

ADVOCACY LETTER TEMPLATE:
STATES THAT DID NOT ADOPT THE CCM

GOVERNMENT'S ADDRESS

DATE

Dear Minister NAME,

I am writing to urge you to join the new Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) when it opens for signature in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008.

Last May, when the 107 states gathered at the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions unanimously adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions, they took a bold and visionary step towards enhancing the protection of civilians in armed conflict. The CCM prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and sets groundbreaking humanitarian obligations for victim assistance, clearance of contaminated land and destruction of stockpiles. Because of its wide-ranging practical implications, this new piece of international law will have a profound and positive effect on the lives of countless individuals and communities and prevent further lives from being shattered in the future. Simply put, this is the most significant humanitarian and disarmament treaty this decade.

There has been a remarkable level of support for the ban on cluster munitions across all faith traditions. Multi-religious support for a ban on cluster munitions was demonstrated through a letter signed by 160 senior faith leaders representing the world's religions. This followed statements from other major religious organizations, such as the World Council of Churches and Pope Benedict XVI. By joining with those individuals that recognize the need to end the cruelty caused by cluster munitions, and by participating in the Oslo Process, GOVERNMENT has the chance to demonstrate a firm commitment to humanity.

I strongly urge GOVERNMENT to make this commitment and add your signature to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December 2008 and urge other states to do the same. You have a rare opportunity to eliminate a truly inhumane instrument of war and move fellow nations forward along a path towards peace.

Signed,

Name

Religious Affiliation

Title, Organization/Business

Street Address

City/State

Postal Code

Country

