



Lynn Bradach, Ban Advocate, USA, on the Film “From Victims to Champions”

Santiago Conference on Cluster Munitions, 7 June 2010

You are about to see a film about an amazing group of people. A group of people who know what the pain of war and the horror of cluster munitions really mean because they have experience them first hand.

We call ourselves the Ban Advocates. My name is Lynn Bradach and I am a member of this group. Membership is painful, because to be a member you must suffer true loss, loss of a limb, your sight or a loved one. In my case it was the loss of my son Marine Corporal Travis Bradach-Nall who was killed while clearing US cluster munitions in Karbala Iraq.

Membership also brings strength, because in order to be a member you agree that it is important to go beyond your pain and to strive to make a difference by using your voice and your experience to demand that countries stop using this inhumane weapon.

It is the membership in this group that has help to save me from being a lost and broken person and I can say that I truly love each and every member. It is with their love and encouragement that I have found my voice. I am now able to speak out, to ask the US along with other countries to show their love of humanity and to fully commit to the Cluster Munitions Convention.

Fellow members that are here with me today are Soraj Ghulam Habib (Afghanistan), Branislav Kapetanovic (Serbia), Thounmy Silamphan and Bounmy Vijak (Lao PDR), Aynalem Zenebe (Ethiopia) and Mina Zunac (Croatia). I hope you will watch our story and understand the importance of our cause.