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*Aotearoa NZ CMC members:*

Amnesty International Aotearoa NZ, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, Auckland University Students' Association, 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 Nonproliferation and Disarmament NZ, Pax Christi Aotearoa-NZ, Peace Foundation NZ, Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security Centre, Peace Movement Aotearoa, Soroptimist International NZ, UN Association NZ, UN Youth Association NZ, UNICEF NZ, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa



27 October 2008

Ambassador HE Mr. Oum Maolanon  
Royal Thai Embassy  
2 Cook Street, Karori  
Wellington 6012

RE: Please sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions this December!

Dear Ambassador Maolanon:

I am writing on behalf of the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition to urge the Kingdom of Thailand to renounce cluster munitions and join the Convention on Cluster Munitions when it is opened for signature in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008.

This Convention, adopted by 107 states on 30 May 2008, prohibits the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions and sets strict deadlines for the removal of cluster munition remnants and destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions. It also includes groundbreaking humanitarian obligations for assistance to victims of cluster munitions. New Zealand is an ardent proponent of the Convention and in February 2008 hosted a key Oslo Process meeting in Wellington to secure support for the treaty.

We understand that Thailand is as yet undecided on whether to join Convention on Cluster Munitions. Signing the treaty on 3 December 2008, the international day for persons with disabilities, would be an important demonstration of Thailand's support for the rights of persons with disabilities. We urge Thailand to join New Zealand and other states at the Signing Ceremony this December.

Please urgently convey this message back to Bangkok.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Wareham  
Coordinator, Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition