

## The Open Letter from America

### Why did Prime Minister David Cameron and Defra disregard the Open Letter from America delivered to 10 Downing Street on 11 November 2014?

The Open Letter from America was from 60 million American citizens to David Cameron (and the rest of the EU) warning them not to authorize GM crops and/or glyphosate because of the devastating effects on human health and the environment [www.theletterfromamerica.org](http://www.theletterfromamerica.org)

Extracts: *"In our country, GM crops account for about half of harvested cropland. Around 94% of the soy, 93% of corn (maize) and 96% of cotton grown is GM. The UK and the rest of the EU have yet to adopt GM crops in the way that we have, but you are currently under tremendous pressure from governments, biotech lobbyists, and large corporations to adopt what we now regard as a failing agricultural technology...Studies of animals fed GM foods and/or glyphosate, however, show worrying trends including damage to vital organs like the liver and kidneys, damage to gut tissues and gut flora, immune system disruption, reproductive abnormalities, and even tumors.<sup>35</sup>...These scientific studies point to potentially serious human health problems that could not have been anticipated when our country first embraced GMOs, and yet they continue to be ignored by those who should be protecting us. Instead our regulators rely on outdated studies and other information funded and supplied by biotech companies that, not surprisingly, dismiss all health concerns.*

***Through our experience we have come to understand that the genetic engineering of food has never really been about public good, or feeding the hungry, or supporting our farmers. Nor is it about consumer choice. Instead it is about private, corporate control of the food system.***

***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.*** Most 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, Greenpeace and Pesticides Action Network.

Lord de Mauley was the Defra Minister at the time. He signed the letter from Defra. At the end the letter Defra had written: *"The government regards safety as paramount and we will only agree to the planting of GM crops or the marketing of GM foods if it is clear that people and the environment will not be harmed."* But Defra and the UK government lied to the public: The Letter from America from 60 million US citizens **warned of devastating effects on human health and the environment.**

**Between April 2016 and October 2017 Complete Weed Control sprayed 3.5 tonnes of Dakar Pro (Roundup) on the streets and pavements of Swansea** (see attached documents)

- Without taking into account the new rules about hard surfaces (2012)
- In places such as public parks and garden, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and children's playgrounds, and in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities, where according to DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT the risk from exposure to pesticides is high
- Without understanding that pesticide drift can travel for miles to contaminate people and the environment depending on the weather conditions at the time of spraying
- Without monitoring groundwater for run-off from hard surfaces

- Between 2014 and 2017 HSE was informed that our nature reserve was a biological desert but refused to instruct the Council to stop the spraying because “Roundup was still legal.”

### **New rules about hard surfaces**

The Chemicals Regulation Directorate, (CRD) issued new labelling rules for all herbicides used on non-porous hard surfaces which manufacturers must comply with before June 1 2012. “Restrictions were introduced to ensure pesticide run-off from non-porous hard surfaces to water courses is minimal and can be predicted by the HARDSPEC model used in assessing pesticides for approval. Targeted treatment of weeds must be undertaken on roads, pavements, concrete and paved areas and drains must not be over-sprayed. Adopting the new rules will minimise the use of pesticides as required under the Sustainable Use Directive and will also save money by reducing unnecessary herbicide use in overall spraying. They will reduce run-off to drains and water bodies as required by the Water Framework Directive. The rules implement Best Practice advised by Monsanto into a mandatory legal requirement.”

### **Spraying in sensitive areas and on people where the risk from exposure to pesticides is high**

Sustainable Use of Pesticides 21 October 2009: DIRECTIVE 2009/128/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Article 11 Use of pesticides in specific areas

EU Directive Advice: Use of pesticides can be particularly dangerous in very sensitive areas such as Natura 2000 sites protected in accordance with Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC. In other places such as public parks and garden, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and children’s playgrounds, and in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities, the risks from exposure to pesticides is high. In these areas, the use of pesticides should be minimised or prohibited.

### **Pesticide drift is the aerial movement and unintentional deposit of pesticide outside the target area: it results in heavy contamination of people and the environment**

When Roundup is sprayed, the particles drift in the air, are blown by the wind and come down in the rain. Swansea is wet and windy: from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 to November 29<sup>th</sup> 1,417 mm (about 56 inches) of rain were recorded. “There are two forms of pesticide drift. **Particle drift** is the movement of pesticide droplets or solid particles outside the area being treated. Coarser droplets move short distances and fall close to the point of release. Finer particles (i.e. less than 200 microns) can remain suspended on air currents for long periods of time and can be carried far outside of the target area. For example, a 100 micron droplet takes 11 seconds to fall three metres in still air, and will drift more than 20 metres in an 8 km/h wind. **Vapour drift** is the movement of pesticide vapours outside the area being treated. Vapour drift is invisible and can have a considerable impact. Vapours are created when spray droplets evaporate both at the time of application and for some time after the spray has dried on plant or soil surfaces. The potential for vapour drift is more a product of the volatility of the active ingredient, the formulation (e.g. esters) and environmental conditions (e.g. hot and dry) than the equipment used.”

### **Final correspondence from Defra after I had filled in an Incident Form at CRD’s suggestion**

On October 27<sup>th</sup> 2017, for the first time since February 2014 and at CRD’s suggestion, I filled in an HSE incident form. I described in detail the history of the decline in biodiversity of our reserve in response to Dakar Pro (a professional form of Roundup) being sprayed on Japanese Knotweed in valleys close to our reserve in 2013, 2014 and 2015. 2016 and 2017 it was sprayed on 3000 km of the streets and pavements of Swansea ward by ward.

From xxxxxxxx

**Subject:** Concern submitted to HSE

**Date:** Mon, 13 Nov 2017 12:45:07 +0000

**From:** noreplyconcerns@hse.gov.uk

**To:** rosemary.mason01@btinternet.com

Dear Dr Mason,

Thank you for your concern about glyphosate use in Swansea dated 27 October 2017.

We have considered the information you have provided and consulted other colleagues in HSE. We will not be investigating as there doesn't appear to be any breach of legislation enforced by HSE. You have received HSE's comments and views about the product and its application in earlier correspondence.

Regards

Concerns Team

Health and Safety Executive

This is a no-reply email account. Replies will not be received at HSE

### **Glyphosate and AMPA are found to be widespread in soils throughout the EU**

Britain was cited as having the second most polluted soil, but glyphosate levels are not yet measured in groundwater in the UK. The European Commission's own Joint Research Centre published this paper: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969717327973>

### **Ecological Armageddon after dramatic plunge in insect numbers 18/10/2017**

More than 75 percent decline over 27 years in total flying insect biomass in protected areas in Germany. *Part of Abstract: Global declines in insects have sparked wide interest among scientists, politicians, and the general public. Loss of insect diversity and abundance is expected to provoke cascading effects on food webs and to jeopardize ecosystem services. Here, we used a standardized protocol to measure total insect biomass using Malaise traps, deployed over 27 years in 63 nature protection areas in Germany (96 unique location-year combinations) to infer on the status and trend of local entomofauna. When the total weight of the insects in each sample was measured a startling decline was revealed. The annual average fell by 76% over the 27-year period, but the fall was even higher – 82% – in summer, when insect numbers reach their peak.*

### **Collapse of bird populations in Europe due to pesticides**

I presume you have all read about the collapse of bird populations in France (and the rest of Europe) due to pesticides? It is not just neonics, but glyphosate/Roundup as well. This confirms what happened to our small nature reserve exposed to Roundup sprayed from a distance.

*“With intensive crop production encouraged by the EU’s common agricultural policy apparently driving the bird declines, conservationists are warning that many European countries are facing a second “silent spring” – a term coined by the ecologist Rachel Carson to describe the slump in bird populations in the 1960s caused by pesticides.”*

*“We’ve lost a quarter of skylarks in 15 years. It’s huge, it’s really, really huge. If this was the human population, it would be a major thing,” said Dr Benoit Fontaine of France’s National Museum of Natural History and co-author of one of the new studies, a national survey of France’s common birds. “We are turning our farmland into a desert. We are losing everything and we need that nature, that biodiversity – the agriculture needs pollinators and the soil fauna. Without that, ultimately, we will die.”*

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/21/europe-faces-biodiversity-oblivion-after-collapse-in-french-bird-populations>

### **EU’s state of denial over the destructive impact of farming on wildlife: CAP business as usual**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/mar/23/eu-in-state-of-denial-over-destructive-impact-of-farming-on-wildlife>

**EU’s subsidy system, that benefits big farming rather than sustainability, needs to change to prevent ongoing collapse in birds and insect numbers, warn green groups.**

*“Europe’s crisis of collapsing bird and insect numbers will worsen further over the next decade because the EU is in a “state of denial” over destructive farming practices”, environmental groups*

are warning. “European agriculture ministers are pushing for a new common agriculture policy (CAP) from 2021 to 2028 which *maintains generous subsidies for big farmers* and ineffectual or even “fake” environmental or “greening” measures”.

### **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**

<https://agroecology-appg.org/ourwork/appg-meeting-june-18th-1pm-rounding-up-glyphosate-is-it-really-safe/>  
<https://sustainablepulse.com/2014/07/02/uk-parliamentary-meeting-brings-dangers-roundup-public-focus/#.Wreg3mbMx0s>

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, 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, Allergies, asthma, Atopic dermatitis, Miscarriage/ infertility, Renal disease/failure, Liver abnormalities, Coeliac disease, Gluten intolerance, Pancreatic abnormalities, Autoimmune diseases, Arthritis and **cancers**.

The meeting wasn’t reported by the UK Corporate Media.

### **Cancer Research UK: former Chairman of Cancer Research UK worked for the Agrochemical Industry**

Michael Pragnell (CBE, awarded in 2016 for services to cancer) former Chairman of Cancer Research UK was founder of Syngenta and former Chairman of CropLife International. It was formed in 2001 from BASF, Bayer, Dow, DuPont, FMC Corp, Monsanto, Sumitomo and Syngenta. The CRUK website says that there is no convincing evidence that pesticides cause cancer. Instead CRUK links cancer to life style choices: alcohol, obesity and smoking.

### **Christina Patterson wrote in *The Guardian* (09/03/2018) about the new campaign by Cancer Research UK on bus stops and hoardings that shames obese people**

Stress does not cause cancer. But when I’m unhappy, I get ill

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/mar/09/stress-cancer-research-obesity-i-get-ill-when-unhappy>

*What starts with an “o”, has an “s” in the middle, and ends with death? If you like crosswords and puzzles, you’ll love the **posters that have been springing up** around the country in the last few days. They’re like the billboards in **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**. But the culprit in this murder mystery is you. Or perhaps I should say: the culprit is you--if you’re overweight. The word with the missing letters, is, of course, “obesity”. “OB\_\_S\_\_Y is a cause of cancer”, says the poster. The campaign, I think it’s fair to say, **hasn’t gone down well**. The comedian **Sofie Hagen**, for example, asked her followers on Twitter whether anyone was “currently working on getting this piece of shit CancerResearchUK advert removed from everywhere”. It was “fat-shaming”, she said. “How is this OK?”*

*The thrust of her argument seemed to be that it wasn’t fair to link cancer with being fat. And in one sense she’s right. It isn’t fair to link cancer with being fat. It isn’t fair of God, or whoever it is that makes healthy cells go rogue, to make cancer a bigger risk for someone who’s fat than for someone*

who's not. It's hard enough being fat, without doling out a death penalty as an extra little sting. It isn't fair at all that there's a link between cancer and obesity. But it is, unfortunately, a fact. The evidence from the experts (if we're still allowed to have experts) shows a clear **link between obesity and 13 types of cancer**. Only 15% of us, according to Cancer Research UK, are aware of that link, which is why it has launched its campaign. And nearly half of us, according to yet another report this week, this time from the World Cancer Research Fund, **think that cancer can be caused by stress**. Which, the experts say, it isn't.

*I had just turned 39 when I found a lump in my breast. I spent most of the year that followed in a state of terror. At work, I tried to act as if everything was normal, but at night I was kept awake by the thumping in my chest. I read books that told me that dairy products caused breast cancer. I read books that told me to eat a lot of grated carrots. For a while, I tried. I really tried. I gave up sugar. I even gave up alcohol. People told me I looked pale and thin. And then a colleague took me out for a giant steak and a bottle of rioja; and at the first taste of that melting meat, the first sip of that smooth, smooth wine, I felt the joy once again pulsing through my veins.*

*I believe in evidence. But that might also mean that there is no evidence yet.*

*Six and a half years later I was discharged from the hospital's care. Three weeks after that, I discovered that the cancer had come back. When I say "the cancer", I don't know if I'm right. Was it "the cancer" coming back? Was it a new cancer springing up? Was it caused by the steak? Was it caused by the cakes? Was it caused by the alcohol I should have given up? Or was it caused by stress? My sister died, my father died, then I got cancer, then work got really stressful, then I was dumped, then I got cancer again. That's a fair whack of stress. Is that a correlation? Is that a cause? Or just bad luck?"*

Cancer Research UK figures for 2014 (that don't seem to have been published by the Corporate Media) shows the huge numbers of cancers that are killing people in the UK.

**In 2014 in Britain there were 13,605 new cases of NHL (4,801 deaths)**

41,265 new cases of bowel cancer (15,903 deaths); 12,523 new cases of kidney cancer (4,421 deaths); 5,550 new cases of liver cancer (5,091 deaths); 5,419 new cases of melanoma (2,459 deaths); 3,404 new cases of thyroid cancer (376 deaths); 10,063 new cases of bladder cancer (5,369 deaths); 9,324 new cases of uterine cancer (2,166 deaths); 7,378 cases of ovarian cancer (4,128 deaths) 9,534 new cases of leukaemia (4,584 deaths); 55,222 new cases of invasive breast cancer (11,433 deaths); 46,690 new cases of prostate cancer (11,287 deaths); 8,919 new cases of oesophageal cancer (7,790 deaths) and 5,501 new cases of myeloma (2,928 deaths); 2,418 new cases of testicular cancer (60 deaths). In the US in 2014 there were 24,050 new cases of myeloma.

**The Monsanto Papers show Monsanto fabricated evidence and colluded with the US EPA and EFSA**

These are some of the cancers that plaintiffs in the US have alleged have been caused by Roundup. Attorneys for Baum Hedlund have been acting on behalf of these plaintiffs. The lawsuit began on March 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 U.S. District Judge Vince Chhabria ruled — over Monsanto's objections — that documents obtained by plaintiffs through discovery could be unsealed.

Page 14 line 1 Dr Williams Heydens admitted that he 'ghost-wrote' an article for Gary Williams: *"Roundup herbicide does not pose a health risk to humans"* when their own scientists privately wrote that: *"[t]he terms glyphosate and Roundup cannot be used interchangeably ....For example you cannot say that Roundup is not a carcinogen...we have not done the necessary testing on the formulation to make that statement."*

After 1 year of revelations from unsealing Monsanto email exchanges, including ones with the US Environmental Protection Agency and the European Food Safety Agency that show collusion amongst the regulators, it is about to end. Judge Chhabria will have judged the "science" between

eight independent scientists that say that Roundup does cause cancer and four on behalf of Monsanto that deny it.

<http://baumhedlundlaw.com/pdf/monsanto-documents/daubert-brief/Plaintiffs-1-Response-in-Opposition-to-Monsanto-Companys-Daubert-and-Summary-Judgment-Motion.pdf>

### **The Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) Conference on pesticides safety in November 2017**

<https://www.soilassociation.org/news/2017/november/rapid-increase-in-pesticide-use-and-new-evidence-of-health-impacts-of-very-low-doses/>

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 RSM 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. Dr Antoniou also said that research on hormone-disrupting chemicals, including pesticides, shows that very low realistic doses can be more toxic than higher doses. Professor Carl Leifert talked about pesticides linked to low sperm quality. In a recent study, published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, Harvard researchers followed 325 women at an infertility clinic and found that women who regularly ate pesticide-treated fruits and vegetables had lower success rates getting pregnant with IVF, while women who ate organic food had reduced risk of pregnancy loss and increased fertility.

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*.

Fera statistics show that in 2014 glyphosate was used on Wheat (601,330 kg) Winter barley, Spring barley, Oats, Rye, Triticale, Oilseed rape (577,969 kg), Linseed, All potatoes, Peas, Beans, Sugar beet, with a total of 1,765,465 kg glyphosate on all crops. The total weight of pesticides (herbicides and desiccants, fungicides, growth regulators, molluscicides and repellants, insecticides and seed treatments) applied to farmland in 2014 was in excess of 16,000 tonnes.

### **UN Rapporteur: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food: Pesticides are “global human rights concern” and UN experts urge new treaty**

The United Nations received a [report](#) by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council, focused more narrowly on agricultural chemicals. The UN report states unequivocally that the storyline perpetuated by companies like Monsanto—the one that says we need pesticides to feed the world—is a myth. The Report presented to the UN human rights council on 08/03/2017, is severely critical of the global corporations that manufacture pesticides, accusing them of the “*systematic denial of harms*”, “*aggressive, unethical marketing tactics*” and heavy lobbying of governments which has “*obstructed reforms and paralysed global pesticide restrictions*”.

**GENEVA (7 March 2017)** – Two United Nations experts are calling for a comprehensive new global treaty to regulate and phase out the use of dangerous pesticides in farming and move towards sustainable agricultural practices. They say: “*excessive use of pesticides is very dangerous to human health, to the environment and it is misleading to claim they are vital to ensuring food security.*” - Chronic exposure to pesticides has been linked to cancer, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, hormone disruption, developmental disorders and sterility. Farmers and agricultural workers,

communities living near plantations, indigenous communities and pregnant women and children are particularly vulnerable to pesticide exposure and require special protections. –

The experts warn that certain pesticides can persist in the environment for decades and pose a threat to the entire ecological system on which food production depends. The excessive use of pesticides contaminates soil and water sources, causing loss of biodiversity, destroying the natural enemies of pests, and reducing the nutritional value of food. The impact of such overuse also imposes staggering costs on national economies around the world.

The experts say the use of neonicotinoid pesticides is particularly worrying because they are accused of being responsible for a systematic collapse in the number of bees around the world. **For example, heavy use of these insecticides has been blamed for the 50 per cent decline over 25 years in honeybee populations in both the United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.** Such a collapse, they say, threatens the very basis of agriculture as 71% of crop species are bee-pollinated.

**Roundup is associated with Dementia, Parkinson's, Motor Neurone Disease and Multiple Sclerosis**

[http://people.csail.mit.edu/seneff/2018/Roundup\\_and\\_Neurodegenerative\\_Disorders\\_RosemaryMason.pdf](http://people.csail.mit.edu/seneff/2018/Roundup_and_Neurodegenerative_Disorders_RosemaryMason.pdf)

These neurodegenerative disorders have increased over the last 30 years or so in the UK and the US.

**The biologist Prof Paul Ehrlich predicts the collapse of civilization and the sixth mass extinction due to continuing destruction of the natural world by long acting synthetic chemicals**

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2018/mar/22/collapse-civilisation-near-certain-decades-population-bomb-paul-ehrich>

*“A shattering collapse of civilisation is a “near certainty” in the next few decades due to humanity’s continuing destruction of the **natural world that sustains all life on Earth**, according to biologist Prof Paul Ehrlich ...there is an increasing toxification of the entire planet by synthetic chemicals that may be more dangerous to people and wildlife than climate change. Ehrlich also says an unprecedented redistribution of wealth is needed to end the over-consumption of resources, but “the rich who now run the global system – that hold the annual ‘world destroyer’ meetings in Davos – are unlikely to let it happen”.*

**After Brexit, the Chemicals Regulations Division of the HSE, farmers, the Environment Minister, the Defra Minister and the Defra Permanent Secretary must devise a sustainable way of farming**

The Agrochemical Giant Syngenta, which has hi-jacked the CRUK website, is also funding Exeter University and the *London Evening Standard* (Editor-in-Chief George Osborn met the CEO of Syngenta at the Bilderberg Conference in 2006).

**Toxic pesticides: will Hawaiians get a better deal than the Brits?**

<https://gmandchemicalindustry9.wordpress.com/2018/03/24/toxic-pesticides-will-hawaiians-get-a-better-deal-than-brits/>

In Hawaii February 2018 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency won a settlement from Syngenta, after dozens of workers at Syngenta Seeds’ former research farm on Kauai, Hawaii were exposed to the neurotoxic pesticide chlorpyrifos in 2016 and 2017. *“In 2016 nineteen workers were exposed to chlorpyrifos after Syngenta sprayed the insecticide on a field of genetically engineered (GE) corn at its Kekaha farm. According to the complaint, the workers were allowed to re-enter the field before the re-entry period expired and without protective equipment. Ten workers were taken to the hospital and three were held overnight.”*

*“In recent years over 16,000 acres of Kauai’s land have been leased to DuPont-Pioneer, Dow, and Syngenta because its tropical climate enables them to work their fields year-round. Company workers can plant experimental fields three seasons a year, which can cut in half the time it takes to develop a new genetically altered seed. They plant these seeds, then spray them with a wide variety of chemicals that are designed to kill weeds and insects. When they find food crops that can stand up to these toxins, they begin the process of taking them to market. The final settlement was a meagre*

\$150,000, with \$400,000 more to be spent on worker protection, far less – as Alexis Strauss, acting regional administrator for the EPA’s Region 9, acknowledged – than the maximum allowed under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and its regulations designed to protect workers.

A group of doctors in Waimea, which is surrounded by cornfields on three sides, testified that the number of cases of serious heart defects in local newborns was 10 times the national rate. But the head of the companies’ trade group, the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, said that no credible source of statistical health information to support the claims had been seen. The association sued and a federal judge struck the law down, arguing that only the state can regulate pesticide use.”

### **Chlorpyrifos is an organophosphate insecticide still authorised by Defra for farmers to use**

The total area treated with the insecticide Chlorpyrifos (Dow Agro Science) by UK farmers in 2015 was 107,739 ha. The US EPA had banned Chlorpyrifos until Trump came along. Because Dow contributed to Trump’s campaign, Scott Pruitt, the new Head of the US EPA was told to unban it. The *Washington Post* wrote an article about why that happened when the EPA said it was a dangerous chemical. “Chlorpyrifos belongs to the same chemical family as sarin nerve gas and works by attacking the nervous system. Epidemiological evidence suggests that Chlorpyrifos can cause brain damage in children and even to the unborn. A California study found that pregnant women who lived near fields where Chlorpyrifos was sprayed were three times more likely to give birth to a child who would develop autism.”

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### **Monsanto and the UK Government came to an agreement on PCBs in Wales**

In 1968 US documents showed that Monsanto tried to decide whether or not to come clean about the dangers of PCBs.

They stopped making PCBs in Anniston US in 1971 because of scandals about PCBs on the health of the population and wildlife. However, the British government led by Ted Heath agreed to ramp up production at their Monsanto plant in Newport. The UK government, which knew of the dangers of PCBs in the environment in the 1960s, allowed their production in Wales until 1977.

### **Alabama is more than 50 million square miles: Wales is 8,000 square miles.**

The toxic waste was illegally dumped at Brofiscin Quarry west of Cardiff (and in 5 other quarries in Wales). According to engineering company WS Atkins, in a report prepared for the agency and the local authority in 2005 **but never made public**, Brofiscin Quarry contains at least 67 toxic chemicals. Seven PCBs have been identified, along with vinyl chlorides and naphthalene. The unlined quarry is still leaking, the report says. “Pollution of water has been occurring since the 1970s, the waste and groundwater has been shown to contain significant quantities of poisonous, noxious and polluting material, pollution of ... waters will continue to occur.

It was the worst environmental disaster that no-one’s heard of since the 1984 Bhopal Disaster.

<https://theecologist.org/2007/oct/11/burying-truth-orginal-ecologist-investigation-monsanto-and-brofiscin-quarry>

### **The Poison Papers**

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The “Poison Papers” represent a vast trove of rediscovered chemical industry and regulatory agency documents and correspondence stretching back to the 1920s. Taken as a whole, the papers show that both industry and regulators understood the extraordinary toxicity of many chemical products and worked together to conceal this information from the public and the press. These papers will transform our understanding of the hazards posed by certain chemicals on the market and the fraudulence of some of the regulatory processes relied upon to protect human health and the environment.

The Poison Papers are a compilation of over 20,000 documents obtained from federal agencies and chemical manufacturers via open records requests and public interest litigation. They include internal scientific studies and summaries of studies, internal memos and reports, meeting minutes,

strategic discussions, and sworn testimonies. The majority of these documents have been scanned and digitized by us for the first time and represent nearly three tons of material. The regulatory agency sources of these documents include: the EPA, the USDA Forest Service, the FDA, the Veterans Administration, and the Department of Defense. Chemical manufacturers referenced in the documents include: Dow, Monsanto, DuPont, and Union Carbide, as well as many smaller manufacturers and the commercial testing companies who worked for them.

The Poison Papers are a project of the [Bioscience Resource Project](#) and the [Center for Media and Democracy](#). The Poison Papers were largely collected by author and activist Carol Van Strum. <https://www.poisonpapers.org/the-poison-papers/>

### **The International Monsanto Tribunal**

The Monsanto Tribunal is an international civil society initiative to hold Monsanto accountable for human rights violations and ecocide. Eminent judges heard testimonies from victims and experts. Then, they delivered a legal opinion following procedures of the International Court of Justice (on April 18th 2017, The Hague).

They concluded that Monsanto's activities have a negative impact on basic human rights. Besides, better regulations are needed to protect the victims of multinational corporations. Eventually, international law should be improved for better protection of the environment and include the crime of ecocide. Now, it is up to us, the civil society, to spread the conclusions of the Monsanto Tribunal and push for these essential changes.

<http://www.monsanto-tribunal.org>

### **The Permanent People's Tribunal**

#### **Permanent People's Tribunal (PPT) Corporate Account Verdict**

The PPT Session was held in Bangalore, India between December 3 and 6, 2011. In accordance with the program (Attachment 2), witnesses, technical witnesses and survivors made oral presentation of specific cases and submitted supporting documents. As established in its Statute, the Tribunal notified the legal representatives of the transnational corporations headquartered in Germany (Bayer and BASF), Switzerland (Syngenta) and the United States (Monsanto, DuPont, Dow Chemical Company).

#### FINDINGS

The Tribunal makes the following declaration of responsibility for the six indicted TNCs and three Governments in particular and further also declares the responsibilities of all States, international organizations, UN Specialist Agencies, all other institutions of global governance.

#### CONCERNING THE INDICTED SIX CORPORATIONS (BASF, BAYER, DOW CHEMICAL, DUPONT, MONSANTO, SYNGENTA)

- The Tribunal finds on all evidence presented before it, the six TNCs *prima facie* responsible for gross, widespread and systematic violations of the right to health and life, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as of civil and political rights, and women and children's rights.
- The Tribunal further finds that their systematic acts of corporate governance have caused avoidable catastrophic risks, increasing the prospects of extinction of biodiversity, including species whose continued existence is necessary for reproduction of human life.

Corporate account verdict.pdf <http://permanentpeopletribunal.org/?lang=en>

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26/03/2018