

# The Corporate Person Has No Right to Harm Our Bodies - Achieving the Human Right to Health

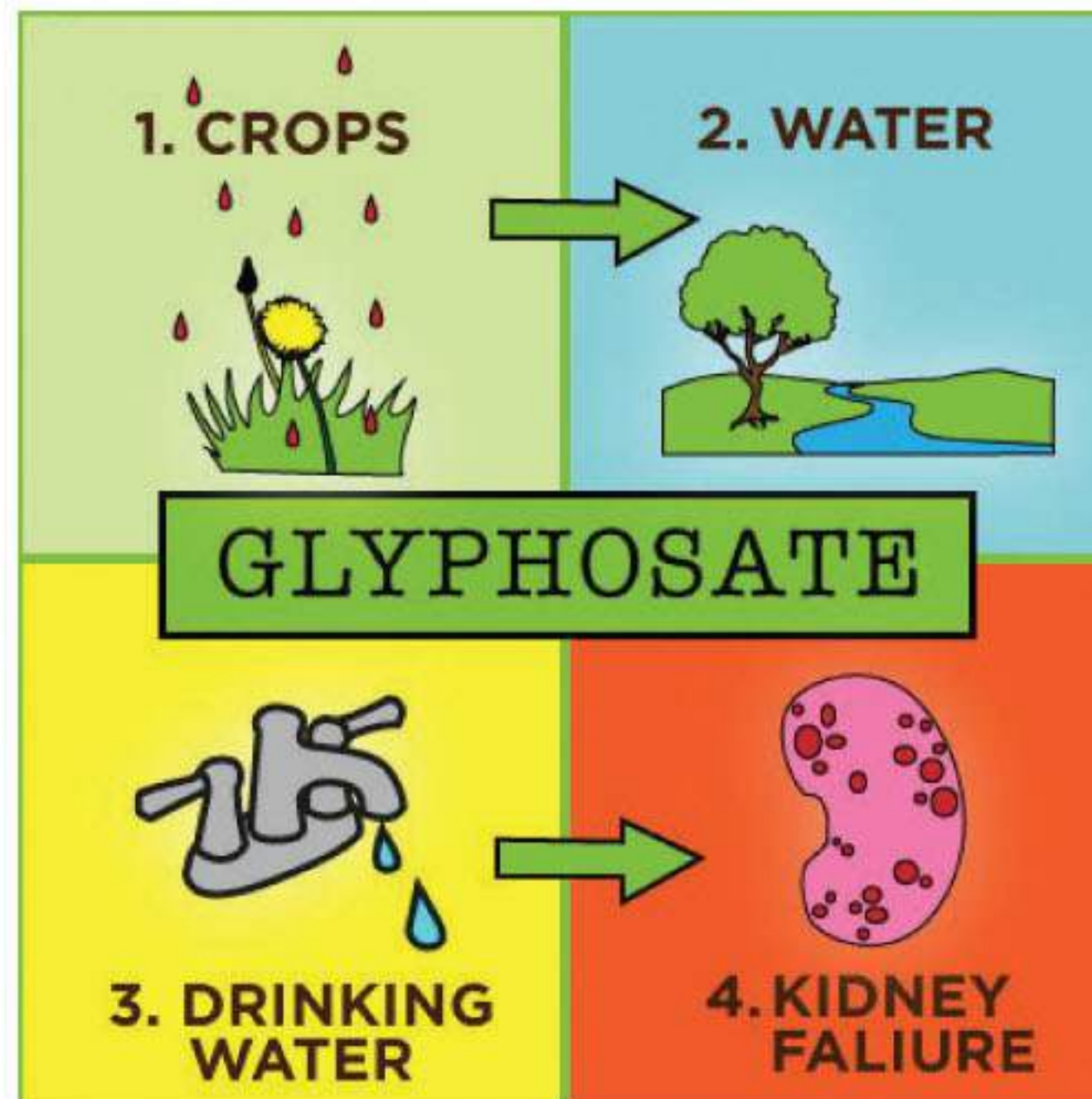
By Marybeth Gardam and Nancy Price

Finally, a decade's worth of peer-reviewed research has been published that documents the extent to which glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup and other herbicides, acts on our bodies to cause severe disease and premature death. Used world-wide on Roundup-ready crops, like soybeans, corn, canola, and sugar beets, to suppress weeds, and for municipal and home lawn and garden care, glyphosate's use has increased dramatically due to increased acreage of Roundup-ready crops and increased weed resistance to this herbicide.

Roundup is found in water sources, rain and air in agricultural areas, but has also been found in the blood, urine and breast milk of urban residents. Such exposure comes from drinking water and from eating raw, cooked or processed food contaminated with chemical residues and from breathing air polluted by the chemical drift that occurs with crop spraying.

It is important to keep in mind that all of our cells function by way of a complex message system that works with incredible sensitivity and that our bodies contain many complex systems - immune, endocrine, reproductive and nervous - that all interact with each other. Even trace amounts of one or a mix of chemicals can cause normal cells to function abnormally and any one or several of these systems to be compromised and fail, at times bringing on premature death.

This new research presents a long, diverse and truly alarming list of health impacts from glyphosate exposure that affect pre-natal development as well as older age functions, including: infertility, birth defects, miscarriages, various cancers (blood, breast), neurological developmental problems such as autism



Re-printed with permission from [blog.wondercide.com/what-is-glyphosate](http://blog.wondercide.com/what-is-glyphosate).

and attention deficit hyperactivity (ADHD), Parkinson's and Alzheimer's; gastrointestinal disorders, celiac disease and gluten intolerance; obesity, diabetes, heart and chronic kidney disease or failure, respiratory disease and asthma.

Despite this list, in 2013 the Environmental Protection Agency, after being petitioned in early 2012 by Monsanto, astonishingly increased acceptable levels of glyphosate residue in fruits and vegetables, even though Roundup has never been assessed for long-term

safety by regulators. While glyphosate is toxic, some additives in Roundup increase its toxicity by making it easier to penetrate plant and animal cells. What about human cells? (1)

To date, attention has mainly focused on Monsanto's RoundUp. Now, however, concern is turning to Dow Chemical. Just this summer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved Dow's new GMO (genetically modified organism) soy and corn. These seeds have been engineered to resist Dow's new Enlist Duo herbicide with glyphosate and 2,4-D, a chemical used in Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, although, it is claimed, not in the same formulation. It was not surprising then, that after the USDA approved Dow's seeds, the EPA followed with its approval of Dow's Enlist Duo on October 15. EPA's green light gave further proof that the agency tasked with protecting our health is instead protecting corporate profits.

The Resolution presented to WILPF's 2014 Tri-Annual Congress for an education and action project on glyphosate passed unanimously. The multi-phased project will link Earth Democracy's principle of Guardianship of Future Generations with Corporations

v Democracy's principle that the corporate person has no right to harm our bodies.

First, we will create educational materials about this issue. Then, we will join the Organic Consumers Association and other groups to protest at the January Monsanto shareholders meeting in St. Louis. We will also submit a Resolution to the 2015 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Meeting requesting endorsement of collaboration with international WILPF sections to build a global movement against GMO crops and the use of these harmful chemicals and to highlight alternative models of sustainable agriculture.

Our longer-term goal is to put together a class-action lawsuit against the manufacture and use of glyphosate declaring that is unacceptable that corporations and their investors profit from harming our health. We will keep you informed by eNews and Action Alerts.

For more information and to join this project, please email: Marybeth Gardam at [mbgardam@gmail.com](mailto:mbgardam@gmail.com) or Nancy Price at [nancytprice39@gmail.com](mailto:nancytprice39@gmail.com).

1) For the Resolution text, including a full list of references, see: [wilpfus.org/documents/CampaignResolution.pdf](http://wilpfus.org/documents/CampaignResolution.pdf)

2) For report on approval of Enlist Duo see: [huffingtonpost.com/jon-entine/post\\_8477\\_b\\_5992632.html](http://huffingtonpost.com/jon-entine/post_8477_b_5992632.html)

---

*Nancy Price works on WILPF's Earth Democracy team and lives in Davis, CA. Marybeth Riley Gardam, of Florida, chairs WILPF's Corporations v Democracy Issue Committee and is a member of Move To Amend's original steering committee.*

---

## The Wars Come Home . . .

Continued from page 7

Since 2007, U.S. spy satellites have been approved by Homeland Security for domestic spying by U.S. law enforcement agencies.

License plate readers combined with cameras and facial recognition software and cell phone location data can track us down wherever we are.

Fusion Centers combine data from local, state and federal police and intelligence services.

## Training and Practice

Military and police are practicing urban warfare in our cities together without the knowledge and consent of residents, according to The New American. War

games in Miami, Houston, Galveston, and most recently Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota have alarmed residents and even local officials, many of whom were reportedly unaware that the drills would be taking place in their jurisdictions. "When you see this, you think the worst. When you hear this, you think the worst," area resident Frances Jerrals told a local ABC affiliate after witnessing the highly controversial exercise. "I felt like I was in a warzone. ...It was nonstop. I was terrified." In addition to selling equipment, contractors also sponsor training events for SWAT teams, like Urban Shield, a major arms expo. SWAT teams from over 200 police agencies throughout the U.S. as well as Israel, Bahrain, Qatar, Brazil, South Korea and Singapore meet up with military contractors who train and promote equipment to buy. Oakland, California has seen hundreds of protestors at Urban Shield events, prompting Mayor Jean Quan to announce on September 5 that the trade show will not take place in Oakland next year. This four-day event costs the federal government over \$1 million.

Why militarize the police? Do police fear the public? Are more police being killed in the line of duty?

According to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund, "There are more than 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers now serving in the United States, which is the highest figure ever." Yet, their data dating back to the early 1900s show law enforcement deaths are near an all time low. Is there more crime? The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program research shows violent crime has actually gone down after peaking in about 1991.

## So what is going on?

Official rationalizations for militarization of the police – domestic terrorism, homelessness, and fear peaceful rallies will turn into riots – just do not hold water.

## What you can do

- Sign the petition on Change.org: [change.org/p/chuck-hagel-suspend-the-weapons-transfer-program-that-is-militarizing-police](http://change.org/p/chuck-hagel-suspend-the-weapons-transfer-program-that-is-militarizing-police)
- Watch and promote the new Brave New Films video: [youtube.com/watch?v=kStDAPwCBa0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=kStDAPwCBa0)
- Organize a campaign in your city, county, state or university to De-Militarize Your Police.

---

*Helen Jaccard (California) WILPF advocate for cleanup of abandoned uranium mines and a member of Veterans for Peace Environmental Cost of War and Militarism Working Group and Nuclear Abolition Working Group.*