

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

Contents:

1) Campaign launch	4. Campaign actions
2) Bank meetings and reactions	5. Media highlights
3) Legislation and parliamentary initiatives	6. Other

1) Campaign launch

The CMC's Stop Explosive Investments campaign, which promotes disinvestment from cluster munition producers, was launched in London on 29 October 2009. The launch coincided with the release of the report by CMC members IKV Pax Christi and Netwerk Vlaanderen.



Laura Cheeseman (CMC staff), Thomas Nash (CMC staff), Roos Boer (IKV/Pax Christi) and Kimberly Brown (CMC staff) outside of Barclays bank on launch day. Photo credit: Jeppe Schilder/IKV Pax Christi

- ✦ Launch day began with a press conference which was attended by journalists from Reuters, Italian press agency ANSA, Norwegian *Dagbladet* newspaper and a broadcast crew from Russia Today.
- ✦ Following the press conference, campaigners, including one dressed in a cluster bomb outfit, visited HSBC, Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) in order to hand over the report and a press pack.
- ✦ Both Barclays and RBS issued written statements, while HSBC and RBS both agreed to meet with UK campaigners to discuss the issue further in the coming weeks.
- ✦ A full overview of the events that took place on the day of the launch in London can be found at <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/news/3/59/CMC-launches-global-campaign-to-clamp-down-on-banks-funding-cluster-bomb-producers> and a video of the action can be seen <http://www.youtube.com/CMCInternational#p/a/f/0/W82tYPQ7Dw4>

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

2) Bank meetings and reactions:

Meetings:

Royal Bank of Scotland: Campaigners from Amnesty International UK and CMC met with Andrew Cave (Head of Corporate Sustainability) and Andrew Mason (Corporate Sustainability) on 14 December 2009. RBS stated that they had followed the Oslo Process closely and have recently updated their defence sector policy which will be implemented in 2010.



Points covered in the meeting were the recent changes and present implementation of the policy and RBS's loans to cluster munition producers Alliant Techsystems and Lockheed Martin.



The RBS representatives expressed that one of the main challenges on disinvestment is working with large conglomerates, because often only a very small percentage of the companies in the overall conglomerate is involved in the defence sector. Campaigners said that investment in these conglomerates remains a concern.



An interesting aspect of this meeting is that since the 2008 financial crisis RBS is over 70% government owned. Since the UK Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill (see section 3) includes a ban on direct investment and the government has discussed further work on indirect investment – this was discussed with the RBS representatives.



A follow-up meeting is planned in May to discuss the steps that RBS has taken regarding investment in producers of cluster munitions.

HSBC: Campaigners from Amnesty International UK and CMC met with Simon Martin (Head of Group Corporate Sustainability), John Laidlow (Senior Manager, Sustainability Risk Management – Group Corporate Sustainability), Francis Sullivan (Deputy Head of Group Corporate Sustainability – Advisor on the Environment and Climate Change) and Rachael Morgan (Senior Manager, Communications and Reporting, Group Corporate Sustainability) at the HSBC head office in London on 12 January 2010.



The HSBC representatives explained to campaigners that their defence policy, which was developed in 2000 and has subsequently been reviewed, will be released in part in a public summary in January or February.



Other issues were discussed, such as HSBC's challenges in working with conglomerates, HSBC's policy on third-party investments and their interest in contributing to the update of the report.



Campaigners welcomed HSBC's plans to make their policy public, but expressed concerns about their policy on third-party investments.

ANZ: The Cambodian Campaign represented by two campaigners visited different branches of ANZ Royal to challenge their investment policy and practice. One of the main issues discussed was the use of engagement with clients.

Reactions:

After the report was published, Balanced Equity Management contacted the report authors on an error in the information on their asset management with Singapore Technologies Engineering, which they do not invest in.



A full explanation of this error can be found here
<http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/uploads/pdf/erratum.pdf>

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

3) Legislation and parliamentary Initiatives

As detailed in the report, legislation banning investments in cluster munitions has been passed by Belgium, Ireland and Luxembourg and documents on these can be downloaded at www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/legislation. Since the launch of the campaign, a number of countries have taken steps to ban investments in producers of cluster munitions, including the Netherlands, New Zealand and the UK.

The Netherlands: On 8 December, the Dutch Parliament accepted a motion that prohibits investment in cluster munitions. The move was named a “revolutionary step” by those who have worked on the issues of cluster bombs for years. Although many financial institutions in the Netherlands have already pulled investments from cluster bomb producers, there still remain a handful of banks that continue to invest in these companies.

New Zealand: On 10 December, the Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill had its second and final reading in the New Zealand Parliament. Eight parliamentarians spoke over the course of the hour-long debate before the legislation was unanimously adopted. The legislation, which governs New Zealand’s implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, was signed into law by the governor-general on 17 December paving the way for the deposit of New Zealand’s ratification instrument on 23 December. Due to relentless campaign work by the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC), a prohibition on investment in companies that manufacture cluster munitions was included in the bill. Mary Wareham, coordinator of the ANZCMC said, “We are pleased at how the Bill was strengthened and clarified through the Select Committee process, particularly with the addition of the prohibition on investment in companies that manufacture cluster munitions.”



The ANZCMC has prepared a critique of the legislation that is available on its website.
<http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/2009/12/11/cluster-bomb-ban-law-passes/>



Further information at:
<http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=1984>



ANZCMC campaigners and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade outside parliament after the Cluster Munitions Prohibitions Bill was passed. Photo credit: Evelyn Wareham

UK: The Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill in the UK passed the committee stage in the House of Lords on 6 December and now returns to parliament. The Bill, which will enable the country to proceed with ratification, includes a prohibition on direct financing of cluster munitions. Although the Bill does not prohibit indirect financing, the government has said it intends to work with the financial sector, NGOs and other interested parties to promote a voluntary code of conduct which would prevent indirect financing, and if necessary would use the right to initiate legislation. This was confirmed in the committee stage when there was a discussion to have a new piece of legislation developed after the Bill passes which would include indirect financing.



The discussion on this can be found on page 36 of the following document:
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200910/ldhansrd/ldhan20.pdf>

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

4) Campaign actions: Campaigners in 18 countries have taken action on disinvestment on or since the day of the launch.

✦ **Australia:** The Uniting Church in Australia issued a media release shortly after the launch of the campaign, criticising the ANZ bank for providing finance to companies that produce cluster munitions. Some media coverage resulted, including an [article in *The Age* newspaper](#). The Uniting Church also launched a postcard action with a coalition of Australian organisations, asking ANZ to change its policy so that it does not do business with companies manufacturing cluster munition and landmines. The Justice and Mercy conference took action to ask the ANZ bank to change its policy by drafting a letter to individuals who bank with ANZ.

Contact: Mark Zirnsak, Uniting Church in Australia: Mark.Zirnsak@victas.uca.org.au and Denise Coghlan, Cambodia CBL: denisecoghlan@yahoo.com.au

✦ **Belgium:** Esther Vandenbroucke, of Netwerk Vlaanderen and one of the report authors, participated in the launch of the campaign in London. She spoke at the press conference and continues to carry out research on worldwide investments in cluster munitions towards further updates of the report. Netwerk Vlaanderen has been campaigning on disinvestment for many years and is following up on the implementation on the Belgian law that bans investments in producers of cluster munitions.

<http://www.netwerkvlaanderen.be/en/>

Contact: Esther Vandenbroucke, Netwerk Vlaanderen: e.vandenbroucke@netwerkvlaanderen.be



Esther Vandenbroucke of Netwerk Vlaanderen speaks to a journalist at the press conference. Photo credit: Jeppe Schilder/IKV Pax Christi

✦ **Canada:** Mines Action Canada (MAC) is actively campaigning on disinvestment with a campaign called *When your investment bombs* - <http://www.minesactioncanada.org/index.cfm?fuse=our-campaigns.2010-01> MAC will hold a meeting on 4 February in Toronto which will be co-hosted with Jantzi Sustainalytics and will include representatives from Canadian financial institutions. Prior to the event, MAC will put out an action alert asking Canadians to contact their financial institutions about their policies on investment in producers of cluster munitions. A MAC researcher has been contacting financial institutions to determine their investment policies, and some Canadian institutions have already welcomed policy statements on disinvestment for review. An e-letter writing action will also be launched which will ask the government to include disinvestment in Canada's legislation. A MAC staff member attended a SRI (socially responsible investing) conference in Tucson, Arizona, in November 2009 where they hosted an informal table session on disinvestment and handed out information sheets throughout conference.

Contact: Paul Hannon, Mines Action Canada: paul@minesactioncanada.org

✦ **Cambodia:** The Cambodian Campaign represented by two campaigners visited different branches of ANZ Royal to challenge the investment policy and practice. ANZ Royal is a subsidiary of ANZ in Australia which many Australian expats living in Cambodia use. *The Cambodia Daily* gave front page coverage to the exchange and response from bank officials
Contact: Denise Coghlan, Cambodia CBL: denisecoghlan@yahoo.com.au

✦ **Denmark:** DanWatch recently released a report on investment in cluster munitions in Denmark. In October and November DanWatch conducted an investigation of the 20 biggest Danish financial institutions' investments in producers of cluster munitions, including the 10 largest pension funds and the 10 largest banks. They have produced a five-page key findings document.

Contact: Eva Veble, DanChurchAid: EVV@dca.dk

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

✦ **France:** Campaigners in France have been active on disinvestment. They have led a campaign to stop investments in cluster bombs trade from AXA and major French banking groups (Natixis/BPCE, Société Générale, Crédit Agricole, BNP Paribas). They have provided key information in the lead-up to the launch of the Stop Explosive Investments campaign. Amnesty International France provided: an executive summary of the disinvestment campaign carried out so far in France by AIF and HI; input for the campaigning guide; photos and a post card used in a joint action with AXA. Amnesty International France and Handicap International are now working with the government, parliamentarians and the ad-hoc national committees to ensure that an amendment on the prohibition on investments is added in the draft implementation law that should be adopted by the Parliament before June. It seems that French government understands the prohibition on assistance as already covering direct investments, but not indirect investments.

Contact: Aymeric Elluin, Amnesty International France: aelluin@amnesty.fr and Marion Libertucci, Handicap International France, mllibertucci@handicap-international.org

✦ **Germany:** Campaigners in Germany are working to get involved in the disinvestment campaign in the future and have already translated the Stop Explosive Investments logo into German. Handicap International Germany and Actiongroup Landmine.de are currently corresponding on possible upcoming campaign activities in Germany.

Contact: Eva Fischer, Handicap International efischer@handicap-international.de and Julia Dubsloff, al.de: j.dubsloff@landmine.de

✦ **Italy:** At the time of the launch, Italian campaigners from Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale issued a press release on the Stop Explosive Investments campaign. The Italian Campaign Against Mines (Campagna Italiana Contro le Mine) is working, together with the Cultural Foundation of the Italian Ethical Bank (Fondazione Culturale Responsabilità Etica) to have a bill on the financing of cluster munitions and disinvestment-related issues presented and discussed in the Italian Parliament.

Contact: Andrea Baranes, Campagna per la Riforma della Banca Mondiale: abaranes@crbm.org and Sabina Siniscalchi, Cultural Foundation of Banca Etica: siniscalchi.fondazione@bancaetica.org

✦ **Japan:** Campaigners from the Japanese Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL) issued a press release on the day of the launch. They are also planning on holding a workshop with financial institutions in the coming months.

Contact: Motoko Mekata and Junko Utsumi, JCBL: motokomekata@nifty.com, Utsumi@jcbl-ngo.org

✦ **Luxembourg:** Campaigners from Handicap International Luxembourg issued a press release and the Stop Explosive Investments disinvestment logo and link was posted on the organisation's website.

Contact: Jérôme Bobin, Handicap International: jbobin@handicap-international.lu

✦ **The Netherlands:** Roos Boer of IKV Pax Christi, one of the report authors, participated in the launch of the campaign in London. She spoke at the press conference and continues to carry out research on worldwide investments in cluster munitions towards further updates of the report. On 8 December, the Dutch Parliament accepted a motion that prohibits investment in cluster munitions (see section 3). IKV Pax Christi is following up with parliamentarians, financial institutions and the Ministry of Economic Affairs on implementation of the motion.

Contact: Roos Boer, IKV Pax Christi: boer@ikvpaxchristi.nl

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

- ✦ **New Zealand:** The Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition (ANZCMC) issued a press release and a website update on the day of the launch. Following the Cluster Munitions (Prohibition) Bill being signed into law on 17 December (see section 3) the ANZCMC held an event on 15 December to celebrate the new law and ratification, which was attended by Hon. Georgina [Te Heuhe](#), New Zealand's minister for disarmament and arms control, and other politicians, demining experts, and campaigners. For more information see: <http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz/2009/12/11/cluster-bomb-ban-law-passes/> and <http://www.stopclustermunitions.org/news/?id=1984>
Contact: Mary Wareham, ANZCMC, wareham@hrw.org
- ✦ **Spain:** Moviment per la Pau, Fundació per la Pau and center of peace studies Delas of Justicia i Pau collaborated to translate and issue a press release on launch day. Campaigners in Spain are planning on contacting the government on disinvestment-related issues.
Contact: Maria-Josep Parés, Moviment per la Pau: mariajosep@movimentperlapau.org
Lourdes Vergés, Fundació per la Pau lverges@fundacioperlapau.org. Jordi Calvo, Center of peace studies Delas of Justicia i Pau: jcalvo@centredelas.org
- ✦ **Sweden:** On launch day, the United Nations Association (UNA) of Sweden and SPAS issued a joint press release. UNA Sweden launched a report named *Investments in anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions: a Nordic perspective* on 12 November. On 13 November, the Swedish network against cluster munitions arranged a seminar on investments, held at the Swedish Red Cross. There were about 50 participants in the audience and a panel with representatives from Swedish pension fund KPA, Norwegian Bank DnB Nor, a professor of sustainable investment research and accounting at Umeå School of Business who is also programme director at Mistra and Öhrlings, Anna Ek from SPAS and a moderator from Amnesty International. There was also an op-ed article in the Swedish paper *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* the same week urging for ratification and a law that prohibits investments in cluster munitions. The Parliamentary Forum on SALW is working to develop a policy statement against investment in cluster munitions and already has a first draft.
Contacts: Anna Ek, SPAS: anna.ek@svenskafreds.se, and Jonas Nyström, UNA Sweden: jonas.nystrom@fn.se
- ✦ **Switzerland:** On launch day Handicap International in Switzerland held a press briefing which generated coverage on cluster munition production investment practices of the two major Swiss banks. Political work on disinvestment is under way with the Swiss government following two motions deposited in parliament that focus on the inclusion of disinvestment in the ratification law. There is a debate on the notion of direct and indirect funding. HI is working with their lawyer to produce a first draft of a Swiss law on disinvestment for consultation which would introduce the establishment of an annual list of banned producers. Switzerland may not have ratified before the 1MSP, in which case they could participate as observers.
Contact: Paul Vermeulen, HI: pvermeulen@handicap-international.ch
- ✦ **Syria:** The Arab Network for Research on Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ANROLM), issued a press release in Arabic calling on governments and financial institutions to stop investment in producers of cluster munitions, which was published on the website www.anrolm.org. Many news agencies covered this press release, including the official Syrian newspaper. Ghassan Shahrour, ANROLM general coordinator, met with Mr. Nour eddin Boushokuj, secretary-general of The Arab Inter-parliamentary Union at his office, where he shared documents including a copy of the press release as well as the report and the European Parliament resolution of 25 October 2007: Towards a global treaty to ban all cluster munitions, P6_TA(2007)0484.

Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

**STOP
EXPLOSIVE
INVESTMENTS**
ARE YOU FUNDING CLUSTER BOMBS?



Ghassan Shahrour and Mr. Mr. Nour eddin Boushkouj, secretary-general of The Arab Inter-parliamentary Union discuss the disinvestment campaign. Photo credit: Ghassan Shahrour

The secretary-general of The Arab Inter-parliamentary Union (which represents all the parliaments of the 22 Arab states) expressed his support for the press release and promised to circulate all the documents amongst parliaments in Arab states to raise awareness on the issue of cluster bombs and ERW and to urge them to take action. ANROLM sent a fax to Riyadh Bank, Saudi Arabia – the only bank in the region that is listed in the Hall of Shame – urging the bank to disengage from any financial work with producers of cluster munitions.

Contact: Ghassan Shahrour, Arab Net for Research on LM&ERW: Ghassan.dr@gmail.com

UK: The launch of the Stop Explosive Investments campaign was held in London. Launch day began with a press conference given by Roos Boer, Esther Vandenbroucke and Thomas Nash. Campaigners from CMC, War on Want, Landmine Action and Amnesty International UK visited three banks (Barclays, HSBC, and RBS) to present the report and press packs. RBS and Barclays issued statements on the same day. Follow-up meetings have been held with RBS and HSBC, and are planned with Barclays (see section 2). A joint NGO letter was issued by War on Want, Landmine Action, HI and Amnesty International. Amnesty International UK hosted a web action which lets supporters contact banks expressing their concern over their investments. More than 6,000 emails have been sent as part of this online action. http://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions_details.asp?ActionID=667. IMPACT, the University of Nottingham Magazine published an article on the ethics of the university's investments - <http://www.impactnottingham.com/2010/01/dodgy-dealings-in-nottingham/>

The Cluster Munitions (Prohibitions) Bill in the UK includes language on direct financing. On 7 January, during the committee stage, the Lords discussed that there is in fact the intention to work on separate legislation on indirect financing after the Bill has passed.

Contact: Kimberly Brown, CMC staff: Kimberly@stopclustermunitions.org

USA: In the US there are two universities that have taken action on disinvestment. The first was the University of Vermont, where the university's board of trustees is planning on disinvesting in collaboration with Students Against War. The second was Columbia University, where students presented a proposal to Columbia's advisory committee on socially responsible investing. *Arms Control Today* published <http://www.armscontrol.org/print/3992> by Andrew Fisher on disinvestment.

Contact: Andrew Fisher, Arms Control Association: afisher@armscontrol.org



Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update

5) Media Highlights: Below is a selection of media coverage the divestment campaign has generated since its launch. For a full list of international coverage please contact Kimberly Brown, CMC Staff: Kimberly@stopclustermunitions.org

AdelaideNow

Top banks fund cluster bombs as ban nears - Profundo consultancy report
http://www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/story/0,22606,26280639-5005962,00.html?from=public_rss

Yahoo! News canada

Top banks fund cluster bombs as ban nears: study
http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/reuters/091029/n_top_news/cnews_us_clusterbombs_banks

Vision Durable

Des banques éthiques investissent dans les bombes à fragmentation
<http://www.visiondurable.com/actualites/responsabilite-sociale/6622-des-banques-ethiques-investissent-dans-les-bombes-a-fragmentation>

Terra news

Cluster bomb, il mercato della morte che guarda al profitto
<http://www.terranews.it/news/2009/11/cluster-bomb-il-mercato-della-morte-che-guarda-al-profitto>

Russia Today

Bloody Money: World Banks invest in cluster bombs
http://www.russiatoday.com/Top_News/2009-11-17/cluster-bombs-barclays-hsbc.html

Público

Denuncian financiación bancaria a fabricantes de bombas racimo
<http://www.publico.es/agencias/reuters/265268/denuncian/financiacion/bancaria/fabricantes/bombas/racimo>

20 minuten online

UBS und CS investieren in Streubomben
<http://www.20min.ch/finance/news/story/UBS-und-CS-investieren-in--Streubomben-25960725>

Nieuwsbank

Nog meer dan 20 miljard dollar investeringen in cluster munitie
http://www.nieuwsbank.nl/_payment/order/687938448/inp/2009/10/29/X035.htm

Reuters

Report slams bank links to clusterbomb production
<http://www.reuters.com/article/latestCrisis/idUSLT459510>

The Guardian

Cluster Bomb Trade Funded by World's Biggest Banks
HSBC earned more than £650m in fees from work for Textron, US manufacturer of cluster weapons
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2009/oct/29/banks-fund-cluster-bomb-trade>

Daily Telegraph

Top banks fund cluster bombs
http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/business/top-banks-fund-cluster-bombs/story-e6frez7r-1225792759740?from=public_rss

Charity Finance

ActionAid looks to change banks after HSBC cluster bomb shame
<http://www.charityfinance.co.uk/home/content.php?id=3273&pg=15&cat=58>

The Vermont Cynic

Board votes to divest from cluster ammunitions
<http://www.vermontcynic.com/news/board-votes-to-divest-from-cluster-ammunitions-1.2085525>

Columbia Spectator

Students scrutinize Columbia's investments
<http://www.columbiaspectator.com/2009/11/18/students-scrutinize-columbias-investments>



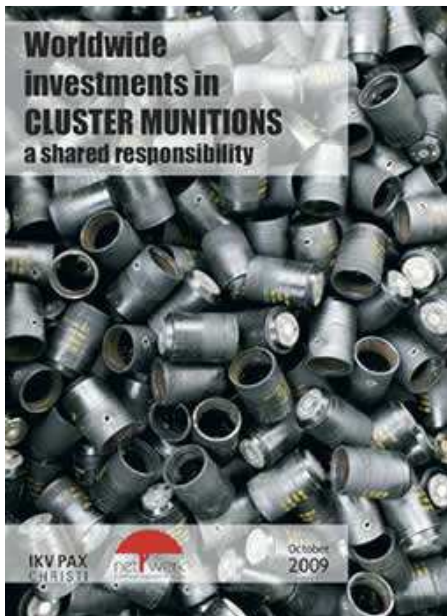
Stop Explosive Investments: Campaign Update


6) Other:

Take Action:

Find out if your bank is investing in cluster munition producers! Campaigners can take action by utilising the campaign toolkit which is available on the Stop Explosive Investments campaign website, which includes a divestment campaign guide, a campaign leaflet, template letters and the campaign logo. <http://www.stopexplosiveinvestments.org/take-action/campaign-toolkit>

Notes on the report *Worldwide investments in cluster munitions: A shared responsibility*



 There are still hard copies of the report that can be sent out to campaigners and other interested people. Please contact Roos Boer IKV Pax Christi to request a copy. Contact: boer@ikvpaxchristi.nl

 The report is currently being updated and a new version will be released in April 2010. Please make sure that you let Esther Vandenbroucke and Roos Boer know of any changes in bank policy that you are aware of so it can be included in the update. Contact: esther.vandenbroucke@netwerkvlaanderen.be and boer@ikvpaxchristi.nl