

A RESPONSE TO SYRIA

Expanding the Influence of the Convention on Cluster Munitions

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The logo for Human Rights Watch, consisting of a blue square with the words "HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH" in white, uppercase letters arranged in three lines.

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Power of Treaties

- ▣ Legally bind states parties
- ▣ Influence states not party and non-state actors

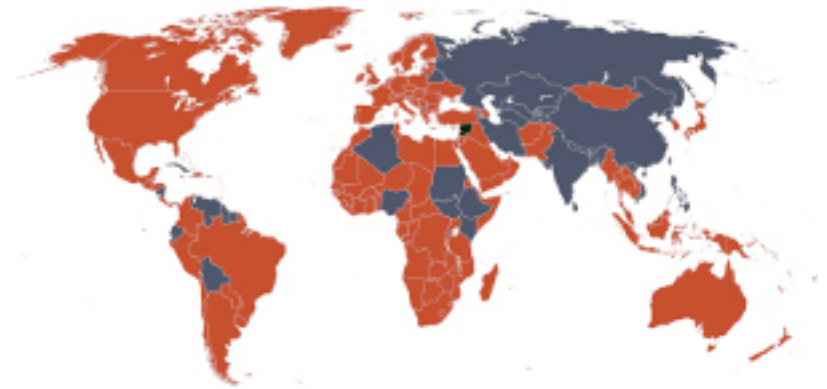
Steps for States Parties

- Condemn use of cluster munitions
- Comply with convention's obligations
 - Reduces proliferation
 - Sets standards of conduct
- Strongly implement and interpret convention

Condemnation of Use

- Condemn *all* use of cluster munitions
 - At *any* time
 - By *any* party
- Stigmatizes weapon and strengthens political norm

157 COUNTRIES HAVE CONDEMNED USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IN THE CONTEXT OF ONGOING USE IN SYRIA



USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IS UNACCEPTABLE BY ANYONE, ANYWHERE, ANY TIME

WWW.STOPCLUSTERMUNITIONS.ORG

Use in Eastern Ukraine



- Russia: Criticized “barbaric nature” of cluster munition attacks
- Ukraine: “It is savages who use cluster munitions against civilians.”

Means of Condemnation

- Public statements
 - Time of attack
 - Diplomatic meetings

- UN resolutions

- 6th Meeting of States Parties

- Interventions
- Declaration



6TH MEETING OF
STATES PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON
CLUSTER MUNITIONS

Compliance: Decrease Proliferation



Stockpile Destruction



Compliance: Inform Conduct of Parties outside Convention

- US: Ended transfers to Saudi Arabia
- Textron: Ended production



Failed Sensor Fuzed Weapons
Yemen 2015

Compliance: Set Standards



Strong Implementation Legislation

- Penal sanctions for violations of prohibitions
- Positive obligations, including for
 - Victim assistance
 - Clearance
 - Stockpile destruction
- Breadth of coverage
 - Explosive bomblets
 - Corporations and individuals
 - Extraterritorial jurisdiction

Legislation by the Numbers

- 27 states parties have adopted legislation
- 31 states claim existing legislation adequate
- More than 40 percent of states parties lack relevant legislation

Strong Interpretation

- Prohibit transit through national territory
- Prohibit hosting of foreign stockpiles
- Prohibit investment in production
- Prohibit assistance with use of cluster munitions, even in joint military operations

Recommendations

- ▣ States parties should realize convention's potential by
 - ▣ Complying with own obligations
 - ▣ Strengthening political and legal norms against cluster munitions
 - ▣ Influencing actions of those outside the convention