

The Cluster Munition Coalition is led by a Governance Board of:
Article 36, Asociación para Políticas Públicas, Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines,
Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, DanChurchAid, Handicap International,
Human Rights Watch, ICBL Georgian Committee, IPPNW, Mines Action Canada,
Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal, Norwegian People's Aid, and Protection.



9 March 2017

H.E. Aloysio Nunes Ferreira
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Palácio do Itamaraty
Brasilia
BRAZIL

Your excellency,

I am writing on behalf of the Cluster Munition Coalition, a group of non-governmental organizations in 100 countries working to end the suffering caused by cluster munitions. The CMC is concerned about evidence demonstrating that civilians in Yemen are being harmed by Brazilian-made cluster munition rockets used by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition of nations that has conducted a military operation in the country since March 2015. We urge the government of Brazil to condemn this use of cluster munitions in violation of international humanitarian law and immediately cease all production and transfer of cluster munitions. We call on Brazil to accede to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions without delay.

According to a new [report](#) by Amnesty International, the Saudi-led coalition fired ASTROS cluster munition rockets on 15 February into residential areas of the northern [Yemeni](#) city of Saada injuring two civilians and damaging homes as well as cemeteries and farms. It also reported another ASTROS cluster munition rocket attack in late January in Abdeen, five kilometers south of Saada City.

This is unfortunately not the first time that Yemeni civilians have been harmed by Brazilian-made cluster munitions. According to a Human Rights Watch [investigation](#), two civilians were killed and at least six wounded when ASTROS cluster munition rockets struck near two schools in Saada City on 6 December 2016. Amnesty International [researchers found](#) remnants of ASTROS cluster munition rockets after a 27 October 2015 attack on Ahma in Saada governorate that wounded at least four people.

Manufactured by Avibrás Indústria Aeroespacial SA, ASTROS II surface-to-surface rockets each contain up to 65 submunitions and are delivered by a truck-mounted multi-barrel rocket launcher. Bahrain and Saudi Arabia have purchased ASTROS cluster munition rockets from Brazil.

Given the indiscriminate nature of cluster munitions both at the time of attack and for many years after its use, a total of 119 countries have prohibited these weapons through the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which also requires clearance of cluster munition remnants and assistance to victims of these weapons.

Yet Brazil has remained silent in condemning cluster munition use in Yemen. In 2015 and again in December 2016, Brazil abstained from the vote on a United Nations General Assembly resolution supporting the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which some 140 countries voted for, including several non-signatories. Brazil must take action to renounce cluster munitions or face international condemnation and other repercussions.

We look forward to your prompt action on this serious issue and are available to discuss it with representatives of the Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Megan Burke', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Megan Burke
Director, Cluster Munition Coalition

Cc: H.E. Ms. Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, Geneva