



# PRESS RELEASE

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**AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL  
ISLAMIC ORGANISATION  
REPRESENTING  
MUSLIM COMMUNITIES**

**45 Years of Community  
Services**

8 May 2008

## **Ban on Cluster Munitions**

The President of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, Mr Ikebal Patel on behalf of the Muslims of Australia, asks for the protection of life and promotion of peace by calling on the Australian government to lead the initiative to end the use, transfer, production and stockpiling of cluster bombs around the world.

Mr Patel said that for more than 40 years, cluster bombs have killed and wounded innocent people, causing untold suffering, loss and hardship for thousands in more than 20 countries across the planet. These weapons cause death and injury to civilians during attacks and for years afterwards because of the lethal contamination that they cause. Cluster bombs hamper post-conflict rebuilding and rehabilitation and the dangerous work of cluster bomb clearance absorbs funds that could be spent on other urgent humanitarian needs.

The voices of those whose lives have already been shattered by cluster munitions beg us to take meaningful and courageous action. As Muslims of Australia we will stand with those who have suffered, and work for the well-being of the human family through relationships of respect, justice and peace.

The Australian Federation of Islamic Councils has joined a coalition of other organisations in calling on the Australian Government to lead the global effort to ban cluster bombs which causes unacceptable harm to civilians.

A comprehensive ban on cluster bombs must be negotiated in the Dublin Diplomatic Conference to be held in May, and as Australian Muslims we urge the Australian Government to take up this responsibility and take action for the protection of the vulnerable and the promotion of peace around the world.

*For further information, please contact:*

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