

## **Faith Leaders' Appeal for an International Treaty to Ban Cluster Munitions**

17 April 2008

As people of faith, we raise our voices for the protection of life and promotion of peace by calling on all governments to end the production, transfer, stockpiling, and use of cluster bombs.

For more than 40 years, cluster bombs have killed and wounded innocent people, causing untold suffering, loss and hardship for thousands in more than 20 countries across the planet. These weapons cause death and injury to civilians during attacks and for years afterwards because of the lethal contamination that they cause. Cluster bombs hamper post-conflict rebuilding and rehabilitation and the dangerous work of cluster bomb clearance absorbs funds that could be spent on other urgent humanitarian needs. Without determined action, the civilian harm caused by these weapons both during and after conflict will continue to grow.

The voices of those whose lives have already been shattered by cluster munitions call us to take meaningful and courageous action. Our faith traditions call us to stand with those who have suffered, and to work for the well-being of the human family through relationships of respect, justice, and peace.

We are speaking out today on the Global Day of Action to Ban Cluster Bombs where people across all continents, cultures and faiths are taking action and calling for a ban on cluster bombs.

A comprehensive ban on cluster bombs can and must be negotiated one month from now in Dublin, Ireland, in May 2008. We urge governments to take up this heavy responsibility by seizing this opportunity to take concrete action for the protection of the vulnerable and for the promotion of peace.

Sincerely,

**The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu**

Anglican Archbishop Emeritus of Cape Town

**Dr. Christoph Cardinal Schönborn**

Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna, Catholic Church of Austria

**Archbishop Gunnar Stålsett**

Committee World Council Religions for Peace, Lutheran Church of Norway

**Sister Emmanuelle**

Founder and Honorary President of ASMAE (Association Soeur Emmanuelle), France.

**Archbishop Antonio Ledesma**

Vice President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and Bishop-President of Pax Christi Pilipinas (Philippines)

**Archbishop John Dew,**

Archbishop of Wellington, Catholic Church of New Zealand

**Archbishop Anders Wejryd**

Church of Sweden

**Chief Rabbi David Rosen**

Chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, Israel

**Archbishop John Onaiyekan**

Archbishop of the Abuja Diocese of the Catholic Church and President of the Christian Association of Nigeria

**Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari**

Secretary General, Muslim Council of Britain

**Indarjit Singh**

Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations, UK

**Rabbi Danni Rich**

Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism

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Apostolic Administrator, Archdiocese of Freetown and Bo (Roman Catholic), Sierra Leone

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President, Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone

**Sheik Abu Bakarr Conteh**

1st Vice President, Inter Religious Council of Sierra Leone, Imam of Freetown Municipality Council and Masjid Hamdallah

**Sheik Abu-Bakarr Tejan-Jalloh**

Chief Imam of Freetown Central Mosque, Sierra Leone

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Archbishop of Kinshasa, DR Congo and Co-President Pax Christi International

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**Bishop Émile Destombes**

Apostolic Vicar of Phnom Penh, the Catholic Church in Cambodia

**Bishop Anthony Sami**

Catholic Church in Cambodia

**Bishop Yves Ramousse Gustave**

The Catholic Church in Cambodia

**Bishop Ragnar Persenius**

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Bishop of Palmerston North, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

**Bishop Denis Browne**

Bishop of Auckland, Catholic Church of New Zealand

**Bishop Barry Jones**

Catholic Diocese of Christchurch, New Zealand

**Bishop David Stancliffe**

Bishop of Salisbury, Church of England

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Auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and Spokesman on European Affairs for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

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Bishop of Waiapu, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

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