

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, Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (NCBL),
Norwegian People's Aid, Protection.



H.E. Field Marshal Omar Hassan Ahmad AL-BASHIR
President
Office of the President
People's Palace
Khartoum
Republic of Sudan

Geneva, 17 April 2015

Re: Evidence of cluster munitions in South Kordofan

Excellency,

The Cluster Munition Coalition, a global civil society campaign working to eradicate cluster munitions, is deeply concerned about evidence that the air force of Sudan has used cluster munitions in the Nuba mountains (South Kordofan) in February and March of this year. We call on Sudan to stop using this weapon immediately.

Cluster munitions are indiscriminate at the time of attack and they leave behind highly explosive duds that are equally indiscriminate. Most casualties from cluster remnants are civilians and many of these are children. The weapon is banned under International Humanitarian Law and should not be used under any circumstances.

According to an investigation by Human Rights Watch¹, government aircraft dropped two bombs in Tongoli village (Delami county) on 6 March, and four others on Rajeeffi village (Um Durein county) in late February. The attacks destroyed homes and other civilian property. The cluster bombs found appear to be Soviet-made RBK-500 cluster bombs, containing AO-2.5 RT fragmentation submunitions, the same kind found in the region in 2012.

In addition to ceasing all use, Sudan should investigate reports of use and make findings public. For the safety of your own people, please ensure the clearance of cluster munition remnants in affected areas, destroy your stockpiles of the weapon, and provide support to any victims.

On many occasions since the Convention was adopted in 2008, Sudan has indicated its intention to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We encourage Sudan to join the Convention and to respect the ban on cluster munitions, as an important step to minimize the suffering caused by the ongoing conflict.

¹ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/15/sudan-cluster-bombs-used-nuba-mountains>

We would like to meet to discuss this issue with your Ambassador and representatives in Geneva at the earliest opportunity. To this end we will contact the Permanent Mission in the coming days.

We thank you in advance for the action you will take on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Megan Burke
Director

cc. Her Excellency Ms. Rahma Salih Elobied, Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sudan to the United Nations in Geneva