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News | US-Israel war on Iran

Israel unlawfully used white phosphorus in Lebanon: HRW

Images verified by Human Rights Watch show Israel fired white phosphorus in populated areas of southern Lebanon.

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In a new report released on Monday, the New York-based rights group said it confirmed the authenticity of seven photos showing white phosphorus munitions fired over a residential area in southern Lebanon's Yohmor, with fires breaking out in at least two homes there on March 3. ⓧ

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Ramzi Kaiss, a Lebanon researcher with HRW, said, "The Israeli military's unlawful use of white phosphorus over residential areas is extremely alarming and will have dire consequences for civilians."

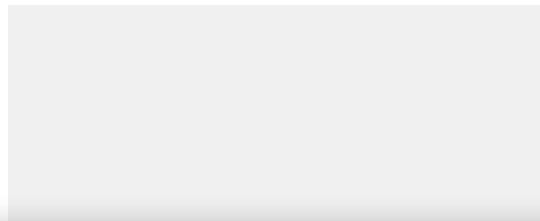
"The incendiary effects of white phosphorus can cause death or cruel injuries that result in lifelong suffering," he added.

The use of airburst white phosphorus is unlawfully indiscriminate in populated areas and does not meet the requirement under international humanitarian law to take all feasible precautions to avoid civilian harm.

The chemical substance ignites when exposed to oxygen and can set homes, agricultural areas, and other civilian objects on fire.

HRW found that in Yohmor, the munitions were used unlawfully over concentrations of civilians, which resulted in fires breaking out in homes and other civilian property.

The organisation verified and geolocated an image posted online by Lebanese media on the morning of March 3. It showed at least two artillery-delivered white phosphorus munitions being airburst over a residential neighbourhood.

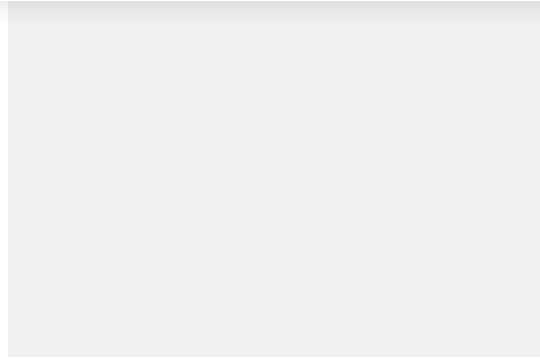


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The shape of the smoke cloud caused by the airbursts was consistent with the “knuckle” made by the expelling and bursting charges of the M825-series 155mm artillery projectile that contains white phosphorus, it said in the report.

It also verified and geolocated photographs posted to Facebook by the civil defence team of the Islamic Health Committee in Yohmor that showed workers extinguishing fires on residential rooftops and in a car.

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The organisation concluded the fire was likely caused by felt wedges impregnated with white phosphorus, given the proximity of the sites to the area where airburst munitions were observed.

“Israel should immediately halt this practice and states providing Israel with weapons, including white phosphorus munitions, should immediately suspend military assistance and arms sales and push Israel to stop firing such munitions in residential areas,” Kaiss said.

More than half a million people have been [registered as displaced](#) in Lebanon as Israel issues forced displacement orders.

Lebanon’s National News Agency said on Monday Israel carried out a series of air strikes in Beirut’s southern suburbs, including between the neighbourhoods of Ghobeiry and Haret Hreik, and in the Safir area.

The report comes hours after Israel’s military, which has been waging days of fierce attacks in southern Beirut, said it was attacking Hezbollah targets in the Lebanese capital. At least 394 people have been killed and more than 1,000 injured in

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