

LIBYAN CLUSTER MUNITIONS DO NOT TRACE BACK TO FINLAND

Finland bought cluster munitions
identical to those used in Libya

The illegitimate cluster munitions fired in Libya do not have a connection to Finland. A non-governmental organization Human Rights Investigations (HRI) had been investigating the bombings and approached the peace and security research network SaferGlobe Finland last June asking for help in clarifying the possible connection to Finland. An extensive article on the clarification of the connection is being published today in the weekly magazine *Kansan Uutiset* (12.8.2011).

The Libyan coastal town of Misrata was bombed last April with cluster munitions. Photos taken by *The New York Times* reveal that the munitions were MAT-120 cluster munitions meant to be used in mortars. They were manufactured by the Spanish company Instalaza in early 2007 as Human Rights Watch confirms.

Finland had a cluster arms program with Instalaza

Finland's possible involvement in the incident needed clarification since it is one of the few countries that have been associated with Instalaza's cluster munitions.

In 2005 the Finnish state-owned arms industry company Patria received an arms export license for a total of 2,600 short stub cases meant for MAT-120 cluster munitions. The license was valid until the end of 2009. The receiver of the components was Instalaza. Patria claims that the exports were related to its cluster arms development program of the time, whereby the components were then returned to Finland alongside the cluster munitions. Investigation took some time to finish due to the fact that the authorities in Finland could not reveal the export- and import data of the components, fearing they might reveal trade secrets at the same time. Patria reports exports of 305 explosive and 230 inert MAT-120 cargo bombs to Finland. According to

information received from Patria the remaining 136 cluster munitions are stored by the Finnish National Defense Forces and are waiting for demilitarization.

HRI also investigated the chance of whether one of the parties of the Libyan war could have had Patria's Nemo or Amos advanced mortar systems installed in some of their patrol boats. Short stub cases are needed for firing these mortar systems. In the end, Patria agreed to reveal the number of the short stub cases exported to Instalaza (592pcs) and then imported back to Finland (475pcs). Patria says that the remainder of the short stub cases is linked to trial runs carried out in Spain.

Patria assures that its Nemo or Amos- arms systems cannot be used by any party of Libyan war. SaferGlobe Finland has not discovered anything referring to this either. However a Nemo mortar system was sold to the United Arab Emirates a few years ago to be used on their patrol boats.

Spain sold cluster munitions to Libya as well

HRI says that it took several weeks of persuasion before the authorities in Spain agreed to verify the fact that they had granted an arms export license to Libya in March 2008 for 1050 pieces of MAT-120 cluster munitions. Spain is suspected to having sold the same cluster munitions not just to Finland but to the United States and Qatar as well. The United States uses cluster munitions in its wars and Qatar has armed the rebels in Libya, as have France. The HRI investigation of the incident has been complicated by refusal of the authorities in Spain to hand over details of all the arms export licenses associated with these munitions.

SaferGlobe Finland hopes that the countries involved will be as keen on investigating the pos-

FACT

Short stub case is a component installed into the tail of a grenade to support the cargo grenade when firing mortars reloaded from the back such as Nemo or Amos. Patria says that the grenade itself has to be modified to suit the weapons concerned.

sible crimes against humanity and war crimes, as they have been on protecting the civilians in Libya, regardless of the manufacturer or user of the weapons.

Patria has detached itself from cluster munitions

Patria says that it will no longer develop, produce or sell cluster munitions. According to our intelligence Patria has operated at least two 120mm cluster arms programs related to mortars in the 21st century. The latter project was carried out during 2005-2007 with Instalaza. Patria informed HRI that it never became a commercial product. According to an article published in Ydin-magazine, Patria marketed the MOCA-12 cluster munitions at least in spring 2008. Patria confirms that it has used the term "MOCA-120" in relation to the MAT-120 cluster munitions.

Patria states that a decision was made together with the Finnish Defense Forces to terminate the MOCA cluster arms program in 2009. Information handed over to HRI by Patria explained that the decision was a consequence of the Oslo Treaty. Finland has not signed the Oslo Treaty.