

c/o Landmine Action
89 Albert Embankment
London
SE1 7TP

Rt Hon Gordon Brown
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 0AA

4 June 2009

Dear Prime Minister

Just over one year ago this week, the UK Government played an extremely important role in the negotiation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, with your personal intervention ensuring support for the comprehensive prohibition that was agreed. Since this date the UK has further demonstrated its support for the Convention through concrete action by: withdrawing all its cluster munitions from service and setting a timeline for their destruction; initiating discussions with the USA on the withdrawal of their stockpiles from UK territory, and mandating the Foreign Secretary personally to sign the Convention at the Signing Conference in Oslo last December.

However, as you know, the Convention will only enter into force and become legally binding on States Parties six months after it has been ratified by 30 countries. The Government has stated on a number of occasions that it will ratify the Convention as soon as feasible and we are aware that the drafting of national legislation to enable this is already well underway. In this regard, we urge you to make it a priority to include the draft cluster munition legislation in the 2009/2010 legislative agenda.

The UK has also stated its wish to see the Convention become a global norm and has committed to work to secure the widest possible adherence to it. Swift ratification of the Convention by the UK will serve to strengthen and consolidate its leadership in the field of humanitarian disarmament and in related efforts to establish an effective Arms Trade Treaty, as well as promoting its stated commitments on development and poverty reduction in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Allen
Director
Amnesty International
UK



Stephen Dunmore
Interim Chief Executive
The Diana Princess of
Wales Memorial Fund



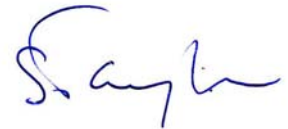
Director
Friends of Lebanon



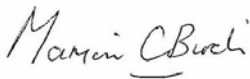
Stephanie Stuart
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Human Rights Watch



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Director
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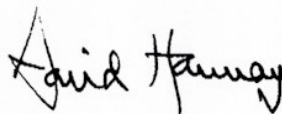
Barbara Stocking
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