



ICBL Takes on Cluster Munitions

In December 2006, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines decided to engage extensively in the global effort to prohibit cluster munitions. This marks the first time that ICBL has become significantly engaged on an issue other than antipersonnel mines.

The main reasons for the ICBL's decision were:

1. Cluster munitions inevitably end up leaving behind large numbers of unexploded 'duds' which behave essentially like antipersonnel mines
2. Many ICBL members have been already working extensively on cluster munitions
3. International efforts to achieve a global ban on cluster munitions are at a crucial point, a point where the ICBL can have a meaningful impact.

In February 2007, the ICBL formally joined the Steering Committee of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) – the coalition of NGOs that is leading civil society's campaign to ban cluster munitions. Since then the ICBL has been actively participating in the so called Oslo Process aimed at concluding a treaty banning cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians, by 2008.

While taking a more active role on cluster munitions, the ICBL is not changing its basic mandate or call. The major focus of ICBL's work will remain on antipersonnel mines and full universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

At the same time we believe that combining work on mines and cluster munitions is natural from the perspective of affected communities and could serve to invigorate some ICBL member activities, and create new opportunities that would benefit both areas of work.

More information on the ICBL's engagement on cluster munitions is available under the links below:

* Belgrade Conference of States Affected by Cluster Munitions, 2-4 October 2007

http://www.icbl.org/news/belgrade_closing

http://www.icbl.org/news/belgrade_opening_pr

* Lima Conference on Cluster Munitions, 21-23 May 2007

http://www.icbl.org/news/2007septnewsletter_oslo

http://www.icbl.org/news_on_front/limafinalpr

http://www.icbl.org/news/cmc_press_final

* Regional Forum on Cluster Munitions in Southeast Asia, Phnom Penh, 15 March 2007

http://www.icbl.org/news/cluster_forum_pp

<http://www.icbl.org/news/ppclusters>

* Oslo Conference on Cluster Munitions, 21-23 February 2007

http://www.icbl.org/news/cmc_pr

<http://www.icbl.org/news/oslopr2>

* ICBL welcomes Norway's call to negotiate a treaty banning cluster munitions, 16 November 2006

<http://www.icbl.org/news/clustersban>



An ICBL sub site devoted to cluster munitions is under construction and will be running by the end of 2007.

To find out more about the ICBL's engagement on cluster munitions please contact: Kasia Derlicka, Advocacy and Campaigning Officer, at kasia@icbl.org

Click on the logo to enter the CMC web site