

Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Association



31 August 2013

Dear Barak Obama:

I am heartened that you have concluded that something must be done involving a nation that uses chemical weapons “against its own people,” even though I would use the phrase “against any people.” I want you to know that I can totally empathize with what you are wrestling with in terms of what the appropriate action needs to be. You have an advantage over me, in that you can actually make things happen.

For the past six years, I have been attempting to settle this same issue with the country that is guilty of using chemical weapons on its own people, in addition to other people, in history’s most horrific use of chemical warfare. My issue is limited to one single group of victims that are being ignored while assistance in some degree is being given to all the other victims.

The men who served offshore during the American War in Vietnam are suffering and dying due to their exposure to dioxin that was used to lay waste to the country of Vietnam. There are actually tens of thousands of Americans who are dead because of this chemical, a far greater atrocity than what has happened in Syria by at least several factors of ten. These are dead and dying Americans I am talking about.

Since this sin against humanity occurred several decades ago, and since this government has chosen to ignore and disgrace its own military victims, I’m afraid that your perception of ‘American credibility’ flies in the face of reality. You and your advisors are being grossly hypocritical on this issue of “saving face.” You are, however, in keeping with your statement that death by chemical warfare is not a time-sensitive issue.

But I would like to suggest that, since your mind is back on this topic of chemical warfare victims, you do something much more immediate about the Blue Water Navy victims of the Vietnam War who are being denied their basic VA medical and compensation benefits. This government has sat back and done nothing as the American dead has continued to pile up.

If you want to address the issue of saving ‘American credibility’ and coming to the rescue of chemical warfare victims, please implement by executive order the contents of HR-543, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act.

Most sincerely,

John Paul Rossie, Executive Director
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