US cluster bomb attack leave nine dead

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan - Cluster bombs dropped by US warplanes on a village in western Afghanistan killed nine civilians, the United Nations said Thursday.

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UN spokeswoman Stephanie Bunker told a press conference in Islamabad that eight people were killed straight away in Monday's attack on the village near the city of Herat and a ninth was killed after picking up one of the bombs.

Some aid groups have called on the United States to end the use of cluster bombs. The devices are intended mainly against concentrations of troops and bombs that do not explode on impact act like an anti-personnel mine, exploding if disturbed.

Bunker said staff from the UN Mine Action Programme had been to the village after the attack. "They reported that eight civilians were killed directly in the attack and that one civilian was killed -- as happens in these cases -- when he went to look at the object, touched it and it blew up," she said. "They have determined there were 45 homes in that village, 20 of the homes were partially or completely destroyed in the attack."

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