



EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
3517 International Court, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
Tel: (202) 243-6500

No.Pol.9/4/09

24 February 2009

Dear Mr. Goose,

Reference your letter dated 30 January 2009 addressed to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan.

Attached is a response received from Director General (Disarmament), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarding Pakistan's policy on Cluster Munitions.

Yours sincerely,

(Mumtaz Zahra Baloch)
Counsellor

Mr. Stephen D. Goose,
Executive Director, Arms Division,
Human Rights Watch,
Editor, ICBL Landmine Monitor,
Co-Chair, Cluster Munitions Coalition,
Human Rights Watch,
1630 Connecticut Av., NW, # 500,
Washington, DC 20009



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ISLAMABAD

16 February 2009

Dear Mr. Stephen D. Goose,

Reference your letter of 30 January 2009 addressed to the Foreign Minister seeking information on Pakistan's position on Cluster Munitions for incorporation in your forthcoming publication on state policy and practice regarding Cluster Munitions.

2. On behalf of the Government, I would like to inform you that Pakistan is opposed to the use of Cluster Munitions against civilians and their indiscriminate use against military adversaries. We fully support international efforts to address the humanitarian concerns arising from the irresponsible use of Cluster Munitions. However, in view of Pakistan's security environment and legitimate defence needs, we do not support ban on use, production and transfer of Cluster Munitions due to their military utility.

3. As a Party to the "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, also known as the "Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons"(CCW), Pakistan is constructively engaged in discussions to develop consensus on ways to address the humanitarian concerns associated with the use of Cluster Munitions while taking into account the legitimate security requirements of states. Pakistan believes that the meetings of the CCW States Parties provide the most appropriate framework to address the issue of cluster munitions and ways to regulate their use to minimize dangers to the civilians.

4. Pakistan does not support solutions, outside the established CCW framework, which do not provide for a balance between humanitarian concerns and legitimate security requirements of states. Instruments which do not take on board the major producers and possessors of cluster munitions fail to achieve the desired objectives. We, therefore, encourage the participants of the Oslo process to accommodate the concerns related to cluster munitions in a balanced manner, within the CCW framework.

Best wishes.

Sincerely

(Dr. Irfan Yusuf Shami)

Director General (Disarmament)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan

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