

**The Cluster Munition Coalition is led by a Governance Board of:**

Action On Armed Violence, Asociación para Políticas Públicas-APP, Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, DanChurchAid, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, ICBL Georgian Committee, IPPNW, Mines Action Canada, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, Norwegian People's Aid, Protection



**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **Treaty banning cluster bombs marks four-year anniversary**

(August 1, 2014) On the fourth anniversary of it first becoming binding international law, campaigners will today urge every country in the world to join the international treaty banning cluster bombs.

The call comes just days after the second anniversary of the start of ongoing [use of cluster munitions against civilians in Syria](#), in July 2012.

*“Over the past two years ongoing use of cluster bombs has caused death and devastation in Syria, and these indiscriminate weapons will continue to kill and maim civilians long after the conflict has ended. The time is now for all states to speak out against use of these deadly and banned weapons and to prioritize the protection of civilians by joining the global ban,”* said Sarah Blakemore, Cluster Munition Coalition Director.

The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on 1 August 2010, and bans all use of cluster munitions as well as requiring clearance of cluster munition remnants, destruction of stockpiles, and the provision of assistance for victims.

As a result of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, stockpiles of the weapon are being destroyed in record numbers, hundreds of km<sup>2</sup> of land have been cleared and States Party to the convention are legally obliged to provide victims of cluster munitions with adequate assistance. The majority of countries with recorded victims of cluster munitions have now joined the convention.

More than half the world's nations, a total of 113 countries, have now signed or acceded to the convention and most of the remaining 29 signatories are in the process of ratifying. This has created a powerful global stigma against the use of the weapon. When cluster munitions have been used, states have faced widespread international condemnation whether or not they are part of the convention, with more than 150 states speaking out against use of the weapon in Syria.

**ENDS**

#### **Notes to the Editor**

##### **Syria cluster bomb use media kit including infographics**

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/cluster-bombs/use-of-cluster-bombs/cluster-munition-use-in-syria/media-kit.aspx>

##### **113 Countries have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/the-treaty/treaty-status.aspx>

##### **84 Countries have yet to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/the-treaty/treaty-status.aspx>

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**About cluster bombs:**

A cluster munition (or cluster bomb) is a weapon containing multiple often hundreds of small explosive submunitions or bomblets. Cluster munitions are dropped from the air or fired from the ground and designed to break open in midair, releasing the submunitions over an area that can be the size of several football fields. This means they cannot discriminate between civilians and soldiers. Many of the submunitions fail to explode on impact and remain a threat to lives and livelihoods for decades after a conflict.

**About the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC):**

The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) is an international coalition of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working in around 100 countries to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties from these weapons and put an end for all time to the suffering they cause. The CMC works to change the policy and practice of governments and organisations towards these aims and raise awareness of the problem amongst the public.

**For more information contact:**

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**Media Resources**

- CMC Homepage - <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/>
- CMC YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/user/CMCInternational>
- CMC on Flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/clustermunitioncoalition/collections>
- CMC Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/banclusterbombs?ref=hl>
- CMC Twitter - <https://twitter.com/banclusterbombs>
- Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor - For more facts on landmine and cluster munitions issues globally, and to view detailed country profiles, visit <http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php>
- Convention on Cluster Munitions - <http://www.clusterconvention.org/>