

Higher Love Project

The way to Oslo: supporting child victims of the war and the campaign against cluster munitions

Idea: Jocelyn B. Smith

For: Actiongroup Landmine.de / Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC)

Like landmines, cluster munitions kill randomly and have likely created hundreds of thousands of victims over past decades. 98 % of these victims are civilians and also often children from developing countries of the South. Conversely, the producers and exporters of these weapons are mainly from industrialized countries of the North. Because of their high dud rate and their hazardous use methods, cluster munitions have the same effect as landmines. However, their use has not yet been banned.

As part of the International Campaign to Ban Cluster Munitions (Cluster Munition Coalition, CMC), Actiongroup Landmine.de calls for a complete ban on all landmines and weapons which have the same consequences as cluster munitions. Such a ban seeks to protect the rights of citizens and to reduce further human suffering. This commitment for the civil society has also led to the beginning of negotiations within the International Community to ban cluster munitions.

A lot of celebrities¹ like Jocelyn B. Smith support AL.de. The well-known soul and jazz singer from Berlin intends to record a song with child victims of cluster munitions to support the campaign to ban these weapons. The song will then be made available worldwide, via the Internet, for a donation which will fund local aid organisations such as rehabilitation centres (to be specified at a later date). Between April and August, Jocelyn B. Smith plans to appear in person in regions in crisis and will from there record the song with local children. Planned visits include Vietnam, Lebanon and an African country. Where possible these trips will be accompanied by a media team who will film a documentary as well as infomercials. These materials will be made available to sponsors if required.

In principle, it would also be desirable to hold a concert benefiting aid organisations and thus benefiting child victims. Where feasible, such events should take place every year in order to obtain an effective lasting result.

The project will be launched at the Dublin Conference to ban cluster munitions (17.05 – 30.05) and should culminate in a presentation at the signing of the treaty to ban cluster munitions in Oslo, Norway in December 2008. The action aims not only to ease the suffering of children, but also to encourage other states to subscribe to the ban treaty.

Sponsors and Media partners are needed for the realization of this project.

Contact:

Thomas Küchenmeister, Director

Actiongroup Landmine.de

Rykestrasse 13, 10405 Berlin

E-mail: thomas@landmine.de

TEL +49 (0)30 4280 1688 MOBILE: +49 (0) 175 4964 082

¹ Other supporters: Ulrike Folkerts as patron of the campaign, Miroslav Klose, Anne Will, Günther Jauch, Sebastian Krumbiegel, Marius Müller-Westernhagen, Dieter Hildebrandt and the comedians Dietmar Bär and Klaus J. Behrendt.