

# Cluster Munition Coalition Newsletter

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## International News

### CMC condemns use of cluster munitions by Russia and Georgia

On 14 August Human Rights Watch documented Russia's use of cluster munitions in a number of locations in Georgia including in Gori and Ruisi killing 11 civilians and injuring dozens. On 21 August HRW found evidence of cluster munition use in Shindisi and Pkhvenisi. Five civilians were injured by cluster bombs after the strike in Shindisi from handling 'duds'. Russia has continued to deny using cluster munitions with Colonel General Anatoly Nogo-vitsyn, deputy head of the Russian General Staff, stating on 15 August: "We did not use cluster bombs, and what's more, there was absolutely no necessity to do so". On 1 September 2008 the Georgian Defense Ministry stated in a letter to Human

Rights Watch that Georgia also used cluster bombs. The CMC condemned the use of cluster munitions by both Georgia and Russia and launched urgent international campaign actions aimed at the governments of both Russia and Georgia.



Foto: Mary Wareham

Campaigners in Austria, Canada, India, Mali, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Senegal, Sweden, USA, and elsewhere sent letters of

condemnation to the Russian and/or Georgian representations in their country as well as to Russian President Medvedev and/or Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili and many campaigners issued press releases. Protest actions outside Russian embassies took place in the UK, Norway, New Zealand and Ireland (see 'Campaign and Country Updates'). Check out <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=600> and <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=667>. Ireland and Norway have voiced grave concern about Russia's use of cluster munitions on Georgia. Norway has also issued a statement regarding Georgia's use of cluster bombs.

### Campaigners commemorate 2006 cluster bombing of Lebanon

13 August 2008 marked two years since the cluster bombing of southern Lebanon. The intensive use of cluster munitions by Israeli forces in Lebanon during the 2006 conflict has resulted in more than 300 casualties amongst civilians and clearance personnel. Many more people have been affected by the use of cluster bombs causing extensive damage to Lebanon's agriculture, infrastructure and

economy. Large numbers of the cluster munitions failed to explode and have contaminated large areas of agricultural land as well as populated areas leading to deaths and injuries after the conflict and hampering reconstruction and development efforts. Campaigners from New Zealand to Nepal held candle light vigils in solidarity with Lebanese campaigners who held candle light vigils

throughout Lebanon to remember the victims of the 2006 cluster bombing of Southern Lebanon. Campaigners used this day to call on their governments to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions to prevent future tragedies caused by cluster bombs (see 'Campaign and Country Updates'). Check out: <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/calendar/?id=494>

## International News

### Meeting of the CCW Group of Governmental Experts on Cluster Munitions, 1 – 5 September 2008

The CCW Group of Governmental Experts on cluster munitions held its fourth session of negotiations for 2008 from 1 – 5 September in Geneva. The CMC and its member organisations hosted a number of briefings at the Palais des Nations on the margins of the meeting, including a briefing on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, a briefing on recent field research on cluster munitions in Georgia and a

briefing on victim assistance in the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The outcome of the session was an extremely weak text whose provisions are optional and open to wide interpretation; that is replete with square brackets and that can in no way be seen as providing an adequate response to the humanitarian problems of cluster munitions. The session also exposed the gulf between

the US-backed Chairperson and his limited group of non-Oslo Process states on the one hand and the vast majority of CCM adopters on the other hand. For further information and daily updates from the meeting check out the CMC website:

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/calendar/?id=652>

### UN General Assembly and First Committee on Disarmament and International Security

During the opening general debate of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) from 23 September in New York, Foreign Ministers and some Heads of State will give high profile speeches outlining their foreign policy and their priorities in international affairs. It will be important that as many countries as possible use this opportunity to welcome the CCM and state their intention to sign it at the Oslo Signing Conference. The CMC is setting up meetings with the UN Missions for some key countries as well as

meetings with heads of UN agencies from 10-12 September prior to the UNGA opening. From 6 October – 4 November the First Committee of the UNGA on Disarmament and International Security will meet in New York. Ireland will introduce a resolution at the First Committee aimed at securing a mandate from the General Assembly for the Secretary General to undertake the tasks assigned to him by the CCM. Some CMC campaigners will be in New York for the First Committee and will be working with

Ireland and other core group countries to ensure countries are aware that the vote is taking place and encourage them to come and vote in favour. The Reaching Critical Will project will be covering any discussion on cluster munitions during the UNGA and First Committee as a specific topic in its widely read reporting of the sessions.

<http://www.un.org/ga/>  
<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com08.html>

### Regional Conferences on cluster munitions

Regional Conferences are taking place in Sofia, Bulgaria (18 – 19 September) for south eastern Europe, Kampala, Uganda (29 – 30 September) for Africa and Vientiane / Xieng Khouang, Laos (20 – 22 October) for ASEAN.

Campaign meetings will also be held in advance of these regional conferences. A national implementation workshop is being held in Lebanon on 10 – 12 November which will invite experts from the

region. For more information see the 'Upcoming Events' section and the CMC website:

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/calendar>

## News Highlights of the Month

Daily Star (Lebanon): *'Ceremonies remind Lebanese that Israel's cluster-bomb war has not yet ceased'*  
[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&categ\\_id=2&article\\_id=95077](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=2&article_id=95077)

Washington Times: *'Group says Russia used cluster bombs'*  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2008/aug/16/group-accuses-russia-of-using-cluster-bombs/>

New York Times: *'Despite yielding ground, Russia takes critical spots'*  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/21/world/europe/21georgia.html?\\_r=2&scp=1&sq=Despite%20Yielding%20Ground,%20Russia%20Takes%20Critical%20Spots%20&st=cse&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/21/world/europe/21georgia.html?_r=2&scp=1&sq=Despite%20Yielding%20Ground,%20Russia%20Takes%20Critical%20Spots%20&st=cse&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

Daily Star (Lebanon): *'UN mine-clearing agency to stop work in South as funds dry up'*  
[http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition\\_id=1&categ\\_id=2&article\\_id=95567](http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=2&article_id=95567)

## News Highlights of the Month *continued from page 2*

Reuters: *'Campaigners criticize Georgia over cluster bomb use'*  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Russia/idUSL356383020080903>

### Breaking wire stories Georgia:

Associated Press: *'Group: Georgia admits to dropping cluster bombs'*  
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALEqM5je4oTIIeSokD-zge0diVbbczCPIgD92TT2VG0>

Associated Press: *'Rights group accuses Russia of using cluster bombs'*  
<http://ap.google.com/article/ALEqM5iaHR8v4yMeLwq8hWuC1tk6urm8IQD92IKCNG0>

In addition to responding to the media on the Georgia/Russia conflict, the CMC media team have been working with a few media partners over the past month, including Colombian broadcaster Aire Sin Minas, Norway's biggest newspaper Dagbladet, UN publication The Interdependent and PBS, a US broadcaster making a documentary on women in war. The CMC have also facilitated press briefings on the CCW in Geneva, promoting the CCM and urgency to sign, especially in light of recent events.

*Natalie Curtis, Media and Communications Officer, Cluster Munition Coalition, [Natalie@stopclustermunitions.org](mailto:Natalie@stopclustermunitions.org)*

## Campaign and Country Updates

**Brazil.** For the second commemoration of the cluster bombing of Lebanon campaigners in Brazil published an opinion article in the premier newspaper in the capital with the title "Humanitarian crisis made in Brasil?" It highlights inconsistencies in Brazilian Foreign Policy, pointing out that President Lula and Minister for Foreign Affairs Amorim deeply condemned the indiscriminate use of force during the cluster bombing of southern Lebanon that resulted in the death of so many civilians, however, at the same time Brazil continues to produce the means by which the attacks were conducted. In the month of August, campaigners gave talks on the CCM at the ISLA, the ILA and the Congresso de Direito Internacional.



*Signature collection at the ISLA*

In addition campaigners collected signatures for the People's Treaty and sent letters to the Russian Embassy as well as the government condemning Russia's use of cluster munitions in Georgia.

*Cristian Wittman, Brazilian Campaign Against Landmines, [cristianwittmann@gmail.com](mailto:cristianwittmann@gmail.com)*

**Cambodia.** Campaigners in Cambodia held a vigil in Siem Reap on 13 August 2008 to remember the victims of the cluster bombing of southern Lebanon. The event included a talk by Tun Channareth and Ms Sok Eng, and a Buddhist prayer for peace composed by the great peace monk Maha Ghosananda. Participants signed the People's Treaty and promised to make others aware of the Oslo Process and the Cluster Ban Treaty. Campaigners have also been requested to form part of the official team working on the translation of the CCM in Khmer and other preparations for the signing in Oslo. Cambodia announced they will sign the treaty on 5 June 2008.  
*Denise Coghlan, Jesuit Refugee Service, [denisecoghlan@yahoo.com.au](mailto:denisecoghlan@yahoo.com.au)*  
*Ny Nhar, Jesuit Refugee Service, [nynhar@yahoo.com](mailto:nynhar@yahoo.com)*

**Central America.** Campaigners in Central America are working on a joint declaration to be introduced on the agenda of the Security Commission of Central America that will meet in El Salvador on 25 -26 September. The declaration states the compromise taken by these states towards the Oslo Process and in particular their compromises not to develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer cluster munitions. It also asks governments to sign the convention in Oslo and it asks national parliaments to ratify the convention in the shortest possible delays. The aim of the

commission, attended by vice-ministers from the MoDs and MFAs of Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, is to evaluate and follow up on any proposal, agreement or resolution related to regional and international security. The commission will then report back directly to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the topics discussed during the meeting.  
*Maria Eugenia Vilareal, Commission International Human Rights, [vilareal@c.net.gi](mailto:vilareal@c.net.gi)*

**Croatia.** The Croatian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Security Cooperation are organizing a workshop "Towards Oslo 2008: A Workshop on Cluster Munitions". The event will take place from 21 – 24 October 2008 in Racviac, Croatia.  
*Marija Breber, Mine Aid Association, [marija-breber@net.hr](mailto:marija-breber@net.hr)*

**Fiji.** The Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) is planning an evening reception with all Pacific ambassadors based in Suva, as well as partner NGOs and media on 18 September. The event will coincide with the Control Arms Week of Action, 13 – 19 September. Chris Anderson's documentary "Unacceptable Harm" will be shown at the event and campaigners will lobby Pacific Islands' governments to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo.  
*Ema Tagicakibau, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, [etag@pcrc.org.fi](mailto:etag@pcrc.org.fi)*

**France.** Handicap International met in July with Bernard Kouchner, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who reiterated that he will be present in Oslo to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions on behalf of France. They agreed that in several countries Handicap International programs and French Embassies will collaborate to call on these states to sign the Convention in Oslo in December. HI and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are currently finalising the action plan for this project, with HI contacting all its programs to see which actions they could implement. HI is also preparing its Pyramid of Shoes event that will be held on 27 September in 37 French cities.

Anne Villeneuve, [avilleneuve@handicap-international.org](mailto:avilleneuve@handicap-international.org)

Marion Libertucci, [mlibertucci@handicap-international.org](mailto:mlibertucci@handicap-international.org)

SAT-Esperanto - CMC members in France made sure that a paragraph of the Declaration of the 81<sup>st</sup> SAT Congress, which took place at the beginning of August in Bulgaria, requested all the SAT members to call on their respective government to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo. To find out more about SAT-Esperanto check out:

<http://www.satesperanto.org/What-is-SAT.html>

Andre and Colette Weiss, [andre-colette.weiss@laposte.net](mailto:andre-colette.weiss@laposte.net)

**India.** Campaigners in India held a candlelight vigil in front of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi on 13 August 2008 to commemorate the 2006 cluster bombing of southern Lebanon.



Members of the Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection, the Indian CBL and the Indian CMC participated in the event and distributed information leaflets on the use of cluster munitions in Lebanon to

the public.

Balkrishna Kurvey, Indian CBL, [bkurvey@yahoo.com](mailto:bkurvey@yahoo.com)

**Ireland.** The Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) Ireland and Action from Ireland (Afri) organised a protest outside the Russian Embassy in Dublin on 20 August 2008, to condemn Russia's use of cluster munitions in Georgia. Campaigners called on the Irish government to condemn Russia's use of cluster munitions and to promote the CCM.



CMC Ireland and Afri issued a joint press release and the protest was covered by the main national newspapers. The following day Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin expressed "deep concerns" over Russia's use of cluster bombs in Georgia. "Ireland totally condemns the use of these appalling and indiscriminate weapons in all circumstances," the Minister stated. Barbara Raftery, Afri, [baraftery@eircom.net](mailto:baraftery@eircom.net)

**Kenya.** Campaigners in Kenya organized a stakeholders meeting on Friday 22 August 2008, and are working with the Departmental Committee of Defense and Foreign Relations to prepare a meeting with parliamentarians. Daniel Aghan, Handicap International, [daghan@handicap-international.or.ke](mailto:daghan@handicap-international.or.ke)

**Kosovo.** Campaigners in Kosovo organized an open air film screening and a candlelight vigil to remember the victims of cluster bombs in Lebanon and other parts of the world. Burim Haxholli, Focus, [burim.haxholli@gmail.com](mailto:burim.haxholli@gmail.com)



**Lebanon.** Campaigners in Lebanon held events in 5 different areas affected by cluster munitions on 11, 12 and 13 August 2008. Candlelight vigils took place in the main square of Aley, in Bint Jbeil, Nabatiyeh, Tyre and Hasbaya/Rasbaya/West Bekaa. Participants included members of parliament, army representatives, religious figures, NGO representatives, mine and cluster bomb survivors and their families, as well as residents of the areas. Speeches reflected a positive position towards the Convention on Cluster Munitions and readiness to push forward for the signature and ratification.



In Tyre a cluster bomb statue was unveiled and the work on a garden for the victims of mines and cluster bombs was initiated.

Khaled Yamout, NPA - Lebanon Office, [landmines@npalebanon.org](mailto:landmines@npalebanon.org)

**Macedonia.** Campaigners in Macedonia have established a coalition of NGOs that will work together to campaign against cluster munitions. Coalition members include JCWE, UWOM, I Want To Know All (a youth NGO), Control Arms Campaign Group in Macedonia, BANSa, JCWE-Resen, NAO (National Association for Guns), Movement for Human Rights, and Youth Space. They are preparing to launch a campaign on cluster bombs shortly.

Natasa Dokovska, Journalists for Children and Women Rights and Protection of Environment in Macedonia, [ndokovska@gmail.com](mailto:ndokovska@gmail.com)

**Mali.** On 2 August, CMC Mali organized a petition signing event directed at members of parliament. More than a hundred MPs, including the President of the Parliament, signed the People's Treaty and declared their support to the Convention on cluster munitions.

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The event was a great success and confirmed the positive involvement of Mali in the Oslo Process.



President of the Parliament, Dioncounda Traore, signing the petition

Furthermore, the President of the Security and Defense Commission officially asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs to organize a meeting on the subject "Cluster Munitions and the new international treaty". It will be attended by members of parliament, the Ministry of Security, the National Security and Defense Commission and the representative of CMC in Mali. CMC Mali also obtained the support of the MFA to organize a one-day workshop "Signature and Ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions" for parliamentarians. *Amadou Maiga, RJSDAO, [ammaiga@yahoo.fr](mailto:ammaiga@yahoo.fr)*

**Mexico.** Campaigners in Mexico organized a meeting with commanders and directors of the public security area of the community of Aragon to remember the victims of the 2006 cluster bombing of Lebanon. They showed the ICRC video and the leader of this Mexico City suburban locality announced that Aragon will be hosting further events on the issue of cluster munitions during the global week of action to increase public awareness. For the global week of action campaigners are planning activities involving street artists as well as a meeting with parliamentarians, government officials, academics and embassies of affected States. Besides, Hector Guerra has been invited to brief the African sub-commission of the Senate on cluster munitions in Africa, and to give a speech at the Mexican Association of International Studies.

*Hector Guerra, Professor of International Relations, Mexico*  
*Wanda Muñoz, Handicap International France, [municonesderacimo@gmail.com](mailto:municonesderacimo@gmail.com)*

**Nepal.** The Nepalese Campaign to Ban Landmines (NCBL) organised a candlelight vigil on 13 August to remember the victims of the cluster bombing of southern Lebanon.



*Purna Shova Chitrakar, NCBL, [ncbl@mail.com.np](mailto:ncbl@mail.com.np)*

**New Zealand.** On 13 August campaigners in New Zealand held candlelight vigils in Wellington and in Auckland to remember the victims of the 2006 cluster bombing of southern Lebanon. In Auckland, the commemoration was followed by a public talk by two visiting Pacific disarmament campaigners: Ema Tagicakibau (Fiji) and Andonia Piau-Lynch (Vanuatu). On 18 August representatives of the Aotearoa New Zealand CMC delivered a protest letter to the Russian embassy in Wellington condemning Russia's use of cluster munitions in Georgia.



They also called on the New Zealand government to protest this use of cluster munitions, a banned weapon, in the strongest possible terms.

*Mary Wareham, Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition, [wareham@hrw.org](mailto:wareham@hrw.org)*

**Norway.** Campaigners in Norway held a protest outside the Russian Embassy in Oslo on 18 August to condemn Russia's use of cluster munitions in Georgia.

*Mette Eliseussen, Ban Bus, [mettesofie@gmail.com](mailto:mettesofie@gmail.com)*

**Pacific.** On 12 – 14 August 2008, Andy Lynch, Ema Tagicakibau and Mary Wareham took part in the annual Pacific Civil Society Forum in Auckland, New Zealand, which preceded the annual Pacific Islands heads of state meeting. Ema gave a presentation on cluster munitions in a workshop session on peace and security which led to the inclusion of language in the Forum's outcomes statement urging Pacific civil society to get their governments to sign the Convention banning Cluster Munitions on 3 December 2008. The Pacific campaigners also distributed a new flyer promoting the Ban Convention. A full report is available online:

[http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/anzcmc\\_report\\_pacific\\_25aug08.pdf](http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/anzcmc_report_pacific_25aug08.pdf)

*Mary Wareham, Human Rights Watch & Aotearoa New Zealand CMC, [wareham@hrw.org](mailto:wareham@hrw.org)*  
*Ema Tagicakibau, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, [etac@pcrc.org.fj](mailto:etac@pcrc.org.fj)*  
*Andy Lynch, Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association, [jalynch@vanuatu.com.vu](mailto:jalynch@vanuatu.com.vu)*

**Philippines.** Campaigners in the Philippines held a workshop on cluster munitions and collected signatures for the People's Treaty as part of their Peace and Human Rights caravan. Campaigners also held a meeting with Asec Garcia, the head of the Philippine delegation at the Dublin and Wellington conferences (photo).



The Philippines are very supportive of the CCM and will sign the treaty in December. The 'Philippine Campaign Against Cluster Munitions' (PCCM), a national network of organisations including Gaston Ortigas Institute, the Centre for Peace Education, PhilANSA and PCBL will be launched on 15 September 2008.

*Jaymelyn Nikkie T. Uy, Center for Peace Education, [Jaymelyn.jnyu@mc.edu.ph](mailto:Jaymelyn.jnyu@mc.edu.ph)*

**Senegal.** Campaigners in Senegal have met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Coordinator of the Parliamentarian Network Against Landmines and Small Arms to promote the People's Treaty. The Senegalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that they had the mandate to sign the CCM in Oslo and were encouraged to announce this at the Kampala Regional Conference.

*Boubine Touré, Senegalese Campaign to Ban Landmines, [boubine@refer.sn](mailto:boubine@refer.sn)*

**South Africa.** Kennedy Mabasa from the Ceasefire Campaign completed the 3,200 km run from Cape Town to Pretoria, calling on South Africa to sign the treaty in Oslo. Along the way, Kennedy gave public talks, screened a film about cluster bombs and collected signatures for the People's Treaty in more than 12 towns. Kennedy met mayors, parliamentarians, religious leaders, ICRC representatives, the Norwegian embassy representatives, schools and civil society organisations as well as members of the public along the way who lent their support to the campaign which generated significant national media coverage. Well done Kennedy! South Africa has not yet publicly announced they will sign the treaty but made very supportive statements on the CCM at the UN CCW in September.

*Kennedy Mabasa, Ceasefire, [stopwar@mail.ngo.za](mailto:stopwar@mail.ngo.za)*

**Southern Africa.** An NGO Communiqué was submitted to the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) which included a call on SADC states to sign and ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The SADC summit took place from 16 to 17 August 2008.

**Syria.** Ghassan Shahrouf from the Arab Net for Research on LM and ERW gave a presentation at the 11th Pan Arab Conference of Psychiatry in Damascus on 21 August, on the impacts of ERWs in the Arab Region. He called on states of the world and the region to sign the CCM in December. CMC brochures and information materials were distributed

during the event which was attended by participants from over 60 countries.



On 24 August, a regional workshop and field visit were organised in the landmine and cluster affected area in Syria, Quneitra (photo). Participants from Algeria, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria participated in the workshop. Five speakers took part representing the Arab Net for Research on LM & ERW, The Syrian Red Crescent, Syrian Quneitra Governorate and the Iraqi Union of Psychiatrists. A field visit was organized to the affected area as well as rehabilitation centers for persons with disability.

*Ghassan Shahrouf, Arab Net for Research on LM and ERW, [ghassan.dr@gmail.com](mailto:ghassan.dr@gmail.com)*

**Tajikistan.** Campaigners in Tajikistan have been collecting signatures for the People's Treaty in remote affected areas of the country. A roundtable on cluster munitions with government officials, NGO representatives as well as survivors is planned for September or early October.

*Bakhtiyor Begmuradov, Harmony of the World, [tajikistan@icbl.org](mailto:tajikistan@icbl.org)*

**Thailand.** Handicap International in Thailand, in partnership with the Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines (TCBL), the Jesuit Refugee Services and Nonviolence International organised a candlelight vigil on 13 August 2008 to commemorate the victims of the 2006 cluster bombing in southern Lebanon.



The Thai Campaign also met with Gen. Boonsrang Niumpradit, Supreme Commander of the Royal Thai Armed Forces to urge Thailand to sign in Oslo. Thailand has not yet committed to sign the treaty but campaigners have a range of actions planned to promote signature in Oslo by Thailand including a Ban Bus around the time of the Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs.

*Emilie Ketudat, Jesuit Refugee Service and Thai Campaign to Ban Landmines [Thailand@icbl.org](mailto:Thailand@icbl.org)*

**Turkey.** Campaigners in Turkey collected signatures for the People's Treaty at a music festival. (pictures)



*Muteber Ogreten, Mine Free Turkey, [bilgi@mavinsizbirturkiye.org](mailto:bilgi@mavinsizbirturkiye.org)*

**UK.** On 18 August Landmine Action (LMA) and CMC held a protest outside the Russian Embassy in London. The Embassy declined campaigners' request to hand over a letter to the Ambassador and instead notified the police who asked them to leave. The letter was posted to the Ambassador.



LMA also sent a letter to the UK Foreign Minister urging him to call on Russia to immediately stop the use of cluster munitions and to provide the necessary strike data to enable clearance to start to prevent future casualties. Further to this six Members of (the upper house of) Parliament put their name to a letter to

the Foreign Secretary, reiterating the need for the UK to press the Russians to immediately provide this strike data.

On Wednesday 27 August UK NGOs met to discuss actions and activities to be undertaken between now and December to promote the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Given the UK's stated intention to sign the CCM in December and work to ensure the widest possible international support for the new Convention, it was decided that the focus would be on pushing for the implementation of national legislation to enable early ratification and for the UK to work to promote the treaty internationally. The group has

undertaken to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to ask the UK to promote the treaty in their opening statement at the UNGA in September and the First Committee in October and to issue a directive to UK Missions abroad to urge other countries to sign the CCM in December. Further to this the group also agreed to write joint letters to the Embassies of key countries urging them to sign the CCM in December.

*Portia Stratton, Landmine Action,*  
[pstratton@landmineaction.org](mailto:pstratton@landmineaction.org)

**Zambia.** The National Committee Against Landmines (NCAL), Zambia's official policy making and evaluation

agency formed under the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Landmines Act, met on 14 August 2008. Zambian campaigner Bob Mtonga and Sheila Mweemba, head of the Zambia Anti-personnel Mine Action Centre, briefed the NCAL on the Oslo Process, and lobbied the 12 Members of Parliament that sit on the NCAL to support Zambia's signature and ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The NCAL proposed 2 – 4 MPs to be considered for sponsorship to attend the Kampala Regional Conference and the Oslo meeting.  
*Bob Mtonga, Zambian Campaign to Ban Landmines,* [Zambia@icbl.org](http://Zambia@icbl.org)

## New Campaign Initiatives

### Engaging Faith Leaders

*Religions for Peace* have embarked on a letter writing initiative in partnership with Pax Christi International in which they are asking high-level faith leaders to write to their respective governments, urging signature and/or other country specific messages. Handicap International South East Europe and *Religions for Peace* are also organizing an educational conference for high-level faith leaders in Sarajevo on October 29-30. Plans are underway for an advocacy and fundraising action amongst faith communities across the United States. This is being organized by the US Campaign to Ban Landmines, Adopt-a-Minefield and *Religions for Peace USA*.

A new email list has been set up for information sharing around faith related events and advocacy actions: [faith@stopclustermunitions.org](mailto:faith@stopclustermunitions.org). *Religions for Peace* is working with CMC staff to create a resource toolkit on how to engage and work with faith leaders and communities. A new section will be added to the CMC website which will include sample advocacy letters and statements from faith leaders, a calendar of faith-related events as well as information on religious structures and how to approach them. If you wish to be included on the new email list please get in touch with *Allison Pytlak, Religions for Peace,* [allison.pytlak@gmail.com](mailto:allison.pytlak@gmail.com).

### Engaging Parliamentarians

Engaging parliamentarians on the cluster munitions issue is important to promote signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and it is crucial to work on developing national legislation to ratify the treaty within national parliaments and ensure rapid entry into force of the CCM. CMC is planning to hold a side event during the Kampala Conference on parliamentary action aimed at encouraging parliamentarians to work within their national and sub-regional parliaments to promote the CCM and encourage signature and ratification.

A new email list has been set up for campaigners to communicate on parliamentary work: [mpwork@stopclustermunitions.org](mailto:mpwork@stopclustermunitions.org). The list will be used as a forum to facilitate discussion on how to increase and engage the parliamentary network of the CMC, and to share resources of use to parliamentary contacts as well as campaigners working with parliamentarians. If you wish to be added to the new email list please get in touch with *Portia Stratton, Landmine Action,* [pstratton@landmineaction.org](mailto:pstratton@landmineaction.org)

## New Resources

### People's Treaty Campaign Tool Kit

The People's Treaty campaign tool kit is now available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. All resources, including fact sheets, briefing papers on the new treaty, survivor stories, petition collection materials for the People's Treaty, artwork for posters, stickers and badges, PowerPoint presentations and other resources can be downloaded through the link below.  
<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/peoplestreaty>

## Take Action

### Use of cluster munitions by Russia and Georgia

Georgia recently acknowledged use of cluster munitions in the South Ossetia conflict with Russia. This follows evidence of use by Russia. Take action to condemn this use by sending letters and urging Georgia in particular to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions

- Send letters to Georgian and Russian representations <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=595>

### Opening of the UN General Assembly

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) opens on 16 September followed by the UN First Committee on International Security and Disarmament from 6 October – 4 November.

- Ask your government to welcome the adoption of the CCM in Dublin and intention to sign in Oslo, in the Head of State speech at the high level general debate after the opening of the UNGA

- Ask your government to reiterate this at the opening of the UNGA First Committee and announce national steps being taken to ratify and implement the treaty as well as promote it globally.

Please keep us informed on news about your government's statements and the CCM.

### Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs

The Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs takes place from 27 October to 2 November, a month before the Oslo Signing Conference. It is an opportunity for the campaign to use the strength of coordinated global actions to generate media coverage about Oslo and encourage governments to sign the CCM.

More information will be sent in an action alert shortly and on the CMC website. Please tell Laura what you are planning [laura@stopclustermunitions.org](mailto:laura@stopclustermunitions.org)

## Upcoming Events and Meetings

### September 2008

18-19 September

**Sofia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Bulgaria**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria in cooperation with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sofia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) are hosting the Sofia Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions from 18 – 19 September 2008. Parts of Southeast Europe have been heavily affected by the use of cluster munitions in recent years and the Convention is therefore of particular importance for the region. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia (FYR), Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey, as well as core group states have been invited to the conference and all governments have registered except Greece and Romania, with Greece expected to be represented by an Embassy representative. The CMC is holding a campaign workshop on the signature campaign on 18 September. For further information on the event check out the CMC website at: <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/calendar/?id=627>

21 September

**International Day of Peace**

23 September

**High-level General Debate at the UN General Assembly, New York, USA**

29-30 September

**Kampala Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Uganda**

The Kampala Regional Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions will be held from 29 – 30 September at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala, Uganda. The objective of the meeting is to allow an in-depth discussion of the recently adopted Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the opportunities and challenges it presents to Africa. The Convention is of particular importance to Africa as a region that is affected by the humanitarian devastating effects of cluster munitions and has suffered for decades from the uncontrolled proliferation of conventional weapons. The CMC is holding a campaign workshop on 28 September on the signature campaign which will be followed by a public event to launch the People's Treaty. For further information on the conference check out the CMC website at:

<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/calendar/?id=628> and the official conference website:

<http://www.clustermunitionskampala.ug>

### October 2008

6 October - 4 November

**UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, UN Headquarters New York, USA**

20 – 22 October

**Vientiane Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions, Laos**

21 – 24 October

**Croatia Workshop on Cluster Munitions**

27 October – 2 November

**Global Week of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs**

