

## Why We Do What We Do

Ten years since the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty. Seventeen years since we officially began the campaign for a ban on landmines and more than that for some. Eight months till the Review Conference in Cartagena! Why are we still campaigning to rid the world of mines and cluster bombs?

The first reason is PEOPLE, PEOPLE WITH NAMES, people we all know and love, people who have lost their legs or arms or eyes, people whose lives have been changed forever because of the presence of explosive remnants of war in their villages or forests or fields.

As ICBL Youth Ambassador Song Kosal reminds us so often, we want children everywhere to be able to run and play freely in the fields, not just those from lucky countries. We campaign so those mines and cluster bombs are cleared. We want a mine-free world. We campaign so no more are produced or used or sold or stockpiled. NO MORE MINES.

The second reason is people again. We want all especially those who have suffered and been injured to enjoy the right to a fully human life! The

Cartagena Summit is a new chance to highlight this, to emphasize the rights and needs of all survivors, especially the poorest, to insist that basic rights to shelter, food, education and health are attended to. It is a chance for survivors to show their competence and ability to create a better society and to contribute to laws and policies. SURVIVORS SPEAKING UP.

Thirdly we want a world where creativity, intelligence and technical expertise are used to address the real problems of human security: justice, development which enriches all, not just the few, and peace. We campaigners believe that using brains and ingenuity to devise weapons that kill the innocent and cause havoc in post-conflict societies is a criminal wastage of talent.

Fourthly, in making



***"The first reason is people. The second reason is people again."***

ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth encourages persons with disabilities to raise their voices in their communities. Photo: Jesuit Service Cambodia

the Mine Ban Treaty, a new moral imperative was established. Even those who did not sign on have stopped using antipersonnel mines and increasingly cluster bombs. We continue to monitor and keep the public aware so they keep their governments true to their words.

And lastly the process to gain the treaty called forth the best in governments and civil society and in the UN. From time to time we still irk one another,

but the planned road to Cartagena shows we are still committed to working together to finish the job. PARTNERSHIPS WORK.

Martin Luther King had a dream. So do we. A mine-free world is mission possible! Maha Ghosanda, Cambodian Buddhist monk, campaigner, now deceased, quoted often "Hatred never ceases by hatred but by love alone is healed." This is a stirring challenge to us all as we ponder why we do what we are doing. ■

Denise Coghlan,  
Cambodia Campaign  
to Ban Landmines

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# Landmine Monitor Releases First Report on Cluster Munitions

Landmine Monitor will release its first ever report on cluster munitions on 29 May at the UN in Geneva. The report was prepared by Human Rights Watch and Landmine Action on behalf of Landmine Monitor.

*Banning Cluster Munitions: Government Policy and Practice*

documents the creation of the international treaty banning cluster munitions. It looks at governments' engagement in the Oslo Process, a diplomatic initiative started by Norway in November 2006 to create a legally-binding instrument outlawing cluster munitions and establishing a framework for clearing contaminated areas and meeting the needs of cluster munition victims. It also considers government practice with respect to the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions.

*Banning Cluster Munitions* contains entries on 150 countries, including signatories to the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions, stockpiler countries, and affected states.

This 288-page report will be globally released on 29 May at a press conference and briefing in Geneva. The report will also be available on the Landmine Monitor website at [www.icbl.org/lm](http://www.icbl.org/lm). Campaigners can use the report for background



information on the Oslo Process and about their government's actions on banning cluster munitions. Landmine Monitor Report 2009, set for release on 12 November, will continue to include information on cluster munitions as it relates to clearance, casualties, risk education, and victim assistance. *Banning Cluster Munitions* covers only the ban policy issues. For more information please contact [lm@icbl.org](mailto:lm@icbl.org). ■

**Jackie Hansen,**  
Landmine Monitor

A minefield in Ta Phraya,  
Sa Kaew province, Thailand  
Photo: Mary Wareham

# A Mine-Free South East Asia: Mission Possible

In the first week of April 2009, members of the ICBL gathered in Bangkok, Thailand to conduct advocacy and outreach in support of the Mine Ban Treaty. Among other activities, they took part in the second in a series of regional workshops convened in the lead-up to the treaty's Second Review Conference.

The ICBL delegation to the regional workshop was comprised of campaigners and mine action experts from Afghanistan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, and elsewhere, including five mine survivors.

The regional workshop was notable for the active participation of diplomats from states that have not yet joined the Mine Ban Treaty: Lao PDR, Myanmar/Burma, Nepal, the United States, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. There were delegations from 11 States Parties.

A parallel programme on victim assistance (VA) organized by the Thai government and two additional sessions organized by Handicap International and the ICBL provided survivors and campaigners with the opportunity to suggest practical solutions to the challenges that hamper progress on VA. From these discussions, 18 areas of concern were identified for

further consideration as part of the preparation for the Second Review Conference, and were included in the VA Co-Chairs' conclusion note.

Regional workshop participants also undertook field trips to the Protheses Foundation and the Yardfon Vocational and Rehabilitation Training Centre for the Disabled, and visited a demining site along the Cambodian border. Cambodia will be asking this year for a 10-year extension of its deadline at the Second Review Conference while Thailand's clearance deadline of 1 May 2009 was extended for 9.5 years at the end of 2008.

At the conclusion of the regional workshop, the ICBL representatives participated in a briefing on the Convention on Cluster Munitions held by the Cluster Munition Coalition in cooperation with the governments of Australia and Lao PDR. Approximately a dozen states attended, including non-signatories Cambodia and Thailand. ■



# Looking Back to Move toward a Mine-Free World

The Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty (Cartagena, Colombia 30 November – 4 December 2009) offers an opportunity to carry out an honest evaluation of the treaty's impact, as well as identify continuing challenges and provide a clear work plan for the future.

The ICBL encourages all States Parties to participate in the Review Conference at the highest possible level, and to send a clear message of continued commitment to the treaty until all countries adhere to it, and its provisions are fully implemented. Such commitment should be stated in the form of a strong, forward-looking political declaration and through individual statements.

We also believe that the Review Conference should explore where the treaty would benefit from building synergies with new related instruments such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions, Protocol V of the Convention on Conventional Weapons, and to some extent the Convention on the Rights for Persons with Disabilities.

So, what are the ICBL's expectations on the main aspects of the treaty? We asked some of the ICBL's leading members.

## Mine ban standard

At the Review Conference, States Parties should note with great satisfaction that the stigma against the use of antipersonnel landmines is now nearly universal. They should emphasise that the goal

is to see no more use by states not party or non-state armed groups, and a call for a condemnation of any use by any actor. We hope to see as many



states not party as possible participating as observers.

Sylvie Brigot,  
ICBL Executive Director

## Stockpile destruction

The ICBL expects two of the three states that failed to meet their stockpile destruction deadline in 2008 – Greece and Turkey – to finish destroying their millions of mines before the Review Conference. The Review Conference will need to look at the special challenges associated with destroying PFM mines, as Belarus and Ukraine still possess millions and Belarus has already missed its deadline to destroy them. We hope that in both cases enough progress will have been made by



Mark Hiznay,  
Human Rights Watch,  
Landmine Monitor

the Review Conference so that a firm end date can be set.

## Clearance

After the disappointingly large number of extension requests submitted last year, including many that could have been shortened or avoided altogether – the Review Conference must recall the obligation to clear all mined areas "as soon as possible." We hope to see fewer mine-affected states seeking extensions, and only for the minimum number of years strictly necessary. We also expect to hear about how the 15 states that received extensions last year are implementing the plans upon which the extensions



Tamar Gabelnick,  
ICBL Treaty  
Implementation Director

were granted.

## Mine risk education

The Review Conference should take stock of the lessons learned over the past 10 years to recommend the most efficient way to prevent future mine casualties and to ensure that affected



Stan Brabant,  
Handicap International Belgium,  
ICBL Management Committee

communities receive the assistance they are entitled to.

## Victim Assistance

This will be the most crucial – but most challenging – aspect of the review. States Parties should be reviewing implementation of the objectives set at the First Review Conference and adopt a new concrete action plan with more structure and action-oriented points, geared towards reinforcing states' capacity to provide long-term, sustainable and effective victim assistance. We encourage the 26 states with the greatest needs for victim assistance to develop/extend SMART plans of action for the coming years by the Review Conference so that they will be ready to begin/continue implementation



Firoz Alizada,  
ICBL Treaty Implementation  
Officer

immediately afterwards.

The treaty's call "to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines" needs to be at the center of all our discussions on evaluating progress and setting out future work. We remain optimistic that a "mine-free world" – meaning one in which the Mine Ban Treaty is universally adhered to and implemented – is an achievable goal. In the words of our Review Conference slogan, we believe it is "Mission Possible." ■

# As a Survivor, I Find the Mine Ban Treaty Vital

Firoz Ali Alizada, ICBL Treaty Implementation Officer, addresses the audience at a public ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, launching the road to the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. Organized by Handicap International on an joint initiative of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Norway and Switzerland, the ceremony took place on 2 March 2009 at the Place des Nations in front of the U.N. building, where the Broken Chair sculpture symbolizes the suffering caused by landmines and cluster munitions.

Ladies and gentlemen,  
Let me begin by thanking the campaigners and advocates who have been fighting against landmines for more than a decade. They have all my admiration. They saved the lives of thousands of children, women and men. They stopped the human catastrophe caused by landmines, and they brought hope to thousands of survivors, their families and communities.

You might know about a country that is highly affected by landmines and where the tragedy is still ongoing. That is Afghanistan, the country where I was born, where I grew up and where I lost my legs to a landmine. Ten years ago, in some central parts of Afghanistan, about 60 people were killed or maimed every day in explosions from landmines and explosive remnants of war. Millions of civilians were affected by landmines. Blast victims would often die due to lack of treatment and health care. Because of landmines, civilians would be displaced and even lose the use of their properties.

Now in 2009, many Afghans can clearly see the impact of Mine Ban



Photo : Handicap International Switzerland

***"Survivors and persons with disabilities do not claim new rights."***

Treaty. Land is being cleared, which paves the way for reconstruction, farming, and education. Some progress has been made in assisting the survivors, their families and communities, which helps to create confidence and maintain dignity. Nearly 9000 Afghans are employed in mine action projects.

Despite these achievements, an average of 55 to 60 people are still killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war each month. But in comparison with ten years ago, the casualty rate has significantly decreased.

As a survivor, I found the Mine Ban Treaty useful and vital. The direct and indirect impact of the Mine Ban Treaty has changed my personal and family life and those of many other survivors I know in Afghanistan.

In 1996 when I lost my legs in a landmine accident, my life was turned into disappointment, my hopes were taken away, my

friends left me and I was even unhappy to survive. But today that is not the case, I live as normal a life as I used to live before the accident, I am regaining my hopes, I found best friends and I am married. These changes didn't happen automatically. They happened because the Mine Ban Treaty guaranteed my rights, they happened because Afghanistan had a responsibility to support me or at least to avoid discriminations which could have affected my life.

Ladies and gentlemen, hundreds of thousands of other survivors and persons with disabilities have a different story. They still suffer from inadequate health care, they still don't have access to education because of physical barriers or discrimination, they are still discriminated



Photo : Handicap International Switzerland



The ceremony also aimed at celebrating the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty. Photo: HI Switzerland

## VICTIM ASSISTANCE

# Voices from the Ground

In 2004 the hopes for victim assistance around the world were given a boost. States Parties, at the First Review Conference, committed to do their utmost to “enhance the care, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts during the period 2005-2009...”

against when it comes to finding a job, they still suffer from trauma, they are still denied their basic rights and they still remain among the most vulnerable people.

We all know that survivors and persons with disabilities do not claim new rights, what they all need is to be equally treated and to see their special needs taken into consideration. Responding to them is not a complex issue; but it does require a strong and lifelong commitment and adequate resources from states.

For example:

- Making a school accessible is not a complex or costly endeavor, but it can certainly help building a barrier-free society. This will definitely impact the life of a wheelchair user.
- Providing jobs to persons with disabilities neither decreases the quality of work nor slows down the work.

People from around the world, particularly landmine survivors and people affected by landmines; expect to hear about the progress made on all components of Mine Ban Treaty in the period of five years from the First to the Second Review Conference taking place

late this year in Cartagena. So, the States Parties have to get ready and report on all their achievements and challenges.

The ICBL believes that the Second Review Conference should reaffirm a “mine-free world” as our ultimate goal, meaning one in which the Mine Ban Treaty is universally adhered to and implemented, with all stockpiles destroyed, all known mined areas cleared, and rights of landmine survivors ensured. The road ahead may still be long, but with the lessons learned over the past 10 years we strongly believe achieving this goal is “Mission Possible.”

In conclusion, I would like to call on all 39 countries remaining outside the treaty to join the Mine Ban Treaty without further delay and to renounce the use of landmines forever.

And once again, I would like to call on the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty to honor their commitment to a world free of landmines and to empowering landmine survivors, their families and communities.

It is “Mission possible”!

Thank you.



Now, in 2009, it is time for survivors and the people working to assist them to assess the past five years of progress in victim assistance. It is also the time for them to have a say in what needs to happen next. Survivors and victim assistance programs know the reality on the ground, the successes and the problems. Their experience must guide governments to decide how the future for victim assistance will be set at the Second Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia.

Civil society reporting has been shown to have a positive impact on international policy making. In the past five years time and again States Parties have asked civil society partners to enhance monitoring and reporting. So now, at this pivotal junction in Mine Ban Treaty the ICBL and ICBL victim assistance focal points in some 26 countries have joined forces with the research team from Handicap International-Belgium to provide an opportunity for the voices of survivors, their families and communities to be heard. The **Progress Review on Victim Assistance - Voices from the Ground** will report on the achievements and challenges of the past five years of victim assistance and ways forward.

Reporting from the grassroots and taking a ground-up approach, over 700 survivors and practitioners have been asked to evaluate progress of the Nairobi Action Plan goals in their own countries.

These responses form the most important part of the document because they will help decision-makers improve victim assistance. Answers to questionnaires from the project are confidential, giving an opportunity for the frank input of many voices. At the same time, those who wish to provide public information also have the option to be quoted and states parties have an opportunity for comment. It will also remind them of their obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty. A report document will be distributed worldwide in September 2009 and will help decision-makers and service providers improve victim assistance in future plans for action.

If you would like to contribute to the project please contact Katleen Maes, Handicap International Belgium Research Coordinator: [katleen.maes@handicap.be](mailto:katleen.maes@handicap.be), and copy [katleen@icbl.org](mailto:katleen@icbl.org) or Firoz Ali Alizada, ICBL Treaty Implementation Officer: [firoz@icbl.org](mailto:firoz@icbl.org). ■

**Loren Persi, Landmine Monitor**



Photos: Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization, Ali Oz, Azerbaijan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Campagne sénégalaise contre les mines, CIREC (Centro Integral de Rehabilitacion de Colombia), Clube de Jovens, Control Arms Foundation of India, Georgian Committee to Ban Landmines, Greek Campaign to Ban Landmines, ICBL, Indian CBL,

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

# 10 Years in Force of the Mine Ban Treaty: ICBL Campaigners Take Action in 65 Countries or Areas

In February and March, campaigners from 65 countries and areas around the world took action to commemorate 10 years of the Mine Ban Treaty's entry into force and to push for its further universalization and implementation. At the same time striving to bring the new Convention on Cluster Munitions into force!

Under the slogan **A Mine-Free World: Mission Possible**, campaigners from Afghanistan to Zambia organized roundtables, press briefings, street actions, photo exhibitions and art installations, film screenings, marches, rallies, workshops, petitions, TV and radio shows, and other events to bring the world's attention to the scourge of landmines and call for a mine-free world.

Events and actions took place in: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mali, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zambia.



## United States Bans Cluster Munitions Export

President Obama signed a law on 11 March 2009 that permanently bans nearly all cluster bomb exports from the United States. This moves the United States one step closer to the position of the 96 states that have already signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, renouncing the use, production and trade of this weapon forever.

The legislation states that cluster munitions can only be exported if they leave behind less than one percent of their submunitions as duds, and if the receiving country agrees that «cluster munitions will not be used where civilians are known to be present.» The United States should now take the next step and review its position on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, with a view to joining it at the earliest opportunity. Given the

complementary nature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Mine Ban Treaty in terms of humanitarian aims and practical implementation, joining both treaties would be a strong signal from the Obama administration to the international community. ■



Photo: Simon Conway

## Iran: Two Factions of the Komalah/Komala Party Declare Non-Use of Antipersonnel Mines

The «Komalah The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran» and the «Komala Party of Kurdistan» declared they will not use antipersonnel landmines, Swiss-based NGO Geneva Call announced on 7 April 2009.

Geneva Call said that both organizations had sporadically used antipersonnel mines in the past. The press release quoted Omar Elkhanizadeh, Secretary General of Komala Party of Kurdistan as saying, «[Komala] ceased to use antipersonnel mines a few years ago. Kurdish civilians and fighters also become victims of the mines. Therefore, we are with the International

Community fighting for a world without mines.» The press release also quoted Ebrahim Alizadeh, Secretary General of the Komalah The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran: «We are particularly happy to ban antipersonnel mines which are inhuman and brutal,» but did not specify if the group had recently used mines.

It is not known if either faction of Komala possesses stockpiles of antipersonnel mines. Geneva Call has informed Landmine Monitor that both Komala organizations are currently investigating with their military wings whether they possess any stockpiles of antipersonnel mines. ■

## ICBL Youth Ambassador Song Kosal Meets with Pope

ICBL Youth Ambassador and Cambodian landmine survivor Song Kosal was the guest of honour at the Italian Campaign to Ban Landmines celebrations of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The three-day series of events included meetings with Pope Benedict XVI, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Vincenzo Scotti, and 300 teenage students who had been inspired by her life story through the workshop There is no peace with landmines.

Kosal said that the most exciting moment was being able to speak to Pope Benedict XVI about

the problems caused by landmines and cluster bombs and the need for commitment on victim assistance.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kosal called for the Humanitarian Demining Fund to be restored, and stressed the importance of the fund to address the needs and rights of landmine survivors.

The last, but not least, undertaking of Kosal in Rome was the meeting with students at the Capitol. Students listened to Kosal's speech in absolute silence, gave her a long applause before and all wanted to kiss her before leaving! ■



Photo: Servizio fotografico "L'osservatore romano"

## Iraqi Kurdistan: Civil Society at Work!

On 5 April, the Kurdistan Organization for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (KORD), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and several other NGOs joined a day of activities organized by the General Directorate for Mine Action. On the occasion of the UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, stands and exhibitions provided NGOs with the opportunity to share information on their activities with governmental bodies, Iraqi and Kurdish parliamentarians, mine action service providers and

the media. A seminar on accessibility was organized by KORD on 8 April, to brief ministry representatives on the rights of people with disabilities and to provide them with the texts of all relevant legal instruments in Kurdish. In May, KORD was awarded the Civic Award by the Kurdistan Regional Government's Minister of Civil Society Affairs, emphasizing the organization's role in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and its contribution to social development at the regional level. ■

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

### Australian Campaign Visits Embassies and Calls for Renewed Funding

On the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, campaigners from the Australian Network to Ban Landmines (ANBL) visited embassies to encourage universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions. They were warmly received by Ambassadors and Chargés d’Affaires at the embassies of Poland, Nepal, Vietnam and Indonesia, and left letters and Landmine Monitor Reports at the embassies of Myanmar/Burma and Lao PDR, and at the Indian High Commission,

where additional meetings will take place soon. The ANBL’s major campaign for 2009 aims at securing 100 million AUD (72 million USD) for mine action for the budget period 2011-2015. Lorel Thomas of the ANBL said: “A specific challenge in the current economic climate is to ensure that mine action is not neglected. However, we were successful in our last campaign and we are hopeful that the government will again respond positively.” Australia is among the top twelve donor countries for mine action. ■

### Cambodia: Mine Survivors Reflect on Progress



Photo: Jesuit Service Cambodia

More than 500 landmine survivors and other people with disabilities, community leaders, monks, police and representatives from mine action organizations gathered in Thmor Samleang village on 23 February to reflect on mine action progress in Cambodia, on the eve of the National Mine Awareness Day. The event was co-sponsored by Jesuit Service Cambodia, Norwegian People’s Aid and the UNDP.

The group participated in a discussion led by ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth, who spoke about international efforts to end the use of landmines and cluster bombs, then asked participants to provide examples of their own personal experiences with the issues. The Nobel Peace Prize that Channareth accepted on

behalf of the ICBL in 1997 was displayed throughout the event to remind everyone of the impact that ordinary citizens can have on international issues. The Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines now intends to carry the Cambodian survivors’ message to the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. ■

Photo: Cluster Munition Coalition



### 29 March - 4 April: A Week of Campaigning in Senegal

In early April the Senegalese Campaign to Ban Landmines met with the National Commission for the Implementation of the Ottawa Convention to ensure the swift adoption of the draft national mine action strategy; participated in a show covering the landmine issue on Senegal’s first nationwide private radio; and delivered a presentation at a meeting on the international norms related to landmines, organized by Geneva Call and the local NGO APRAN and aimed at the Movement

of the Democratic Forces of Casamance’s contact group.

Members of the Senegalese Association of Mine Victims joined a parade on 4 April in the streets of the Zinguichor in the mine-affected region of Casamance, and participated in the sports demonstrations marking both the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and the Senegalese Independence Day. ■

### Have You Seen the MineToons?

Eleven internationally renowned press cartoonists joined forces with Handicap International Switzerland to create animated short films calling for a world free of landmines and cluster munitions. They aired in May on the international francophone TV channel TV5 and on TSR in Switzerland,



and are also available on YouTube: [www.youtube.com/hisuisse](http://www.youtube.com/hisuisse) ■

### Cluster Munition Coalition Accepts Peace Award

The Tipperary International Peace Award was accepted by CMC representative Branislav Kapetanovic at a special ceremony held in Tipperary, Ireland on 1 May, marking the successful civil society campaign to outlaw cluster munitions. “We are only now beginning the really challenging work with respect to cluster munitions,” said Kapetanovic. “We now need to ensure that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is fully

implemented and respected by all.” The award gives recognition to those who promote the ideals of peace and peaceful co-operation both in Ireland and abroad. Previous recipients include US President William J. Clinton, Live-Aid organiser Bob Geldof, South African President Nelson Mandela, and Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. ■

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

### Barcelona: A Day against Landmines



Moviment per la Pau celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action together with the Platform Against War. Volunteers



collected signatures for the People's Treaty and distributed information on landmines on Placa Sant Jaume in the heart of Barcelona. A representative of the Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines delivered a speech on the landmine situation and on victim assistance in Colombia. ■



Photo: Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific

### Thailand: Raising Awareness at the Community Level

On 17 May, the Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines (Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific) held a day of awareness-raising activities at the Baan Xavier Church in Bangkok. In the church hall throughout the day, visitors enjoyed live music and refreshments, while learning more about mine action, victim assistance and

the work of the Campaign through an exhibition. Three mine survivors shared their story during the masses. Demining demonstrations were organized in cooperation with the civilian deminers from the Peace Road Organization. The Director and staff of the Thailand Mine Action Center also attended the event. ■



Photo: Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific

### What Would a Cluster Bomb Attack Do to Your Neighbourhood?



Find out at [www.fcnl.org/weapons/cluster\\_attack2.htm](http://www.fcnl.org/weapons/cluster_attack2.htm)

### Gender and Mine Action

The Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines organized a lunchtime seminar on 29 April to sensitise States Parties on the need to commit and take concrete long-term initiatives to include the gender perspective in mine action. Representatives of the Swiss Federal government, the Swiss Campaign and the United Nations Development Programme presented their views on the need for gender

sensitisation of the Mine Ban Treaty respectively from an NGO, State Party and UN perspective. The Swiss Campaign explained that there is still a long way to go to achieve truly gender sensitive mine action and that this will depend on the commitment of States Parties and donors to promote gender sensitisation in all relevant tools, legal instruments and actions. ■

### Nepal: Mine Risk Education and a Conference with Religious Leaders

In the first half of 2009, the Ban Landmines Campaign of Nepal conducted mine risk education activities in 160 schools and 40 communities throughout the country, reaching out to over 30,000 persons despite the difficult security context. In May, a conference brought together eleven religious leaders

representing Hinduism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam, for a reflexion on the landmine and cluster munition issues. Three of the religious leaders were also Parliamentarians. The event was broadly covered by the local TV and radio. ■

# Bringing your Country on Board the Mine Ban Treaty - Mission Possible?

“It is definitely possible that the US government will renounce the threat of antipersonnel landmine use and announce support for the Mine Ban Treaty this year. However, Senate ratification will likely take some time. We are working to get representatives of the State Department and/or White House to Cartagena for the 2nd Review Conference (as an observer, I guess, since the US will not yet be a Party). To help achieve this, we need

the world to keep clamoring for the U.S. to come in from the cold and join the Mine Ban Treaty!” ■



Lora Lumpe,  
United States Campaign  
to Ban Landmines

“Bringing Poland on board the MBT is a challenge we have been facing for over ten years. But this Mission Possible and will be completed as soon as Polish decision-makers realize the urgent necessity of this final step. Last year, we managed to change the ratification date from 2015 to 2012. This year, our main goal is to influence the Polish government to declare it has begun the ratification process at the Second Review

Conference. Poland is just one small step before the finish line. The Polish Red Cross with the ICBL can - and will - make this distance vanish.” ■



Lidia Szafaryn,  
Polish Red Cross

“I don't think there is something «impossible» for the ICBL. In Lebanon, the issue is sensitive, problematic, but hopefully not «impossible.» Our political and security conditions are not easy. The understanding of the treaty among all those concerned might need more clarification. Leaders in my country must understand that a ban on landmines is

not a political move against any party. It is a universal, humanitarian matter.” ■



Habbouba Aoun,  
Landmine Resource Center  
(Lebanon)

“In the beginning, perhaps some states and some people thought campaigning to ban landmines was a silly idea, which would never come true. But now, 156 states alongside civil society have proven it was indeed possible. It is true that there are still some states hesitating to join the treaty. This is posing a challenge to all. But I believe the situation will not remain for long. Too many people have lost and still lose their lives and limbs. I believe

the remaining states not party cannot bear these ongoing killing and maiming of innocent people. I believe they will come and join us.” ■



Purna Shova Chitrakar,  
Ban Landmines Campaign  
Nepal

“Cluster bombs were used in my country last August during the fighting with Russia. Yet I believe retaining the right to use landmines and cluster bombs does not provide any kind of guarantee for Georgian security. It should be a priority for a small country like

Georgia to implement humanitarian law and thus serve as an example for neighboring countries. At the Georgian Committee, we alert the media, hold public events and maintain dialogue with government representatives - hoping they will

officially give up these weapons soon. On March 1st we organized a public tree-planting in the area affected during the recent conflict (now cleared) - to symbolize the new life coming after the devastation and the hope for no more mines and cluster bombs in Georgia.” ■



Maia Buchukuri,  
ICBL Georgian Committee

# Intersessional Standing Committees Meetings, 25-29 May 2009, Geneva, Switzerland

Monday 25 May	Tuesday 26 May	Wednesday 27 May	Thursday 28 May	Friday 29 May
<p><b>9:00-09:50</b> ICBL Morning Briefing WMO Building, Room C2</p> <p><b>10:00-13:00</b> ISC General Status and Operation of the Convention WMO Building, Room A</p>	<p><b>9:00-09:50</b> ICBL Morning Briefing WMO Building, Room C2</p> <p><b>10:00-11:30</b> ISC Stockpile Destruction WMO Building, Room A</p> <p><b>11:30-13:00</b> ISC Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration WMO Building, Room A</p>	<p><b>9:00-09:50</b> ICBL Morning Briefing WMO Building, Room C2</p> <p><b>10:00-13:00</b> ISC Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies WMO Building, Room A</p>	<p><b>9:00-09:50</b> ICBL Morning Briefing WMO Building, Room C2</p> <p><b>10:00-13:00</b> ISC Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, WMO Building, Room A</p>	<p><b>9:00-09:50</b> Mine Action Support Group Meeting (Slovenia), Room D (Restaurant level) (By invitation only)</p> <p><b>10:00-11:30</b> ISC Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration, WMO Building, Room A</p> <p><b>11:30-13:00</b> ISC General Status and Operation of the Convention WMO Building, Room A</p>
<p><b>13:00-15:00</b> Briefing on Jordan's ERW Management Training Programme (Jordan), WMO Building, Room D (Restaurant level)</p> <p><b>13:00-15:00</b> ICBL VA Lunch Meeting, WMO Building, Room C2 (By invitation only)</p>	<p><b>13:00</b> Development Contact Group Meeting (Canada), WMO Building, Room D (Restaurant level)</p> <p><b>14:00</b> CMC Campaign Meeting, WMO Building, Room C1 or C2 TBC</p>	<p><b>13:00</b> Resource Utilization Contact Group Meeting (Norway), WMO Building, Room D (Restaurant level)"</p> <p><b>13:00</b> Article 7 Contact Group meeting (Belgium), WMO Building, GICHD Lake Meeting Room (3rd floor)"</p>	<p><b>13:00</b> Universalization Contact Group Meeting (Canada), WMO Building, Room D (Restaurant level)</p>	<p><b>13:00-15:00</b> Mine Action Support Group Meeting (Slovenia), Room D (Restaurant level) (By invitation only)</p> <p><b>13:00-15:00</b> Briefing on the major findings of Banning Cluster Munitions: Government Policy and Practice, a report produced by HRW and Landmine Action for Landmine Monitor", WMO Building, Room C1</p>
<p><b>15:00-18:00</b> ISC Stockpile Destruction WMO Building, Room A</p>	<p><b>15:00-18:00</b> ISC Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration WMO Building, Room A</p> <p><b>18:00-19:00</b> Briefing on the CCM (Norway), WMO Building, Room B</p> <p><b>18:00-19:30</b> ICBL VA Meeting, WMO Building, Room C2 (By invitation only)"</p>	<p><b>15:00-18:00</b> ISC Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies WMO Building, Room A</p> <p><b>18:00</b> Reception hosted by the Director of the GICHD, WMO Building, Attique Restaurant level</p>	<p><b>15:00-18:00</b> ISC Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine Action Technologies, WMO Building, Room A</p>	<p><b>15:00-18:00</b> First Preparatory Meeting in advance of the Second Review Conference, WMO Building, Room A</p>

## Contributors

Firoz Alizada (ICBL), Denise Coghlan (Jesuit Service Cambodia), Tamar Gabelnick (ICBL), Jackie Hansen (Landmine Monitor), Loren Persi (Landmine Monitor), ICBL members around the world. Some of the photos are a courtesy of [www.giovannidiffidenti.org](http://www.giovannidiffidenti.org)

The ICBL welcomes any comments and questions about ICBL News.



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