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, Pax (formerly IKV Pax Christi) and Protection.

Cluster Munition Coalition Memo
Use of cluster munitions by Syria
May 2014
http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/syria

1. Situation Update

Syrian government use of cluster munitions has been widespread and is ongoing. According to CMC member Human Rights Watch, Syrian government forces are using new and more powerful cluster munitions not seen before in the conflict. Human Rights Watch has identified at least 224 locations in 10 of Syria's 14 governorates where cluster munitions have been used between July 2012 and March 2014. At least six types of cluster munitions and seven types of explosive submunitions have been used in the conflict to date. This data is incomplete as not all remnants have been recorded by video or other means, so the actual number of cluster munitions used in Syria is likely much higher.

The use and indiscriminate effects of this weapon have led to mounting casualties, including women and children. There is a growing concern for the potential scale of post-conflict casualties as this notoriously unreliable weapon leaves a trail of unexploded submunitions.

2. Time for action

Cluster Munition Coalition calls to action on Syria:

• The Syrian government forces should stop any further use of cluster munitions, an internationally banned weapon.
• Cluster munition stockpiles should be declared and destroyed in addition to chemical weapons.
• Cluster munition remnants must be cleared and destroyed as soon as it is safe to do so and international support given to enable clearance efforts.
• Through mine risk education, clear warnings must be given to communities about the terrible danger unexploded bomblets pose.
• The victims of cluster munitions and other explosive weapons must be supported, and needs addressed of civilian refugees displaced by use of these weapons.
• Governments worldwide should continue to condemn use of cluster munitions in Syria and call for Syria and all states to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

3. A legal obligation to speak out

The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of the weapon and places obligations on countries to clear contaminated areas, destroy stockpiles, and assist victims. A total of 113 states have joined the Convention which is establishing a global norm against these deadly weapons.

• States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions have a legal obligation under Article 21.2 to ‘discourage States not party to this Convention from using cluster munitions’. Signatories, having committed to respect the principles of the Convention when signing, also have a duty to actively discourage use. Non-signatory states should also speak out against use of this weapon as a sign of their support for the emerging norm against use.
• Since 2012, and during subsequent use of cluster munitions in Syria, the treaty leadership of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and states worldwide have spoken out against use of this banned weapon. "The horrible situation necessitates that States Parties and others continue to communicate clearly to those responsible in
Syria that attacks on civilians in general and the use of cluster munitions in particular must stop”

- To date, a total of 151 countries have condemned use of cluster munitions in the context of ongoing use in Syria, most through two UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions.

Links to all statements and declarations condemning the use of cluster munitions in Syria can be found here: [http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/syria](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/syria)

At least 29 states have made national statements expressing concern, including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Lao PDR, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The following 134 states have condemned use of cluster munitions, naming Syria directly, in the context of the UNGA Resolution /67/262, EU statements at UN First Committee and 4MSP (requiring endorsement of all EU states and others that aligned themselves with the statement), UNGA Resolution /68/182 and/or the “London 11” Friends of Syria Core Group of countries communiqué: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Korea Republic of Kuwait, Lao PDR, Latvia, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia FYR, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, São Tomé and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vanuatu, and Yemen.

Representatives from 36 African countries have signed the Lomé Strategy, which expresses grave concern at the recent and on-going use of cluster munitions as well as by the effects of these weapons that have led to mounting numbers of victims including women and children. Of these 36 countries, the following 15 have not condemned Syria in other fora: Angola, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Lebanon and Lesotho have also issued statements which include condemnation of the use of cluster munitions, but have not condemned the use in other fora.

4. Universalising the Convention on Cluster Munitions

Ensuring more countries join the Convention on Cluster Munitions is an important means of strengthening the global stigma against the weapon and to prevent future atrocities.

- States not party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions should ratify or accede without delay.

- Under Article 21 of the CCM, States Parties have a legally binding obligation to “encourage States not party to this convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to this convention, with the goal of attracting the adherence of all States to this convention.”

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2 [http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/Syria_BriefingNoteCM_4Apr2014_1.pdf](http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/Syria_BriefingNoteCM_4Apr2014_1.pdf)