

Petition Pack for schools – Stop Bombing Civilians!

URGENT ACTION IS NEEDED TO PROTECT CIVILIANS

Two years ago Salam, 14, was so badly injured in a bombing near her home in Syria that both of her legs had to be amputated.

“My neighbourhood came under intense aerial bombardment. I was walking in the street when the bombs started falling with a deafening sound. I tried to take shelter, but a bomb fell a few metres away from us. I got hit by shrapnel.”

Salam now lives near Irbid, Jordan, with 10 family members, all crammed into two rooms. Every week Huda, one of our physiotherapists, visits Salem to ensure her prostheses still fit, before going through gruelling rehabilitation exercises. A typical

rehabilitation session might include weight-lifting to strengthen her muscles and walking on uneven ground to improve balance, before ending with Salam’s favourite sport, football.



Salam with Huda, our physiotherapist.
© E. Fourt/Handicap International

Many more children like Salam are at risk. Let’s take action and make our voices heard!

Explosive weapons in populated areas

Every year, tens of thousands of civilians are killed and injured by the use of explosive weapons with wide-area affects (e.g. cluster bombs, missiles, rockets, shells, aerial bombs and landmines) in populated areas.

In Syria alone, more than **2 million children are at risk**, living in areas highly affected by the use of explosive weapons.

These vicious weapons destroy lives - they cause serious injuries and amputations, leading to severe disabilities and deep psychological trauma. They destroy homes, schools, and hospitals. After a conflict, the unexploded weapons left behind are a danger to civilians and a barrier to reconstruction, plunging communities into further poverty.



Damage caused by bombing in Kobani, Syria.
© Phillipe Houliat /Handicap International

When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, a shocking **92% of victims are civilians**. The indiscriminate and excessive use of these weapons in populated areas is a violation of International Humanitarian Law. Urgent action is needed to protect civilians!

Please turn over to find out how you can campaign to stop explosive weapons destroying innocent lives like Salam’s.

Petition Pack for schools – Stop Bombing Civilians!

SUPPORT THE PETITION

We are calling on the UK and all States to commit to ending the use of explosive weapons with wide-area affects in populated areas.

This is our opportunity to demonstrate that members of the public across the UK care about innocent civilians caught up in conflict and to demand better protection for them. Together we can achieve so much!

Tips for collecting signatures

Forgotten 10 Challenge activities, particularly whole school events are a great opportunity for students to ask their classmates to sign the petition. Petition sheets which you can photocopy and use to collect signatures are enclosed in every campaign kit.

Think about how you can get as many signatures as possible and the best time to collect them. Are you organising a whole school event or exhibition? Have petition sheets ready on your stand or attached to a display. If you're holding an assembly remember to make an announcement about the petition.

Be prepared by having lots of copies of the petition sheets, as well as pens and clipboards to make signing the petition easier.



Students collecting signatures.
© J-J Bernard/Handicap International

On the day, remember that you are playing an important role and supporting a vital cause. Before you ask students to sign the petition, decide on a few short sentences to grab people's attention.

For example: *"Hi, please will you sign our petition to protect civilians from explosive weapons? Thousands of innocent civilians are killed and injured each year. We're gathering support as we call on the government to publicly commit to ending the use of explosive weapons in populated areas."*

Let students know why their support matters. Try and remember one or two facts about the scale of the problem, such as:

- When explosive weapons are used in populated areas, 92% of victims are civilians.
- In Syria, over 2 million children are living in areas highly affected by the use of explosive weapons.

You can find more statistics in the **factsheets** included in the campaign kit.

Remember to have fun. Try to encourage students to collect signatures. Why not challenge your class or tutor group to see who can collect the most!

Return your petition sheets by 9th January 2017 using the envelopes enclosed in the campaign kit to: Handicap International UK, Forgotten 10 Challenge, 9 Rushworth Street, London SE1 0RB.

The petition can also be signed online at: www.stop-bombing-civilians.org

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION

STOP BOMBING CIVILIANS



To Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, I call on the UK and all states worldwide to:

- Publicly commit to ending the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas and take the lead in influencing other states to do the same.
- Fully implement the treaties banning landmines and cluster munitions without delay and promote them to non-signatory states.
- Contribute funds towards assisting the victims, clearing weapons in affected zones, and preventing further injuries and deaths.

Full name	
Postcode	
Email address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.	

Full name	
Postcode	
Email address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.	

Full name	
Postcode	
Email address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.	

Full name	
Postcode	
Email address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.	

Full name	
Postcode	
Email address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.	

Full name	
Postcode	
Email address	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.	

PLEASE SIGN THE PETITION

STOP BOMBING CIVILIANS

**STOP
BOMBING
CIVILIANS!**

To Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, I call on the UK and all states worldwide to:

- Publicly commit to ending the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas and take the lead in influencing other states to do the same.
- Fully implement the treaties banning landmines and cluster munitions without delay and promote them to non-signatory states.
- Contribute funds towards assisting the victims, clearing weapons in affected zones, and preventing further injuries and deaths.

Full name

Postcode

Email address

Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.

Full name

Postcode

Email address

Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.

Full name

Postcode

Email address

Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.

Full name

Postcode

Email address

Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.

Full name

Postcode

Email address

Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.

Full name

Postcode

Email address

Yes, I would like to receive email updates about this petition and Handicap International's work.