

“30 years after the war, these bombs still kill and maim. They took my eyes and my arms, and they continue to destroy the lives of so many other farmers just like me. I cannot see anymore, but I still have a voice and I want to say: Look at me and stop destroying lives. It’s time to sign the treaty!”

Yoeun Sam En, Cambodian cluster bomb survivor and member of the Ban Advocates group of survivor advocates

H.E Samdech Techo Hun Sen,
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Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to urge the Royal Government of Cambodia to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Cambodia was one of the first countries in Southeast Asia to support the call for a prohibition on cluster munitions and a driving force in the negotiations of the Convention, actively supporting a strong and comprehensive prohibition. As a country affected by cluster munitions, Cambodia should benefit from the Convention’s provisions on international cooperation and assistance. The stigma established by the global ban means any future use of cluster munitions by any country would result in a public and political backlash.

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.

As a country that strives for peace in the region, I urge Cambodia to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the United Nations in New York where it is now open for signature.

Every country wishing to prevent further suffering from the horrors of cluster munitions should join the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This instrument is crucial to ensure the stigmatisation of cluster munitions to make sure this weapon is never used again.

Yours sincerely,

C.c

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