

2 December 2009

## **Chem-Bio News**

### **1. NEW CLAIMS AGAINST LOCKERBIE BOMBER, ABDELBASET ALI AL-MEGRAHI:**

*"The man convicted of the Lockerbie bombing was implicated in the purchase and development of chemical weapons by Libya, according to documents produced by the US government."*

**2. IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL AMANO ASSUMES OFFICE:** *"Today in Vienna, Yukiya Amano entered the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters on his first day as Director General. Mr. Amano is the "Atoms for Peace" Agency's fifth top official since the Organization's founding in 1957."*

**3. OFFICIALS DISMISS CLAIMS BHOPAL SITE IS LEAKING TOXINS:** *"Indian officials have dismissed claims that the former Union Carbide pesticide plant at Bhopal is still leaking dangerous toxins into drinking water. The chief minister of Madhya Pradesh state was speaking 25 years after the world's worst industrial disaster."*

**4. INDIA TIGHTENS SECURITY AT NUCLEAR FACILITIES:** *"India has tightened security at its nuclear facilities, assigning a rapid response military team to complement civil protection measures after intelligence warnings the sites were a prime target for militants."*

# **CB Daily Report**

## **Chem-Bio News**

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### **NEW CLAIMS AGAINST LOCKERBIE BOMBER, ABDELBASET ALI AL-MEGRAHI**

By Mark MacAskill

The Australian

November 30, 2009

*"The man convicted of the Lockerbie bombing was implicated in the purchase and development of chemical weapons by Libya, according to documents produced by the US government."*

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*"The documents, prepared by the State Department, raise further questions about the wisdom of the Scottish government in releasing Megrahi on compassionate grounds in August.*

*The documents, written in 1992, were based on information gathered by the Central Intelligence Agency to bolster the case against Libya for the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103, which killed 270 people.*

They claim Megrahi's "deep involvement in Libya's most sensitive, high-priority procurement operations indicates he enjoyed the fullest confidence of Libya's leadership".

In 1987, Megrahi was appointed director of Libya's Centre for Strategic Studies, a unit that served the military procurement department. The documents allege: "An al-Megrahi subordinate operating in Germany in 1988 played an important role in acquiring and shipping chemical weapons precursors to Libya. Al-Megrahi is also linked to a senior manager of Libya's chemical weapons development program."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/world/new-claims-against-lockerbie-bomber-abdelbaset-ali-al-megrahi/story-e6frg6so-1225805121751>

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## **IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL AMANO ASSUMES OFFICE**

International Atomic Energy Agency News Release

December 01, 2009

"Today in Vienna, Yukiya Amano entered the International Atomic Energy Agency's headquarters on his first day as Director General. Mr. Amano is the "Atoms for Peace" Agency's fifth top official since the Organization's founding in 1957. A career diplomat and lawyer, he has worked extensively on IAEA-related, disarmament, non-proliferation and nuclear energy issues for over thirty years. He is committed to nuclear disarmament and extending the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology, applications, science and energy to a global population."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/News/2009/amanofirstday.html>

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## **OFFICIALS DISMISS CLAIMS BHOPAL SITE IS LEAKING TOXINS**

By Allan Little

BBC

December 01, 2009

"Indian officials have dismissed claims that the former Union Carbide pesticide plant at Bhopal is still leaking dangerous toxins into drinking water.

The chief minister of Madhya Pradesh state was speaking 25 years after the world's worst industrial disaster.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan told the BBC the plant was safe, contradicting claims in a new report.

Thousands died after 40 tons of deadly methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the US-owned plant on 3 December 1984.

Half a million people were exposed to the gas. Many have suffered life-long chronic illness as a result."

.....

"However, a report published by the British-based charity the Bhopal Medical Appeal (BMA) and the Sambhavna Clinic in Bhopal says there is evidence that "there are still high levels of toxic chemicals in the drinking water supply in 15 communities near the old Union Carbide pesticide plant".

The report says the water "in and around the Union Carbide factory site in Bhopal still contains extremely unsafe levels of carbon tetrachloride and other persistent organic pollutants, solvents, nickel and other heavy metals".

"Not surprisingly," the report claims, "the populations in the areas surveyed have high rates of birth defects, rapidly rising cancer rates, neurological damage, chaotic menstrual cycles and mental illness."

Mr Chouhan insisted that clean water was supplied by tanker to those communities without piped water.

But many residents said that supplies were infrequent and insufficient, forcing them to continue relying on contaminated ground water."

The full article can be found at: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/8388355.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8388355.stm)

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## **INDIA TIGHTENS SECURITY AT NUCLEAR FACILITIES**

By Bappa Majumdar

Reuters

December 01, 2009

"India has tightened security at its nuclear facilities, assigning a rapid response military team to complement civil protection measures after intelligence warnings the sites were a prime target for militants.

There are 22 nuclear reactors across the country, some of them close to crowded cities such as Mumbai, and guarding them is seen as a security challenge for a country of 1.1 billion people. Army officials told Reuters that this was the first time the country was strengthening coordination between its civilian forces and military to secure nuclear facilities.

"The security arrangement in place at all vital installations is unprecedented to tackle all kinds of threats," an army officer said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of

the issue.”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/DEL406514.htm>

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**Steve Tesko:** [Steve.Tesko@anser.org](mailto:Steve.Tesko@anser.org)

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