

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



Mr. Ali Ahmed Karti
Minister of Foreign Affairs
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SUDAN

Email: info@sudmer.com

Dear Minister Karti,

I am writing to urge Sudan to sign the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM). This is a significant year that marks two key milestones for this important humanitarian treaty. The Convention will enter into force on 1 August and Lao PDR will host the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) on 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. Given these two important events taking place, there will be 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 all countries 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, including Iraq and Lebanon.

Sudan is a state party to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. A natural next step would be for Sudan to join the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, which shares the same humanitarian vision and purpose as the Mine Ban Treaty. Sudan has participated in the Oslo Process and is already taking steps to implement the CCM through clearance of explosive remnants of war which includes cluster munitions.

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 this coming November. We hope to see you in Vientiane.

Respectfully yours,

Thomas Nash
Coordinator
Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

C.c.

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