

*****Save the date*****

CLUSTER MUNITION MONITOR 2010 GLOBAL RELEASE 1 NOVEMBER 2010

Cluster Munition Monitor will be released globally at a press conference hosted by Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor in Bangkok, Thailand.

This is the first *Cluster Munition Monitor* report, the sister publication to the *Landmine Monitor* report, which has been issued annually since 1999. *Cluster Munition Monitor 2010* covers cluster munition ban policy, use, production, trade, and stockpiling for every country in the world, and also includes information on cluster munition contamination, casualties, clearance, and victim assistance. The report focuses on the period from May 2009, with information included up to August 2010 when possible.

Cluster Munition Monitor 2010 is being released in advance of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, being held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 9–12 November 2010.

For Bangkok-based media

WHAT: Press conference to launch the first *Cluster Munition Monitor*
WHO: Members of the Monitor's Editorial Team, some of the world's leading experts on cluster munitions, will be on hand to answer media questions and conduct interviews in English.
WHEN: Monday 1 November, 10:00-10:45 am
WHERE: Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand
Penthouse, Maneeya Center, 518/5 Ploenchit Road,
Patumwan, Bangkok, Thailand

The entire report is embargoed until after the press conference. Hard copies of the report and a media kit in English, French, Spanish, and Thai will be available at the press conference and posted online at www.the-monitor.org.

For media not based in Bangkok

WHAT: Online media briefing
WHO: Members of the Monitor's Editorial Team, some of the world's leading experts on cluster munitions, will be on hand to answer media questions and conduct interviews in English.
WHEN: Monday 1 November, 9:00 GMT/ 10:00 Geneva
HOW: Go to www.dimdim.com, "Join Meeting," and enter the meeting room (MinesActionCanada) and your name and organization.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

- Conor Fortune, CMC Communications and Media Officer
Email: conor@stopclustermunitions.org, Mobile +44-75-1557-5174 or +66-88-091-9372
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EMBARGOED UNTIL 04:00 GMT, 1 NOVEMBER 2010

SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION OF CLUSTER MUNITION BAN SAVES LIVES

According to *Cluster Munition Monitor 2010* released today

BANGKOK, 1 November 2010 – The destruction of millions of stockpiled cluster submunitions years before deadlines mandated under the Convention on Cluster Munitions—a legally-binding treaty banning the weapon which entered into force on 1 August 2010—shows the treaty’s effectiveness in saving civilian lives, according to *Cluster Munition Monitor 2010*, a report released today.

Seven states that have joined the convention have already completed destruction of their stockpiles of cluster munitions, destroying more than 13.8 million submunitions contained in 176,000 cluster munitions. At least eleven other countries are currently destroying their stocks.

“There is real momentum behind the ban on cluster munitions,” said Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch, *Cluster Munition Monitor’s* Final Editor, citing the impressive number of signatories to the ban convention, the short time to bring it into force, and the rush to implement its life-saving provisions. “It is encouraging to see so many countries showing such commitment to eradicating cluster munitions and their severe impact on civilians now and forever,” said Goose.

The convention obliges States Parties to end use, production, and transfer of cluster munitions immediately, destroy stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years of joining the convention, clear land contaminated by cluster munitions within 10 years, and assist the victims of these weapons. The convention was negotiated in May 2008, opened for signature in December 2008, and became binding international law on 1 August 2010.

Among the 108 countries that have signed the convention are 38 former users, producers, exporters, or stockpilers of the weapon. Of these signatories, 42 have now ratified the convention, and 10 have already enacted national legislation to implement the convention.

Over the past six decades cluster munitions have been used in 39 countries and areas by at least 18 governments. Since the convention was opened for signature in December 2008, there has only been one serious allegation of cluster munition use, by the United States on an alleged al-Qaeda training camp in Yemen in December 2009. The US government has yet to confirm or deny this charge, and neither the US nor Yemen has joined the convention.

At least 38km² of land, an area roughly the size of Chiang Mai, Thailand was cleared of cluster munition remnants in 2009, with more than 55,156 unexploded submunitions destroyed. States Parties Albania and Zambia have announced the completion of their clearance programs. Clearing contaminated land will prevent thousands of casualties.

However, according to Stuart Casey-Maslen of Norwegian People’s Aid, the Monitor’s Mine Action Editor, “While mine action programs exist in almost all cluster-munition-affected states and areas, their scope and productivity must increase to release land more quickly and save lives.”

Cluster munition contamination remains in at least 23 states, including 14 that have joined the convention, as well as three disputed areas. The most-affected regions are Southeast Asia and Europe, while the countries and areas with the most contamination include Lao PDR, Vietnam, Iraq, Cambodia, Lebanon, Serbia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Western Sahara.

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In 2009, there were 100 new confirmed cluster munition casualties in nine states and one area. Half of these casualties occurred in just two states, Lao PDR and Lebanon, both of which have joined the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

As of the end of 2009, 16,816 cluster munition casualties had been recorded in at least 27 states and three areas, including 15 states that have joined the convention. Due to significant underreporting, the actual number of cluster munition casualties might be as high as 85,000 worldwide. According to Katleen Maes of Handicap International, the Monitor's Casualties and Victim Assistance Editor, "There is a need for swift and efficient aid to cluster munition victims. The convention provides ground-breaking provisions for victim assistance and if states properly fulfill their obligations these can significantly improve the lives and livelihoods of survivors, their families, and communities."

The 27 states with cluster munition victims each provide survivors with some care, but the majority of victims lack comprehensive assistance, particularly economic inclusion and psychosocial support. Access in rural areas is especially difficult.

A total of US\$13.2 million in funding related to cluster munitions was reported by seven states in 2009, including \$4.15 million via the Cluster Munitions Trust Fund for Lao PDR.

This is the first *Cluster Munition Monitor* report, the sister publication to the *Landmine Monitor* report, which has been issued annually since 1999. *Cluster Munition Monitor 2010* covers cluster munition ban policy, use, production, trade, and stockpiling for every country in the world, and also includes information on cluster munition contamination, casualties, clearance, and victim assistance. The report covers the period from May 2009, with information included up to August 2010 when possible.

Cluster Munition Monitor 2010 is being released in advance of the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, being held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 9–12 November 2010.

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor is coordinated by an Editorial Board drawn from five organizations: Mines Action Canada, Action On Armed Violence, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, and Norwegian People's Aid. It constitutes a sustainable and systematic way for non-governmental organizations to monitor and report on the implementation of humanitarian and disarmament treaties.

Landmine Monitor was created in June 1998 by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines. In 2008, Landmine Monitor also functionally became the research and monitoring arm of the Cluster Munition Coalition. In 2010, the initiative changed its name to Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor (known as "the Monitor") to reflect its increased reporting on the cluster munition issue.

Cluster Munition Monitor 2010 and related documents are available at 04:00 GMT on 1 November at www.the-monitor.org/cmm/2010.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

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Cluster Munition Monitor 2010

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Key Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor and the Cluster Munition Coalition team members are available for in-person and telephone interviews. They are all well-versed in *Cluster Munition Monitor 2010* findings, have interesting personal stories, perspectives, and in-depth knowledge of the cluster munition issues. These individuals can provide interviews on the global cluster munition situation and specific countries.

Interviews can be arranged in English.

To request an interview please contact:

- Mr. Conor Fortune, CMC Communications and Media Officer, Bangkok (GMT+6), Mobile +44-75-1557-5174 or +66-88-091-9372, email conor@stopclustermunitions.org
- Ms. Jacqueline Hansen, Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor Program Manager, Bangkok (GMT+6), Mobile +1-613-851-5436 or +66-88-091-9373, email jackie@icbl.org

Bangkok (GMT+6)

Mr. Stephen Goose

Serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the Landmine Monitor report from 1999-2004, the Monitor's Ban Policy Editor, and Cluster Munition Monitor's Final Editor, Goose is the Executive Director of the Arms division at Human Rights Watch. He also sits on the Monitor's Editorial Board. Language: English.

Mr. Mark Hiznay

Mark Hiznay is a senior researcher in the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch, where he works on all aspects of cluster munitions issue. He is an expert on the technical and policy aspects of cluster munitions. Language: English.

Ms. Jacqueline Hansen

Hansen served on ICBL staff until early 2005 when she became the Monitor's Program Manager. Language: English.

Mr. Paul Hannon

Hannon is the Executive Director of Mines Action Canada, the lead agency responsible for coordinating Landmine Monitor. MAC has worked domestically and internationally to build government support for bans on landmines and cluster munitions. Language: English.

QUICK FACTS

The Convention on Cluster Munitions

A total of 108 countries have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Thirty-eight countries that have used, produced, exported, or stockpiled cluster munitions have signed, thereby committing to never engage in those activities again.

After achieving the required 30 ratifications in February 2010, the convention entered into force on 1 August 2010, becoming binding international law.

As of 1 October 2010, a total of 42 signatories had ratified the convention. Ratifying countries become States Parties fully bound by all the convention's provisions.

Use

Cluster munitions have been used during armed conflict in 39 countries and disputed territories since the end of World War II. At least 18 government armed forces have used cluster munitions.

Since the convention was opened for signature in December 2008, there has been only one serious allegation of use. Amnesty International reported that the United States appeared to have used at least one cruise missile with submunitions to attack an alleged al-Qaeda training camp in Yemen in December 2009.

Stockpiling

The Monitor estimates that prior to the start of the global effort to ban cluster munitions, 86 countries stockpiled millions of cluster munitions containing more than one billion submunitions.

Currently, 74 nations have stockpiles. Of those, 27 have signed and/or ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Seventeen states that have signed and/or ratified have provided information about the size of their stockpile. Together they possessed at least 1.1 million cluster munitions with at least 146 million submunitions before beginning destruction activities.

Stockpile Destruction and Retention

Four States Parties (Belgium, Moldova, Norway, and Spain) and two signatories (Colombia and Portugal) have already completed destruction of their stockpiles. Collectively, they destroyed about 176,000 cluster munitions with more than 13.8 million submunitions. Signatories Afghanistan and Angola reported in 2010 that cluster munition stocks were destroyed in recent years during weapons disposal programs.

Austria and Montenegro expect to finish stockpile destruction in 2010. Two of the biggest stockpilers, Germany and the United Kingdom, have destroyed significant portions of stocks. At least another eight countries are in the process of destroying stocks.

Although the convention permits the retention of some cluster munitions and submunitions for training and development purposes, most stockpilers thus far have chosen not to retain any.

Belgium, France, and Spain have indicated they each intend to keep hundreds of cluster munitions and more than 20,000 submunitions.

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Production and Transfer

Fifteen former producers of cluster munitions have signed and/or ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions, thereby forswearing any future production.

Seventeen countries still produce cluster munitions, or reserve the right to produce in the future.

There were no reported transfers of cluster munitions in 2009 or the first half of 2010, other than inert components transferred from South Korea to Pakistan.

States not party Singapore and the US have instituted a moratorium on exports of cluster munitions.

Interpretive Issues

There are some divergent views on the scope of the prohibition on assistance with prohibited acts, especially regarding its application during joint military operations with states not party that may still use cluster munitions. Most states that have expressed a view have indicated that, even during joint operations, any intentional or deliberate assistance is prohibited.

Most states that have expressed a view have indicated that the transit of cluster munitions by a state not party across the territory of a State Party is prohibited.

Financial institutions and investors have taken action to stop investment in cluster munition production in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, and elsewhere. Many states have expressed the view that investment in cluster munition production is prohibited.

Casualties

Cluster munition casualties have been recorded in at least 27 states and three areas affected by cluster munitions. Of the 27 states, six are States Parties and nine are signatories.

There were 16,816 cluster munition casualties confirmed globally as of the end of 2009. Many casualties have gone unrecorded and it is likely that the actual number of casualties is at least 58,000–85,000.

There were 100 confirmed cluster munition casualties in nine countries and one area in 2009, including 33 in Lao PDR. It is likely the actual number is considerably higher.

Contamination

At least 23 states and three other areas are believed to be currently contaminated with cluster munition remnants. Thirteen or more additional states may still have a small level of contamination.

The most heavily affected countries include Lao PDR, Vietnam, Iraq, and Cambodia. Others with a serious problem include Lebanon and Serbia, as well as the disputed areas of Nagorno-Karabakh and Western Sahara.

Southeast Asia is the region with the most cluster munition contamination, followed by Europe.

Of the 42 states that have ratified the convention, at least five are believed to be contaminated.

Clearance

In 2009, there was clearance of unexploded submunitions or some form of survey of the problem in just 14 countries and three other areas. In many cases, these activities were very limited.

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LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION MONITOR



The Monitor provides research and monitoring for the Cluster Munition Coalition and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

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Of the nine countries with no reported survey or clearance activities related to unexploded submunitions in 2009, two are States Parties and four are signatories.

At least 38 km² of land was cleared of cluster munition remnants in 2009, with more than 55,156 unexploded submunitions destroyed.

States Parties Albania and Zambia announced completion of their clearance programs in November 2009 and May 2010, respectively.

Victim Assistance

All of the 27 states with cluster munition survivors have an assistance program already in place. However, nearly every state with cluster munition survivors faces significant challenges providing care to affected individuals, families, and communities. Many states lack economic inclusion and psychosocial support, and access to services in rural areas is insufficient.

Support for Mine Action

Only a relatively small number of states reported funding specifically related to cluster munitions. Seven states reported a combined total of US\$13.2 million, spent on universalization, preparations for the First Meeting of States Parties (including via the Cluster Munitions Trust Fund for Lao PDR), clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction, and advocacy.

Many others spent funds, particularly for universalization and destruction of their own stocks, but did not report amounts. Funding for clearance in Lao PDR, Lebanon, and Vietnam was largely utilized for clearance of unexploded submunitions.

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Cluster Munition Monitor 2010

SAMPLE ARTICLE

SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION OF CLUSTER MUNITION BAN SAVES LIVES

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