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Subject: Re: United States using chemical weapons in Iraq?

Posted by [Hydra](#) on Sat, 19 Nov 2005 00:21:04 GMT

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Javafx wrote on Thu, 17 November 2005 12:55: I don't think the point is as much that it was being used as it was REPORTED that it wasn't being used offensively, which turned out to be false. And whose fault is that, the U.S. government's, or the media's?

This is just conjecture, but the reason the military didn't tell the public it was using white phosphorous probably is because the public isn't widely educated about the use of white phosphorous as a conventional weapon, so it would be easy for the media to spin the story, making it look like the United States is using chemical weapons. In response, Congress restricts the military from using white phosphorous, thus depriving the military from a useful conventional weapon.

Plus, the public doesn't need to know everything the military does and everything it uses to fight our enemies. Should we be afraid we aren't giving the enemy a fair fight? Of course not. This is war; the military exists to win wars and kill our enemies. The more we tie the military's hands, the harder it is for it to win our wars.

And before the Geneva Convention comes up, wasn't it created in the first place with the idea that both sides would adhere to its rules so both sides' POWs would be treated humanely? Even if the terrorists were addressed in some article of the Convention, they have already violated many provisions of it, from torturing prisoners to beheading hostages. They're not following the same rules of war that we are, so it is useless to say that we'll only make them more mad if we break a few GC rules. They won't stop beheading hostages even if we let all the detainees in Guantanamo Bay go. They're out to win this war at any cost, and they'll fight dirty if they have to. Our refusal to meet them likewise is only a weakness that will seriously hinder our ability to win.

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