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



29 April 2010

Ambassador Noppadon Theppitak
Royal Thai Embassy to New Zealand
2 Cook Street, Karori
Wellington 6012

Via Email: thaiembassy@xtra.co.nz

RE: Request for Meeting: Week of 26 July 2010

Dear Ambassador Theppitak:

Warm greetings from the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC). I am writing on behalf of the ANZCMC to request a meeting with you to discuss the ban on cluster munitions, a weapon that has caused immense civilian harm in countries around the world including in Southeast Asia. We last wrote to the Royal Thai Embassy on 27 October 2008, but did not receive a response.

The 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions comprehensively prohibits cluster munitions, requires destruction of stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years and clearance of contaminated land within 10 years, and recognises the rights of individuals and communities affected by the weapon to receive assistance. This crucial agreement will enter into force on 1 August 2010, becoming binding international law for the 106 states that have signed.

Unfortunately, Thailand has not yet signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

We therefore would like to meet with you to discuss this issue, during the week of 26 July 2010 if possible. We would also like to urge Thailand to attend the Convention's First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP), to be held in Vientiane, Lao PDR from 8-12 November 2010.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Mary Wareham
National Coordinator, Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition