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Suspected Cluster-munition Use by Pro-Gaddafi Forces

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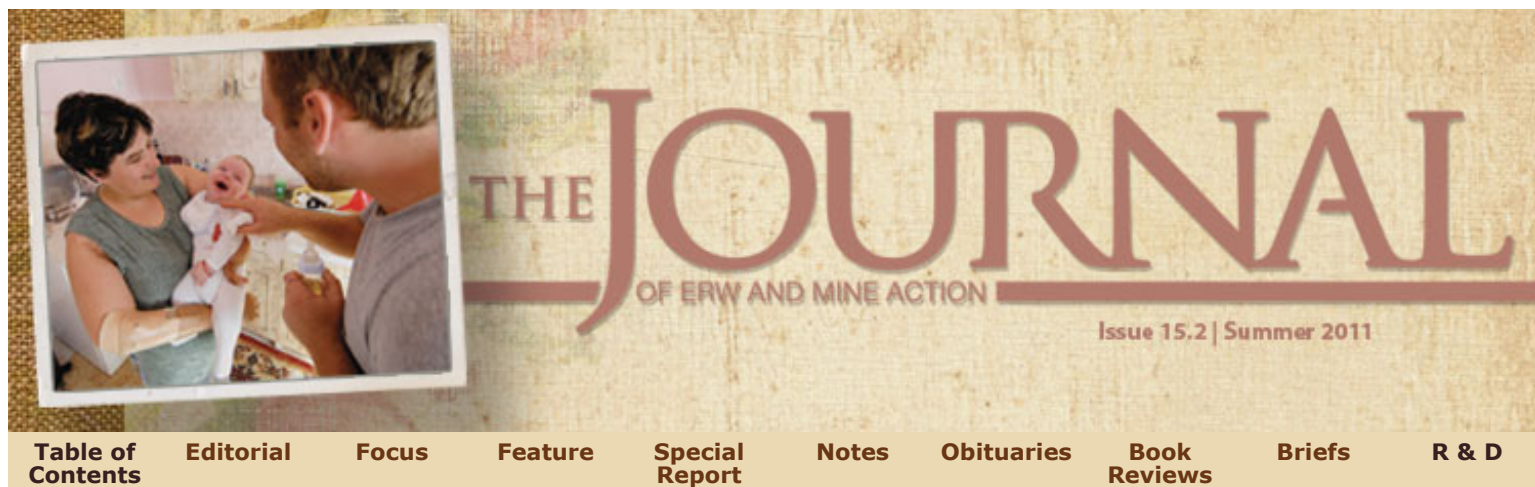
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Suspected Cluster-munition Use by Pro-Gaddafi Forces

In April 2011, *The New York Times* reported that pro-Gaddafi forces used cluster munitions on the civilian population in the city of Misrata.¹ 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.² The mortar "opens in mid-air and releases 21 submunitions over a wide area."² A further interview with ambulance drivers conducted by HRW discovered that cluster attacks occurred before 14 April.² Despite the Libyan government's denial of cluster-bomb use, doctors in Misrata acknowledge that patient wounds are consistent with cluster munitions.³ 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.² Libya is not a signatory of the CCM. ↴

~ Zarina Yancheva, CISR staff

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Endnotes

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