

# Article36

Article 36  
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The Rt. Hon. David Cameron MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
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C.c.  
The Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP  
Foreign Secretary  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH.

The Rt. Hon. Michael Fallon MP  
Secretary of State for Defence  
Whitehall  
London SW1A 2HB

11 March 2015

Dear Prime Minister,

Following the announcement that the UK government is sending military advisors to Ukraine, we urge the British government and its advisors to condemn all use of cluster munitions by Ukrainian forces and to call for an immediate end to any use of cluster munitions. The UK should also encourage Ukraine to join the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions in order for Ukraine to demonstrate its commitment against future use of cluster munitions.

Following investigations carried out in Ukraine, Human Rights Watch has found evidence that Ukrainian government forces have used cluster munitions on at least two occasions: in October 2014 in Donetsk City and in January 2015 in Luhansk. Evidence gathered by a special mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has supported these findings.

On both occasions civilians have been killed and injured. It is therefore of great importance and urgency that the UK does everything in its power to prevent further use of cluster munitions.

As a signatory to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, the UK has a legal obligation under Article 21.2 of the Convention to "*make its best efforts to discourage States not party to this Convention from using cluster munitions*". The UK should also encourage Ukraine to join the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Beyond the use of prohibited weapons such as cluster munitions, we are also concerned that the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide area effects is contributing to a rising civilian death toll in Ukraine.

The UN Secretary General, the International Committee of the Red Cross and a wide range of states have highlighted the grave humanitarian problems caused by the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide area effects and called on states to avoid such use. We urge the British government to raise these concerns with the Ukrainian authorities.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas Nash  
Director, Article 36