

*Aotearoa/NZ CMC members*

Amnesty International NZ, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, Campaign Against Landmines, Christian World Service, Development Resource Centre, Engineers for Social Responsibility NZ, Oxfam NZ, Peace Foundation NZ, Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security Centre, Peace Movement Aotearoa, National Council of Women NZ, National Consultative Committee on Disarmament, UN Association NZ, UN Youth Association NZ, UNICEF NZ, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa

REPORT: Speaking Tour by John Rodsted

Prepared by Mary Wareham, Advocacy Director, Oxfam New Zealand

This is a report on the outcomes of the November 2007 visit to New Zealand by Australian photographer and cluster munitions expert John Rodsted.

Introduction

The Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (NZ CMC) is a group of New Zealand NGOs established on 22 March 2007 in support of the international call to stop cluster munitions from harming civilians (members are listed above in the letterhead). The NZ CMC is working to ensure that the New Zealand government keeps its promise to take strong leadership in the 'Oslo Process', which seeks to secure a legally binding international instrument which comprehensively prohibits cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, and establishes a framework for providing assistance to survivors and their communities, as well as the clearance of contaminated areas.



The NZ CMC has identified three ways for New Zealand to meet this objective:



1) By ensuring widespread governmental participation in the Oslo Process (including by Pacific states) and particularly in the Wellington Conference to be held 18-22 February 2008;

2) By being inclusive of civil society in the Oslo Process, including at the Wellington Conference; and 3) By ensuring strong restrictions on clusters are not compromised and a

comprehensive and effective legally-binding agreement on the weapon is concluded by the end of 2008.

In September 2007 the NZ CMC secured funding from the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust (PADET) to carry out a speaking tour to build support for its objectives on cluster munitions. As the first activity undertaken by the NZ CMC, the speaking tour had three major goals:

- 1) To create public awareness of cluster munitions through media coverage and the public talks;
- 2) To build the NZ CMC in terms of membership, scope, and engagement;
- 3) To undertake initial outreach to political parties, military, government officials, and diplomatic representatives in Wellington.

Objective 1: Create Public Awareness

Awareness-raising activities included media coverage, web outreach, and public talks. DraftFCB, an Auckland-based creative agency that is providing pro-bono support to NZ CMC, provided the principal media outreach, while NZ CMC members did some local outreach especially to promote the public talks. While Rodsted secured some local media coverage at the start of his tour (see media list), the majority of media was secured on 5 November as the result of a campaign stunt in Wellington.



Campaigners in more than 40 countries undertook events to raise awareness and demonstrate public concern against this weapon as part of a “Day of Action” called by the Global Cluster Munition Coalition for Monday, 5 November 2007. The NZ CMC was the first country to “kick off” the action day with a cluster “bombing” stunt in the capital of Wellington. At 1:00pm local time (00.00 GMT) a light plane circled above the city dispersing hundreds of leaflets in the shape of a cluster

bomblet mimicking the deployment of an actual cluster bomb strike. Below in Civic Square in the heart of Wellington visiting Australian photo journalist and cluster munitions expert John Rodsted did media interviews with major national television networks (TV One, TV3) and other press, which included catching one the leaflets as it fluttered down to earth.

Members of the coalition including Amnesty International NZ and Oxfam NZ urged members of the public who were taking their lunch break in Civic Square to sign the petition on the flyer to the Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control (Hon. Phil Goff). White ribbons were tied around the flyer and it was hung from trees to show how cluster bomblets often catch in foliage as they are dropped.

John Rodsted gave public talks in four locations: Christchurch (1 Nov), Dunedin (2 Nov), Wellington (6 Nov), and Auckland (7 Nov). The size of audiences ranged from a dozen to 40 people. Venues ranged from church halls to university theatres. A flyer for the tour provided information on tour dates and locations, as well as host organizations.



Information about John including his biography and tour dates were uploaded to the NZ CMC website, which was set up in September 2007: www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz

Objective II: Build Domestic Coalition

The hosts of the public talks undertook a number of activities to publicize the event in Christchurch (Christian World Service), Dunedin (Quakers), Wellington (Oxfam NZ), and Auckland (Engineers for Social Responsibility). Many NZ CMC groups informed their membership about the public talks including National Consultative Committee on Disarmament, Peace Movement Aotearoa, and United Nations Association and Youth Association. Two more NZ CMC members came up board during the tour: the National Council of Women NZ and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa. Amnesty International NZ set up a table with posters and banners for the Wellington stunt where campaigners collective petition signatures. Deborah Morris-Travers of the Campaign Against Landmines (CALM) assisted with media and arranged meetings with representatives from the political parties. Overall it was a team effort that helped build the coalition's membership, scope, and engagement!



Oxfam NZ's Wellington office invested significant time and resources into the speaking tour. Unpaid intern Fiona McAlister undertook logistics and media outreach and accompanied Rodsted to his South Island engagements, while Advocacy Director Mary Wareham assisted Rodsted's North Island engagements including all the diplomatic, media and political meetings.

Objective III: Diplomatic/Political Outreach

Wellington is home to representatives from approximately fifty governments and NZ CMC decided to start its outreach with countries supportive of the Oslo Process. Meetings were held with the ambassadors of Mexico and Peru, two of the five Core Group countries responsible for leading the Oslo Process. The British High Commissioner expressed support for the Oslo Process, but was reluctant to commit to engage more deeply until the conclusion of parallel talks in the Convention on Conventional Weapons. The Australian High Commissioner apologized that he was out of town, and could not meet until after national elections have concluded. The honorary consuls for Austria and Norway did not respond to requests for meetings.



With the assistance of Deborah Morris-Travers, the NZ CMC delegation of Rodsted and Wareham met with representatives of four political parties: Greens, National, New Zealand First, and United Future. An appointment with the Labour chair of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee did not take place due to a scheduling conflict and

the Minister of Disarmament and Arms Control sent apologies as he was out of the country. Labour MP for Wellington Marion Hobbs was also unavailable.

Conclusion

A separate internal evaluation document has been prepared for use by the NZ CMC to help inform future organizing. Overall, the NZ Cluster Munition Coalition should be very pleased with this tour: we secured good media coverage in the name of the NZ CMC, held a series of very positive lobby meetings, and enabled members of the public to learn more about this issue through the series of public talks. Thanks for everyone for their kind support.

Appendix I: Media Coverage

- BFM Radio (5 November 2007)
- Newstalk ZB Radio 5 November 2007)
- TV 3 (5 November 2007)
- *Dominion Post* (6 November 2007) <http://www.stuff.co.nz/4262785a6479.html>

Appendix II: Itinerary for John Rodsted, November 2007

Contacts

- Media Coordination: Lwindi Ellis, DraftFCB
- South Island Coordinator: Fiona McAlister, Oxfam NZ (027) 352-2494
- North Island Coordinator: Mary Wareham, Oxfam NZ (021) 996-905

Weds. 31 Oct. (Mel-Chc)

2.35pm: Arrive Christchurch from Melbourne

Thurs 1 Nov. (Chc)

1pm: Lunch with Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security Centre (Kate Dewes & Rob Green) followed by festival film screening (*No Nukes is Good Nukes*)

5.00pm: Public Talk at Knox Church Hall (hosted by Christian World Service)

Fri. 2 Nov. (Chc-Dun)

9.15am: Visit Antarctica Center, fly to Dunedin

3pm: Media interview with Otago Regional TV.

7.30pm: Public Talk at Quaker Meeting House (hosted by Dunedin Quakers, Elizabeth Duke)

Sat. 3 Nov. (Dun-Wlg)

9.10am: Depart Dunedin for Wellington

WEEKEND OFF

Mon. 5 Nov (Wlg)

9.30am: Media Interview with *Dominion Post*

11am: Meeting with Ambassador HE Ms. María Angélica Arce de Jeannet of Mexico

11.30: Media Interview with *Newstalk ZB*

11.45am: Meeting with Ambassador HE Mr Carlos Zapata of Peru

12.30am: Media Interview with *BFM*

1pm: Cluster 'bombing' stunt in Civic Square covered by TV3 and TV One.

3pm: Meeting with Mayor of Wellington Kerry Prendergast

Tues. 6 Nov (Wlg)

9.00am: Meeting with National Party Defence spokesperson Wayne Mapp (apologies from Murray McCully & John Hayes)

9.45am: Meeting with New Zealand First Party Defence spokesperson Ron Mark

1.15pm: Meeting with Green Party Defence spokesperson Keith Locke

2.00pm: Meeting with HE Mr. George Fergusson, High Commissioner of Great Britain

3.45pm: Meeting with United Future Party Leader Peter Dunne

6.00pm: Public Talk at Capital E Mackenzie Theatre in Civic Square (hosted by Oxfam NZ, introduction by WCC councillor Ray Ahipene-Mercer)

Weds 7 Nov. (Wlg-Akl)

11.20am: Meeting with European Commission Chargé d'Affaires George Cunningham

2.00pm: Arrive Auckland

6.30pm: Public Talk at Auckland Uni School of Engineering (hosted by Engineers for Social Responsibility)

Thurs 8 Nov. (Akl)

12.00pm: Talk to Auckland Photography Society

2.30pm: Brief DraftFCB creative agency (providing pro bono support to the coalition)

7.30pm: Attend Peace Foundation Media Awards

Fri 9 Nov. (Akl-Mel)

9.00am: Debrief/evaluation with Oxfam NZ, Talk to Oxfam NZ staff, Depart for airport
END