 15 days which is illegal according to laws and they were buried in the scene. With burial of the corpses in the scene, was receiving of the corpses by families made difficult on purpose?

4. With not letting the corpses in morgue for 15 days for probable identification and burying them in the scene, what was intended to be hidden?

5. Although attorney generalship of state security court of Diyarbakır allowed to burial and removal of the corpses, office of the chief public prosecutor of Siirt and Eruh disrupted taking the corpses from where they were buried and didn't give the autopsy reports to attorneys of the families by violating the laws evidently. Were there anything to be hidden?

6. Lawyer Veysel Vesek, demanded a denunciation to the supreme council of judges and public prosecutors of ministry of justice about Ali Metin Doğan public prosecutor of Siirt who disrupted receiving of the corpses by families. As a result of demands of Veysel Vesek, was any investigation about the officers in charge conducted?

7. Although it is known that burying a body with religious duties is so important, with not submitting the corpses to their families, was an intense atmosphere in society intended on purpose?

Dictum and Conclusion

Dictum

Human Rights Committee believes that chemical weapons were used because corpses of the militants killed in skirmishes were not given to their families.

Conclusion

Not submitting the corpses to families is contrary to national and international laws. So, corpses have to be submitted to their relatives who identified and demanded to take their relatives' corpses right away. In the course of receiving, removal and burial of the corpses, rights of the families have to be respected and procedural difficulties mustn't be made. Application of not submitting corpses to families created suspicions in public opinion about how militants were killed. To remove anxieties and reveal the real facts, classical autopsy should be conducted on corpses and corpses should be sent to institution of forensic medicine with taking samples from them. **(Complete report of Human Rights Committee: www.ihd.org.tr)**

*It was propounded that soldiers from Mountain Commando Brigade threw chemical gases in forests in the course of operation in Barçelan mountain pasture of Hakkari province. Because of chemical gases, lots of animals grazing died. Soldiers removed villagers from the mountain pasture and forbade entering as well. Human rights defenders and non-governmental organizations in Hakkari made this event a current issue frequently but government just denied it. It was indicated that 30 animals were killed because of chemical gases. **(Hakkari Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*In the course of operation conducted by military forces 5 PKK militants were killed in Cudi Mountain on 31 March – 7 April 2005 and their corpses were waited in the operation scene. Families demanding to receive the corpses were hampered by soldiers due to military operations going on. Family of Nurten Gülmez (26) who was killed in the operation, applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of İstanbul to get help. Her uncle İlhami Gülmez stated that although general attorneyship gave the allowance, the corpse wasn't given to us. And he said "According to speculation that we heard, chemical weapons were used and they tortured the corpses. They make the corpses wait due to their torment will be revealed. Why on earth are they making the corpses wait? What is their objective? We want the corpses!" **(İstanbul Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that PKK militants named Hacer Benek, Vahit Bilir, Mehmet Emin Sincar, Rıfat Baysal and Hasan Esmer were killed by chemical weapons in Çiya Reşkê area of Berwarsevdin region in the triangle of Hakkari, Van, Şırnak on 14 July 2005. According to DIHA's news on 3 August 2005, militants corpses were not given to their families because of use of chemical weapons and that area was blockaded to prevent entrance of civilians.

*According to a news published by Firat News (ANF) on 26 February 2006, informations about use of chemical weapons in an operation conducted between Bakwan and Guriza villages of Dargeçit district of Mardin province on 23 February 2006 were found.

Ömer Ekinçi, brother of Ergin Ekinçi who was killed during the clash, applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Diyarbakır about use of chemical weapons on 11 August 2011. He stated that ‘‘ My brother Ergin Ekinçi participated PKK on 2001. He was killed in Mardin Dargeçit in 2006. In that skirmish he and his 5 friends were killed. We knew nothing about it till that moment. Security officers told us and took him to morgue. And we went there for identification. His whole body was in yellow. There was a bullet mark in his neck also. Although we saw the body in that shape, we are suspicious about use of chemical weapons. We demand legal support from your association to investigate this event.’’
(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)

*14 PKK militants were killed in an operation conducted against militants in Şenyayla rural area of Muş province on 24-25 March 2006. After skirmish, HPG Headquarters Commandership made a statement to ANF and propounded use of chemical weapons. According to HPG's statement, operation conducted by 10.000 soldiers and village policemen was started in South of Muş are among Muş, Kulp, Genç and Solhan in 26 March. 10.000 soldiers of Turkish Armed Forces from Tunceli, Bingöl and Muş and village policemen of Badıka and Sêmale villages participated the operation. Serê Spi crest, Berhibiv, 15 August and Geliye Pirijman areas were held by soldiers transported by Skorsky helicopters. In the same day, Turkish Armed Forces headed for the campsite of the militants. Upon heading, skirmishes took place and lasted till the night of 25th March. During the skirmishes that armed forces were supported, 14 HPG militants were killed because of chemical weapon and heavy weapon use.

- According to DIHA's news published on 11 April 2006, Kenan Demir who was killed with 13 militants in the operation conducted in Şenyayla district of Muş, a condolence house was opened in Esenler District by DTP (Democratic Society Party). Kenan Demir's family saying that they saw 6 corpses with his son's, mentioned that militants were killed by chemical weapons or poisonous gases because of that, autopsy report was not given to them. Also he said that autopsies were conducted in outdated methods. He said ‘‘This is a savageness and the world just ignores it. While all the world is struggling against use of chemical weapons, the army uses it against Kurds with no hesitate.’’ Demir demanding officers to clarify how militants were killed said that if there is no disclosure to be made, we will make this a current issue of world's public opinion. Father Demir saw 6 militants' corpses while identification and he said their corpses didn't bear marks of any firearm. ‘‘6 guerrilla corpses were showed to identification. When i saw them in that condition i was shocked. There was no mark of bullet or blood. What kind of skirmish was it? If a conflict was taken place, because of locations of the guerrilla show it happened that no soldiers were wounded even lightly? It is not possible. There were marks of bullet on just 2 corpses. But the bullet marks were occurred after they were dead. It is so evident that they were killed by chemical weapons or gases. And autopsy was made by a very outdated method. They applies that much

savageness and gives the corpses to families by very savage autopsies. They informed us neither how they were killed nor gave autopsy reports. Doctors signed the reports with what kind of conscience? This is unacceptable!”

-Esat Çetin, father of Fatih Çetin who was killed during a clash, applied to Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association on 8 August 2011 about using of chemical weapons and he stated that “ My son Fatih Çetin lefthome in 2003. Then we learned that he joined PKK. According to published news, we learned that he was killed in an operation taken place in Şenyayla rural area of Muş province on 24 March 2006. We went to Malatya province to receive the corpse and we identified the corpse and took it. His corpse were damaged so much but now by firearms. It was shattered. There was no hair on the corpse, all of them were burned. There were dark-brown and burn marks on his corpse. We were suspicious at that time but we couldn’t clarified so we didn’t start proceedings. Then we heard of chemical weapons use so much so we assumed that he was killed by chemical weapons.” **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

-Meyase Pehlivan mother of Muzaffer Pehlivan who was killed during in the skirmish, applied to Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association about using of chemical weapons on 8 August 2011. And she stated that “ My son Muzaffer Pehlivan lefthome in 2003. Then we heard that he joined PKK. We learned from the press that he was killed in a skirmish in Şenyayla rural area of Muş province on 24 March 2006. We went to Malatya province to receive the corpse and we identified the corpse and took it. His corpse were damaged so much but now by firearms. It was shattered. There was no hair on the corpse, all of them were burned. There were dark-brown and burn marks on his corpse. We were suspicious at that time but we couldn’t clarified so we didn’t start proceedings. Then we heard of chemical weapons use so much so we assumed that he was killed by chemical weapons.” **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

-Ayşe Demir mother of Bülent Demir who was killed in the skirmish, applied to Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association about using of chemical weapons on 8 August 2011. And she stated that “ My son Bülent Tensik lefthome in 1999. Afterwards we heard that he joined PKK. Then we learned that he was killed in the skirmish in Şenyayla rural area of Muş province on 24 March 2006. After then we went to Malatya province for identification so we took the corpse. But the corpse was so damaged. Marks on the corpse and damage aroused anxiety of use of chemical weapons. Corpse’s internal organs looked like they were removed. His stomach was sunken. His fingers and left leg was broken. There were battery marks on his right leg and most parts of the body. We are suspicious about my son was killed by chemical weapons. Besides, they tortured the corpse. We demand this issue to be investigated. After this event occurred, we applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Bursa province but we achieved no result. Due to my spouse married 2 times, my son is registered to Söylemez (another spouse). We demand legal support from your association to investigate the issue.” **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded taht PKK militants Yıldız Demirdağ (Nursel Şimşir), Hatice Erbağ (Cihan Zilan) and Cihan Ülüş (Yılmaz Xorto) were killed by chemical weapons in an operation conducted on Cudi mountain on April 2006. After the skirmish, families wanted to receive the corpses but they achieved no result inspite of all attempts they made and there was no information about where the militants were buried. According to DIHA’s news on 13 April 2006, families of the militants propounded that militants were killed by chemical weapons. Families of the militants demanded to investigate if any chemical weapon was used or not. A

village policeman who was propounded to participate in that operation stated to agency that ‘‘ Soldiers participated in operation was all commandos and there were also so many village policemen and a confessor captured 1 week ago. The skirmish lasted for 2 days. Guerrillas broke apart 2 groups. Commandos encircled a group. It was known that guerrillas’ ammunition left little. Commandos couldn’t go there so they used chemicals materials. Afterwards commandos put on strange clothes and went towards the corpses. The corpses were incognizable and their bodies swelled and there were red moles on them.’’

*It was propounded that 8 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in an operation conducted by soldiers in Besta region of Şırnak province on 12 April 2006. Families of PKK militants Özgür Kaya and Cemal Artış applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Diyarbakır on 19 April 2006 by propounding that they were killed by chemical weapons because their corpses were not given to them. **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that a PKK militants Cengiz Ersöz were killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish in Lameç Valley in the triangle of Tunceli, Erzincan, Bingöl on 31 August 2006. Ersöz was buried in his hometown Bingöl. In his funeral, his father Cezmi Ersöz stated that there was no mark of a skirmish although prosecutor said that ‘He was killed in a skirmish’ on 8 September 2006. And he said ‘‘ The corpse was shattered and burned mostly. Instead of corpse bruise there was bleeding. A corpse stayed in morgues doesn’t bruise like that. It was like chemical weapon or something different. They didn’t give us autopsy report. Ömer Ersöz brother of Cengiz Ersöz said that it is thought-provoking that they didn’t give us the autopsy report. He stated that ‘‘ I was a health officer before. The smell on the corpse was like nitrogen or chemical. There were stitching on the corpses so they conducted the autopsy but they didn’t give us the report. I don’t think that it was a normal skirmish. Because the whole body was bruised and blackish. There was skin rash. It was not a normal rot of a body. They just gave us the permit for burial not giving autopsy report. So this aroused our suspicion more.

*According to DIHA’s news on 8 September 2006, helicopters threw an unknown material to Bêryadeşt mountain pasture of Aydemir (Berekêlk) village in the triangle of Başkale, Gürpınar, Hakkari on 1 September 2006. In the area where the material spread out, 50 sheep, 3 horses and a donkey of Aydemir villagers were killed. Due to there was no bullet mark on the animals, this aroused suspicions of chemical weapons. Villagers worrying about their animals started to graze their animals in the vicinities of their village. A vilager Mikail Tunçdemir said that out sheepman saw their animals dying and told us but we couldn’t investigate because that area was a military zone. Also Özdemir stated that the material threw from the helicopter could be chemical. So he said ‘‘There is no blood there. We want vets to go there but they can’t enter the are. Carcass of the animals are still there.’’

*6 militants were killed in a skirmish taken place in rurals of Karadoğan village of Erciş district of Van province on 15 September 2006 and they were taken to public hospital of Erciş. Family of Seyfettin Aydın who was killed in the skirmish, took the corpse from public hospital of Erciş and to Batman province. According to DIHA’s news on 18 September 2006, burns on Aydın’s body drew the attention and aroused suspicions of chemical weapons use in the skirmish.

*Family of İzzettin Karakaya (code name: Munzur Welat) who was killed in an operation conducted in the rural area between Tunceli and Bingöl provinces on November 2006, went to

Research Hospital of Fırat University Medicine Faculty to take the corpse, and they identified the corpse. After necessary procedures, family received the corpse and took it to Hoşgeldi village of Bulanık district. In the course of washing of the corpse, deep burn marks aroused suspicions of use of chemical weapons. **(25 November 2006/DIHA)**

*According to DIHA's news on 17 December 2009, Presidency of general staff announced that 8 militants were killed in a skirmish after an operation at the edge's of Kela Memê mountain of Uludere district of Şırnak province. But in PKK's statement, PKK clarified that 8 militants were PKK militants and names: Mehmet Tanrıbuyurdu, Osman Göktepe, Süleyman Süleyman, Mustafa Altun, Cengiz Milan, Rojda Nas ve Cihan Unat. Statements of local news sources and villagers were confusing about the event. Local sources indicated that certain individuals started to give provisions to militants. These people were village policemen and this operation was under the information of Tactical Gendarmerie Border Regimental Commandry of Gülyazı (Bejuh) village of Uludere district. It was propounded that the last provisions were taken from Tactical Gendarmerie Border Regimental Commandry of Gülyazı. The last provisions were medicated to narcotize or to make them sleep. Eye witnesses said that soldiers went to the area and fired randomly as though there was a skirmish but it was not a skirmish. According to a photograph of Rizki Kaplan acquired by our agency, it is evident that they were captured alive. According to previous photographs of militants captured by militants' camera, Cihan Unat showed symptoms of poisoning as well. On another photograph Mehmet Tanrıbuyurdu and one more militant were tied with their scarfs and were dragged through the rural area. In other photographs, militants were poisoned at first, executed later. It was propounded that (probably washed in legal procedure) skin of a corpse was all in whites, skin and organs were liquified, because of that their visages was lost and in some parts their bones could be seen, because of the decomposition, it wasn't understood a corpse was male or female. Only chemical weapons could do that.

*It was propounded that 6 PKK militants were killed in a skirmish in Ovacık district of Tunceli province on 1 August 2007. According to DIHA's news on 10 August 2007, Esat İlbasan uncle of Mazhar İlbasan (code name: Kendal) born in Tatvan - Bitlis who was killed in the skirmish, propounded that his nephew was killed by chemical weapons because there was burn marks on his skin. Family of Demirci Taştekin (code name: Ali Engizek) born in Pazarcık – Kahramanmaraş, stated that there was no bullet mark in his body, his whole body was burned and his head and arm were broken. The family indicated that their children could be killed by chemical weapons.

*It was propounded that 11 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish taken place in Uzungeçit town of Uludere district of Şırnak province on 23 August 2007. Names of the militants: Zarife Adıbelli (Roza Mardin), Şenay Güçer (Delila Meyaser), Rahime Tuncer (Avesta Amed), İdris Babat (Xwinrej Botan), Ahmet Kara (Adok Farqin), İshak Yakut (Amed Akdağ), Deniz Türk (Andok Deniz), Eyüp Haydar (Erdal Serkeftin), Aziz Muhammed (Eşref Cilo), Nasır Aydın (İsyen Brusku) ve Cebrail Turan (Rohat Dilpak) Marks on the militants' skin, brought use of chemical weapons in question. That claim got strong with the deaths of grazing animals there. It was learned that 2 horses, 4 mules, 1 donkey, 19 cows and 24 sheep died because of the grass that they ate. Families of the militants killed in the skirmish applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Diyarbakır thinking that their children were killed by chemical weapons and demanded to make a denunciation about the officers in charge. Upon the applications, attorneys of Human Rights Association made a denunciation to chief public prosecutor's office of Diyarbakır on 1 September 2007. Attorneys demanded village policemen and soldiers in charge in Kadertepe site of Uzungeçit

town of Uludere district to be judged on account of killing 11 people by chemical weapons. In the petition of the denunciation, attentions were drawn to strong claims about use of chemical weapons in the scene. In the petition, it was stated that skin of the militants became incognizable by changing color and just external examination was conducted on their skins. Chief public prosecutor of Uludere denied the claim of use of chemical weapons but in the petition where this statement found insufficient they said "After the skirmish taken place in the scene, animals belonging to citizens of Uzungeçit town died. It was seen that animals died instantly after the grazing and their color became greenish after a while. Locals keep their animals away from the scene due to increase in numbers. We also think that the autopsy was fulfilled deficiently because the scene was in a tough location. Prosecutor of Uludere propounded that there was no scent coming out in the course of autopsy. It is known that certain chemicals' effects emerge not only through scent but also by touching. Even if not a chemical weapon, it is necessary that the material affecting the area extraordinarily and making the corpses black and puce must be investigated." In the petition of denunciation, determining of tissue and blood samples taken from the corpses by sending it to a specialist laboratory and instantly investigation of the claims about chemical weapon or another chemical material use were demanded. **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that 4 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish taken place in the rurals of Kelekçi Village of Siirt province on 12 September 2007. After the skirmish, corpses brought to public hospital of Siirt were removed to portable morgues established in the garden of E-type closed prison of Siirt province. Vacettin Aslan and Mehmet Mansur Koçak killed in the skirmish were buried by their families. 2 of the corpses were not identified due to heavy ravages and deep burns. Upon informing that one of them was Ekrem Ayhan born in Siirt in 1977, his family returned because the corpse was incognizable. Although the claim of the other corpse belonging to Mehmet Selim Kurt born in Dargeçit - Mardin, his uncle couldn't diagnose the corpse. The family suspected use of chemical weapons due to terribly damages and deep burns. So, Human Rights Association and family applied to public prosecution office for identification of any chemical material use besides DNA test. **(Siirt Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that 2 PKK militants were killed in a skirmish as a result of use of chemical weapons in Geliyê Dostki site of Yüksekova district of Hakari province on 1 August 2008. Mustafa Donuk father of a militant said that his son's upper body was burned and claimed that his son was killed by chemical weapons. Father Donuk stated that every part of his son was burned like a coal except for hairs and he said "He was smitten on his heart. But every part of him was like a coal. His whole body was black. Even animals don't do that. But they kill people in a savage way. As I saw, they killed my son with chemical weapons. The corpse was no longer a corpse." **(28 August 2008 / DIHA)**

*It was claimed that 9 militants were killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish occurred between PKK militants and soldiers in rurals of Mutki district of Bitlis province on 26 August 2008. Seyfettin Varol father of Sadrettin Varol (code name: Yılmaz Amed) killed in the skirmish, who brought the corpse to Diyarbakır claimed that their son was killed by chemical weapons. Varol defended that his son and his friends were burned as a result of chemical weapons. He said that "When I saw, at the first place, the corpses which held in public hospital of Malatya I thought that they burned them, but when seen closer, anyone could notice that they were killed by chemical weapons. They broke my son's arm as well and shot at his heart in the end." **(5 September 2008 / Günlük)**

*According to ANF's news on 6 February 2009, Turkish warplanes bombed civilian settlements of Sengaser town of Süleymaniye in the east of Kandil mountain on 20 January 2009. After the bombardment, it was stated that nausea, vomiting, coughing, diarrhoea, blariness and eye pain started to be seen among children first and later among adults.

Muhammed Hesên Resul headman of Lêwje village at the edge of Kandil mountain stated that Saddam regime used chemical weapons in the same area between 1980-90. He said "Pathogenies seen recently among locals started to be seen after the bombardment of Turkish warplanes around the Kandil mountain. At the Saddam's period, chemical weapons were used also and the same symptoms were seen either." According to Denge Azad's news, Muhammed Hesên Resul said that with the bombardment of Turkish warplanes in 20 January bovines and ovines died, then the symptoms started to be seen among locals. Headman eye witness of the bombardment conducted in 20 January said that "I counted at least 5 warplanes. These warplanes bombed Kandil mountain and around villages with big bombs. After then black and white clouds of smoke occurred. After 1-2 minutes, bad scents spread out to Lêwje, Înze and Bokliskan villages. Vomiting, diarrhoea coughing, nausea and eye pain started to be seen among children. After several days same symptoms started to be seen among adults. We think that these sicknesses are long dated and fatal." Hesên Abdullah district governor of Rewanduz district of Süleymaniye said that Turkish Army launching air and ground operations have been using prohibited chemical weapons and cluster bombs in the area by violating Kurdistan Regional Government's borders for the last 3 years.

*It was propounded that 4 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in an operation conducted on Çırav mountain of Erüh district of Siirt province on 15 May 2009. Families of Ahmet Ateş and Ahmet Şerif who were killed in the skirmish went to Siirt to take the corpses but corpses weren't submitted to them. Mehmet Kaya spoke to DIHA on 25 May 2009 that he learned his son's death via television and he went to Siirt from İstanbul to take the corpse. He said "We went to Erüh district of Siirt and applied to prosecution office. The prosecutor said that corpses were in the skirmish scene. When we insisted, the prosecutor made us watch the operation CD's. I identified my son in the video. 4 corpses were in a cave in videos. But there was no wound on their body. Just bullet marks on their heads from a close distance. I assumed that they were killed by chemical weapons then shot at their heads.

*It was propounded that 8 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in the course of an operation in Kazan valley of Çukurca district of Hakkari province on 8 September 2009. Halit Aşkan uncle of Rüzgâr Aşkan (Cudi) HPG militant killed in the skirmish, stated that there were burns on the corpse therefore he experienced difficulties in identification. He said that "Rüzgâr Aşkan were not killed in the conflict. We suspect use of chemical weapons. We will apply to any legal procedure about the issue." According to ANF's news on 19 September 2009, in the statement made by Chief Headquarters Commandership of HPG, in the course of the skirmish on 8 September 2009 soldiers killed 8 PKK militants by using chemical weapons.

-It was claimed that 8 PKK (2 women) militants were killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish taken place in Çukurca district of Hakkari province on September 2009. Human rights foundation found photographs and materials that verify the claim and sent them to Germany. In the news of ANF dated 13 and 30 August 2010, "German press drawing attention to escalated conflicts, indicated that Army uses chemical weapons against PKK militants. While German human rights defenders and politicians demanded international investigation, University of Hamburg proved that Turkish Armed Forces used chemical

weapons with reports. Newspapers and magazine Der Spiegel, Die Welt and Die Tageszeitung (TAZ) gave place to escalated conflicts since 1 June. German press published photographs of the deformed corpses of the guerrillas in yellow sacks and indicated that prohibited weapons were used. German human rights defenders and politicians appealed to Turkey for clarifying this events counted as 'warcrime'. Magazine of Der Spiegel gave place to the photographs of shattered corpses of whom were killed in a skirmish on September 2009 in its news titled 'Turkey killed Kurds by chemical weapons' and also said 'The worst of the torments'.

-Claudia Roth co-president of Party of German Greens (Die Grünen) spoke to Spiegel which made 'use of chemical weapons against PKK' the headlines emphasizing that Turkish side has to clarify this. Statement of Roth was that abduction of PKK militants' corpses but keeping this as a secret is not comprehensible. Many mysterious events like this happened. These have to be investigated. To confront this kind of incidents, we wait for Turkey's formal report of whether they used chemicals weapons.' Ruprecht Polenz representative of CDU, like Roth, stated that Turkey has to clarify this event but the best way is to investigate this internationally.

Gisela Penteker Turkey specialist of International Physicians For The Prevention Of Nuclear War (IPPNW) noted that suspicions about Turkey use of chemical weapons were existent for years and said that 'People there always say this. But testifying this very difficult because corpses is taken out posteriorly and this makes detailed abduction difficult.' Penteker who have been following Turkey for 14 years stated that there is no diplomatic pressure on Turkey about this issue. Spiegel magazine indicated that not only soldiers but also AKP government keeps silence about the issue. The magazine underlined that Erdoğan indicates this kind of warcrime as PKK propaganda. Uta Zaph a member of SDP saying clarifying the issue is so crucial made a statement to TAZ about the issue and said 'This is contrary to international law' and will call for Guido Westerwelle Foreign Minister of Germany to investigate the issue. Berlinger Tageszeitung Newspaper which gave place to Turkey's use of chemical weapons against guerrillas at the first time, also gave place to views of Foreign Ministry of Turkey. Ministry claimed that Turkey signed the international agreement and therefore didn't use chemical or biological weapons.

-Federal Government Commissioner For Disarmament and Arms Control of Germany demanding an investigation about the issue keeps insistence on the issue after publishing of informations and documents of use of chemical weapons against PKK militants in press. After university of Hamburg's report of use of chemical weapons of Turkish Armed Forces, Uta Zapf chief of Federal Government Commissioner For Disarmament and diplomatic speaker of SDP said that the issue is still on agenda and they are waiting for application of Guido Westerwelle Foreign Minister of Germany to Organisation For the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Uta Zapf answering questions of ANF, said that they will demand an investigation by an international commission in the directions of informations and claims about use of chemical weapons and demand Turkey to clarify autopsy reports of the guerrillas killed by chemical weapons. Zapf saying OPCW can regulate this issue after proofs stated that Turkey has to clarify autopsy reports. Zapf said that in the case of use of chemical weapons against guerrillas was proved, Turkey would be punished according to international agreements but estimating how this punishment will be is very difficult.

-Newsweek made Turkish Armed Forces' use of chemical weapons against PKK militants headlines. Elena Chernenko, Elizabeth Mastny and Pauline Eremenko prominent writers and

editors of the magazine made a file news titled 'Chemical Death'. In this news, the magazine used this expression 'Kurds proved Turkish Army's use of chemical weapons to everyone. In the news about use of chemical weapons against a guerrilla force in an operation in Çukurca area on September 2009 by Turkish Army and evaluation of its results, the magazine gave place to expressions of human rights organizations and English researchers'. Newsweek, like in German press, drew attention to forensic officers hiding chemical reports and not informing the families. The magazine telling savageness made to their corpses besides being killed by chemical weapon said that "Photographs of 8 dead Kurds (Disgusting in humane sense). Shattered heads, escalated eyes, plucked sexual organs and embowelled bodies... Burns and sharp object injuries on skin, fluxed acids and apsis some strange marks... There are burns and cracks on skin wounds. These corpses belong to people who were killed by Turkish state in the mountain side of Çukurca district (Kurdish city). Forensic officers didn't informed the families about the burn and bruises on corpses but Kurdish human rights defenders managed to photograph." Newsweek giving place to proofs of professional photographer Hans Baumann who examined the photographs of PKK militants killed by chemical weapons, stated that University of Hamburg prepared a report about aggressive use of chemical weapons against 8 militants (2 women) and then physical violence applied on them. In the news conveying that the report influenced, Newsweek drew attention to that use of chemical weapons were prohibited by international agreements and Turkey signed the agreement in 2003. The magazine stated that Turkish state just denied this saying 'a regular PKK propaganda'. The magazine giving place to expressions of Osman Özçelik deputy of BDP of Siirt saying 'Use of chemical weapons is a crime against humankind.' Called for Turkish government to plead guilty and give account. Appeal of Özçelik impressed European press and Turkey is equated with Saddam Hussein architect of Halabja Genocide. The magazine giving place to that BDP prepared a report about the issue, gave place to expressions of Öztürk Türkdoğan General President of Human Rights Association saying that Turkish Army have been using prohibited weapons against Kurdish fighters for years but there has been no investigation so far. Robert Loi an expert about Kurds in the research foundation named Chatham House of England, making a statement to the magazine evaluated use of chemical weapons against PKK militants in Turkey. Loi conveying that Turkey approaches the issue as an internal issue and doesn't want anyone to intervene with, underlined that if international experts proved that Turkey used chemical weapons, Ankara would be in many troubles. The magazine gave place to expressions of experts and drew attention to strong proofs of the claims for this time.

*It was propounded that security forces used phosphor bombs containing chemical materials and prohibited internationally in Tunceli rurals. Özdal Uçar deputy of BDP of Van tabled parliamentary question about news in press about white phosphor bomb use of Turkish Armed Forces in the skirmishes taken place in Tunceli, demanding response of prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Uçar indicating that phosphor bomb contains toxic materials and using of this material is fatal, said that the material affects liver, heart and kidneys negatively besides deep skin burns. Uçar reminded that this material was prohibited in Geneva agreement and he said "According to this protocol, on civilians and where civilians are intense, use of this material is prohibited. Israel used this weapon in Gazze and caused 1400 women and children to die. Prime minister Erdoğan condemned Israel about the issue in a press release and said that they were against production and use of mass destruction weapons." He asked Erdoğan these questions:

-Is it true that Phosphor bomb, a mass destruction weapon, were used in the skirmish taken place in Tunceli?

-Any investigation about the issue was started?

*It was propounded that 11 PKK militants were killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish taken place in Rurals of Beyyurdu (Bidav) village of Şemdinli district of Hakkari province on July 2010. Emrullah Bingöl, brother of Meral Bingöl, applying to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Bitlis on 10 May 2010, said that there were severe damages on Meral Bingöl's skin, she was killed by chemical weapons therefore we experienced difficulties in identification of the corpse. Same again, Hasan Koç, father of Cumali Koç, applying to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Bitlis on 10 May 2010, said that there were severe damages on his son's body and claimed that his son was killed by chemical weapons. **(Human Rights Association Agency of Bitlis)**

-Salih Yıldız general bookkeeper of BDP informed the press and indicated that eye witnesses and morgue officers said that the corpses were incognizable. He kept saying that "According to expressions of morgue officers and eye witnesses the corpses were incognizable. Photo of the savagenes is dominant in the morgue of Hakkari. People are so rageful and reactive. This reactive will be continued till submitting of the corpses. These people will not forget the savagenes applied on corpses and will react to this savageness by making claim to have the corpses.

*It was propounded that 5 PKK militants were killed in a skirmish in rurals of Beşiri district of Batman province on 8 August 2010 and militants corpses were burned. An official statement wasn't made about the claims put forward by eye witnesses and families who saw the corpses. Burning of the corpses strengthened claims of use of chemical weapons.

-Arif Önkol, father of Mehmet Önkol, applied to Human Rights Association Branch Office of Diyarbakır about use of chemical weapon on 23 August 2010. He stated that "My son participated in PKK in 2000. He was killed in a skirmish with security forces in Beşiri district of Batman province. When i went to diagnose my son's corpse there was no bullet mark on the corpse. They burned my son's whole body. All was in black. Absolutely incognizable. Just his feet wasn't burned. I just identified my son's feet. Also internal organs were burned. And his body was all in black. The other corpses were burned and in black as well. My son was killed by chemical weapons and burned in another place. I want you to help us about the issue. I will be contented if anything to be done for revealing. I want to reveal that if chemical weapons were used." **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

-According to DIHA's news on 12-13 and 22 August 2010 about the skirmish, 2 families of 5 PKK militants killed and burned in the skirmish in rurals of Beşiri district of Batman province, applied to public prosecution office of Beşiri through Human Rights Association. Families of Sevdin Nergis and Mehmet Önkol went to district health care center's portable morgue for identification after allowance of public prosecution. Mehmet Önkol's parents Arif and Naime Önkol coming from Lice district of Diyarbakır to Beşiri said that all PKK militants' corpses were burned. Önkols reacting to burning of the corpses said that "Just think about, as parents we couldn't find a tiny thing on corpse to identify. Burns went into even his lungs. This is something beyond savageness. We don't accept this. Also humanism, mohammadanism and any religion don't accept." Münevver Nergis, sister of PKK militant Sevdin Nergis, coming from Diyarbakır to Beşiri couldn't help her tears after getting out of the morgue. She said that "This is an inhumane situation. People might be enemies and fight against each other but even war has a morality. This burn was something beyond burn. Like they were melted.

-It was claimed that damages on the corpses proved Önkol and Nergis families right in the course of washing process of the corpses brought to Diyarbakır. Bodily burned, deformed physical integrity, emboweled... Implementation to the corpses gave rise to claims about use of chemical weapons.

-Prosecution office finalized the discussions about if any torture or maltreatment implemented to HPG militants' corpses. It was indicated that corpses were incognizable in the written report of Public Prosecution Office of Beşiri. As mortis causa in the written report "a large number of rib and vertebra fractures with internal organ injury and hematocele depended on body trauma caused by high kinetic energized weapons and explosive ammunition". But there was no information about how the corpses were burned. Burning of the whole bodies raises suspicions of use of chemical weapons.

*It was propounded that chemical weapons were used against 4 PKK militants killed in Şemdinli district of Hakkari province on 20 August 2010. 4 militants, a specialist sergeant were killed and a soldier was wounded in a skirmish between soldiers launching an operation in the vicinities of Nugelya village of Şemdinli district and PKK militants. Certain eye witnesses stated that soldiers going closer to corpses wore gas masks after the skirmish. And this raised suspicions of use of chemical weapons. **(28 August 2010/Firat News)**

*It was propounded that 9 militants were killed by chemical weapons in an operation launched against PKK militants in rurals of Gole Hasane, Çiya Reşke, Bileh, Bınevş, Zerzengule, Baleka, Sirte Dohula and Mebirnav between Van and Hakkari provinces on 6 September 2010. According to news of Günlük newspaper on 15 September 2010, 3 of the corpses were taken by militants' families. Corpses of Hasan Doru, Uğur Kar and Yusuf Şahin were taken to corpse washing room with applauses for washing process. Similar implementations were made to corpses. Skin lamination on the corpses of HPG militants who were killed in operation conducted by Erdal Ceylanoğlu, commander of the Turkish Land Forces, attracted attentions. A dismemberment on corpse of Hasan Doru was seen and his brain was deracinated. Especially implementations seen on corpse of Yusuf Şahin shocked everyone who seen profoundly. His skin was dismembered and there was large dismemberments from his stomach to his throat. On Şahin's corpse where knife marks seen, it was stated that his body were cut from his abdominal cavity to throat with knife.

*7 PKK militants were killed in a skirmish taken place in Pülümür district of Tunceli province on 26 April 2011. According to Firat News Agency's news on 7 May 2011, it was propounded that soldiers used a material smelling like peppermint, causing nausea and rhinopharyngitis in the course of the operation.

-Hüseyin Utanç, father of Ulaş Utanç who was killed in the mentioned clash, applied to Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association about claims of use of chemical weapon on 8 August 2011. He stated that *"My son Uğur Utanç left home in 2008. We couldn't hear of him for long time. Then i learned that he joined PKK. We learned from press that he was killed in a skirmish in Pülümür rurals of Tunceli province on 8 August 2011. 7 people were killed there. I went to public hospital of Erzurum to take the corpse. Officers took me to morgue for my identification. Before enterin morgue they gave me a mask to wear. Anyone entering morgue wears the masks. I identified my son's corpse in the morgue. I inclined towards my son's head and kissed him on his head. Upon this, officers there shouted at me for kissing my son. After kissing, a numbness occured on my lips and mouth and nausea. Numbness and nausea lasted for about a week. Color of the corpses were different than a normal corpse. Moreover, nigrescence came into eistence and those black points were looking like burns. I assume that chemical weapons or other fatal gases were used in the skirmish that my son was killed"* **(Human Rights Association Branch Office of Diyarbakır)**

-Celal Alak, father of Şehmus Alak who was killed during the clash, applied to Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association on 8 August 2011. He stated that "My

son Şehmus Alak left home in 2009. We heard later that he joined PKK. We learned that my son was killed in the skirmish taken place in Pülümür district of Tunceli province on 26 April 2011. I went to Malatya province to take the corpse, 2 corpses were showed to me but i couldn't identify. Then i was said that the corpse was in Erzurum province. I went to public hospital of Erzurum. Officers took me to morgue for identification. I kissed the corpse. After kissing, a numbness occurred on my lips and mouth and nausea. Numbness and nausea lasted for about a week. Color of the corpses were different than a normal corpse. It was kind of dark yellow. Moreover, I heard that locals of the scene said a large number of birds died in the scene. I assume that chemical weapons or other fatal gases were used in the skirmish that my son was killed. **(Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association)**

*It was propounded that a PKK militant Rıdvan Aktaş (code name: Demhat Koçer) who was killed in an operation launched by soldiers in Geliyê Şêx Cuma site of Bitlis on 18 May 2011 was killed by chemical weapons. It was claimed that there wasn't widespread bullet marks in his body and his skin shed piece by piece while his corpse was being washed.

-Gözim Aktaş, mother of Rıdvan Aktaş, applied to Diyarbakır Branch of Human Rights Association on 11 August 2011 upon claims that her son was killed by chemical weapons. She stated that *"My son joined PKK 9 years ago. I couldn't hear from him for years. Then i learned from press that my son was killed. He was killed in the skirmish taken place in Geliyê Şex Cuma site of Bitlis 2 months ago. There were damages and blackening on my son's corpse. Imams washing the corpse said that there was no bullet mark on the body. They killed my son by chemical weapons. According to statements of the villagers, helicopters threw a white smoke to the place where my son was. I want to reveal how my son was killed. I demand legal support from your association."* Upon application of Aktaş family, attorneys of Human Rights Association made a denunciation to chief public prosecutor's office of Diyarbakır for investigation of claims and judging those who were in charge.

*According to ANF's news published on 28 May 2011, "in the statement made by Press Communication Center of HPG (HPG-BİM) claimed that 'Both mortar and howitzer attacks were conducted to Mahir Mirzo, Xeregol sites and Horê, Reşmê, Zerê and Şifreza villages of Zap in Medya Defence Areas on 27 May between 08.30 - 09.30. In this attacks, although it is contrary to international war rules, cluster bombs were used.'"

*According to ANF's news on 28 Mayıs 2011, Murat Karayılan, chief of KCK executive council, said that a kind chemical weapon were used against PKK in Amanos' and Dersim (Tunceli). Murat Karayılan drawing attention especially to recently thrown balloons in operation sites, said that "We determined this use of chemical weapons in genocide conducted against our guerrillas in Amanos' and Dersim. Before operation started, helicopters places balloon to the places of guerrillas. Balloons approaching ground explodes and spreads toxic gases. The progress is "Before operation started, helicopters places balloon to the places of guerrillas. Balloons approaching ground explodes and spreads toxic gases. These gases causes congestion in throats of people there, they can't breath, they get weak and can't recover for 2-3 hours. After then soldiers go to their heads and killed them with bullets. This is sordidness. On the other hand you have tanks, cannonballs, helicopters, scout planes and soldiers as much as you want. But you, again, slaughter people with chemical weapons in a way of inhumane and cowardly. We will determine who gave this weapons to Turkish state. I send this issue to public opinion's conscience. I call for war observers and human rights defenders to fulfil their jobs in the face of this inhumane situation. I demand Turkish state to see what they did to Kurdish guerrillas and to determine this situation."

*According to Evrensel Newspaper's news on 2 July 2011, it was propounded that soldiers threw an unknown material to real property of villagers in Kazan (Tiyar) village of Çukurca district of Hakkari province. A villager Salih Çıtak said that we were exposed to pressures of soldiers like in 90's years. Salih Çıtak stating that they were targets in their infields said that "We, 24 people, went to Tiyar to mow our wheat. Then we became 30 with participation of others. While we mowing, artillery shootings started. Firstly Tiyar mountain, then Gani Butki mountain and Jiyanis site were bombed. When shootings hit our infields, we left." Çıtak said that after artillery shootings, military panzer toured around the village and helicopters bombed mountainsides. Çıtak claimed that chemical weapons were used in helicopter bombing. He said that "Helicopters shooting mountains and villages, sprinkled something on mountains. We think that that was chemical. In the sametime, women on streamside went into water to be protected from chemicals. After artillery shootings and helicopters, we took women and returned to Yüksekova district. But nausea, headaches and dizziness started to be seen on women."

*It was propounded that PKK militant Bedran Kaya was killed by chemical weapons in a skirmish taken place in Şemdinli district of Hakkari province on 31 July 2011. Citizens washing corpse of Kaya in Kızıltepe mosque said that there was no bullet mark on his body. Citizens stated that whole body was burned and this aroused suspicions off use of chemical weapons. Shedding of skin attracted attentions in the course of washing, and all of his body was blackened and there was no hair on his head. Those who washing the corpse stated that this was the first time they saw a corpse in that situation. No bullet marks on the corpse aroused suspicions of use of chemical weapons.(04 August 2011/Gündem)

CLAIMS ABOUT USING OF BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS

*According to DIHA's news on 14 May 2010, caterpillars were brought to forests of Dersim. It was stated that caterpillars were brought especially to Baylık (Qereusfun) and Kopuzlar site of Mazgır district of Tunceli province in operations commenced in the area. Caterpillars which are able to breed rapid, can make a tree leafless in a week. Citizens living there drew attention to caterpillars invaded forest all of a sudden and said that this event was made on purpose. Citizens stated that caterpillars brought to forests every year not only damages forests heavily but also damages us and makes us suffer. Citizens said that method of placing insects and snakes to forests have come to existence in recent years and because of caterpillars, the area has become arid. Citizens said that caterpillars have been seen rarely in Tunceli region and bare caterpillars bred in the last week, and invaded most of the forestlands. Citizens said that this was made to dominate the area. A citizen from Baylık (Qereusfun) village named Aziz Şafak said that "Caterpillars dried forest trees in the last 10 days. I have no idea about how they came but this damages us much. Bare caterpillars breeding is so dangerous because it is a poisonous pest. Animals are getting poisoned because they eat leaves." Serdar Erdoğan, chief of general provincial council, informing about the subject said that we heard that caterpillars and snakes are placed to forestlands every year. He added that they will check it out. Erdoğan said that "There are claims of this situation in some places again. If it was proven, this would be a juridicial crime. It is a crime even made for safety realted reasons. There are claims but we will investigate if they are true or not. Caterpillars are biological weapons for forests. Certain pests are more dangerous than chemical weapons to annihilate forestlands."

*It was propounded that security forces annihilated forestlands by caterpillars thrown from helicopters. This attack called 'biological weapon' not only damages forests but damages villagers living around the forestlands also. According to ANF's news on 3 August 2011, unmanned air vehicles threw some materials to Haftanin, Kandil and Zap zones. This material looking like foam was come out to be caterpillar cocoon. It was claimed that when trees became green, caterpillars annihilated forestlands by eating leaves and trunks of trees. It is said that caterpillars cause allergic diseases on human skin. Human skin touched by caterpillars constantly itches and blushes.

**DIYARBAKIR BRANCH OF HUMAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION
DEPARTMENT OF DOCUMENTATION**