September 2009

International CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES

News

Come, Share, Commit and Care

ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth calling on states to come prepared to the Cartagena Summit. Geneva, May 2009. Photo: Mary Wareham

When we started the campaign, it was common to hear that mine clearance would take centuries, that victim assistance was too broad an issue to be tackled effectively, that stockpile destruction would cost too much. A decade of Mine Ban Treaty implementation proved this was wrong. A mine-free world in our life time is a Mission Possible. But we are still far from it. The Cartagena Summit is the time for states to clearly show their determination to live up to their commitments to survivors and their families, to communities still living in the fields of death.

States should come to Cartagena ready to firmly declare their determination to remain true to the humanitarian objectives of the Mine Ban Treaty, and to do everything they can to make sure those goals are reached – and soon! The best way to do so would be first to proudly share results and successes of actions taken at the national level in recent years. Difficulties and challenges encountered should be seen as an incentive to think differently about how to finish the job. Problems should be tackled; they cannot be used as an excuse to stop working or delay actions indefinitely. Survivors and their families, people living in mined areas must not be kept waiting any longer.

"We call on states faced with budget difficulties not to give up."

We hear that the current financial and political environment is not conducive to long-term commitments to mine action. If the environment puts pressure on states' budgets, what about the constant pressure on those for whom daily survival is already a challenge? Once again, we call on states faced with budget difficulties not to give up, to use this opportunity to think more creatively and strategically about how to get the treaty's work done.

The costs associated with ongoing victim assistance obligations and completion of mine clearance plans will place a strong demand on mine-affected and donor states for sustained or increased funding during at least the next five years. We call on states to come to Cartagena with multiyear commitments and strategies for ensuring the new funding required to cover such costs. We also specifically call on affected states to contribute as much as possible to their own mine action activities, and to use the funds in the most efficient way.

Since its entry into force, the Mine Ban Treaty has proven to be one of the brightest points in the world of disarmament and an exceptionally robust instrument of international humanitarian law. In fact, its success has triggered new possibilities and renewed political will for creating groundbreaking international instruments such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The inherently mutually reinforcing elements of all of these treaties provide us with new platforms from which to spread our messages and we should seize every opportunity to advocate for them. Central to the success to date has been the enthusiasm for ridding the world of antipersonnel mines shown year after year by States Parties, international organizations and civil society. Such commitment is essential, but cannot be taken for granted. This why we are asking states to come to Cartagena, share their successes and creativity in realising the vision of a mine-free world and tangibly commit to finish the job. We know you will be there because you care. ■

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2009 Youth Leaders Forum

Training the Next Generation of Campaigners

As part of its Youth Leadership, Education and Action Program (Youth LEAP), Mines Action Canada will be coordinating the Youth Leaders Forum at the Second Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia.

The 2009 Youth Leaders Forum builds on the successful 2007 Youth Model Review Conference in Jordan, the International Youth Symposia in Nairobi in 2004 and Zagreb in 2005, and the regional Youth Leaders Workshops in Moscow, New Delhi and Cairo in 2005 and 2006.

Youth LEAP is an innovative and effective way of engaging young people in the campaigns to ban landmines and cluster munitions. One participant in the 2007 Youth Model Review Conference said, "The Youth Model Review Conference was my first exposure to landmines and cluster munitions issues. It deepened my interest and knowledge so much that after MRC, I was tasked to handle the national campaign against cluster munitions." Another Youth LEAP graduate declared that the 2005 International Youth Symposium "got me understanding that this was truly a global movement and cemented my commitment to it."

About 30 young women and men from around the world will participate in the five-day Youth Leaders Forum in Cartagena. Participants will build their skills and knowledge as civil society advocates for achieving universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions. They will participate in skills building sessions led by seasoned campaigners on topics such as fundraising and grant management, media relations, volunteer recruitment and management, lobbying and advocacy, as well as the essentials of mine action.

Representing assigned states or organizations, delegates to the 2007 Youth Model Review Conference in Jordan debated the main issues surrounding the full implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty. Photo: MAC

"Training events such as these are important to build the capacity of the next generation of campaigners. Delegates to the Youth Model Review Conference highlight how useful events like these are."

Training events such as these are important to build the capacity of the next generation of campaigners. Delegates to the Youth Model Review Conference highlight how useful events like these are. In their words: "Before I left home, I wanted to organize an awareness campaign and after this week I feel confident that this will be a success"; "I feel that the skills and contacts I have developed here will help me immensely in my professional life."

Youth Leaders Forum participants are also expected to produce a youth campaigning action plan to focus and direct youth campaigning efforts over the next two years. This is a critical time in the movement as we head into the post-Second Review Conference period of the Mine Ban Treaty and the lead-up to the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Youth Leaders Forum participants will add momentum and bring their newfound skills and knowledge to international efforts. Keep your eyes on them!

For more information, please contact YLF2009@minesactioncanada.org

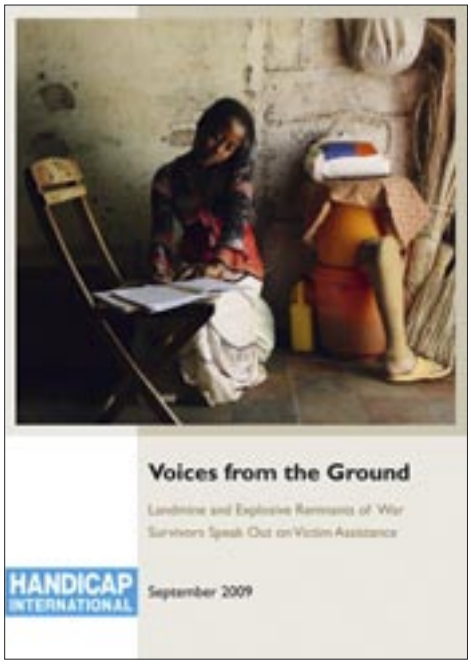
Christa McMillin,
Mines Action Canada

The 2007 Youth Model Review Conference in Jordan, a professional development experience for youth campaigners involved and active in mine action. Photo: MAC

VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Voices from the Ground

Released globally on 2 September 2009, the report *Voices from the Ground: Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War Survivors Speak Out on Victim Assistance* provides a review of progress in victim assistance – as seen by the people directly affected – against the commitments made by States Parties.



The report was prepared by Handicap International Belgium with support from the ICBL, the government of Austria and the government of Norway, and includes questionnaires and data from 1,645 survivors in 25 mine-affected countries.

Voices from the Ground reports that survivors are rarely included in decisions and activities destined to benefit them. It indicates that survivors are left to battle discrimination and have to compete with many other vulnerable groups for a limited number of services. Despite improvements in medical care and physical rehabilitation, most survivors still have to fall back on their families and friends for support and by far the biggest need is for employment and educational opportunities.

The authors of the report draw a number of lessons based on survey answers:

1. Survivors know best what they need, so always include them in coordination, planning, implementation and monitoring of VA/disability issues.

2. Survivors need more than basic medical care and rehabilitation to make their lives whole. Ensure that all types of services are equally developed and accessible when and where needed.

3. Progress is about coordination, monitoring and the practical use of the resources states have, rather than those they would like to have.

4. Those responsible for coordination need to be in the best position to get the job done.

5. The international community needs to continue to listen to affected states and provide them with more and better financial and technical assistance.

The full report is available online at www.handicap-international.be. It includes detailed country-by-country information, analysis on the lessons listed above, suggestions for the way forward and a series of recommended actions to be taken at the national and international levels. ■

MINE ACTION

Getting European Commission Funding for Mine Action

The European Commission (EC) has been one of the largest contributors to mine action projects over the past decade. Up until 2007, the EC had a special budget line dedicated to those projects, which included demining and victim assistance.

However, that budget has now become part of the wider EC development budget, as part of a general change to the EC funding structure. The ICBL has raised concerns about EC funding process changes and feels it is important that operational NGOs and affected countries are aware of and understand the changes.

Since 2007, states seeking support for mine action from the EC need to include it as a priority in their Country Strategy Paper (CSP) and National Indicative Programme (NIP). **If mine action is not listed as priority in the CSP/NIP, then no funds for mine action can be made available!**

However, as we are about halfway through the 2007-2013 funding cycle, there are mid-term reviews for many states, which are taking place over the course of this year. During these reviews, states may modify the list of priorities for funding in their CSP/NIP to include mine action. This is a unique opportunity to seek funds!

The mid-term review is now underway for **Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Thailand, Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia**.

Some of those states have already engaged in the process, and the ICBL strongly encourages all others to update their CSP/NIP to make sure they can be eligible for EC funds for mine action. Such funds are obviously critical to many states to help them meet their mine clearance deadlines and provide assistance to landmine victims.

For further information, campaigners and government representatives can contact Tamar Gabelnick, ICBL Treaty Implementation Director, at tamar@icbl.org ■

ICBL Urges Mongolia to Expedite Accession

Mongolia publicly declared, in October 2004, its intention to sign the Mine Ban Treaty before the end of 2008, following a 'step-by-step' approach. A promising start was made with Mongolia releasing information about the nature of the country's landmine stockpile, but progress then slowed down and the deadline was missed.

ICBL Diplomatic Advisor Satnam Singh and ICBL campaigner Burmaa Radnaa, with Mr Sukhbaatar Batbold, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia. Photo: Women for Social Progress

A stockpile destruction event during the GICHD visit to Mongolia. Photo: Erik Tollefsen, GICHD

From 29 June to 3 July 2009, Ambassador Satnam Jit Singh, ICBL Diplomatic Advisor, visited Mongolia for the second time to sensitize Mongolian officials to the desirability of acceding to the treaty prior to the Cartagena Summit (Nov. 2009). Meetings were held with ministers for Defense and Foreign Affairs, presidential advisors for National Security and Foreign Affairs, Head of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense and Foreign Affairs, First Deputy Chief of General Staff as well as Head of the Strategic Planning Department at the Ministry of Defense.

In speaking to key officials, Ambassador Singh focused on the relative ease with which Mongolia would be able to comply with the treaty by destroying the country's relatively small and obsolete stockpile of antipersonnel mines, with technical and financial assistance to be provided by the international community following Mongolia's accession. He also stressed Mongolia's credentials as a liberal democracy and the country's responsibility to contribute to the solution of the pressing humanitarian problem of landmines by joining.

"Key Mongolian political leaders and officials reiterated their support on the issue and promised to upgrade their efforts towards the country's early accession."

Key Mongolian political leaders and officials reiterated their support on the issue and promised to increase their efforts towards the country's early accession.

The visit followed a Canadian mission led by Retired Colonel John MacBride in April 2009, in which the next "step" of Mongolia's accession was agreed. Accordingly, a technical expert from the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Mr Erik Tollefsen, completed a stockpile destruction assessment mission later during the summer. The GICHD reported that at a farewell dinner hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar, it was announced that a multisectoral body was to be established to look at the possibility of Mongolia acceding to the Mine Ban Treaty in November 2009.

During his visit, Ambassador Singh also briefed local journalists about Mongolia's expected contribution in universalizing the treaty. Women for Social Progress, ICBL member in Mongolia led by highly influential Burmaa Radnaa, extended full support to Ambassador Singh's visit. ■

Danya Sterling,
Women for Social Progress

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia Passes New Disability Law

On 9 July 2009, the Cambodian legislation on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed by the King of Cambodia. This signature was the final step in passing the law, which aims at ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities to access opportunities for employment, healthcare and education. "This is a great step in the right direction," said Sr. Denise Coghlan, ICBL Management Committee member and representative of the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines. "The government legislates for and recognizes the rights of all persons with disabilities, including those who lost legs and arms and eyes from mines and cluster bombs. To make 2009 even more memorable for survivors, Cambodia must now sign and ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Cambodia has been such an important leader in the movement against these weapons of war, we want to see its name among the first ratifications," she added. ■

ON THE ROAD TO CARTAGENA

A Mine-Free Central Asia: Mission Possible

In the second week of July 2009, members of the ICBL gathered in Tajikistan for the Dushanbe Workshop on Achieving a Mine-Free Central Asia, to conduct advocacy and outreach in support of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This was the third in a series of regional workshops convened in the lead-up to the Cartagena Summit.

The ICBL delegation to Dushanbe was comprised of campaigners and victim assistance experts from Afghanistan, Russia, and Tajikistan, including three mine survivors, plus two ICBL staff members.

The Dushanbe Workshop was notable for the participation of three states not yet party to the treaty: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. The ICBL called on them to join the treaty as soon as possible and to undertake interim steps towards full accession, such as participating in treaty meetings, disclosing information on and destroying stockpiles, and supporting the annual UN General Assembly resolution on the treaty.

Government representatives from Afghanistan also joined the event alongside their Tajik hosts, as well as some donor states and international and non-governmental organizations. Case studies focused on cooperation in implementing mine clearance obligations. Tajikistan will be requesting an extension to its April 2010 mine clearance deadline at the Cartagena Summit. While at the moment Tajikistan believes it would need almost 10 years to complete its clearance obligations, the ICBL believes that five years should be enough if sufficient international assistance was forthcoming.

A demining demonstration on the second day of the workshop. Photo: K. Derlicka

A parallel meeting on victim assistance brought together representatives of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, service providers, other victim assistance experts and several mine survivors.

The ICBL contributed with its recommendations to improve victim assistance in the lead up to the Cartagena Summit and beyond.

Workshop participants visited the National Orthopedic Center and a Mine Detection Dog Training Center. Tajikistan was keen to use the demining visit to attract more donor interest in its mine action program.

Throughout the workshop, ICBL representatives also engaged with governments to promote the Convention on Cluster Munitions. So far, only Afghanistan has signed the convention in the region.

ICBL statements, a Landmine Monitor factsheet and further information on the workshop are available at www.icbl.org/index.php//dushanbereport ■

Kasia Derlicka, ICBL

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Roundtable on Mine Action

On 11 August 2009, the Australian Network to Ban Landmines (ANBL) hosted a roundtable on mine action in Asia at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy (Australian National University). Government delegates from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam joined the event, as well as representatives of several Australian mine action organizations. Much technical information was provided and discussed, with an emphasis on regional cooperation and the sharing of both knowledge and resources. The program included: legal issues, mine clearance, victim assistance, non-state armed groups, and financial assistance. Lorel Thomas, ANBL secretary, said "Australia has a pivotal role to play in mine action in the region. The roundtable was an important part of the lead up to the Cartagena Summit and a helpful additional step in regional dialogue." ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. Signs the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

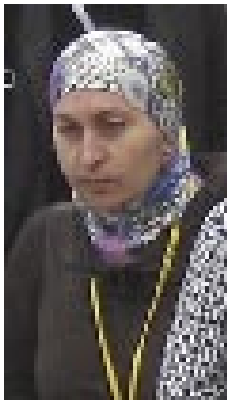
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) requires governments to prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities and support their dignity, autonomy, and full participation in society. The United States added itself to the list of signatories to the convention on 30 July 2009. This was the first international human rights treaty signed by the U.S. in nearly a decade. This signature, which must now be followed by ratification, has been hailed as a real victory for disability rights advocates.

The CRPD entered into force on 3 May 2008 and has now 142 signatories and 64 ratifications. It is the most detailed and comprehensive international instrument for the respect and enforcement of the human rights of persons with disabilities. Along with the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, it is a powerful tool to advocate for the rights of mine and cluster munitions survivors. ■

ICBL Denounces Killing of Chechen Activist

The ICBL strongly denounces the killing of civil society activist Ms Zarema Sadulayeva and her husband, Mr Alik Dzhabrailov. According to reports, the couple was abducted on 10 August 2009 by armed men claiming to be part of security services from the Let's Save the Generation office, a non-governmental organization founded and run by Ms Sadulayeva. Their bodies were found on 11 August 2009.
The ICBL immediately called on the government of Russia to swiftly bring the perpetrators to justice and take immediate action to ensure the protection of humanitarian workers.

Ms Sadulayeva was a tireless activist who was committed to creating public awareness about the landmine problem in the region and advocating for the rights of landmine survivors and other people with disabilities. Her death is a huge loss to the mine action community. ■

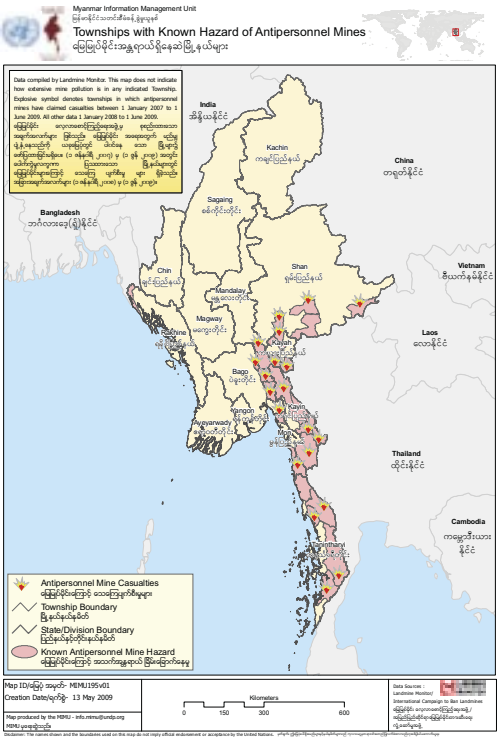


Ms Zarema Sadulayeva. Photo: Let's Save the Generation

New Map Reveals Extent of Antipersonnel Landmine Contamination in Myanmar/Burma

The first map documenting the hazard posed by antipersonnel landmine contamination in Myanmar/Burma was issued by the UN in July 2009, based on data provided by Landmine Monitor. It represents a first small step by illustrating the extent of the country's landmine problem in order to be able to address it more effectively. The map was produced by the Myanmar Information Management Unit of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Yangon. It reveals that 26 townships, in seven states and divisions, are mine-affected.
Myanmar/Burma is not party to the Mine Ban Treaty and is one of a handful of states still actively producing antipersonnel mines.
It is one of only two states in the world to have used antipersonnel mines in recent years (the other one being Russia). Non-state armed groups in the country also use antipersonnel landmines. No humanitarian mine clearance programs exist in the country. ■

http://www.lm.icbl.org/lm/2008/maps/resources/Myanmar_Mine_Contamination_Map_July_09.pdf



Japan: One Flap, Global Impact

As part of its "butterfly campaign" conducted since 2005 under the theme *One Flap, Global Impact*, the Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL) asks ordinary citizens to write messages on small butterfly-shaped pieces of paper aimed at states that have yet to join the Mine Ban Treaty.

In the last year alone, more than 19,000 messages were collected! Some of them were delivered by the JCBL during a meeting with the First Secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo in July 2009, and the others were mailed to other states not party. ■

Young Leaders Discuss Landmines, Cluster Munitions

The *International Summit of Religious Youth Leaders on Disarmament for Shared Security* was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 10 and 11 July 2009. The event brought together young people from around the world and covered many facets of disarmament and humanitarian issues, including the elimination of landmines and cluster munitions. The President of Nepal joined the opening ceremony, along with several other VIPs. With support from Raza Shah Khan of SPADO, the Pakistan arm of the ICBL, and Purna Shova Chitrakar of the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines, the *Religions for Peace Global Youth Network* had a fruitful meeting and will now move into a disarmament campaign to commence in November 2009. ■

Thirsty Festival-Goers Support Mine Action

As one of the top five annual European rock events, the *Danish Roskilde Festival* brings together thousands of music enthusiasts and donates all its profits to humanitarian and cultural causes. During the 2009 edition, *Denmark Against Landmines* (DAL) organized a highly successful fund and awareness-raising campaign. The anti-landmine "UXO Bar", where festival-goers can relieve their sore throats with fresh-made organic cocktails, generated a turnaround of 1 million Danish Kroner, which will allow DAL to donate over 50,000 euros to mine clearance in Angola and mine risk education in Sri Lanka.
The anti-landmine bar, now in its 4th year and scheduled to continue next year, was so popular that more than 500 festival-goers signed up for DAL membership. Gathering public support, according to chairman of DAL Rune Saugmann, is just as important as collecting funds, since it gives the organization weight and credibility to push the Danish government for ambitious mine action. ■

ICBL Ambassador Addresses Religious Leaders in Nairobi

On 16-18 June 2009, ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech joined the *Conference of Religious Leaders on Conventional Weapons: Small Arms and Landmines*, in Nairobi, Kenya. She provided examples of specific actions religious leaders can take to facilitate the rehabilitation and inclusion of mine survivors and other persons with disabilities into their communities. She facilitated a discussion where action points were identified by all participants.

ICBL Ambassador Margaret Arach Orech at a previous event. Photo: Mary Wareham

Religious leaders could:

- Make their places of worship accessible to persons with disabilities, which is often not the case;
- Advocate for accessibility with the relevant government ministries;
- Provide counseling services to persons with disabilities;
- Provide educational, health and housing support to very vulnerable persons with disabilities;
- Encourage their government to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Religious leaders from Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda came together with government officials and civil society organizations at the conference organized by *Religions for Peace*, with the goal of strengthening disarmament projects conducted by faith communities, initiating new projects and building partnerships. ICBL campaigners Mereso Agina (Kenya Campaign to Ban Landmines) and Daniel Aghan (Handicap International Kenya) also addressed the conference. ■

Thai Campaigners Meet with Foreign Minister

On 9 June 2009, campaigners from the Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines were invited to a working lunch by Mr. Kasit Piromya, Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange views on demining operations, particularly along the Thai-Cambodian border. Progress on victim assistance, as well as cooperation between the government and NGOs on the matter, were also discussed.

Thailand is one of the 26 States Parties self-identified as having the largest number of mine survivors and the greatest responsibility to act on victim assistance. The country was also granted an extension to its initial 2009 mine clearance deadline at the 9th Meeting of the States Parties: all clearance operations must now be completed by 2018. ■

Donate to the ICBL through the Combined Federal Campaign

U.S. Federal employees can give to the ICBL from 1 September - 15 December 2009 through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the world's largest workplace charity campaign. The ICBL has been admitted to the 2009 CFC as a member of Peace and Reconciliation Charities. Charities that apply to receive funds through the CFC are required to submit to extensive review of their financial and governance practices prior to acceptance. To support the ICBL, enter code 55130. www.opm.gov/cfc ■

NATO/EAPC Briefed on Global Landmine Situation

On 19 June 2009, ICBL Executive Director Sylvie Brigot and Handicap International Belgium Head of Policy Unit Stan Brabant addressed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in Brussels, Belgium. The EAPC, a NATO institution, is comprised of all NATO members plus 22 partner countries. Participants from the EAPC's Ad Hoc Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mine Action were briefed on the global landmine situation. In addition, Kerry Brinkert, Director of the Implementation Support Unit of the Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention (GICHD), gave an overview of the status of the treaty and preparations for the Cartagena Summit. Dennis Barlow presented the activities of the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University. ■

Vietnam: Survivors and Government Discuss Assistance for the First Time

The first ever national workshop on victim assistance bringing together government representatives, NGOs and survivors, was hosted by *Landmine Survivors Network Vietnam* in Hanoi on 7 July 2009. It aimed at promoting effective victim assistance and international cooperation for socio-economic development. Discussions emphasized the need to structure assistance through the rights-based framework laid out in the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Organized with support from the ICBL and Ireland, the workshop was co-hosted by the *Committee for Foreign Non-governmental Organization Affairs* and the *Quang Binh People's Committee*. It brought together 150 participants from government ministries and agencies, embassies, NGOs, the media, as well as many landmine and cluster munitions survivors. Vietnam has yet to join the MBT and CCM but it has signed the CRPD and plans to ratify it in 2010. ■

Photo: Landmine Survivors Network Vietnam

CARTAGENA SUMMIT

Less Than 100 Days to Go Are States Parties Ready?

The Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World will be a highly significant event in the history of the Mine Ban Treaty. States Parties will review the status of the treaty and set out steps that need to be taken to create a mine-free world. The Summit will provide an opportunity to revitalize and reinvigorate our work on the treaty, and to recommit ourselves to the road ahead.

In the view of the ICBL, the Cartagena Summit will be successful if it can achieve three key goals:

1) clearly identify the progress made in meeting the treaty's objectives, as well as the remaining challenges;

2) reaffirm States Parties' long-term commitment to the universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty;

3) develop a strong, measurable action plan for the next five years based on lessons learned since the first Review Conference in 2004.

The ICBL encourages all States Parties to contribute to these goals in the lead-up to the meeting and in Cartagena itself.

What a State Party can do:

Participate in the Summit's high-level segment at the highest possible level: Head of State, State Secretary, or ministerial level.

Such high level participation will show that the State Party continues to place a high priority on ridding the world of antipersonnel mines and that it will give full political support to the outcome of the Summit.

Announce in Cartagena that it has recently completed or made significant progress on one or more of the treaty's obligations.

In this way, it will be clear that States Parties' efforts are continuing at full pace and that the treaty is heading in the right direction.

Arrive in Cartagena with a pledge to undertake one or more actions in the coming years to move toward fulfilling specific treaty obligations or supporting other States Parties in their efforts to do so.

This will demonstrate States Parties' long-term commitment to the treaty.

Produce a strong action plan for the next five years.

The action plan should provide clear benchmarks for States Parties as they work towards full universalization and implementation of the treaty.

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The ICBL welcomes any comments and questions about ICBL News.

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