

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

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

Archbishop Dermot Martin

Archbishop of Dublin, Catholic Church in Ireland

Archbishop Gunnar Stålsett

Committee World Council Religions for Peace, Lutheran Church of Norway

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

Indarjit Sing

Director of the Network of Sikh Organisations, UK

Rabbi Danni Rich

Chief Executive of Liberal Judaism

Archbishop John Onaiyekan

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

Monsignor Samuel Gandi

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

Reverend Osman J. Fornah

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

Monsignor Laurent Monsengwo

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

Bishop Kike Figaredo

Apostolic Prefect of Battambang, the Catholic Church in Cambodia

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

Jim Schrag

Executive Director, Mennonite Church, USA

Rolando Santiago

Executive Director, Mennonite Central Committee, USA

Arli Klassen

Executive Director, Mennonite Central Committee, USA

James E. Winkler

General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society, the United Methodist Church, USA

Marie Dennis

Director, Maryknoll Global Concerns, Co-President, Pax Christi International

Bishop Peter Cullinane

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

Bishop William Kenny

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

Reverend Jonathan Edwards

General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain

Reverend Dr Martyn Atkins

President of the Methodist Conference, United Kingdom

Reverend Gregor Henderson,

President of the Uniting Church in Australia

Reverend Dr. Setri Nyomi

Secretary General of World Alliance of Reformed Churches, the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Rabbi Steven Jacobs

Right Reverend Francis S. Nabieu

Head of Methodist Church Sierra Leone

Mary Ellen McNish

General Secretary, American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, USA

Dr. Fauzy Khoury

Exarch of the Greek Catholic Melkite Church in the Galilee

Bishop Erik Norman Svendsen

Diocese Copenhagen, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Kresten Drejergaard

Diocese Fyen, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Elisabeth Dons Christensen

Diocese Ribe, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Steen Skovsgaard

Diocese Lolland-Falster, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Karsten Nissen

Diocese Viborg, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Kjeld Holm

Diocese Aarhus, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Søren Lodberg Hvas

Diocese Aalborg, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Bishop Niels Henrik Arendt, Diocese Haderslev

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark

Pastor Jørgen Bøytler

The Moravian Church in Denmark, member of the Provincial Board in the European Continental Province of the Moravian Church

Claudette Werleigh

Secretary General Pax Christi International

Reverend Dr Anthony Dancer

Social Justice Commissioner of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand

Reverend Brian Turner

President, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Aotearoa-New Zealand

Monsieur Gregory BAUM, théologien et écrivain, professeur émérite, Sciences religieuses, Université McGill, Montréal

Madame Élisabeth GARANT, directrice du **Centre justice et foi** et de la revue *Relations* (*Relations* est une revue d'analyse sociale et religieuse, initiative des Jésuites à Montréal)

Sister Donna GEERNAERT, Congregational Leader, Sisters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, Présidente de la **Conférence Religieuse Canadienne – CRC – Canadian Religious Conference** (Association of Major Superiors of Women and Men Congregations in Canada)

Madame Heather EATON, théologienne, professeur à la Faculté de théologie, Université Saint-Paul, membre du Canadian Forum on Religion and Ecology

Pasteur David FINES, rédacteur en chef de la revue *Aujourd'hui Credo*, magazine de l'Église Unie au Canada – *Director of Aujourd'hui Credo*

Monseigneur Pierre MORISSETTE, évêque de Baie-Comeau, Vice-président de la Conférence des Évêques Catholiques du Canada (CECC) – Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB)

Madame Carolyn SHARP, théologienne, professeur à la Faculté de théologie, Université Saint-Paul, Ottawa

Bishop Raymond Field

Chairman Commission for Justice and Social Affairs, Catholic Church of Ireland

Bishop John Kirby,

Chairman Trocaire, Catholic Church of Ireland

Mgr. A. H. van Luyn S. D. B

President Pax Christi Netherlands, Bishop of Rotterdam, Catholic Church in the Netherlands

Msgr. Marc Stenger

Bishop of Troyes and Bishop President of Pax Christi France

Bishop Sofie Petersen

Evangelical Lutheran Church and Bishop of Greenland

Bishop John Bluck

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