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WORKSHOP III

PSYCHO-TRAUMATISMS AND EFFECTS OF MODERN WAR

CONCLUSIONS

The numerous interventions during the working sessions allow us to draw several conclusions.

In the area of psycho-traumatism: firstly, real progress in the management of such damages can be noted. Acceptance that psycho-traumatism is not a state of mind but a real illness has become a reality. However, at the same time; the way these damages are dealt with in terms of recognition, care and the right to compensation, remains particularly diverse and creates great inequalities between nations. It can be noted that Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany are ahead of other countries in terms of diagnosis and care.

In previous WVF initiatives in particular the meetings that were held in Croatia, certain interventions led to the belief that briefings prior to and following actions of combat could prevent the danger of psycho-traumatism. However, experience tends to show that these briefings do not remove this danger, and that today, nothing allows us to predict psycho-traumatism, which can surface several years after action.

Another conclusion that can be drawn: there is still a lot of progress to be made in terms of multidisciplinary organisation of the treatment of psycho-traumatism, which should organise the coordinated work of doctors, social workers and associations of veterans and victims of war. In the same logic, the increasing percentage of civilian victims traumatised during contemporary wars should also lead to coordination between military and civilian doctors and institutions.

The new damages created by “new generation” arms and munitions used in contemporary wars.

All of the interventions mention the increasing percentage of civilian victims (90-95% of the total victims). The new arms and munitions cited are chemical, bacteriological and nuclear. (The Algerian delegation intervened notably on the subject of nuclear testing). It also appears that these new weapons not only affect the targeted victims, but also the servicemen who handle them before and during use (example: depleted uranium shells). The interventions also showed that the accumulation and use of new weapons play a non-negligible part in the pollution of our planet, putting all of humanity in danger of “ecocide”.

The use of new weapons, consequences of which cross borders and join the international scale of current ecological problems should lead to international solidarity to help civilian and military victims and find solutions which avoid increasingly murderous wars, which contribute to the creation of a cataclysm that endangers all of humanity.

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