

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.



H.E. Emomali Rahmon  
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Dear President Rahmon,

I am writing on behalf of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) to urge the Government of Tajikistan to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. This is a significant year for this important humanitarian agreement as it marks two important milestones. The Convention will enter into force on 1 August and the Lao PDR will host the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) from 8-12 November. In the 100 days counting down to entry into force, the CMC is encouraging states that have not yet joined the Convention to do so as soon as possible. There is no better time to join the Convention than this year.

Cluster munitions kill and injure innocent civilians during conflict and long after a conflict has ended. The 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. It also obliges States Parties to support affected states in fulfilling their obligations. Since December 2008, a total of 106 governments have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions including stockpilers, former users and producers of the weapon as well as the majority of affected countries.

Tajikistan was one of the first countries in Central Asia to support the call for a prohibition on cluster munitions. It participated in the Oslo Process and endorsed the Oslo Declaration and the Wellington Declaration – important indications of support for a prohibition on cluster munitions. However, so far Tajikistan has not yet signed the Convention nor given a reason for this delay. As a country that has experienced first hand the devastating effects of cluster munitions, we urge Tajikistan to show solidarity with other affected states, including the Lao PDR, and join this crucial humanitarian agreement to prevent future injuries and deaths from these weapons.

Every country wishing to prevent further suffering from the horrors of cluster munitions should join the Convention on Cluster Munitions and help stigmatise these weapons from being used again. We urge all countries to join as soon as possible and to participate in the upcoming First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) that will be hosted in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 8-12 November 2010. We hope to see you in Vientiane.

Thomas Nash  
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C.c.:

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