

Aotearoa/NZ CMC members:

Amnesty International Aotearoa NZ, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, Campaign Against Landmines, Caritas Aotearoa NZ, Christian World Service, Development Resource Centre, Engineers for Social Responsibility NZ, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War NZ, National Council of Women NZ, National Consultative Committee on Disarmament, Oxfam NZ, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament NZ, Pax Christi Aotearoa-NZ, Peace Foundation NZ, Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security Centre, Peace Movement Aotearoa, UN Association NZ, UN Youth Association NZ, UNICEF NZ, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa

www.banclusterbombs.org.nz



Pacific Campaigning at the Regional CSO Forum

Auckland, New Zealand

12-15 August 2008

Introduction

This is a report on activities undertaken in Auckland in August 2008 by the two leading Pacific members of the Cluster Munition Coalition: Ms. Ema Tagicakibau of the Fiji-based Pacific Concerns Resource Centre and Ms. Andonia ('Andy') Piau-Lynch of the Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association of Vanuatu. The visit was hosted by the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC) and organized by its national



coordinator Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch (HRW) who also compiled this report. The campaigners gratefully acknowledge financial support provided by HRW.

The Pacific campaign team engaged in a range of outreach in support of the new Convention on Cluster Munitions targeting civil society representatives, diplomats, politicians, and the public (see the schedule in Annex I). The Pacific team attended the Pacific Regional CSO [civil society organization] Forum, an annual meeting of approximately 150 activists from across the Pacific. The 2008 meeting was hosted by Niuean community representatives in Auckland at the Rendezvous Hotel, as there was not enough capacity on the island of Niue to accommodate all participants. The CSO Forum typically takes place the week prior to the annual Pacific Island Forum Leaders meeting. Since the Diplomatic Conference in Dublin in May 2008, the Pacific campaign team has sought to get a line welcoming the Convention and urging signature in the official communiqué from the leaders meeting in Niue. This was not successful; there is no mention of any disarmament in the 2008 Communiqué.

Civil Society Outreach

On the first afternoon of the Pacific CSO Forum, around twenty representatives participated in a workshop on Peace and Security that began with presentations by Susana Tuisawau (PACFAW), Ema Tagicakibau (PCRC), and Feiloakitau Kaho (Fei



Tevi, the General Secretary of the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC). Ema led the discussion on disarmament (small arms, cluster bombs) and demilitarization issues. She circulated a document on “Pacific Support for the Cluster Munitions Ban” (Appendix IV) and a resolution on the Convention that all workshop participants endorsed.

The language was included in the workshop’s recommendations (Appendix II), which were rolled into a draft document of findings from all eight workshops. On the final morning the Forum’s Outcomes Statement was adopted point by point in a five hour-long plenary. CSO Forum participants also picked up a new ANZCMC flyer promoting signature of the Convention. The flyer is available online

here: www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/downloads/

Political Outreach

The Pacific campaigners met for 45 minutes with Keith Locke MP, the New Zealand Green Party Spokesperson on Defence and Disarmament. Discussion centred around who would sign for New Zealand (a government may not be formed by 3 December following the general election to be held around 8 November), as well as ratification, and Pacific promotion of the Convention. Meetings sought via the electorate offices of Minister of Disarmament & Arms Control Hon. Phil Goff (Labour MP for Mt Roskill) and National Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs Murray McCully (MP for East Coast Bays), but both were unavailable.



Diplomatic Outreach

Attempts were made to meet with the Auckland-based Pacific diplomats representing Nauru, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. The Honorary Consul of the Solomon Islands, Ms. Doreen Kupa, met with the Pacific campaigners together with Ms Sarah Dyer of the Solomon Islands National Council of Women. Both of these women attended the Lebanon vigil, spoke at the public talk, and Dyer agreed to take the ANZCMC’s

signature letter back home and follow-up with the Solomon Islands government. The Honorary Consul of the Republic of Nauru, Mr. Philipp Müller, apologized for not being able to meet, but forwarded the signature letter to Nauru's Foreign Minister. The representative of Tuvalu was not available. None of the three Micronesian states have diplomatic representation in New Zealand so ANZCMC sent letters to Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia, while the Kiribati CSO representative took theirs back to deliver. A CSO representative took the signature letters back to deliver to Niue.

Public Outreach

The principal public outreach was done through the public talk held on the second evening of the CSO Forum at "Peace Place," the office of Pax Christi Aotearoa New Zealand in central Auckland. About 20 people came, including participants from the CSO Forum (from Solomon Islands and West Papua) and members of the host NGOs (Pax Christi, Peace Movement Aotearoa, WILPF-Aotearoa) and others.



The participants received the new ANZCMC flyer promoting signature of the Convention. Edwina Hughes introduced the speakers and Mary subsequently [circulated](#) photos and a brief report on the vigil and public talk.

Evaluation

At an evaluation session held on the final day, the Pacific campaigners considered how the CSO Forum had been a useful networking opportunity, but this year the Outcomes Statement will not be delivered to the Leaders meeting so it would be up to us to publicize the recommendation on the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Ema agreed to issue a press release to draw attention to the clusters resolution (Annex V).

The cluster munitions issue was tackled via the Peace and Security strand of the Forum's deliberations and thus was integrated into broader Pacific concerns. The public talk started with a symbolic action to remember the victims of cluster munitions, but its scope was broad (covering demilitarization, disarmament and human security in the Pacific), which made it more accessible to a wider audience than a strict focus on just cluster munitions.

For campaigning in this part of the world (and probably others), a clear message (ban cluster munitions) is necessary, but the rationale should be placed in the humanitarian context (prevent casualties, create a safer world, empathy with victims/survivors) rather than sign (yet another) treaty. Both Pacific governments and civil society have limited resources to tackle multiple issues so it also helps to integrate the issue into a broader framework that includes disarmament (including landmines, small arms), human security, and disability rights. The Pacific overview document attempts to tackle some of the concerns raised about requests to sign on to new international agreements (see Appendix IV).

Follow-Up

The Pacific campaign team discussed some follow-up items including:

- In September, Ema will hold an event in the Fijian capital of Suva to promote Pacific signature of the Convention. Representatives of diplomatic missions, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, media, and regional/UN agencies will be invited.
- Elections will be held in Vanuatu on 2 September, after which the government should be able to confirm its attendance at the Oslo signing ceremony. Andy will only come to Oslo for the signing ceremony if Vanuatu is represented at ministerial-level.
- Andy will use her network of Pacific disability campaigners to promote signature of the Convention, while Ema's NGO will also network with its contacts across the region as well as other networks with specific constituents (eg. women, church).
- Mary will attempt to meet with Pacific diplomatic missions at the United Nations in New York during a CMC lobby effort planned for 10-12 September. She will disseminate the Pacific overview, flyer and any other relevant materials.

Contacts

Mary Wareham

Human Rights Watch/Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition
+64-4-971-4688 (work) +64-21-996-905 (mobile)
wareham@hrw.org

Ms. Andonia Piau-Lynch (Vanuatu)

Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association
+678 23589/25036 (work) +678 5421033 (mobile)
dpa@vanuatu.com.vu (work) jalynch@vanuatu.com.vu (home)

Ms. Ema Tagicakibau (Fiji)

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC)
+679 3608 413 (home) +679 3304 649 (work)
etag@pcrc.org.fj (work) etaggy@hotmail.com (home)

Appendices

I. Schedule - Pacific Campaign Visit

II. Peace & Security Workshop Recommendations, Pacific CSO Forum

III. Notice of Public Talk on Pacific Demilitarization, Disarmament & Human Security

IV. Overview of Pacific Support for the Cluster Munitions Ban

V. PCRC Press Release, 19 Aug 08

Photos available online here: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/anzclusters>

APPENDIX I

Schedule: Pacific Campaign Visit

by Ms. Andonia Piau-Lynch ('Andy') & Ms. Ema Tagicakibau
Auckland, New Zealand
12-15 August 2008

Sat. 9 Aug.

11.00am: Andy arrives from Port Vila on Air Vanuatu NF50 (dep 7.00am). Check in.

Sun. 10 Aug.

5.10pm: Ema arrives from Nadi on Air Pacific FJ413 (dep 2.00pm). Check in.

Mon. 11 Aug.

Free day – check out hotel venue and prepare handout materials for distribution

Tues. 12 Aug.

7.30am: Mary arrives from Wellington NZ 402(dep 6.30am), meet at Rendezvous Hotel
9.00am-5.30pm: Day 1 Pacific CSO Forum (Peace & Security Workshop).

Weds. 13 Aug.

9.00am-5.30pm: Day 2 Pacific CSO Forum at Rendezvous Hotel
6.00pm: Meet Solomon Islands honorary counsel Doreen Kupa, and Jenny Janif
7.00pm-8.30pm: Candlelit vigil for Lebanon followed by public talk by Andy & Ema

Thurs. 14 Aug.

9.00am-5.30pm: Day 3 Pacific CSO Forum at Rendezvous Hotel

Fri. 15 Aug.

9.00am-10.30am: Debriefing & Evaluation
11.00am: Meet with Keith Locke, Green Party at 341 New North Road
12.00pm: Lunch with Oxfam New Zealand
8.00pm: Mary departs for Wellington on NZ 475 (arr 9.00pm)

Sat. 16 Aug.

12.00pm - Andy departs for Port Vila on Air Vanuatu NF 51 (arr 2.20pm)

Sun. 17 Aug.

12.55pm- Ema departs for Nadi on Air Pacific FJ412 (arr 4.00pm)

APPENDIX II

Pacific Civil Society Forum Recommendations on Peace and Security, 12 August 2008

The workshop participants unanimously agreed that the following recommendations be directed at Pacific civil society networks with a view to reporting back to the CSO Forum in 2009.

1. Document and support efforts by local communities to resolve conflict and security challenges. Educate communities to ensure they are informed and understand peace and security policy initiatives at every level.
2. Use education initiatives as a tool in peace building processes throughout the Pacific with a view to addressing a holistic indigenous perspective to peace building.
3. In keeping the 2000-2010 decade to overcome violence declared by the World Council of Churches, ensure that all churches across the Pacific address violence against women and identify and support their unique contributions to resolving conflicts and restoring peace.
4. Ensure that civil society in the Pacific contributes to a safe and secure environment thus preventing the increase of people with disabilities in our societies. Convince Pacific governments to join the 2006 Convention on Disability Rights. Ensure people with disabilities receive adequate assistance and are included in peace and security programmes.
5. Under the overall umbrella of a dialogue on regionalism, initiate a discussion to achieve a Pacific definition of what peace and security means to our people in the region.
6. Support international disarmament initiatives that seek to prevent civilian casualties and the use of weapons as tools of repression. ie. Convince Pacific governments to sign the new Convention Banning Cluster Munitions on 3 December 2008. Encourage Pacific states to call for negotiations to commence to achieve a treaty controlling transfers of small arms and light weapons. Support efforts to retain Japan's Article 9 prohibition of a standing army. Persuade Federated States of Micronesia, Tonga, and Tuvalu to join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty prohibiting antipersonnel mines.
7. Demand justice and reparations for the victims of nuclear weapons testing in the Pacific, as well as the return of land and territories taken for military purposes, including nuclear weapons testing. Get Pacific states to encourage negotiations commence on an international treaty abolishing nuclear weapons.

List of Participants

Peace & Security Workshop, Pacific CSO Forum
Rendezvous Hotel, Auckland
12 August 2008

1. Alisi Daurewa, Partners in Community Development Fiji, adaurewa@pcdf.org.fj
2. Ana Wightman, ana.wightman@manufau.ac.nz
3. Andonia Piau-Lynch, Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association Vanuatu, dpa@vanuatu.com.vu
4. Angie Chand, Pacific Disability Forum, pdfsec@connect.com.fj
5. Betty Lafu, Matakau Vagahau Niue, bettylafu@hotmail.com
6. Clare Baiteke, Kiribati Association of NGOs,
7. David Hesaie, FSPI, david.hesaie@fspi.org.fj
8. Edwina Hughes, Peace Movement Aotearoa, pma@xtra.co.nz
9. Elizabeth Mortland, DPA Vanuatu, elizmortland@hotmail.com
10. Ema Tagicakibau, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, etag@pcrc.org.fj
11. Emeline Siale Ilolahia, Civil Society Forum of Tonga, csft@kalianet.to
12. Ernesto Bautista, UNDP Pacific Centre, ernesto.bautista@undp.org
13. Fei Tevi, Pacific Conference of Churches, tevi@pcc.org.fj
14. Kevin McBride, Pax Christi Aotearoa, paxnz@xtra.co.nz
15. Leaine Robinson, FSPI, leaine.robinson@fspi.org.fj
16. Mary Wareham, Human Rights Watch, wareham@hrw.org
17. Sarah Dyer, Solomon Islands National Council of Women, sdyer20@yahoo.com
18. Susana Tuisawa, Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women, pacfaw@connect.com.fj
19. Yeshe Smith, Pacific Leadership Program, yeshe.smith@ausaid.gov.nz

APPENDIX III - NOTICE



www.banclusterbombs.org.nz

Public Talk

Pacific Demilitarization, Disarmament & Human Security

Peace Place, 22 Emily Place, Auckland Central

Wednesday, 13 August 2008

7.00pm-8.00pm (come share a meal beforehand at 6.30pm)

Please come and hear two leading Pacific disarmament campaigners talk about their advocacy in support of demilitarization, disarmament and human security in the region. This public talk by Ms. Ema Tagicakibau (Fiji) and Andonia Piau-Lynch (Vanuatu) will start after a brief candlelit commemoration to remember the victims of the 2006 cluster bombing of south [Lebanon](#).

For more information, contact ANZCMC Coordinator Mary Wareham at: (021) 996-905



Ms. Ema Tagicakibau, Fiji

Ema Tagicakibau is assistant director of Suva-based Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC), working on human security issues including small arms trade and nuclear disarmament. Tagicakibau worked for the Fiji Women's Rights Movement before she was elected Member of Parliament in 1999. During the 2000 coup, Tagicakibau and four other women MPs were held hostage; she was subsequently freed to attend a relative's funeral.



Ms. Andonia Piau-Lynch, Vanuatu

Andonia Piau-Lynch is the national coordinator of the Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (DPA), an NGO established in 1999 to advocate for rights and promote abilities of people with disabilities throughout Vanuatu. First runner-up for the 2007 RRR/UNDP's 7th Pacific Human Rights Award, DPA lobbied successfully for Vanuatu to ratify the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and to become the first Pacific government to ratify the Disability Rights Convention in April 2008.

APPENDIX IV - Pacific Support for the Cluster Munition Ban

Cluster munitions used by the United States and others have killed and maimed civilians in thirty-one countries including Afghanistan, Iraq, Laos, and Serbia. In July and August 2006, Israel launched an estimated 4 million cluster submunitions on south [Lebanon](#) targeting many populated areas. Approximately one million of these explosive devices failed to detonate on impact and continue to threaten lives and render land inaccessible.

After years of diplomatic inaction, it was the civilian casualties in Lebanon that finally prompted governments to launch an all-out effort in February 2007 to create a new international treaty to ban cluster munitions. Over the next 12 months more than 100 states joined in this bold multilateral initiative dubbed the “Oslo Process,” including nine Pacific countries: Cook Islands, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. All of these Pacific states except Tonga subscribed to the [Wellington](#) Declaration issued 22 February 2008 affirming their support for the negotiation of an instrument prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians.

Six Pacific states participated in the negotiations held in Dublin, Ireland, that resulted in the successful adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 30 May 2008 (Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu). In addition to immediately prohibiting the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions, the agreement sets groundbreaking humanitarian obligations for victim assistance, clearance of contaminated land, and destruction of stockpiles. It is widely viewed as the most significant humanitarian and disarmament treaty in more than a decade. The new Convention will be opened for signature at a high-level ceremony in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008 (the international day for people with disabilities).

While no Pacific state is believed to possess cluster munitions, this is not a remote or unknown issue. Peacekeepers from Fiji and other Pacific nations have been killed and injured by cluster munitions, landmines and other explosive remnants of war while deployed abroad. Several atolls and islands across the Pacific still hold unexploded ordnance from World War Two. All but three Pacific states (FS Micronesia, Tonga, Tuvalu) have banned antipersonnel landmines by joining the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

For Pacific states, the new Convention on Cluster Munitions should entail few implementation requirements beyond simple legislation to enforce the prohibition domestically and a transparency report due after ratification. There is no expectation that small Pacific states participate in meetings of the new Convention (besides the signing ceremony!), but sponsorship is available to assist those interested.

The best way to respect the memory of those killed by this weapon in Lebanon and elsewhere is to stop cluster munitions from ever being used again. Every Pacific state wishing to prevent future casualties from the horrors of cluster munitions should sign Convention on Cluster Munitions this December and ratify without delay.

Prevent Civilian Casualties * Ban Cluster Munitions

- *Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu* need to publicly confirm their intent to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions this December.
- *Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, and Tonga* participated in the Oslo Process, but it is not clear if they will sign the Convention. *Kiribati, FS Micronesia, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu* did not participate in the Oslo Process, but can still sign the Convention.

Please urge these states to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3 December!

For more information go to: www.banclusterbombs.org.nz

This Fact Sheet was prepared by [Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition](#), Disability Promotion & Advocacy Association (Vanuatu) & Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, August 2008

ANNEX V



PACIFIC CONCERNS RESOURCE CENTRE Inc.

83 Amy Street, Toorak, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji
Telephone:(679) 3304 649 Facsimile: (679) 3304 755
E-mail: pcrc@connect.com.fj Website: www.pcrc.org.fj

PRESS RELEASE

August 19th 2008

PACIFIC FORUM LEADERS URGED TO SIGN THE CLUSTER MUNITIONS TREATY

On the eve of the 39th Pacific Islands Forum Meeting in Niue this week, more than 200 delegates that attended the Civil Society Forum in Auckland between August 12th -14th 2008, resolved to call on their 16 Forum-member governments to sign the Cluster Munitions Convention when it opens for signature in Oslo, Norway on December 3rd 2008 (International Day for Persons with Disabilities).

Three members of the Cluster Munitions Coalition that mobilised civil society delegates in Auckland included the Vanuatu Disabled Persons Association, the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) and the Human Rights Watch in Wellington.

Speaking on behalf of the three organisations, PCRC's Disarmament campaigner Ema Tagicakibau stated that, "There is a tendency by Pacific governments to treat issues like cluster bombs too lightly as we do not use it in our region. Our governments must be aware that Pacific peace-keepers, private security guards and even civilians, now serve in zones of armed conflicts where cluster munitions are likely to be dropped."

CSOs in the region congratulated the governments of Cook Islands, Fiji, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu for their endorsement of the draft Convention in Dublin, Ireland in May this year. We hope that they will maintain the momentum up to Oslo at the end of the year.

They also urged the governments of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Niue, to continue to support the Oslo process as they did in Wellington early this year, by being present in Oslo for the signing ceremony.

They especially called on the governments of Kiribati, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga and Tuvalu to join the Oslo process and support the cry of victims for a treaty that they have waited forty long years for.

Tagicakibau called on Forum Leaders to put the protection and security of civilians at the forefront by signing the Treaty in Oslo, Norway in December to ban once and for all these weapons of mass destruction."

"Pacific governments have an obligation to support the Treaty for a safer and more secure world and we hope that our Leaders rise to the occasion by signing the Treaty in Oslo in December," Tagicakibau added.

Ends

PACIFIC CONCERNS RESOURCE CENTRE is the Secretariat of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement. It is registered in the Fiji Islands under the Charitable Trusts Act. It is a Non-Governmental Organisation in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.