The British Government, as well as Monsanto, should appear before the International Monsanto Tribunal accused of crimes against humanity... ecocide

On several occasions between February 2014 and October 2017, I wrote to the HSE (UK Health and Safety Executive) about Roundup® poisoning our nature reserve and glyphosate being present in River water and tap water; [analysis in local tap water in August 2014 revealed a 10-fold increase since August 2013: from 30 ppt to 300 ppt.] I told them that the level of glyphosate in the Clyne River draining from areas of Japanese Knotweed spraying was 190 parts per trillion (ppt) and in local tap water was 30 ppt. These were of the order of concentrations found in a laboratory study in 2013 that showed that breast cancer cell proliferation is accelerated by glyphosate in extremely low concentrations.

CRUK statistics: In 2015 there were 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer and in 2016 11,563 deaths. The deaths keep on increasing and no treatments make any difference.

HSE consistently refused to write to the Council and ask them to stop spraying Roundup® because “it was still legal.”

Monsanto bought by BayerCrop Science
While Monsanto’s name has disappeared having been bought by BayerCrop Science, its chemical legacy lives on. Now a trove of 20,000 documents, dubbed the “Poison Papers,” gathered from regulators, lawsuits and archives by campaigners and scientists, claims that the Missouri-headquartered company openly discussed the environmental and health impact of PCBs. This case against Monsanto for causing cancer with PCBs, went on trial April 28 2016. It involved only three of nearly 100 plaintiffs claiming that exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, caused non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Monsanto was ordered to pay $45.5 million. “This is the future,” plaintiffs’ lawyer Steven Kherkher of Houston told EcoWatch. “The only reason why this victory is rare is because no one has had the money to fight Monsanto,” explaining that his law firm, Williams Kherkher, and other law firms pooled their resources to get the case off the ground. https://www.ecowatch.com/monsanto-ordered-to-pay-46-5-million-in-pcb-lawsuit-in-rare-win-for-pl-1891143419.html

Multi District Litigation: More than 450 lawsuits are pending against Monsanto Co. in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, filed by people alleging that exposure to Roundup herbicide caused them or their loved ones to develop non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and that Monsanto covered up the risks. State litigation: Thousands of other plaintiffs have made similar claims against Monsanto in state courts. Plaintiffs’ attorneys estimate the total number of plaintiffs at approximately 4,000. The first trial in the Roundup litigation started June 18, 2018 in the Superior Court for the County of San Francisco. There are people registered with Attorneys Baum Hedlund who have other cancers apart from Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma: Bone, Colon, Kidney, Melanoma, Liver, Pancreas and Thyroid. https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/monsanto-secret-documents/

Victory for Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma Patients Suing Monsanto Over Weed Killer
Jul 19, 2018 Press Release by Attorneys
“Our team at Milestone is cheering for our friend and Women En Mass founder Aimee Wagstaff, who serves as co-lead counsel of the national Monsanto Roundup litigation. On July 10, The Honorable Vince Chhabria ruled that the plaintiffs in the case offered reliable scientific evidence that exposure to Monsanto’s Roundup weedkiller can cause cancer. In effect, Judge Chhabria denied
Monsanto’s requests to dismiss the case. This is a huge victory nationwide for people harmed by Roundup exposure. Thousands of people have filed lawsuits against Monsanto with complaints that Roundup exposure caused Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, a blood borne cancer. The lawsuits filed in Federal Courts were consolidated before Judge Chhabria in the U.S. District Court of Northern California. The pre-trial proceedings involved the Court’s obligation to act as a gatekeeper to ensure that expert testimony offered at trial is founded upon sound scientific methodology. In his ruling, Judge Chhabria declared that the testimony meets these requirements, and certain testimony that Roundup can cause Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma would be allowed to go to the jury in future trials.

“Today’s ruling marks a significant victory in the fight for justice on behalf of our clients who were injured by exposure to Roundup,” Wagstaff said in a press release. “We look forward to our day in court and the opportunity to hold Monsanto accountable.”

The Monsanto Roundup litigation is formally titled In re: Roundup Products Liability Litigation (MDL 2741). Lead counsel for the plaintiffs include Aimee Wagstaff of Andrus Wagstaff, Robin Greenwald of Weitz and Luxenberg, and Mike Miller of the Miller Law Firm. Additional lawsuits filed in State Courts are following independent tracks to trial. Victories like these exemplify how our civil justice system provides Americans with an effective means to seek justice from negligent corporations that might otherwise be too powerful for one person to fight alone.


In France the parents of a child born with serious malformations are suing Monsanto in court. "A moral duty to act", according to these parents who hope, through their struggle, to prevent other tragedies from happening.


Sabine Grataloup sprayed an area of 700 m² with Glyper. She didn’t know she was pregnant. At the time the product was presented as biodegradable. The warning about usage on the label didn’t mention that you shouldn’t inhale it. William Bourdon an attorney who spoke at the International Monsanto Tribunal is a specialist at suing corporations.

Health, environment and civil society groups join Brussels region in legal challenge over glyphosate renewal

Brussels, 26 July 2018 – The Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), Pesticide Action Network (PAN) Europe, Nature et Progrès Belgique, WeMove.EU and SumofUs today officially applied before the Court of Justice of the European Union for joining the legal challenge initiated by the Brussels Region against the European Commission over the decision to renew the authorisation licence for glyphosate, the world’s most-selling herbicide.


The Guardian European Environment journalist Arthur Neslen interviewed George Eustice Minister of State for Farming about Brexit on 30/05/2016. He said: “The birds and habitats directives would go,” (referring to two key pieces of European environmental law). “A lot of the national directives they instructed us to put in place would stay. But the directives’ framework is so rigid that it is spirit-crushing.” On pesticides, he said “the EU’s precautionary principle needed to be reformed in favour of a US-style risk-based approach, allowing faster authorisation.”

Defra is quoted as saying that after Brexit: “The most promising crops suitable for introducing to England would be Roundup Ready GA21 glyphosate tolerant crops, which synergises well with herbicides already widely used in the UK.”
In the UK there were 13,605 new cases of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2015 (and 4,920 deaths in 2016) 41,804 new cases of bowel cancer in 2015 (and 16,384 deaths in 2016); 12,547 new cases of kidney cancer in 2015 (and 4,619 deaths in 2016); 5,736 new cases of liver cancer in 2015 (5,417 deaths in 2016); 8,984 new cases of bladder cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 5,906 new cases of melanoma in 2015 (2,285 deaths in 2016); 3,528 new cases of thyroid cancer in 2015 (382 deaths in 2016); 10,171 new cases of bladder cancer in 2015 (2,360 deaths in 2016); 7,270 cases of ovarian cancer in 2015 (4,227 deaths in 2016); 9,900 new cases of leukaemia in 2015 (4,712 deaths in 2016); 55,122 new cases of invasive breast cancer in 2015 (11,563 deaths in 2016); 47,151 new cases of prostate cancer in 2015 (11,631 deaths in 2016); 9,211 new cases of oesophageal cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 8,984 new cases of thyroid cancer in 2015 (5,383 deaths in 2016); 5,417 deaths in 2016); 46,388 new cases of lung cancer in 2015 (and 35,620 deaths in 2016). In the US in 2014 there were 24,050 new cases of myeloma.

The Royal Society of Medicine Conference on pesticides safety in November 2017

At the Royal Society of Medicine Conference on pesticides safety the Soil Association presented alarming figures. Under FOI request FERA Science (previously a government agency, now privatized) provided figures that showed that the number of active ingredients applied to wheat had risen 12-fold from 1.7 in 1974 to 20.7 in 2014; that those applied to potatoes had risen 5.8 times from 5.3 in 1975 to 30.8 in 2014; that those applied to onions and leeks had risen 18-fold from 5.3 in 1975 to 30.8 in 2014. Pesticides are tested individually but no one tests the cocktail of pesticides to which humans and the environment are exposed. The Chief Scientist for Defra Professor Ian Boyd pointed out that once a pesticide is approved there is no follow up. Dr Michael Antoniou, head of the Gene Expression and Therapy Group at King’s College London, told the Royal Society of Medicine conference that the adjuvants in commercial pesticide formulations can be toxic in their own right and in some cases more toxic than the declared active ingredients. Yet only the active ingredients are tested and assessed for long-term health effects in the regulatory process. Dave Bench Head of UK Chemicals Regulation Division described the regulatory system for pesticides as robust and as balancing the risks of pesticides against the benefits to society.

The amounts of Roundup sprayed by farmers on crops has gone from 226,762 kg in 1990 to 2,240,408 kg in 2016, a ten-fold increase.

Defra Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food: Monsanto is responsible for humans and animals having glyphosate residues in their bodies: it is in all staple, non-organic foods

The results from monitoring of Pesticide Residues in Food (PRiF) have been published quarterly in the UK since 2000, but pre-harvest application to crops had already been authorised 20 years before. Bread and breakfast cereals are staple foods but there are no maximum residue limits (MRLs) for bread or breakfast cereals. Residues in bread are tested twice a year. e.g. 2002 3rd Quarter: Comments from PRiF: “Residues of chlormequat, glyphosate and pirimiphos-methyl were found (in bread). These pesticides are commonly used on cereal crops, and residues
have been found in other cereal products, therefore these findings are not unexpected. None of the residues found were of concern for consumer health.

2006 3rd Quarter: Comments: “Eating more starchy foods, like bread, is an important part of the Food Standards Agency’s (FSA) advice on healthy eating. The incidence of pesticide residues in bread is relatively high, but our assessment of the risk indicates that the levels we have found in this survey would not be expected to have an effect on health.”

2007 3rd Quarter: Comments: “Eating more starchy foods, like bread, is an important part of the FSA’s advice on healthy eating. We often find pesticide residues in bread but our assessment of the risk indicates that the levels we have found in this survey would not be expected to have an effect on health. We have asked the Secretariat to write to the Home Grown Cereals Authority about the incidence of residues”. I couldn’t find a reply.

2011 3rd/4th Quarters for Lentils: Comments: “Sixteen samples of lentils contained glyphosate above the MRL. A new higher level of glyphosate is expected to come into force in summer 2012. None of the residues detected in this survey would be above the new proposed MRL.”

http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/advisory-groups/PRiF/about-PRiF

The Countess of Mar chaired a meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Agroecology in the Houses of Parliament in London on June 18, 2014

To discuss the harm caused by the world’s most popular herbicide – Roundup®. People from all round the world met to listen to four experts. The first expert to speak was Dr Don Huber, Plant scientist, Emeritus Professor Purdue University. He produced two crucial slides of facts about glyphosate.

One was a picture of an octopus: each arm is used to describe the multiple actions of the biocide glyphosate: Mineral chelating agent (previously used for cleaning boilers) ‘grabbing’ minerals such as Boron, Ca, Co, Cu, Fe, K, Mg, Mn, Ni and Zn that are essential to metabolic processes and absorption of amino acids; Growth regulator; Antibiotic; Herbicide; Toxicant; Virulence enhancer; Organic phosphonate; Persistent in the environment.

The second was the epidemic of diseases in the US that have increased between 1995 and 2011 and are linked to glyphosate: the incidence of the same diseases has increased in the UK over that time. Alzheimer’s disease, Dementia, Parkinson’s Disease, Autism, ADHD Bipolar, Diabetes (Type 2) Multiple sclerosis, Motor-neurone Disease, Obesity, Stroke, Hypertension, Cataracts & eye diseases, Inflammatory bowel disease, Birth defects, Colitis, Crohn’s disease, Hypercholesterolaemia, asthma, Allergies, Atopic dermatitis, Miscarriage/infertility, Renal disease/failure, Liver abnormalities, Coeliac disease, Gluten intolerance, Pancreatic abnormalities, Autoimmune diseases, Arthritis and various cancers. It wasn’t attended by journalists from the UK corporate media, or by the Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Dame Sally Davies or Dr Paul Cosford, Medical Director of Public Health England.

http://sustainablepulse.com/2014/07/02/uk-parliamentary-meeting-brings-dangers-roundup-public-focus/#.U7TvD-j_hzl

Living with GMOs: Citizen to Citizen From 57 million citizens in the US to citizens, politicians, and regulators in the UK and the rest of the EU about the hazards of genetically modified crops

We, the undersigned, are sharing our experience and what we have learned with you so that you don’t make our mistakes. Signatories include NGOs, groups, academics, scientists, farmers, food manufacturers, and high-profile individuals representing more than 60 million Americans.

Extracts: “A recent review found that between 1996 and 2011, farmers who planted Roundup Ready crops used 24% more herbicide than non-GMO farmers planting the same crops. This pesticide treadmill means that in the last decade in the US at least 14 new glyphosate-resistant weed species have emerged, and over half of US farms are plagued with herbicide-resistant weeds.” They outlined eight independent papers describing Environmental Harm and six about the Threat to Human Health. “Americans are reaping the detrimental impacts of this risky and unproven agricultural
technology. **EU countries should take note: there are no benefits from GM crops great enough to offset these impacts. Officials who continue to ignore this fact are guilty of a gross dereliction of duty.**

We strongly urge you to resist the approval of genetically modified crops, to refuse to plant those crops that have been approved, to reject the import and/or sale of GM-containing animal feeds and foods intended for human consumption, and to speak out against the corporate influence over politics, regulation and science.”


Most of the countries in the EU took that advice and opted out of GM (including Scotland, Wales and Ireland).

David Cameron ignored that advice on behalf of England. He and Defra concealed the letter from the British public. The European Commission and the European Food Safety Authority also ignored it and continued to approve GM Crops for growing and for food and feed in the EU. This was despite these grave warnings from American citizens of their experiences (Living with GMOs) and from independent organisations in Europe, such as Testbiotech (Germany), CRIIGEN (France), Corporate Europe Observatory, Earth Open Source and Pesticides Action Network.

21 March 2016: **Question asked by The Countess of Mar in the House of Lords about glyphosate**

**The Countess of Mar:** To ask Her Majesty's Government, in the light of the European Union Ombudsman’s finding of maladministration by the European Commission over pesticides, published on 22 February, and given that several EU countries including France, the Netherlands and Sweden have indicated that they will not support an assessment by the European Food Standards Agency (EFSA) that glyphosate is harmless, whether they support the EFSA view that that chemical should receive a licence for a further 15 years.

**Baroness Chisholm of Owlpen (Con)** (Replying on behalf of Lord Gardiner of Kimble, the Defra spokesperson for the HOL): “My Lords, the Government support pesticide use where scientific evidence shows that this is not expected to harm people or to have unacceptable effects on the environment. UK experts participated in the European Food Safety Authority's assessment of glyphosate and support its conclusions particularly that glyphosate does not cause cancer.”

**Question asked by The Countess of Mar in the House of Lords about the Defarge Paper and heavy metals found in glyphosate-based herbicides 22/01/2018**

“To ask Her Majesty’s Government what assessment they have made of the findings of Defarge et al in Toxicity of formulants and heavy metals in glyphosate-based herbicides and other pesticides published in Toxicology Reports, volume 5, about the use of so-called inert ingredients in those chemical formulations.”

**Lord Gardiner of Kimble (Con)** (The Defra spokesperson in the HOL).

“The paper by Defarge et al studied the effects of glyphosate (and other active substances) and of a number of other components of pesticide formulations. It concludes that the effects of those other components are greater than the effects of glyphosate and suggests a need to assess the impacts of pesticide products. The current system for regulating pesticides does assess the impacts of both active substances and formulated products. The assessment and decision making for active substances is carried out at EU level; the equivalent process for products takes place nationally. This means that the potential impacts of each product are assessed; it is not assumed that a product is safe simply because the active substances it contains have been approved. The EU is also developing a list of chemicals which will be prohibited from use in pesticide products. The review of glyphosate raised some concerns over the inclusion of POE tallowamines in formulated products. In August 2016, the European Commission...”
therefore instructed Member States to require the removal of these chemicals from glyphosate products. The UK has implemented this requirement. The Commission decided in December 2017 to approve glyphosate for continuing use until December 2022. Following that decision the UK and other Member States will review the product authorisations of all herbicides containing glyphosate. This review will take account of the relevant data on the properties of the products, as well as the properties of glyphosate as the active substance. Product authorisations will only be renewed if the assessment of the scientific evidence concludes that the formulated product will not harm people or pose unacceptable risks to the environment."

According to Defra, 13 March 2018, European Regulatory assessments found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval of glyphosate

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Request for information - Ref: TO2018/05500
Date: Tue, 13 Mar 2018 13:45:53 +0000
From: correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk on behalf of Ministerial Contact Unit
Reply-To: Ministerial Contact Unit <correspondence.section@defra.gsi.gov.uk>
To: rosemary.mason@

Dear Ms Mason,

Thank you for your recent emails to Clare Moriarty. I have been asked to reply on behalf of Defra. Pesticide active substances such as glyphosate are assessed at EU level and the European Commission takes the decision on whether each active substance should be approved. Products containing approved active substances are assessed and decisions on authorisation are taken at national level. Applicants for authorisation must show that their products are effective and have no harmful effects to people or unacceptable effects on the environment. If their products were to pose such risks, they would not be authorised; or if such effects were discovered later, they would be withdrawn.

As you point out, the European Commission has renewed the approval of glyphosate until December 2022. This followed reviews of the scientific data by the European Food Safety Authority and the European Chemicals Agency’s Committee for Risk Assessment. Those reviews found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval.

Following the Commission decision, the UK and all other Member States will review the authorisations of every product containing glyphosate to ensure that they meet the current legal requirements and safety standards. The rules for this review are set out in EU legislation and guidance documents. The review will be carried out by the Health and Safety Executive as the UK competent authority.

Yours sincerely,
Defra
Ministerial Contact Unit

Rosemary Mason 01/08/2018