

“Brazil is one of the only Latin American countries not to have banned cluster bombs and the only remaining producer in the region. Worse still, the cluster bombs produced and stockpiled in my country will kill and harm innocent civilians if they are used. Brazil must join the majority of countries in the world by banning cluster bombs and signing the treaty”

Cristian Wittmann, Campaigner in Brazil

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva
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Dear President,

I am writing to urge Brazil to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

This international treaty comprehensively prohibits cluster munitions, requires destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years and clearance of contaminated land within 10 years, and recognises the rights of individuals and communities affected by the weapon to receive assistance. Since December 2008, a total of 96 governments have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions including stockpilers, former users and producers of the weapon as well as affected countries from every region of the world including Latin America.

The stigma established by the global ban means any future use of cluster munitions by Brazil would result in a public and political backlash. With the market drying up, any future production and export of cluster munitions by Brazil would not only be immoral, but commercially unviable.

Political leaders in Brazil have made statements in support of the cluster munition ban, but the government remains outside the Convention on Cluster Munitions as it is seeking an agreement that would include major users and producers of cluster munitions. Yet several former cluster munition users and producers are part of the Convention.

I urge Brazil to sign this important humanitarian treaty without delay and reaffirm its commitment to the promotion of peace and international humanitarian law. The Convention on Cluster Munitions is open for signature at the United Nations in New York.

Yours sincerely,

C.c.

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