

Press Release
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No cluster munitions for Ukraine!
German government must speak out against delivery and use!

"The U.S. plans to supply internationally proscribed cluster munitions to Ukraine, as well as the intended use by the Ukrainian army, must be prevented by the German government using all available means. Although the U.S. and Ukraine, as well as Russia, are not parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), international humanitarian law prohibits weapons that indiscriminately target combatants as well as civilians. Moreover, unexploded ordnance effectively becomes land mines that can cause maiming or death of complete bystanders for years and decades to come. However, since Germany is a state party to the UN Charter, future deliveries of weapons to Ukraine must be reviewed under Article 51 of the UN Charter to determine whether the cluster munitions then delivered can be used with them. This is because Germany, as a signatory to the so-called "Oslo Convention," must not support the use of cluster munitions. This includes the supply of suitable launchers or delivery systems, such as self-propelled howitzers," says Susanne Weipert, coordinator of "Aktion Aufschrei - Stoppt den Waffenhandel!"

"It must even be doubted that Ukraine uses these munitions exclusively against Russian troops and in non-inhabited areas. Because, according to a UN report, both Ukraine and Russia have used cluster munitions in areas inhabited by civilians in the past year. International humanitarian law also applies to Ukraine. Crimes committed by Russia do not release Ukraine from its international obligations," said Jürgen Grässlin, spokesman for "Aktion Aufschrei - Stoppt den Waffenhandel!" and national spokesman for the DFG-VK, adding: "This war shows once again that there are no good or just wars, because the ones who suffer are always innocent civilians as well as soldiers who are denied the human right to conscientious objection - on both sides, mind you. The German government must push for Russia as well as Ukraine and the USA to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)."

"It is a scandal that Federal President Steinmeier declares himself 'biased' on the issue of the intended delivery of cluster munitions by the USA. The fact that he signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany at the time should precisely prompt him to campaign vehemently for the enforcement of the resulting standard," explains Vincenzo Petracca, spokesman for "Aktion Aufschrei - Stoppt den Waffenhandel!" and board member of the Action Group Service for Peace, and continues: "Foreign Minister Baerbock must be supported in her opposition to the planned delivery of these munitions. Even Great Britain and Spain have spoken out against it. And Cambodia, which to this day suffers from the use of cluster munitions in the 1970s, is also warning Ukraine against this weapon. The German government must do everything in its power to prevent the use of this ammunition, which poses a deadly danger, especially to civilians, even years later."