

October 12, 2006

Senator Maria Cantwell
Senator Patty Murray
Representative Jim McDermott

As you well know, in the last three days of Israel's war with Hezbollah, the Israeli military dropped more than one million cluster bomblets on over 700 regions of southern Lebanon. These bomblets are now killing an average of three Lebanese civilians every day. One of the more recent was Muhammad Sultan, a 12-year-old, who was killed when one randomly fell from a tree onto him. Unexploded cluster bomblets are being found on roads, home rooftops, in gardens and orchards, and in the rubble of buildings, preventing the reconstruction of war-destroyed homes and shops and the harvesting of orchard crops. Many of the cluster bombs are known to have been made in America. The manner and timing of their deployment suggests they were meant to debilitate civil life in southern Lebanon by killing civilians or by destroying their livelihoods. Use of cluster bombs in that way violates our sense of humanity and the Geneva Conventions. Human life is sacred and the people of the United States should have no role in facilitating weapons usage of that kind.

As a first step in curtailing use of cluster bombs, we call on you to sponsor legislation that would forbid the sales of U.S. made cluster bombs to any foreign government or military or to any other overseas entity.

Sincerely,

Parishioners of Our Lady of the Lake Church