

**Quotes from Humanitarian Disarmament Experts on Cluster Bombs Attacks in Syria**

[Sarah Blakemore, Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Director](#Sarah)

[Amy Little, Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Manager](#Amy)

[Steve Goose, Director of Human Rights Watch's Arms Division and chair of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Governance Board](#Steve)

[Mary Wareham, Arms Division advocacy director at Human Rights Watch and Editor of Cluster Munition Monitor](#Mary)

[Ole Solvang, a Human Rights Watch emergencies researcher](#Ole)

**Sarah Blakemore, Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Director**

"The Cluster Munition Coalition condemns in the strongest possible terms the ongoing and widespread use of these indiscriminate weapons against civilian populations in the Syrian conflict, including women and children. Governments worldwide must continue to speak out to stop this humanitarian disaster."

*(Source:* [*Cluster Munition Coalition*](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/media/news/2014/new-and-more-powerful-cluster-munitions-used.aspx)*)*

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"Cluster munitions used by the Syrian regime have already caused numerous civilian casualties as they have done in every other conflict in which they have been used.”  
  
*(Source:* [*Cluster Munition Coalition*](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/media/news/2013/say-no-to-possible-us-use-of-cluster-munition.aspx)*)*

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"Not only are these cluster bomb attacks killing civilians, including Syrian children, right now, the unreliability of this weapon means that years, even decades after the conflict in Syria has ended, unexploded submunitions will put lives and livelihoods under threat. This leaves a deadly legacy as we have seen in Lebanon, Laos, Serbia, Iraq and other countries."

*(Source:* [*Cluster Munition Coalition*](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/media/news/2013/cluster-bomb-casualties-continue-to-rise-as-w.aspx)*)*

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"The continued use of cluster munitions by the Government of Syria against civilians is cause for international outrage. Governments worldwide need to continue to speak out against this outrage, to protect Syrian children, women and men from further harm."

*(Source:* [*Cluster Munition Coalition*](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/media/news/2013/cluster-munition-coalition-calls-on-syrian-go.aspx)*)*

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“The indiscriminate nature of this weapon is exactly why it is banned by the majority of the world. The use of cluster munitions is never acceptable, and their use in populated areas is even more outrageous given the clear risk to civilians. This tragedy further underlines the need for all production, trade and use of cluster bombs to end now."

*(Source:* [*Cluster Munition Coalition*](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/media/news/2012/further-outrage-as-children-are-latest-victim.aspx)*)*

**Amy Little, Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Manager**

“The Assad regime has used cluster bombs in numerous locations, including in populated areas, risking the lives of far too many civilians. This absolutely has to stop. We urge the many states that have already banned these indiscriminate weapons to publicly condemn Syria’s actions and to call for a complete halt in cluster bomb use. We encourage other countries to also make this demand in recognition of the danger these weapons pose to civilians."

“As we have seen in Lao PDR, Lebanon, Iraq, Serbia and elsewhere, cluster munitions have a devastating impact, both at the time of use and for years after a conflict ends, and they will only prolong civilian suffering in Syria. It is for this reason cluster bombs have been recognised as unacceptable – under all circumstances – and banned by the vast majority of the world. The footage of people – even children – handling unexploded submunitions in Syria is of massive concern. Not only must all use of cluster munitions in Syria stop, but these unexploded submunitions need to be cleared and destroyed immediately, and clear warnings given out about the terrible danger they pose.”

*(Source:* [*Cluster Munition Coalition*](http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/en-gb/media/news/2012/syria-use-of-cluster-bombs-confirmed-states.aspx)*)*

**Steve Goose, Director of Human Rights Watch's Arms Division and Chair of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Governance Board**

“It is appalling that Syrian government forces are still using banned cluster munitions on their people. Cluster bombs are killing Syrian civilians now and threatening Syrians for generations to come.”   
  
*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/02/18/syria-new-deadly-cluster-munition-attacks)*)*

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“Syria is on the wrong side of history as it uses cluster bombs against its own people…. Every country that cares about protecting civilians should join this treaty without delay.”   
  
*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/13/cluster-munitions-nations-condemn-syrian-use)*)*

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“All countries that care about protecting civilians from the harmful effects of cluster munitions and other explosive weapons should speak out and demand an end to the air campaign.”

*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/10/23/syria-despite-denials-more-cluster-bomb-attacks)*)*

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“The cluster munition strikes and unexploded ordnance they leave behind pose a huge danger to civilian populations, who often seem unaware how easily these submunitions could still explode. There is an urgent need for the government to facilitate risk education and emergency clearance efforts.”

(Source: [Human Rights Watch](http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/10/14/syria-new-evidence-military-dropped-cluster-bombs))

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“This is a weapon that has been shown over and over again to show unacceptable harm to civilian populations, immediately when attacked and for long afterwards. Any use of this weapon should be considered beyond the pale. Any use of this weapon should be considered like you would think of use of chemical weapons or biological weapons – it just should not be done at any point in time. It’s a banned weapon.”

(Source: [Human Rights Watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ruMWy7MRquc&feature=youtu.be))

**Mary Wareham, Arms Division Advocacy Director at Human Rights Watch and Editor of Cluster Munition Monitor**

“Syria is persisting in using cluster bombs, insidious weapons that remain on the ground, causing death and destruction for decades. Meanwhile, other countries around the world that have joined the treaty are showing a strong commitment to get rid of cluster bombs once and for all.”  
  
*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/04/cluster-munitions-syria-use-persists)*)*

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“Nations that have yet to join the convention should recognize its crucial role as the only effective way to rid the world of the curse of cluster munitions. It’s not enough to feel bad about civilian casualties caused by cluster munitions. To prevent future use of cluster munitions all nations need to join the convention without delay.”

*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/09/04/cluster-munitions-syria-use-persists)*)*

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“This attack shows how cluster munitions kill without discriminating between civilians and military personnel. Due to the devastating harm caused to civilians, cluster bombs should not be used by anyone, anywhere, at any time.”

*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/11/27/syria-evidence-shows-cluster-bombs-killed-children-0)*)*

**Ole Solvang, a Human Rights Watch emergencies researcher**

“In village after village, we found a civilian population terrified by their country’s own air force,” said Ole Solvang, a Human Rights Watch emergencies researcher who visited the sites and interviewed many of the victims and witnesses. “These illegal air strikes killed and injured many civilians and sowed a path of destruction, fear, and displacement.”  
  
*(Source:* [*Human Rights Watch*](http://www.hrw.org/news/2013/04/10/syria-aerial-attacks-strike-civilians)*)*

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