

## **PETITION AGAINST THE USE OF CLUSTER MUNITION IN SRI LANKA**

Thousands of Civilians in the Northern region of Sri Lanka are suffering from so called **CLUSTER MUNITIONS** used by the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL). This has been confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Mostly women, children and elderly persons are directly affected by this sort of inhuman munitions.

The usage of these munitions is an attack against humanity! And these bombs are in direct conflict with the **Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)**. This international treaty prohibits the use of cluster bombs, a type of weapon which scatters sub munitions over a large area and thus also implies serious physical injuries to civilians.

The Convention on Cluster Munitions, CCM, was adopted in Dublin by 107 states on 30 May 2008. 94 states signed the Convention during the Signing Conference in Oslo on 3 – 4 December. Four of these ratified the Convention at the same time. The Convention is now open for all states to sign at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

The Convention prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of Cluster Munitions. Separate articles in the Convention concern assistance to victims, clearance of contaminated areas and destruction of stockpiles.

The Convention is a result of Oslo-process, an open and time bound diplomatic process that included States, Civil Society, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations. The process was launched when 46 states agreed to the February 2007 Oslo Declaration, committing them to:

*«Conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that prohibits the use and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians and secure adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and clearance of contaminated areas».*

More information can be found online by following this internet link:  
<http://www.clusterconvention.org/>

- Do you also agree that the use of these Cluster Munitions do not apply to international law?
- Do you also agree that these bombs are an attack against humanity and civilisation?
- Do you also agree that thousands of civilians, amongst them women and children, are suffering in the crisis regions of Sri Lanka from these weapons?

Yes? So we kindly ask you to raise your voice and your hands against Cluster Munitions and please sign the attached Petition against the use of Cluster Munitions.

**It's time to react! Civilians are dying in Sri Lanka!**

Commissioner Navanethem Pillay  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Palais Wilson  
52 rue des Pâquis  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

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Dear Commissioner Navanethem Pillay,

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*«Conclude by 2008 a legally binding international instrument that prohibits the use and stockpiling of cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians and secure adequate provision of care and rehabilitation to survivors and clearance of contaminated areas».*

We kindly ask you to listen to our voices, to read our claims and to lift your hands together with us. Let's open our eyes where others close them. Let's claim against inhumanity where others just ignore it. We kindly ask you to pass over our petition to the Government of Sri Lanka and the United Nations. Let us force the Government of Sri Lanka to stop the use of cluster bombs against civilians and civilian territories. Let the world hear our voices and let it see our hands. With your kind help the remaining little drop of hope will flow into a river of confidence. Otherwise our little drop will drain away into a soil flooded by blood, infamy and futurelessness.

**It's time to react! Civilians are dying in Sri Lanka! Sri Lanka needs Peace! Now!**

Yours sincerely,

*The Undersigned*

