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**Public Appeal**

**19 April 2008**

**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

**Dr. Christoph Cardinal Schönborn**

Cardinal Archbishop of Vienna, Catholic Church of Austria

**Archbishop Dermot Martin**

Archbishop of Dublin, Catholic Church in Ireland

**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

**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

**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

**Bishop Eliezer M. Pascua**

General Secretary of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines

**Bishop Jessie Suarez**

South Luzon Jurisdictional Area, United Church of Christ in the Philippines

**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**

Temple Kol Tikvah, USA

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Head of Methodist Church Sierra Leone

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Exarch of the Greek Catholic Melkite Church in the Galilee

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Ag. Executive Secretary, Ghana Conference of Religions for Peace, Ghana

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Chairman Emeritus, World Jain Confederation, India

**M. L. Pindolia**  
President, Hindu Council of Africa, Africa

**Samdech Tep Vong**  
The Great Supreme Patriarch of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Cambodia

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**Taoist Mission Secretarial Office**  
Taoist Mission Secretarial office, Singapore

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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

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

**Reverend Brian Turner**

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

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**Bishop John Kirby**,  
Chairman Trocaire, Catholic Church of Ireland

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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

**Bishop James Moriarty**  
Roman Catholic Church, Ireland

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Ameer/President of the Islamic Circle of North America, USA

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Former Ambassador, Netherlands, Netherlands

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