

The Cluster Munition Coalition is led by a Steering Committee of:
Human Rights Watch, Landmine Action and Norwegian People's Aid (Co-Chairs)
DanChurchAid, Handicap International, International Campaign to Ban Landmines,
IPPNW Russia-Zambia, Landmine Resource Centre (Lebanon),
Mines Action Canada, Pax Christi, Protection (Egypt), Survivor Corps.



His Majesty King Abdullah the Second of Jordan
The Royal Court
Amman
Jordan

London, 16 December 2009

Your Majesty,

On behalf of the Cluster Munition Coalition, we wish to congratulate Jordan for its continued leadership on the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and its powerful commitment to human security. Following on from Jordan's key role within the Mine Ban Treaty, we would like to raise the issue of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which shares the same humanitarian vision and purpose and was brought about through the so-called Oslo Process. As Your Majesty may know, Jordan was among the first visionary nations that adopted the Oslo Declaration in February 2007, launching the process that led to the ban on cluster munitions.

Like the Mine Ban Treaty, the Convention on Cluster Munitions comprehensively prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of an entire category of indiscriminate weapons. The Convention's provisions on assistance to affected communities and individuals, both in terms of land clearance and ensuring the rights of survivors and victims, build on the successful experience of the Mine Ban Treaty. The Convention is the newest and most important piece of international humanitarian and disarmament law to be adopted since the Mine Ban Treaty.

As well as being a legally binding instrument on its future States Parties, the Convention has quickly become a new benchmark in the conduct of armed conflict. As of today a total of 104 countries have signed the Convention, including around half of countries in the world to have stockpiled, produced and used cluster munitions. The world's third largest user in the past decade, the United Kingdom, has signed, as well as key regional players such as Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, and South Africa. The signatory states in Jordan's wider region include Afghanistan, Iraq and Lebanon, which are all seriously affected by cluster munitions, as well as Tunisia.

Impressive progress has been made since the Convention was opened for signature in December 2008 in Oslo. Twenty-four countries have already ratified the Convention. Only six more ratifications are required to trigger entry into force of the Convention six months later. The most affected country in the world, Lao PDR, will host the first Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in late 2010. Jordan's adherence to the Convention on Cluster Munitions would be one more example of its commitment to peace, security, disarmament and humanitarian affairs. Our hope is that Jordan will join the Convention prior to the historic First Meeting of States Parties. We would be honoured to receive an audience with Your Majesty to discuss this further in person.

Respectfully yours,

Handwritten signature of Steve Goose in black ink.

Steve Goose
Human Rights Watch
Co-Chair, CMC

Handwritten signature of Richard Moyes in black ink.

Richard Moyes
Landmine Action
Co-Chair, CMC

Handwritten signature of Grethe Østern in black ink.

Grethe Østern
Norwegian People's Aid
Co-Chair, CMC

Handwritten signature of Thomas Nash in blue ink.

Thomas Nash
Coordinator, CMC

Cc: H.R.H. Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Husseini
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