

Mary Wareham, Coordinator
200 Oriental Parade, Wellington
Tel. +64 (21) 996-905
wareham@hrw.org
www.banclusterbombs.org.nz

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, Umma Trust, UN Association NZ, UN Youth Association NZ, UNICEF NZ, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa



21 June 2009

Mr. John Hayes, MP
Chairperson, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

RE: 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions

Dear Mr. Hayes:

On behalf of the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC), I am pleased to provide you with the enclosed publication *Banning Cluster Munitions: Government Policy and Practice*. This new report charts the creation of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions and details government policy and practice on cluster munition use, production, transfer and stockpiling in 150 countries. It shows how international opinion on cluster munitions has been transformed in recent years as 98 countries—including 20 NATO members—have acknowledged the humanitarian harm caused by cluster munitions and signed up to the new Convention banning the weapon.

The New Zealand entry (pages 129-132 of the report) documents New Zealand's engagement as a member of the Core Group that led the "Oslo Process" to create the Convention. As you are aware, New Zealand's contribution included holding a crucial conference in Wellington in February 2008 where 106 governments met to develop the draft text.

There is a clear humanitarian imperative to ensure that the Convention on Cluster Munitions takes effect as quickly as possible to avoid future casualties from the weapon. A total of thirty ratifications are required to trigger entry into force six months later. Currently, a total of ten treaty signatories have ratified the Convention, including five of the seven Core Group nations (Austria, Ireland, Holy See, Mexico, and Norway) and three countries where cluster munitions have been used (Albania, Laos, and Sierra Leone).

The ANZCMC strongly encourages you to support New Zealand's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We have reviewed the international treaty examination issued by the Select Committee last month and support the recommendation that a bill be expeditiously progressed through the House to give effect to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We would also like to provide one more reason for New Zealand to become

party to the Convention that unfortunately was not mentioned in the National Interest Analysis, which is the strong support that the 22 New Zealand non-governmental organizations in the ANZCMC have expressed for the cluster munition ban and the several thousand endorsements of support for this objective that we have collected from the New Zealand public.

The ANZCMC looks forward to supporting New Zealand's ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions including through a submission on the proposed implementing legislation. Please let me know if you would like to discuss the Convention with us or if you require any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Wareham', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mary Wareham
National Coordinator, Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition
Senior Advisor, Human Rights Watch (Arms Division)