



## **ICBL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

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## ***I. FOREWORD***

The year 2006 provided several key opportunities for renewing energy around and interest in the Mine Ban Treaty. Throughout the year, the ICBL was represented at many landmine-related conferences, including a large and active delegation at the Standing Committee (ISC) meetings, which took place from 12 to 18 May, and also at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties (7MSP), 18 to 22 September in Geneva. The 7MSP was an important time for the ICBL to organize, and participate in advocacy activities, side events, media opportunities and planning for the coming year. In addition, the end of 2006 marked the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ottawa Process. The ICBL took full advantage of this special occasion to raise the profile of the treaty and call for renewed dedication to global adherence and implementation.

A series of advocacy missions were conducted in 2006 to reach out to new audiences and to reinforce ICBL's messages to governments, parliamentarians, journalists and the general public. These missions and conferences provided an opportunity for ICBL staff to work with national campaigns on their planning and development of advocacy goals. Capacity building for ICBL members took on an even greater importance in this period as ICBL staff began to count on them for greater in-country advocacy. As such, in 2006, the ICBL continued focusing on enhancing the skills of national campaigns and assessing their needs through individual communications and consultations, as opposed to group trainings.

Work on universalisation remained a priority for the ICBL, as evidenced by a solid number of missions to targeted countries by the ICBL Advocacy Director, its Diplomatic Advisor, and members. These missions supplemented the on-going engagement with governments carried out by ICBL national campaigns.

The ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director was actively engaged in local advocacy through her work with various diplomats, the Coordinating Committee, the ISU, ICRC and other partners based in Geneva.

In 2006, the ICBL continued to use and develop communication tools to facilitate information exchanges within the campaign, including the improvement of its newsletter.

During the reporting period, the Landmine Monitor team worked on the 2006 report, and the ICBL contributed an ICBL chapter for the report. The ICBL also continued to support, when possible, member campaigns to design programs to increase youth involvement in the activities of the ICBL.

At the end of the reporting period, the transition phase described in the proposal is considered complete. The new team is fully operational with the integration of 4 new people in new positions – Advocacy Director, Administrative Assistant, Finance Manager, Campaign Officer - and the adjustment of the former Advocacy Director in her new position of Executive Director. The new financial organisation is being set up. The transfer of the main ICBL office to Geneva was smooth, and the increased level of engagement by the ICBL team in Geneva, along with the work done at the national level, was noticed and welcomed by all stakeholders.

## II. ICBL: BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a coalition of more than 1000 NGOs in 72 countries, won the Nobel Prize in 1997 for its contribution to the creation of the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Treaty.

The ICBL was formally launched in 1992 with three basic goals: a total ban on antipersonnel landmines, increased resources for mine action, and increased resources for survivor assistance. Through the dedicated work of a small group of central actors and a large group of campaigners working around the world, and in partnership with several governments and international organizations, the ICBL helped reach these goals through the creation of the Mine Ban Convention, or Mine Ban Treaty, in 1997 (hereafter “convention” or “treaty”). Since the convention entered into force in 1999, the ICBL has continued to pursue its original goals by advocating for universal adherence to and compliance with the Mine Ban Treaty.

Since that time, it has continued the long and hard battle towards universal adherence to, and full, timely implementation of the treaty. The ICBL believes that the treaty is the single best tool for achieving the global elimination of the use, production, and transfer of antipersonnel landmines, as well as ensuring rapid and complete mine clearance in all mine-affected states and comprehensive support for victims.

The Treaty's mandated First Review Conference, or "Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World," which took place 29 November - 3 December 2004, garnered global attention and increased activity by the ICBL and others supporting a global antipersonnel mine ban. But the Summit was only a first milestone in the long march toward the goal of a mine-free world. Much more remains to be done, and the ICBL is committed to seeing the work through to the end.

The ICBL keeps global attention on the need for a complete ban, rapid demining, and effective assistance to survivors through international advocacy work, national campaign activities, and the innovative monitoring tool - the Landmine Monitor. By participating in international meetings, regional workshops, and bilateral discussions, the ICBL can regularly and effectively communicate its messages to governments and key partners. National campaigns and other ICBL members keep up pressure at the national level. And the Landmine Monitor helps NGOs and governments alike to keep track of progress made, as well as the challenges remaining.

In 2006, the ICBL continued to operate as it had done in the past: much of the awareness-raising and advocacy work of the ICBL was done by ICBL members in close coordination with a small group of ICBL staff. The staff worked to channel all this energy into strong and coherent advocacy messages which were presented by both staff and campaigners at the national and international levels. The ICBL's advocacy work was largely informed by the annual Landmine Monitor report, which provides the facts upon which sound policy proposals are made.

### III. 2006 ICBL ACTIVITIES: REPORTS AND ASSESSMENTS

During 2006, the ICBL increased the participation of its members in universalizing and implementing the Mine Ban Treaty by placing greater emphasis on activities and policy work at the national level. The national campaigns responded to this idea with much enthusiasm and dynamism.

#### A. GLOBAL LANDMINES RELATED CONFERENCES

During the year 2006, ICBL staff and members pursued their advocacy by participating in, and contributing to, numerous landmines related conferences, in particular the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings and the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Convention.

##### - Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings, 8-12 May 2006

The Intersessional Standing Committee meetings (ISC) took place from 8 to 12 May 2006 in Geneva. The meetings provided a forum for States Parties to give updates on their implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty as well as to discuss issues of concern for them or the community at large. Along with the Meetings of the States Parties, these meetings represent the most important opportunity of the year for the ICBL to present its views to governments on the implementation and universalization of the Ottawa Convention. The ICBL helped prepare the ISC meetings through participation in the monthly Coordinating Committee meetings of the Standing Committee co-chairs and co-rapporteurs, the chairs of the Contact Groups (Universalization, Articles 7 & 9 and Resource Mobilization) and the Sponsorship Group.

Prior to the opening of meetings, the ICBL organised a reception, on Sunday, to informally share key messages and expectations for the week, with States Parties particularly committed to the Convention through their responsibilities as co chairs of the Standing Committees. Other stakeholders such as the ICRC, the UN, and ISU were also in attendance and the ICBL also took this opportunity to invite all donors. This reception was also an opportunity to update the participants with plans for 2007.

ICBL campaigners attended the ISC meetings in large numbers, with over 65 people from more than 20 countries attending. In order to organize their activities, inform them about each day's events, and enable overall communication and coordination among the group, the ICBL staff led daily briefings before the beginning of the day's meetings. ICBL participants had dozens of bilateral meetings with governments and international organizations in order to ask for information and voice concerns. They also organized lunchtime briefings and meetings, including Landmine Monitor researcher workshops and Working Group meetings.

Throughout the meetings, ICBL was very active in delivering statements and participating in the plenary sessions. During the Survivor Assistance Standing Committee Meeting on 8 and 9 May 2006, the ICBL had three presentations, two delivered by survivors, and one delivered by Handicap International in their capacity as co-chair of the victim's assistance working group. All three presentations provided a reality check on what governments had presented in their Victim Assistance Questionnaires, particularly on the status of survivor assistance in each of the 24 countries that identified themselves as being most in need of survivor assistance (VA 24).

The Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies meeting took place on May 10 and 11. Here, the ICBL made a strong statement highlighting countries with deadlines in 2009 and 2010 that are not on target to meet their obligations under Article 5. The ICBL also made an intervention in response to the co-chairs' discussion paper on fulfilling Article 5, voicing support for the concept of an expert group to review eventual requests for extensions under Article 5.

Finally, during the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction meeting, the ICBL delivered a presentation on its views regarding the status of implementation of Article 4.

#### - **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)**

The ICBL participated in the series of CCW meetings in Geneva in 2006, essentially to remind States Parties that no standard below what is contained in the Convention should be adopted within the CCW, when 76 out of 86 States parties to this Convention are States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, thereby making CCW irrelevant when it comes to antipersonnel landmines.

Details are available at:

[http://www.icbl.org/news/ccw\\_hrw\\_text](http://www.icbl.org/news/ccw_hrw_text)

ICBL also followed developments regarding the cluster munitions issue. During the CCW Review Conference on 15 November, the ICBL supported the Cluster Munition Coalition by calling for rapid action to address the humanitarian consequences on civilian populations of cluster munitions which cause unacceptable humanitarian harm to civilians.

More information and statements are available at:

<http://www.icbl.org/content/download/23571/426624/file/icbl-clusters.pdf> and  
<http://www.icbl.org/news/clustersban>

#### - **7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties, 18-22 September 2006 (7MSP)**

##### **Preparation**

As in years past, the preparation for the 7MSP was well-rounded and undertaken with great enthusiasm and energy. The ICBL worked to coordinate a range of activities for the meeting, which included the participation of over 200 delegates from around the world, photography exhibitions, working meetings, briefings and media events.

In the run-up to the 7MSP, the ICBL originated the slogan “From Words to Reality” to be integrated into all ICBL media events, statements and materials related to the meeting. After consultation with members and staff, the ICBL agreed that, almost nine years after the Convention had been signed, there remains too wide a gap between the discourse at the diplomatic level and the reality on the ground in mine affected countries.

Two months prior to the 7MSP, this slogan was put out as a call to urge campaigners to prepare for the meeting in several ways: by publicizing their campaign’s concerns, meeting with their government to ensure that they attended the 7MSP with the appropriate level and composition of delegates, and to prepare their lobbying and media frameworks for the meeting. Over 30 campaigners were sponsored by the ICBL, which entailed the coordination of travel arrangements to and from Geneva, hotel reservations and registration at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). In total, the ICBL coordinated the registration of over 200 members and campaigners at the UNOG.

In the preparation of the 7MSP, the ICBL worked closely with its partners, including the President-Designate (Australia), the States Parties' Coordinating Committee, the Implementation Support Unit of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and others. Ms. Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director, participated in monthly meetings of the States Parties' Coordinating Committee, in which the structure and objectives for the 7MSP were developed. The ICBL also participated in the 7MSP Preparatory Meeting in Geneva in July, in which it actively contributed to the review of the Geneva Progress Report and the discussions on an Article 5 non-paper issued by the 7MSP President-Designate. In addition, the ICBL took part in a meeting, held on 4 September 2006, to discuss in further detail this Article 5 non-paper.

Additionally, on 18 August 2006, the ICBL staff sent letters to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of both States Parties and States not Party to the Mine Ban Treaty to remind them of the forthcoming meeting. States Parties were urged to send a high-level delegation to the meeting, including officials from health, social services, development, or other relevant ministries. States not Party were reminded that states that had not yet joined the treaty were also welcome to attend the 7MSP as observers.

### **During**

The ICBL held a series of internal working meetings the weekend before the opening of the 7MSP as well as during the conference to facilitate the exchange of ideas between campaigners, and to communicate important information to ICBL members and establish common goals for the week.

#### *Working Meeting*

On Sunday 17 September 2006, the ICBL staff organized a two-hour working meeting on advocacy and lobbying for those campaigners who would be attending 7MSP. The goal of the meeting was to set objectives for advocacy and lobbying sessions between campaigners and governmental delegations during the meeting. It was decided that an emphasis would be placed on mine-affected States Parties with 2009 and 2010 Article 5 deadlines and on States Parties included in the list of 24 countries with the greatest needs in terms of victim assistance. The working meeting was attended by over 50 ICBL campaigners and Landmine Monitor researchers.

Although a bit constrained by time limits, the working meeting was a success as it allowed campaigners to strategize specific points to discuss with country delegations. It also permitted campaigners and ICBL to discuss jointly and participate equally in the definition of objectives for the week.

#### *Orientation and Daily Briefings*

Also on Sunday 17 September 2006, an orientation session was held in the afternoon to communicate essential logistical information to ICBL campaigners about the activities scheduled in the upcoming week. The orientation session also served to outline the general topics to be covered during the 7MSP official meetings, the key government actors present, the ICBL's media strategy, and the main policy messages developed by the ICBL.

In addition, daily briefings were held each morning before the opening of the official meetings. These meetings were attended by about 100 ICBL members daily and provided a forum for ICBL members to discuss the previous day's developments as well as to draw attention to the important issues and events of the upcoming day.

### *Statements*

The ICBL delivered ten statements during the official meetings of the 7MSP. The Treaty Implementation Director and the Head of the ICBL Delegation played important roles in drafting these statements, along with the members of the Working Groups and others such as the Advocacy and Executive Directors and Landmine Monitor representatives.

The ICBL Address during the Opening Ceremony was delivered by ICBL Ambassador Mrs. Margaret Arach Orech. The Head of the ICBL Delegation, Mr. Steve Goose, made statements on the General Exchange of Views, Stockpile Destruction and Transparency and Exchange of Information (Article 7 Reporting). The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, Ms. Tamar Gabelnick, delivered the statement on Mine Clearance while the ICBL Advocacy Director, Ms. Simona Beltrami, communicated the ICBL message on Universalization.

Mr. Stan Brabant of Handicap International and of the Mine Risk Education Sub Working Group, presented the ICBL's statement regarding Mine Risk Education. The statement on Victim Assistance was jointly presented by Ms. Katleen Maes, Thematic Research Coordinator & Editor (Victim Assistance) for the Landmine Monitor Report 2006, and Mr. Tun Channareth, ICBL Ambassador and landmine survivor. Mrs. Elisabeth Reusse-Decrey, President of Geneva Call, made the ICBL's statement on Non-State Armed Groups. Finally, the statement on International Assistance and Cooperation was delivered by Mr. Ian Doucet, Landmine Monitor Final Editor.

All the the ICBL's statements can be found on:

[http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/7msp/statements\\_\\_1](http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/7msp/statements__1).

### *ICBL Input into Official Documents*

The *Geneva Progress Report (GPR)* was the main document related to the 7MSP. Its purpose was to monitor and support application of the Mine Ban Treaty and the *Nairobi Action Plan (NAP)* by measuring progress made between the Sixth and Seventh Meetings of the States Parties. The report also highlighted priority areas of work for the States Parties, the Co-Chairs and the President between the Seventh and the Eighth Meetings of the States Parties. It built upon the 2004-2005 *Zagreb Progress Report (ZPR)* and was the second in a series of annual progress reports before the 2009 Second Review Conference.

The ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, in consultation with the Working Group members, provided both oral and written comments on the GPR, including comments on consecutive drafts and interventions during the 7MSP Preparatory Meeting held in July 2006. The ICBL also worked in close consultation with the 7MSP President-Designate on the draft Article 5 non-paper and with the Canadian government on its proposed Article 5 extension request template and commented these documents at the July and September meetings as well as during the 7MSP itself.

### *Lobbying*

ICBL campaigners were dynamically involved in lobbying during the 7MSP in Geneva. They attempted to seize every possible opportunity to meet with government delegations to discuss the goals of the ICBL and to advance the universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. Along with the numerous official meetings that were scheduled with government delegates, ICBL campaigners also found many opportunities for informal meetings during the week.

Members reported meeting with 25 of the 96 States Parties present at the 7MSP. As well, a few members of the ICBL met with delegates from the European Commission and the Arab League.

Furthermore, over half of the 24 countries with the greatest need of victim assistance (VA24) were engaged with. Those campaigners meeting with States Parties focused their lobbying efforts on demining obligations (Article 5) as well as the obligation to provide adequate victim assistance programmes.

States not Party to the convention were not overlooked, as ICBL campaigners also reported meeting with 16 of the 26 part of those in attendance at the meeting. These governments were actively encouraged to join the Mine Ban Treaty and to adopt interim measures in the meantime and to continue attending the Meetings of States Parties as well as the Intersessionals Standing Committee Meetings.

### *Side Events*

Throughout the 7MSP, the ICBL and its members organized and participated in a variety of activities..The ICBL side events provided an alternate forum for discussion to bring attention to the issues related to the Mine Ban Treaty. The events were a means, beyond the official 7MSP meetings, to incite further thought and discussion on the landmine issue. Among its activities, the ICBL organized briefings, roundtable discussions, plays and exhibitions.

*“Lebanon: The Challenges of Mine Action in the Aftermath of War”* focused on the summer 2006 conflict which exacerbated a longstanding problem of mines and unexploded weapons in Lebanon. The ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition held a panel discussion on the challenges posed to mine action there in the aftermath of the recent conflict. A second panel entitled *“Americas: A Forgotten Continent?”* discussed the challenges facing the Americas in regards to the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Additionally, the ICBL presented its 8<sup>th</sup> Annual *Landmine Monitor Report* at the 7MSP, outlining its key findings, developments and concerns to participants. A total of 71 Landmine Monitor researchers in 62 countries contributed to the report. Landmine Action launched their report *Bosnia’s Political Landmines* during the 7MSP. Mr. Martin Bell, a former BBC war report and UNICEF Ambassador for Humanitarian Emergencies, introduced the new report, which looks at demining and corruption on Bosnia.

Landmine Survivors Network, in partnership with the Government of New Zealand, hosted a discussion on the newly adopted Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and how it can be used to promote victim assistance for landmine survivors.

To draw attention to the on-going difficulties posed by the actions of non-state actors, Geneva Call, in collaboration with the Government of Switzerland, organized a panel discussion on mine action and armed non state actors, asking the question *“What practical steps can States and other actors take to promote mine action in areas where armed NSAs are active?”*. Finally, Mines Action Canada hosted a briefing on a proposed 2007 Youth Model Review Conference, to take place at the 8MSP in Jordan. An adaptation of the Model United Nations and Model Parliament, the Youth Model Review Conference would be a simulation of the actual Review Conference, planned to take place in 2009.

Photographer Jane Evelyn Atwood, in collaboration with Handicap International, organized an exhibit, displayed at the Quai Wilson in Geneva, which included fifty black-and-white photographs showcasing the devastation caused by the continuing presence of landmines in five regions. Photographer Ahmet Sik, in collaboration with the Turkish Campaign to Ban Landmines, presented an exhibition which consisted of photographs of landmines and UXO victims from the southeast of

Turkey. The Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Moviment per la Pau organized an exhibit which included artwork, poems and coursework prepared by students between the ages of eleven and fifteen that participated in the Italian Campaign's peace and education training. It was displayed outside the official meeting room for the 7MSP.

## **B. UNIVERSALISATION**

In 2006, the ICBL conducted advocacy for the universalisation of the Convention by applying the same tools and methods that staff and national campaigns developed over the past years to targeted countries. A series of events and visits designed to raise awareness and incread active engagement on all levels were the central elements of universalization efforts. Mines Action Canada and the Australian Network of the ICBL conducted youth activities in collaboration with staff. To round out universalization work, there was engagement with and research on some non-state actors Engagement within the Universalisation Contact Group occurred too either during Geneva meetings or by informing States members of that group of relevant ICBL visits or events.

This engagement culminated with the long awaited ratification of the Convention by Indonesia on 22 February 2007, where the Indonesian Campaign, together with Canada, has relentlessly engaged with the authorities over the years. Brunei ratified in Spring, shortly after the visit by ICBL Diplomatic Advisor, Satnam Singh.

On Indonesia and Brunei, see also information at:  
[http://www.icbl.org/news/indonesia\\_ratification\\_jrs](http://www.icbl.org/news/indonesia_ratification_jrs) and  
[http://www.icbl.org/news/brunei\\_ratification\\_1](http://www.icbl.org/news/brunei_ratification_1)

ICBL's Diplomatic Advisory and Advocacy Director conducted on-going work to promote the convention via meetings with States not Party. in the margin of the Standing Committee meetings, the CCW Review Conference or at 7MSP. A letter was mailed to all States not Party prior to the 7MSP, that encouraged them to join or adopt interim measures to show their support of a total ban on antipersonnel landmines, such as a vote in favor of the UNGA resolution. In advance of the UNGA vote on this resolution, a letter was mailed again to States not Party that have a history of vote abstention reminding them that a positive vote is a positive step with no real obligations. In 2006, for the first time, China and Azerbaijan – with which ICBL has been engaged for years- voted in

### **B.1 DENOUNCING THE USE OF ANTIPERSONNEL LANDMINES**

In 2006, ICBL was also vigilant in monitoring and denouncing any new use (or planned use) of antipersonnel landmines as it was the case with Pakistan in December, Israël in September and on-going concern with Burma/ Myanmar.

In December, the ICBL worked together with a number of other committed States – the first of them being Canada- and organisations, to urge Pakistan, to renounce its announced plans of laying of new mines at the border with Afghanistan. This was done via a letter to Pakistan's president.

[http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan\\_minelaying\\_plans](http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan_minelaying_plans); [http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan\\_letter](http://www.icbl.org/news/pakistan_letter),  
[http://www.icbl.org/news/israel\\_use\\_ap\\_mines](http://www.icbl.org/news/israel_use_ap_mines)

Also in the reporting period, the ICBL responded to a statement by the de facto President of Abkhazia, suggesting that the border with Georgia might be mined in case Russian peacekeepers were to be withdrawn from the area. The ICBL called on the Abkhaz authorities to refrain from planting new mines. The letter is available at:

[http://www.icbl.org/news/abkhazia\\_letter](http://www.icbl.org/news/abkhazia_letter)

The ICBL was engaged in dialogue with non-state actors in Colombia, the Philippines, Thailand, Georgia, Western Sahara, Somalia, India and Nepal. Research and advocacy was conducted by Landmine Monitor thematic coordinator on NSAs, in cooperation with some relevant country campaigns. The Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines (NCBL), together with Geneva Call, worked to convince all parties in conflict that the peace process was an appropriate time to consider and take account the use of mines.

With this purpose in mind and in conjunction with Geneva Call, the NCBL organised a national seminar entitled, “The Role of the Nepal Communist Party (Maoist) in the Mine Ban” on the 25 June 2006 in Kathmandu. Landmine victims from both sides and members of non-governmental organisations attended alongside representatives from the government and the Maoists. This varied attendance conducive to a highly fruitful exchange of views.

More on this event at:

[http://www.icbl.org/news/seminar\\_role\\_of\\_nepal\\_maoists](http://www.icbl.org/news/seminar_role_of_nepal_maoists)

Lastly, Landmine Monitor Report research coordinator on Non-State Armed Groups, Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan travelled to Kashmir and described, in addition to his research work, the impact of landmines on the lives of civilians in the Kashmiri village of Warsun, on the Indian side of the Line of Control. Early 2007, ICBL sent a letter to all NSA in the region urging them to renounce the use of mines. This can be read at:

<http://www.icbl.org/news/kashmir06>

Through the work of the Thai CBL, the LM research coordinator on Non-State Armed Groups, and Non Violence International (a member of the ICBL Advisory Board), the ICBL also monitored the situation in Burma/Myanmar. It joined Human Rights Watch on 20 December in denouncing continued use of mines by the government and armed opponents and also encouraging factions to stop new use when talks resumed. For more information see:

<http://www.icbl.org/news/hrwburmarelease>

## **B.2 UNIVERSALISATION ADVOCACY MISSIONS**

In 2006, ICBL conducted a series of missions to reach out to new audiences and reinforce our messages to governments, parliamentarians, journalists or the general public. Universalisation advocacy missions aim at ensuring progress is being made in targeted countries in terms of accession to or ratification of the Convention. Missions are conducted in coordination with the Chair and members of the Universalisation Contact Group, and aim at encouraging implementation of Action 1 to 8 of the Nairobi Action Plan.

### **- Brunei, 13-16 March 2006**

ICBL Diplomatic Advisor, Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh was in Brunei from 13 to 16 March to meet with the senior government officials to explore ways and means to expedite the long pending ratification of the Mine Ban Convention. During his visit, Ambassador Singh held meetings with Permanent Secretaries in Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. He also briefed Bruneian diplomats and other officials about various aspects of the Convention and dimensions of the global landmine problem. The Brunei authorities acknowledged ICBL’s concern on the delay in

ratification and assured that the process was not expected to take much longer. Other members of the UCG visited Brunei after this mission. Brunei ratified the Convention on 26 April 2006.

[http://www.icbl.org/news/brunei\\_ratification\\_1](http://www.icbl.org/news/brunei_ratification_1)

**- Lebanon, 14-16 June 2006**

ICBL Diplomatic Advisor Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh was in Beirut for three days and had a series of meetings with high ranking officials and key national leaders, organized by the Landmines Resource Center at the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Balamand (LMRC).

Meetings were held at an exceptionally high level, including with the Lebanese Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Fouad Seniora, H.E. Mr. Fawzi Salloukh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces, General. Michel Sleiman. Furthermore, Ambassador Singh met deputies from the Lebanese Parliament including Mr. Ali Bazzi, who was representing the Speaker of the House, H.E. Mr. Nabih Berri, who was out of the country on State business.

This visit allowed Ambassador Singh to visit different mined areas in Lebanon and take a closer look at how non-governmental organizations are coping with providing assistance to the victims. Ambassador Singh was able to meet with people and communities from different political, ideological, social, and confessional backgrounds. The visit concluded that it would only a matter of short time before the inter-ministerial discussions in the Lebanese Government lead to Lebanon's accession. The war with Israël which took place during the following Summer largely, and sadly, changed this assessment.

**- Vietnam, 16-18 October 2006**

ICBL Diplomatic Advisor Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh and Mr. David Johnson, South East Asia Program Coordinator of the Australian Network of ICBL visited Vietnam from 16 to 18 October and, inter alia, had meetings with Assistant Minister Pham Binh Minh in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Major General Pham Phan Lan, Director General, External Relations, Ministry of Defence.

Vietnam is interested in becoming more involved in the Mine Ban Convention and wishes to extend all possible support to its humanitarian objectives.

Emphasizing that landmines do not stop an invasion but only add to human misery, the ICBL delegation urged the Vietnamese officials to take a fresh look at the relevance of landmines to the country's security. While promising to do so, the Vietnamese representatives underlined the need to generate more awareness of the problem of landmines and unexploded ordnance within the country and welcomed ICBL's proposal to support their efforts through producing a photo-book and a photo-exhibition, highlighting the gravity of the issue. Vietnam is also ready to host a regional seminar on 'Landmines and Development' next year.

**- Poland (2<sup>nd</sup> mission of 2006), 29 November 2006**

The positive news regarding ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty that came out of ICBL's first 2006 advocacy mission to Warsaw changed abruptly after Polish elections in summer of this year. Upon learning that it may be another decade before the government ratifies, ICBL Advocacy Director, Mrs. Simona Beltrami, set out to learn more through two meetings with the Polish ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Defense on 29 November 2007. She learned that it will be a number of years before Poland makes good on its 1997 commitment, citing the need to locate and implement security alternatives first. However, the Ministry of Defence told the ICBL that it will begin stockpile destruction in 2008 as the first stage of a "phasing out" process. In all respects, Poland is in de facto compliance with the Treaty, however, the ICBL maintains that Poland should continue

to be a primary target for all States Parties and organisations involved in universalisation work, remaining now the only original signatory of the Mine Ban Treaty, with Marshall Islands, to not have ratified it.

In the context of Landmine Awareness Days, ICBL Advocacy Director, spoke at a conference entitled “Landmines, ‘new weapons’, and International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts”. The conference was held at Warsaw University and saw an attendance of over 90 people. This included military personnel, diplomatic representatives, professors and students. Other events included a week-long exhibition of mine action photographs by Australian photographer John Rodsted, a screening of the film “Disarm” and a social event.

## **C. IMPLEMENTATION**

The ICBL continues to place the highest importance on the full and timely implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. The focus for 2006 was on mine clearance (Article 5) and victim assistance as the key avenues for achieving the treaty’s humanitarian goals. Work on the disarmament aspects of the treaty also continued however, with new concerns about violations of Article 1 (the “ban”) and a new emphasis on national implementation measures (Article 9).

Implementation efforts involve the collaboration of all ICBL components – from staff to Landmine Monitor research coordinators, to the member organizations that provide critical input from the field. They also take place at all levels – from multilateral and bilateral meetings in Geneva to workshops or smaller meetings at the national level. This year the ICBL placed more emphasis on work in-country, including numerous field missions and treaty implementation workshops.

During the reporting period, the ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director also actively participated in the Geneva-based intersessional Work Programme, which is the system set up by States Parties to allow for continuous discussions and activities on the Mine Ban Treaty throughout the year. In addition to the week-long ISC meetings (described in section A), the ICBL participated in monthly meetings of the Coordinating Committee (CC), which brings together the Standing Committee co-chairs, co-rapporteurs, chairs of the Contact Groups, and the Sponsorship Group coordinator. During these meetings, she provided input into plans for the intersessional meetings and the 7MSP, updating participants on ICBL activities and priorities for these meetings.

In addition to these regular meetings, she also met frequently with the Implementation Support Unit Manager, the ICRC, ICBL member organizations based in Geneva, the Standing Committee co-chairs and other government representatives about the full and timely implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

On 1 March, after the Standing Committee meetings and ahead of the 7MSP, the Treaty Implementation Director sent letters to States Parties. These were all ways to communicate ICBL's implementation policy priorities, and they were all tailored to individual state's situations.

### **C.1 ARTICLE 5 (Mine clearance)**

The emphasis of 2006 was on developing a meaningful mechanism to process extension requests while keeping due stress on the need for the maximum number of states to meet their original 10-year deadlines. ICBL staff, LM research coordinators, and mine action operators met on several occasions on the margins of other meetings to discuss the ICBL's policies on these issues. It developed a set of steps to be used for evaluating mine-affected States Parties' progress towards completion of Article 5 obligations. These steps were part of the basis for the Landmine Monitor's new fact sheets on Article 5 implementation issued at the 7MSP. The fact sheets helped delegates see at a glance which states were on track to make their 10-year deadlines, and which were not.

On the issue of extension requests, the same group of ICBL, LM and member organization representatives discussed in person and through email the essential components for extension requests and the best process for managing them. The ICBL insisted on a process that would allow for a serious analysis of States' achievements to date and a close look at the extension period requested. The ICBL worked closely with States Parties to build support for the idea of a review by State Party representatives and outside experts and to gain agreement at the 7MSP.

The ICBL also supported and fed into the idea of creating a template for extension requests. Ideas from internal meetings were passed to Canada for drafting of the original version, and ICBL provided critiques on the template at two meetings in Geneva in September.

The next issue that the ICBL will be focussing on is land release through area reduction and cancellation. A meeting was held in Geneva in March 2007 to discuss an ICBL policy that will be released at the intersessional meetings in April.

## **C. 2 SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE**

The ICBL has seen through its experience in the field and through advocacy activities that there are wide gaps in the implementation of victim assistance, particularly in the most affected 24 countries. When projects and programs exist, many of them still have accessibility issues, sustainability is dubious, and not all components of victim assistance are equally available. For this reason, the ICBL and its Working Group on Victim Assistance drafted in a set of meetings in late 2006, early 2007 a set of guiding principles on VA. The principles are not new, but more of a compilation of guidelines that have been cited in various documents, including the Mine Ban Treaty and the Nairobi Action Plan. The point of developing them is to remind all actors working on VA that what matters is not just the development and implementation of goals, but how those goals are developed and whether they are designed in a way to benefit all survivors. They will be presented at the 2007 Intersessional Standing Committee meetings. The Working Group is now discussing how to use the principles to analyse the VA24's real progress as a way to complement the factual information of the Landmine Monitor.

## **C. 3 DISARMAMENT OBLIGATIONS**

This year, the ICBL kept up its usual pressure on States Parties to make known their policies on Article 1, 2, and 3; report through Article 7 fully, accurately, and in a timely manner; and use the revised Form D and ISC and MSPs to report on past and planned use for mines retained under Article 3. In addition, the ICBL expressed its concern during the 7MSP and in several meetings with SP representatives in Geneva about allegations made by the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia about transfers of "mines" to fighting forces in Somalia. The ICBL encouraged SPs to follow up

with the UN and the accused transferring States Parties to get more information and to express concern about this possible fundamental treaty violation.

During the reporting period, ICBL has also paid close attention to compliance with Article 4 (stockpile destruction) particularly with States reaching their deadline during the period. Discussions, and exchange of emails have been undertaken with Angola, to clarify the number of mines to be destroyed at the end of 2006, and encourage them to destroy all antipersonnel mines reported under Article 7, as well as those found afterwards. ICBL is also in close contact with Belarus and the European Commission on the future of the process for destruction of PFM mines, after the failure of the tender at the end of December 2006. In order to remedy to the lack of information surrounding the process of destruction of PFM mines in Ukraine, the ICBL also engaged with stakeholders and is planning a mission in Kiev, later in 2007.

#### **C. 4 IMPLEMENTATION ADVOCACY MISSIONS AND WORKSHOPS**

As one way to increase awareness and activity surrounding implementation, and ensure better follow up, ICBL members, national campaigns and staff discussed during the 6MSP in Zagreb the possibility for national CBLs to organise meetings/workshops/missions on the implementation of the convention. The goals for such activities are the following:

- Taking stock of the current status of implementation of the MBT- either globally or focusing only on one theme (Article 5, victim assistance, ban issues)
- Offering an opportunity to the government to present their policies and actions on these issues
- Ensuring that all stakeholders within the government involved in MBT implementation are present for the discussions and actively participate to order to increase national ownership of the need for full implementation
- Ensuring all stakeholders involved in the Mine Ban Treaty implementation receive the right messages about how the Convention should be implemented by including and soliciting interventions from all relevant non-governmental actors (NGOs, survivors, MA or VA implementers, other campaigners, ICBL representatives, and outside partners ( like ICRC, GICHD, UN agencies where appropriate...))
- If appropriate, creating a media opportunity to talk about landmines and how good/bad the implementation of the MBT is in the country

During the reporting period, such activities were conducted as follows:

#### **MISSIONS**

##### **- Thailand, 29-31 May 2006 and LM launch on Mine Action 13 September 2006**

From 29-31 May 2006, ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director visited Thailand to speak to campaigners and government officials about mine clearance and victim assistance. She met with the Thai Campaign to Ban Landmines, including Coordinator Emilie Ketudat, Asst. Coordinator, Semsiri Ingavanija, and LM researcher Shushira Chonhenchob. She also met with the Director of the Thai Mine Action Center (TMAC), Maj.Gen. Tumrongsak Deemongkol, and the Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Busaya Mathelin, among others. She also visited the office of the Japan Alliance for Humanitarian Demining Support to learn about their demining project on the Thai-Cambodian border.

The launch of the Landmine Monitor Report 2006's mine action findings took place in Bangkok on Wednesday 13 September 2006. The event was co-organized by the ICBL, the Landmine Monitor mine action team and the Thai Campaign to Ban Landmines, and was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, more than 70 representatives of the diplomatic community, international organizations, NGOs and the media. The event was supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

The launch included a presentation of the global LM mine action findings. It also afforded the opportunity to discuss key lessons and ongoing challenges in one of the world's most heavily mine- and UXO-affected regions.

[http://www.icbl.org/lm/updates/ma\\_release](http://www.icbl.org/lm/updates/ma_release)

**- Cambodia, 29-30 May 2006**

After the Landmine Monitor Global Researchers' meeting (see below section on Implementation Workshops), the ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director met with Sam Sotha of the Cambodian Mine Action Authority (CMAA) to hear more about how CMAA will follow up ideas being raised by HALO Trust, NPA and others to incorporate village-demined land into its national calculations of cleared areas. She reminded him that the treaty requires only the clearance of mined areas as defined by the state, so Cambodia was free to reassess the amount of mine-affected land, as long as it was done responsibly and in a way that protected the safety of people living in those areas.

On 6 April, she also went to visit survivors in poor areas around Siem Reap with Mr. Channareth Tun where she realised how many of the needs of survivors in the countryside coincide with basic development needs: water, source of income/food, education, access to free health care. Of course, all of this is compounded by their lack of mobility, which makes them one of the most vulnerable groups. Finally, she visited HALO Trust's center in Siem Reap to learn more about how they are going about documenting reclaimed land.

**- Jordan, 12 June 2006**

During a visit to Jordan, ICBL Ambassadors Liz Bernstein and Jody Williams met with His Royal Highness Prince Mired and the staff of the National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation (NCDR) on 12 June. After arriving at the offices of the NCDR, the ICBL ambassadors received a briefing on the current situation related to mine action in Jordan, especially in the context of the country's mine clearance obligations under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty. Jordan is due to complete clearance of all mined areas by 2009. His Majesty Prince Mired and other staff emphasized the commitment of Jordan to meet this deadline and the activities they have in place to do it.

In particular, they noted with enthusiasm the recent agreement with Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) to begin mine action in areas along the border with Israel south of the Dead Sea. Clearance of those border areas is deemed particularly important not only for the local population, but also for the country as a whole. This would allow building a 170-mile canal from the Red Sea to replenish waters in the Dead Sea, the level of which has been decreasing annually.

The NCDR also explained plans for a survey to assess the impact of previous mine action programs and to plan and further prioritize clearance activities while keeping in mind the upcoming Art. 5 deadline. They also discussed current plans to develop what they referred to as the "weakest area" in mine action programs - mine risk education.

After a tour of NCDR's new facilities, the ICBL ambassadors visited the new facilities for disabled Jordanian military and the new National Centre for amputees, the first facility specifically addressing the needs of disabled Jordanian military. The National Centre is envisioned as being able to serve the region as well as Jordan.

## **IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOPS**

### **- Phnom Penh, Cambodia 2-4 April 2006**

Landmine Monitor researchers met in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 2-4 April at the 2006 Landmine Monitor Global Research Meeting, to discuss research findings with the Landmine Monitor Editorial Team, further build capacity in research and mine ban advocacy, and participate in exposure visits to Cambodian mine action field projects.

During the Landmine Monitor's Global Researchers Meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (2-4 April 2006), the ICBL and local host Jesuit Refugee Services organized lunchtime panels on victim assistance and mine action in Cambodia. The panels brought local experts into the Landmine Monitor meetings, allowing LM researchers and outside participants to learn about the situation in Cambodia and to relate this information to their own research and experience.

The Victim Assistance panel was designed to allow representatives from Cambodian government agencies, NGOs, and donor states to talk about how to effectively meet the needs of land-mine survivors in Cambodia.

The Mine Action panel used Cambodia as a case study to examine the larger question of what it means for a state to fulfill its obligations under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The full report is available at <http://www.icbl.org/news/Impanels>

### **- Belarus, 23-24 May 2006**

On 23 and 24 May, the Belarus Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) hosted the Third International Ottawa Convention Implementation Workshop, organized by the SCAF/ Belarus Campaign to Ban Landmines and the UNDP. The ICBL both attended and participated in this event., in which the Belarus government was well-represented, including officials from the MFA, MoD, Ministry of the Interior, and Ministry of Justice. Representatives of the ICBL, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, OSCE, EC, were also present, as well as officials from Lithuania, Ukraine, and Japan. As one of the goals of the conference was to discuss regional cooperation and universalization, other participants included representatives from Poland, Russia, China, and the United States.

The ICBL made remarks in the opening ceremony that highlighted the cooperation between civil society and governments that led to the creation of the Mine Ban Treaty and convinced many reluctant states to accede, including Belarus. The ICBL also gave a presentation on the implementation mechanisms of the treaty.

During the conference, the Belarus MFA and MoD reiterated their view that Belarus does not have obligations under Article 5 because it does not have specific mined areas. It bases this assessment on a 2000 UNMAS report, which stated that the problem in Belarus was limited to mostly

unexploded ordnance (UXO). In response, the ICBL has asked Belarus to reevaluate this position given the large amounts of antipersonnel mines that are cleared every year by the MoD and Ministry of the Interior.

**- Senegal, 22-23 November 2006**

On 22 November 2006, in Dakar, Senegal, the ICBL, in collaboration with its representative in Senegal, Boubine Touré, and with the support of the Senegalese National Mine Action Commission, organized a workshop on the implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in Senegal.

The workshop gathered all the actors currently involved in mine action in Senegal. Particularly, it included the participation of representatives of the Senegalese National Commission, of many foreign embassies based in Dakar, of UNICEF, UNDP, the ICRC, the Senegalese Mine Victim's Association (ASVM), MFDC and Handicap International.

The workshop covered the themes of mine action, victim assistance and national implementation measures, as well as more detailed aspects of the Mine Ban Treaty. Each topic was introduced by a short presentation. A summary of the workshop was presented the next day, on 23 November 2006, in Ziguinchor in the province of Casamance. Following the summary, participants were once again invited to discuss the issue which led to a frank dialogue among local mine action actors and landmine survivors.

While in Senegal, the ICBL learned that a director for the National Mine Action Centre should be named before the end of 2006 and that the Centre should be operating by January 2007. As well, the ICBL appreciated the announcement that the mine action strategy would include a provision on victim assistance. A complete report, including recommendations of the workshop has been made available in June 2007..

## **D. ENHANCING ICBL'S CAPACITY TO ADVOCATE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

During the reporting period, the ICBL continued and intensified its efforts to build the capacity and skills of ICBL campaigners, new and old, to strengthen national advocacy on implementation and universalisation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

### **D. 1 CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS**

The majority of the advocacy missions mentioned in Section C are prepared and conducted in close relationship with the relevant national campaigns or individual ICBL members. During these missions, ICBL staff met with national campaigns to discuss and further elaborate on their planned activities. In countries where there is not an existing national campaign, staff has tried to identify active NGOs and to follow up with them after each visit so as to increase their involvement in the ICBL. Due to a lack of time and organisational constraints, we had to postpone the working meeting, planned for November 2006, the major global event we had planned to strengthen the capacity of our campaigns to advocate at national level. We held it in Aden, Yemen, in February 2007, immediately after the implementation workshop organised in Sana'a.

**- ISC Training on Victim Assistance and Article 5.**

During the 6MSP in Zagreb, campaigners acknowledged there was a great deal of experience already existing within the campaigns on advocacy, and they asked for more opportunities to share experiences and to capitalize on experience. ICBL staff then planned a two-day workshop held in

Geneva during the Intersessional Standing Committee Meetings in May 2006. A targeted group of campaigners were brought together to reinforce their advocacy capacities on survivor assistance (day one) and mine clearance (Art. 5 issues) (day two). To accomplish this goal, a formal workshop was held on survivor assistance, and one-on-one discussions were held throughout the week on Article 5. Campaigners from the following countries participated in the exercise: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia (States Parties) and India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka (States Not Parties).

The exercise aimed at:

1. Clarifying terms and issues. Developing and formulating key messages to be used by campaigners for advocacy. (50%)
2. Laying down concrete advocacy action plans for national campaigns existing ones. This included short- and mid-term goals and activities scheduled to be realised in 2006 and onwards. (50%)

- **Landmine Monitor Global Research Meeting, 2-4 April 2006, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

Landmine Monitor researchers met in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 2-4 April at the 2006 Landmine Monitor Global Research Meeting, to discuss research findings with the Landmine Monitor Editorial Team, further build capacity in research and mine ban advocacy, and participate in exposure visits to Cambodian mine action field projects. Many of these researchers also undertake advocacy activities in their countries, and as such this meeting placed special emphasis on links between research and advocacy, and a better use of research findings in the planning of advocacy strategy and activities.

Forty-four new and returning researchers, nine campaigners and friends of the ICBL, and 17 members of the Editorial Team, representing a total of 44 countries, participated in this meeting. It was the first of its kind held since the 2004 Landmine Monitor Global Research Meeting in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Observers from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), UNICEF and UNDP took part in the meeting. Training workshops were organised on issues related to Article 5 and Victim assistance, as well as campaign planning. In addition, ICBL staff conducted one-on-one meeting with each participants to discuss activities in their countries.

- **Youth LEAP, 2006**

As stated in the ICBL's 2004 Action Plan, "Youth are the future leaders of the world, and indeed, they are already a powerful force to be reckoned with... It is in the long-term interest of the ICBL to provide youth with the skills and information necessary to take action on the landmines issue. Training youth leaders will lead to a generation of skilled activists and will ensure the sustainability of the movement to create a mine-free world." In recognition of this Mines Action Canada (MAC) launched the Youth Leadership, Education and Action Program (Youth LEAP) in 2004. The aim of the program is to build the capacity of local ICBL campaigns to incorporate young people to work in mine action and strengthen the ability of mine action and pro-ban organizations to work with young people, thereby ensuring the future of the campaign. To achieve this, a series of workshops were held in early 2006. The Youth LEAP programme is the successful example of one ICBL core member taking control of, and strengthening to an high degree, activities previously led by ICBL staff. There was close collaboration between ICBL members in targeted countries, ICBL staff and MAC to successfully execute these events..

The first workshop took place in Beirut, Lebanon and brought together twenty-four campaigners from six countries across the Middle East and North Africa. During the course of the workshop, the campaigners, whose backgrounds working with youth ranged from no experience to active

engagement, exchanged their experiences and developed strategies, tools and methodologies for incorporating young people and transforming them “from targets into active participants.”

Another workshop took place in Cairo, Egypt from 18-22 April and a third in Gurgoan, India (30 kilometers from Delhi) from 19-23 May. These workshops had two categories of objectives: a) to build skills for mine action, for example project management, fundraising and media engagement, and b) to impart, thematically, the pillars of mine action, the Mine Ban Treaty, the Nairobi Action Plan and the history and structure of the ICBL. For both these workshops and others, organisers were able to establish regional networks to build the capacities of the local organizations. MAC continues to follow-up on the progress made through these workshops and is currently engaged in seeking funding for the second phase of Youth LEAP which will lead to even greater organizational capacities for local campaigns. The hope is to provide further opportunities for these and other youth and to ensure their continued engagement for further local mine action. One way to do this is by bringing back former youth participants to play an active role in facilitating future workshops and sharing their own valuable experiences.

### **- 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of States Parties –Working meeting 17 September 2006**

See above in the 7MSP section.

## **E. CROSS CUTTING ADVOCACY TOOLS**

### **E. 1 PRINTED MATERIALS**

#### **- Message Booklet**

Based on the experiences at 6MSP, the Treaty Implementation Director again produced an “ICBL Messages Booklet for Campaigners.” to increase campaigners’ capacity to lobby governments during the 7MSP. The 16-page guide provided a short description of the main policy issues ICBL works on (the key treaty articles plus universalization), messages to communicate to governments (divided as either donors or as mine-affected states), and the relevant states for each topic. The ICBL messages at the 7MSP were clearly outlined in the booklet: provide real progress in survivor assistance, finish mine clearance within deadlines, and to respect all the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty. In addition to the messages, it was also a mini-reference guide, providing information on the States Parties’ treaty deadlines, the list of 24 states with high numbers of mine victims, states keeping large numbers of mines under Article 3, high priority targets for universalization, etc. The booklet responded to previous requests from campaigners for help in identifying the key points to make with governments during international meetings.

#### **- Advocacy Brochures**

Due to lack of time, and priorities given to activities described above, we have not been able to create the two brochures described in the proposal. The ICBL hopes that the work done in 2006 and stronger engagement of our campaigners will allow for them to be produced in 2007. The brochure on advocacy on Survivors assistance could potentially be one outcome of a workshop planned on this issue during the Standing Committee meetings of April 2007.

**- Positions papers on Article 5, Article 5 fact sheets, and Victim Assistance guiding principles.**

See above section "Implementation"

**E. 2 ONLINE COMMUNICATION**

**- Call for Action**

Calls for action are issued occasionally to inform all the campaigners of important developments and to encourage them to take action on certain issues. They can be found at <http://www.icbl.org/action/alerts>.

In April 2006, the ICBL sent out a call for action to encourage ICBL national campaigns to take action before the deadline of submission of Article 7 reports. The Call for Action can be read at: <http://www.icbl.org/news/article7>

Ahead of the 7MSP, the ICBL called on its membership to ensure that the words of the convention become reality on the ground with a 7MSP specific call for action. ICBL members were encouraged to meet their governments as well as try to generate some media coverage in their country; and then follow up during the Meeting itself. The full call available is at: [http://www.icbl.org/news/7msp\\_action](http://www.icbl.org/news/7msp_action)

**- Daily updates**

As it was not possible for all ICBL members to travel to Geneva for the 7MSP, daily updates were provided on the ICBL website to keep the rest of the campaign up to date on the developments of the meeting. Under the supervision of the Treaty Implementation Director, daily updates were prepared by certain campaigners according to the themes discussed in the official meetings. These updates were also published online and can be viewed at:

[http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/7msp/updates/them\\_updates](http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/7msp/updates/them_updates).

All statements pronounced by ICBL members during official meetings were also posted at:

[http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/7msp/statements\\_1](http://www.icbl.org/treaty/meetings/7msp/statements_1).

**- Web news, Newsletter**

In addition to traditional means of communication such as emails and mailings, the ICBL website plays an important role in the organization's visibility and communication with national campaigns, partners and the general public. The ICBL has developed several electronic tools to inform, mobilize and advocate for a mine free world.

In 2006, the ICBL staff continued to produce a newsletter, the "ICBL News," in electronic form and it was released in March, September and December of 2006. The September version was also printed and distributed at the 7MSP and featured a new design, different than the one developed in 2005.

The ICBL News, in addition to informing and reporting on ICBL members' activities, also constitutes a great advocacy tool. The newsletter not only allows the national campaigns to exchange information on their activities and planning but also enhances the visibility of the coalition. It is distributed electronically to a mailing list and is also easily available on the website [http://www.icbl.org/news/icbl\\_news](http://www.icbl.org/news/icbl_news).

The ICBL website contains regular news stories (<http://www.icbl.org/news>) relating to country campaigns and their activities, workshops, and publications. In the second half of 2006, work was undertaken with a view to assessing how the current structure and content of the website matches the ICBL's goals and needs of users. This included a targeted survey sent to campaigners, a users' poll posted on the website, analysis of statistical data etc. Additionally, the staff took a closer look at the website to create a list of pages that needed to have information content updated, removed or generally improved upon. This updating is an on-going process again designed to make the website more educational to both campaigners and the general public.

A standardized webpage was created in 2006 and translated into 8 languages, each of which is accessible from the main page. This standardized page contains information about the landmine problem, about the campaign, landmine facts (taken from Landmine Monitor Report 2006) and a list of relevant regional or language links for more information.

In late 2006, the ICBL started a new online database project which should be available in early 2007 and will allow ICBL staff, campaigners and researchers to have access to updated contact information for governments, ministries, organizations, and other campaigners. Among other things, this tool will allow the user to create queries and do mail-merges. The main objectives for this project is to have an online database that can be updated at any time from anywhere, and also for the ICBL staff to be more time efficient when doing mailings or organizing or participating in meetings.

### **E. 3 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINE BAN TREATY**

1997 was a pivotal year in the history of the mine ban movement and saw some of the defining moments of what became known as the Ottawa Process. For the ICBL, the importance of this process is many-fold :

- For first time in history a commonly used conventional weapon was banned
- The ban process was driven by civil society and its success was due to the ability of civil society organizations to strike up an unprecedented partnership with other actors including small and medium powers, UN agencies, the ICRC and others
- It was recognised by Norwegian Nobel committee as “a model for similar processes in the future [which] could prove of decisive importance to the international effort for disarmament and peace”.

The anniversaries of several key meetings and events that took place in 1997 and all contributed to the final result provide a good opportunity to work with “historic” partners (both in civil society and in governments), to recognise and pay tribute to their roles and contributions to the collective success and at the same time to try and revitalise networks, rekindle engagement and call for new leadership at the international, national and local levels.

At the end of 2006, we elaborated a plan of action to celebrate this 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and started integrating our related messages in our communication, and statements, as well as encouraging our members to use this opportunity at national level to increase awareness.

#### **Goals of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration**

- Visibility - The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations should aim to increase the visibility of the landmine issue – at risk of disappearing from the public eye due to its “ongoing” nature and the misconceived impression that it has already been dealt with – and of the ICBL and its members.
- Engagement – Events and communication strategies should aim at reconfirming partners’ engagement with the issue and ideally getting new people involved in the campaign.
- Advocacy - Using the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as an incentive to further advocacy goals of the ICBL regarding universalisation and implementation, including ensuring full implementation by States Parties up to the next Review Conference and beyond.
- Strengthening civil society - Use the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to promote the role of Civil Society, in partnership with Governments to achieve real changes, including in the cluster munitions campaign
- ICBL role - Use the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as to ensure that the ICBL is more strategic, stronger at national level on events and engagement, and stronger in its identity of “watchdog” on article 5 and victim assistance.

### Messages

The slogan chosen for the anniversary year is:

#### **“1997-2007: the Mine Ban Treaty, A Success in Progress”.**

The emphasis is on the fact that success has been undoubtedly achieved but that work is still (and still needs to be) ongoing for ensuring that this success is complete and the goals of the treaty are achieved.

The slogan is illustrated and articulated into sub-messages formatted in the shape of a check list, visually highlighting the tasks accomplished (which can be “ticked off”) and those still to achieve.

### Communicating the message

Since the end of 2006, the ICBL has integrated the “Success in Progress” messages into statements, press releases and all public communication including the website.

We also produced a 12 month calendar and day-planner. It was meant to help practitioners and campaigners plan their work up to the 10th anniversary of the signature of the MBT by providing ideas and insight along the lines of the message that the ICBL chose for this year. Each month features a quote from the history of the campaign as well as a corresponding photograph and highlights special dates or anniversaries. As such, it can be used as a working tool for those engaged/interested in mine-related advocacy and mine action. ICBL staff in Geneva researched the necessary information and a graphic designer in Switzerland donated his time to complete the final product. One copy was mailed to each national campaign and member organization, as well as to the Geneva missions of all States Parties.

## F . LANDMINE MONITOR

### Landmine Monitor

In June 1998 in Oslo, Norway, the ICBL formally agreed to create Landmine Monitor as an ICBL initiative. Overall responsibility for the system rests with an Editorial Board consisting of four non-

governmental organizations (NGOs): Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, Mines Action Canada, and Norwegian People's Aid. The Editorial Board is responsible for developing, coordinating, and administering the Landmine Monitor system and for producing the Annual Report. In 2005, Mines Action Canada assumed new responsibilities as the lead agency and global coordinator for Landmine Monitor, a task previously undertaken by Human Rights Watch.

A network of 71 researchers in 62 countries and a 20-person Editorial Team gathered information to prepare this report. Landmine Monitor has utilized the ICBL campaigning network, but has also drawn in other elements of civil society to help monitor and report, including journalists, academics and research institutions.

*Landmine Monitor Report 2006: Toward a Mine-Free World* demonstrated civil society's capacity to recognize and adapt to the changing information needs of the international community in its efforts to universalize and fully implement the Mine Ban Treaty. Strengthened thematic reporting resulted in a detailed and focused report that provided greater insight into the successes and challenges in mine ban policy, mine action, mine risk education and survivor assistance. In particular, the content of the mine action portion of the Annual Report was re-structured to ensure the content and design best met the information needs of report users. As well, added thematic expertise ensured that we achieved more in-depth reporting on mine-affected countries. As a result, we were able to provide extensive analysis on issues of concern and better guide policy and action efforts.

Although the Annual Report and Executive Summary are the main outputs of the Landmine Monitor system, numerous other publications, documents and presentations have also been produced with Landmine Monitor data. A CD-ROM including Landmine Monitor Annual Reports for 2005 and 2006, including translations of the Executive Summary into Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish, and a series of six maps, was included at the back of the Executive Summary.

A series of fact sheets were released at the ISC meetings and the Meeting of States Parties, including comprehensive fact sheets on countries with Article 5 deadlines in 2009 and 2010, and detailed fact sheets on casualties. All fact sheets are online at: [www.icbl.org/lm/factsheets](http://www.icbl.org/lm/factsheets).

Landmine Monitor incorporated gender considerations into all project activities to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The Editorial Team and research network included significant contributions by women. To the greatest extent possible, Landmine Monitor reported on the impact of antipersonnel mines on women and girls, and included available mine casualty and other data specifically related to women and girls.

*Landmine Monitor Report 2006* is available online at [www.icbl.org/lm/2006](http://www.icbl.org/lm/2006).

## **G. ICBL TRANSITION/MANAGEMENT**

### **G.1. TRANSITION IMPLEMENTATION**

The reporting period was, again, a time of transition for the ICBL. The post Nairobi transition period in 2005 taught the ICBL an important lesson. The original plan for decentralization, increased engagement by national campaigns and the Advisory Board, and a reduced ICBL staff team, was not as successful as expected. With the resignation of ICBL's Executive Director in

January 2006, the ICBL went through another period of transition while remaining very active and continuing to engage in advocacy and capacity-building activities at the international and national levels.

After the official closing of its office in Belgium in early 2006, the ICBL set up its new and main office in Geneva and is currently registering in Switzerland. The reason for this relocation was that the ICBL felt the need to expand its presence, activities, and visibility where the landmine community gathers most frequently and conducts most of its work.

The new transition phase included appointing new staff members and ensuring the success of the new team and administrative projects. ICBL's Advocacy Director, Ms. Sylvie Brigot, moved into her new role as Executive Director in March 2006. The new Advocacy Director, Ms. Simona Beltrami, was appointed in April. Mrs. Beltrami is currently based in Rome (Italy) and has a long history with the campaign.

In May 2006, ICBL's Project Assistant, left at the end of her contract. To facilitate the overall management of the campaign, and to better and more comfortably respond to the requirements of the donors, a new Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Daiana Savage, and a new Finance Manager, Mr. Patrick Teil, were appointed. Mr. Teil started his mandate in October 2006 and is currently based in Lyon (France). Mrs. Savage works from the Geneva office with Ms. Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director. Ms. Brigot also works from the Geneva office 2 days every 2 weeks, depending on her working calendar.

During 2006, the ICBL also benefitted from Canada's Young Professionals programme by collaborating with two participants of the program. One was originally designated to work at the Geneva office, while the second one relocated there because of the security situation in Lebanon, where she was initially scheduled to be based. As with previous years, the ICBL is grateful to Mines Action Canada and the Government of Canada for this innovative programme, and the strong support it provided to both the ICBL team and national campaigns with whom YPs worked.

## **G.2. ICBL ASSESTS**

In addition to the staff, the ICBL's activities are conducted by the Management Committee, the Advisory Board, Working Groups, ICBL Ambassadors and Diplomatic Advisors and the Landmine Monitor.

### **a. Management Committee (MC)**

The Management Committee is currently composed of Habbouba Aoun, Landmine Resources Center, Elizabeth Bernstein, former ICBL Coordinator; Steve Goose, Human Rights Watch, Paul Hannon, Mines Action Canada, and Ayman Sorour, Protection.

The responsibilities of the MC include: regular and consistent oversight of staff/campaign activities, providing rapid feedback to staff; decision-making responsibility; fiduciary responsibility; personnel oversight; as well as substantive issues on strategies, policy and priority setting (strategic planning).

### **b. Advisory Board (AB)**

The Advisory Board is a larger body, representative of various elements of the ICBL, and composed of: Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Brazilian Campaign to Ban Landmines,

Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Colombia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Dan Church Aid, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, ICBL Georgian Committee, Institute for Practical Research and Training, IPPNW Kyrgyzstan, Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Kenya Coalition Against Landmines, Landmines Resource Centre (Lebanon), Landmine Survivors Network, Mines Action Canada, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, Norwegian People's Aid, Nonviolence International, Protection (Egypt), Quaker United Nations Office (Geneva), Sri Lanka Campaign to Ban Landmines

The AB provides vision, strategic direction, input and feedback regarding the oversight tasks of the MC. It interprets and reflects ICBL membership issues and thinking to the MC. At annual meetings, the AB and MC jointly review strategic planning, with accompanying budget implications, for the upcoming year of activities of the ICBL.

### **c. Working groups**

Issue specific working groups:

- 1) Treaty Working Group, chaired by Human Rights Watch
- 2) Working Group on Victim Assistance, co chaired by Handicap International and the Cambodian CBL.
- 3) Mine Action Working Group, including a specific Article 5 Task Force, facilitated by the Treaty Implementation Director
- 4) Non-State Actors Working Group, facilitated by the Advocacy Director.

### **d. ICBL Ambassadors**

International Ambassadors: 1997 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate, Ms. Jody Williams and Mr. Tun Channareth, a landmine survivor from Cambodia, are the ICBL's appointed International Ambassadors, and serve as Campaign spokespersons responding to numerous speaking and visiting requests. Song Kosal is the ICBL's Youth Ambassador.

In 2006, the ICBL has also appointed two new ambassadors: Elisabeth Bernstein, the former coordinator of the ICBL and Margaret Arach Orech, a landmine survivor from Uganda campaigning relentlessly for the rights of survivors since her graduation with Raising the Voices.

### **e. ICBL Diplomatic Advisor**

Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh has been working as a Diplomatic Advisor for the ICBL since early 2004 and brings along a diverse and highly relevant expertise for the ICBL. He is a landmine survivor, has experience with mine clearance operations, knowledge of military affairs and a long diplomatic exposure. Ambassador Singh is focusing essentially on the universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty.

### **f. LM Editorial Team**

Although a separate project, coordinated by the Editorial Board, the Landmine Monitor has been established to strengthen the ability of the Campaign to advocate for its goals. The Landmine Monitor establishes the facts that allow the Campaign to develop effective and sound advocacy. Over the years, the Landmine Monitor Editorial Team has helped ICBL Staff and campaigns by contributing to develop messages and preparing missions, sharing analysis, participating in workshops as resource persons or even facilitators. This collaboration demonstrates how research and advocacy reinforce each other.