

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BAN CLUSTER BOMBS?



A HISTORY OF HARM

A cluster bomb is a weapon that can contain up to several hundred small explosive bomblets. Dropped from the air or fired from the ground, cluster bombs break open in mid-air and scatter these bomblets randomly over a wide area. Anyone within the strike zone is likely to be torn apart, no matter if they are military or civilian. Many bomblets fail to explode as intended, leaving behind huge quantities of de facto landmines which continue to kill and injure for years, even decades after their use. Used in more than 30 countries, cluster bombs have killed and injured tens of thousands of civilians and devastated the livelihoods of countless more. Over 380 million bomblets were used by the United States in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in the 1970s and many of these are still killing today. In the past decade cluster bombs have been used in the former Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Israel, and Georgia.



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Dtar lost his arms after finding a cluster bomblet whilst fishing in Laos. It had been on the ground for at least thirty years before detonating.

www.stopclustermunitions.org

BANNING CLUSTER BOMBS

The massive use of cluster bombs in Lebanon in 2006 propelled the remarkable diplomatic process to outlaw these weapons. With the active support of civil society united under the banner of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), an international treaty was negotiated in May 2008 and signed by 94 countries in December 2008. The Convention on Cluster Munitions bans the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of these weapons. It requires clearance of contaminated areas, destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions and also provides a comprehensive framework for assistance to cluster bomb victims and their communities.

JOIN THE TREATY

Approximately 100 countries have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, but many more still need to sign including China, Israel, Russia and the United States. Those that have signed also need to ratify the treaty to be fully bound by its provisions. A total of 30 signatories need to ratify the treaty for it to take effect.

What are you doing to ban cluster bombs?

- Tell your government to sign, ratify and implement the treaty.
- Urge your Member of Parliament to work for swift ratification of the treaty.
- Sign the People's Treaty petition that calls on governments to join and implement the treaty.
- Find out who's taking action to ban cluster bombs in your country.

For more information and to take action go to:
www.stopclustermunitions.org/take-action



EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR RESOURCES

U.S. CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES
banminesusa.org/

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES
www.icbl.org/

CLUSTER MUNITION COALITION
www.stopclustermunitions.org/

Veterans for Peace
www.vets4peacephila.org/landmines.html

PROJECT RENEW, VIET NAM
www.landmines.org.vn/

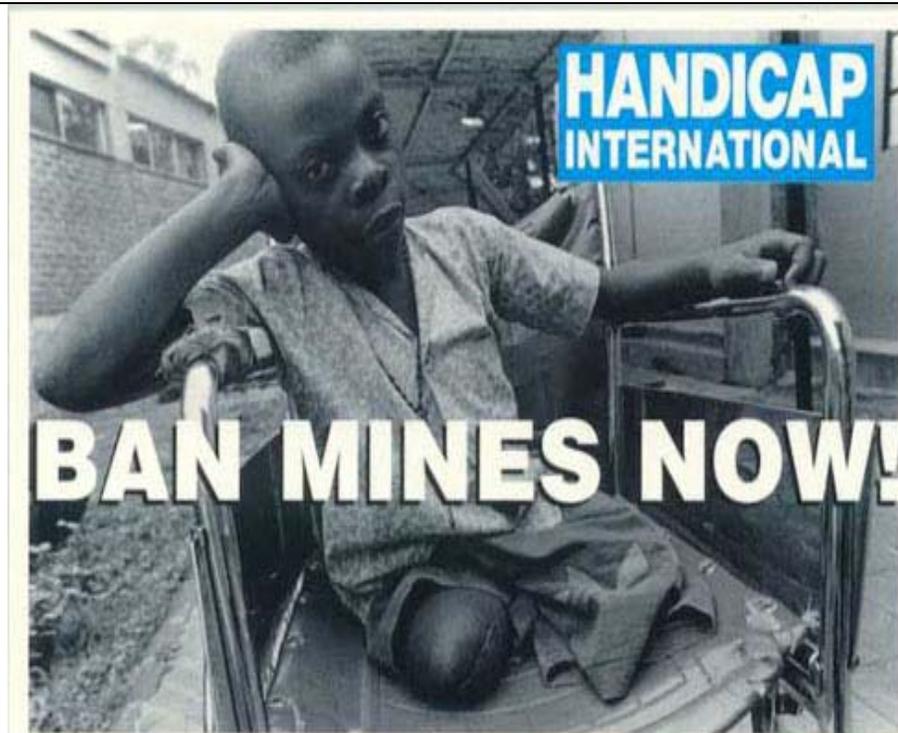
MINE ACTION INFORMATION CENTER
www.hdic.jmu.edu/

The following passage is from the book *Landmines: A Resource Book* by Rae McGrath, about an incident in Afghanistan:

"A small boy, about nine years old, was following his goats as they grazed in the mountains. His name is not known. He was probably playing a little, throwing stones maybe, or he would have noticed the small green mine that blew his foot off at the ankle. From what we know of how people react, from the memories of those who have survived, the little shepherd boy probably hopped or dragged himself to where his foot lay - it would have been quite close to him. He would have tried to put his foot back on the bleeding stump of his ankle. He would have cried or maybe just sat lonely and quiet and helpless and slipped into unconsciousness. His goats must have stayed until after he died, probably until wild dogs arrived at the scene. We have no way of knowing exactly what happened; the dogs found him days before we did."



Thoummy Silamphan lost part of his left arm in a cluster bomblet accident when he was 8.



LANDMINES: A MAN-MADE EPIDEMIC

- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines estimates that 15,000-20,000 people, mainly civilians, are maimed or killed by landmines each year.
- There are tens of millions of landmines in the ground in 78 countries.
- UNICEF estimates that 30-40 percent of landmine victims are children under 15 years old.
- Landmines cost as little as \$3 to produce and as much as \$1,000 per mine to destroy



- Landmines have injured and killed thousands of troops in every conflict since World War II, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

Landmine Ban Treaty

- Signers of the Landmine Ban Treaty agree to completely and permanently discontinue the use, production, stockpile, and transfer of antipersonnel landmines; to destroy stockpiles within four years; to provide continuing assistance to mine survivors.
- The Mine Ban Treaty has been signed by approximately three quarters of the world's nations.
- Participants include the entire western hemisphere *except the United States and Cuba*.
- We must tell the President and our Legislators in Washington to have the US join the rest of the world and sign the Landmine Ban Treaty.

CLUSTER BOMBS

- A cluster bomb consists of a canister designed to open in mid-air and disperse smaller bomblets -that can kill all living creatures within an area as large as several football fields.
- Though designed to explode on impact, many bomblets initially fail to detonate, leaving behind large numbers of hazardous explosive “duds” that are de facto landmines, injuring troops and killing civilians and contaminating the land long after conflicts.
- Millions of unexploded cluster bomblets litter the countries of Southeast Asia - the deadly garbage left from U.S. bombing campaigns in the 1960s and 1970s.
- The U.S. has used cluster bombs in Afghanistan and Iraq, killing civilians and our own troops.



Convention on Cluster Munitions & Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act

- More than 104 countries which have signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions - this treaty bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of clusterbombs and places obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims and destroy stockpiles of clusterbombs
- The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act in the US Senate and House of Representatives is common-sense legislation which would serve as a *de facto* ban on the use of nearly all of the one billion clusterbombs in the U.S. stockpile.
- The President and our legislators must have the US join the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Congress must pass the Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act.