



## Suspected Cluster-munition Use by Pro-Gaddafi Forces

In April 2011, *The New York Times* reported that pro-Gaddafi forces used cluster munitions on the civilian population in the city of Misrata.<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch's on-the-ground inspection discovered the use of Spanish-made MAT-120 120mm mortars produced in 2007, prior to Spain's signing of the *Convention on Cluster Munitions*, targeting residential areas one kilometer away from front-line fighting.<sup>2</sup> The mortar "opens in mid-air and releases 21 submunitions over a wide area."<sup>2</sup> A further interview with ambulance drivers conducted by HRW discovered that cluster attacks occurred before 14 April.<sup>2</sup> Despite the Libyan government's denial of cluster-bomb use, doctors in Misrata acknowledge that patient wounds are consistent with cluster munitions.<sup>3</sup> HRW describes the danger of these munitions as anti-personnel, as well as anti-material, because the munitions are designed to not only hurt people but damage armored vehicles.<sup>2</sup> Libya is not a signatory of the CCM. ↴

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### Endnotes

1. Chivers, C.J. "Gaddafi Troops Fire Cluster Bombs into Civilian Areas." *The New York Times*, 15 April 2011. [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/16/world/africa/16libya.html?\\_r=4&partner=rss&emc=rss](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/16/world/africa/16libya.html?_r=4&partner=rss&emc=rss). Accessed 17 June 2011.
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3. Sherwood, Harriet. "Libya: Gaddafi forces 'using cluster bombs in Misrata.'" 15 April 2011. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/apr/15/libya-cluster-bomb-misrata>. Accessed 17 June 2011.



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