

Reaching our Goals at the Cartagena Summit

The ICBL's main objective for the Cartagena Summit was for States Parties to rededicate themselves to the full universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. This goal was clearly achieved. Indeed, in the 2009 Cartagena Declaration, States Parties not only "reaffirm[ed their] commitment to ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines and to achieving a world free of mines," but also proclaimed "we will reach this goal in our lifetime." States backed up these words by sending large numbers of delegates, many of them at a high level, and by making enthusiastic, forward-looking statements throughout the week. Combined with the quality and quantity of side events and bilateral meetings, it was clear that the international community remains firmly engaged in the pursuit of a mine-free world. The decisions on the five-year review, Cartagena Action Plan, and future meetings of the treaty also promoted a strong agenda that shows there is no intention to slow our common efforts.

Some of the key themes emphasized during the Summit included improving accessibility and availability of victim assistance, the difficulties states continue to face in quantifying and clearing mine contamination, and increasing national and international resources for treaty implementation. The emphasis placed on victim assistance during the course of the week was a reflection of hard work done by campaigners to raise the profile of the issue in both the context of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The strong and engaged ICBL delegation demonstrated our own continuing commitment to the treaty over the long run. The ICBL's impact could be felt throughout the week as our priorities were reflected in official documents, delegations' statements, and numerous side events. Survivors were especially active, making numerous interventions in the parallel program on victim assistance, lobbying government delegates from States



Landmine and cluster munition survivors delivering their Call to Action at the Cartagena Summit. Photo: G. Diffidenti

Parties and states not party alike, and presenting a powerful Survivor Call to Action to the high-level segment. Campaigners participating in the Youth Leadership Forum inspired Summit participants with a moving Youth Declaration presented before the closing ceremony.

Overall, the ICBL showed that 17 years after launching the campaign to ban landmines and 10 years after the treaty's entry into force, we still have the capacity to bring the voices of civil society to the conference room and to remind people in human terms why our work is so crucial.

Ultimately, the Cartagena Summit will be judged not just by what happened at the meeting, but how the various decisions and commitments are translated into actions and accomplishments in the coming years. The ICBL stands ready to work closely with states and other interested actors to make sure the potential of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Cartagena Action Plan is not just realized, but exceeded.

Statements, photos and videos from the Cartagena Summit are available at www.icbl.org/cartagenasummit

United States - Join the Mine Ban Treaty!

It has been a roller coaster ride for the U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines (USCBL) over the last six months, but we are thrilled to report that the U.S. has officially begun an interagency review of its landmine policy.

Our exciting journey picked up pace in August 2009 when Senator Patrick Leahy's office informed the USCBL that the U.S. would undertake a landmine policy review with the hope of a positive announcement at the Cartagena Summit. However, in subsequent meetings with various USCBL members and officials from the Departments of State (DOS) and Defense (DOD) and the National Security Council (NSC), the timeline and structure of this review process seemed increasingly unclear. We received conflicting information and the picture seemed to constantly shift. Finally, the U.S. registered for the Cartagena Summit as an observer, a step we welcomed.

Then just before Cartagena, State Department Spokesperson Ian Kelly said during a State Department daily briefing that the U.S. has completed its review of U.S. landmine policy, and that a decision had been made to continue the Bush policy—i.e. not join the treaty. In response, the USCBL, ICBL, Human Rights Watch, and Senator Leahy all issued various press releases—and helped coordinate an international response—to condemn the administration for this decision. The State Department reacted by sending out a correction email the next day to select



ICBL Ambassador Jody Williams and Steve Costner from the U.S. State Department, at the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World. Photo: G. Diffidenti

members of the press corps saying they had not concluded the review process—that they had only made a decision as to whether or not to attend Cartagena. They confirmed that a comprehensive policy review had begun and was ongoing. No formal statement was made, so these were all responses to press questions.

The correction was welcomed guardedly, because we were concerned that the administration was just backpedalling after the 24 November statement. But then the U.S. delegation made a public statement at the summit and confirmed that there was an ongoing comprehensive policy review. We organized and moderated a side event at the conference where Steve Costner of the State Department spoke, as did

Steve Goose from Human Rights Watch, and Ken Rutherford, co-founder of Survivor Corps and a landmine survivor himself. We also worked with ICBL campaigners to lobby both the U.S. delegation and other delegations from key NATO allies to pressure the U.S. to join the treaty.

Now the review process, led by the NSC and involving both the DOS and DOD, has officially begun, and we hope will conclude sometime in

2010. It is our hope that this review process will also include voices from the NGO community, legislators, civil society internationally, and key NATO allies who are States Parties to the treaty.

Since Cartagena, the USCBL has worked to ensure that the announced review process is inclusive and timely. Right now the USCBL is working with Senator Patrick Leahy and Congressman James McGovern to circulate

Tell the U.S. to join the Mine Ban Treaty !

On 1 March 2010, ICBL campaigners are visiting dozens of U.S. embassies worldwide to urge the U.S. to decide to join the Mine Ban Treaty without further delay ! To support this call, you can write to President

Obama and to your Senator and Congressman/ Congresswoman. Just follow the links under Key Issues and Events, at www.icbl.org, and use the templates prepared by the USCBL and Human Rights Watch!

sign-on letters in the Senate and House; these letters are addressed to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and congratulate the administration for initiating the review and call for accelerated efforts towards joining the treaty. We are also gathering signatures for a similar U.S. NGO sign-on letter that will be delivered to President Obama.

In addition to these letters, we also are also launching the following actions:

- Initiating continued meetings with key administration officials at Department of Defense, Department of State and National Security Council.
- Engaging our USCBL grassroots constituencies—both from the USCBL list and from USCBL coalition organization lists—to email/write/call key legislators and administration officials to increase pressure to conduct inclusive, timely review aimed at accession.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Convention on Cluster Munitions to Enter into Force on 1 August 2010

Burkina Faso and Moldova ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) on 16 February 2010, bringing the total number of ratifications to 30 and triggering entry into force on 1 August 2010, when the convention will become binding international law. «For states not yet on board the Convention, 2010 is the year to get on the right side of history, to get in on the ground floor, and join the ban before the First Meeting of States Parties in November,” said Thomas Nash, Coordinator of the Cluster Munition

- Assembling “Friends of the Mine Ban Treaty” group—composed of key NATO allies that are States Parties to the treaty.

- Locating senior retired military personnel that will support U.S. accession.

- Preparing and disseminating other possible sign-on letters: youth, survivors, teachers, etc.

- Creating a public media campaign in support of accession.

- Holding public events to discuss the review.

As we move forward in the coming months, we want to reiterate how grateful we are for all of the hard work and assistance of the ICBL network. We’ll keep you updated as developments progress... It is my goal that this time next year we’ll be writing an article about how the ICBL/USCBL won the battle! ■

Zach Hudson, USCBL

the announcement, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon welcomed this “major advance on the global disarmament agenda”, and noted that “the Convention’s entry into force just two years after its adoption demonstrates the world’s collective revulsion at the impact of these terrible weapons.”

To express your support to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, sign the People’s Treaty at [www.minesactioncanada.org/peopletreaty](http://www.minesactioncanada.org/) or visit www.stopclusterbombs.org



Treaty Monitoring Changes

We have made some changes to better facilitate monitoring of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Our new name:
Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor

Our new products:

1. Country Profiles
2. Landmine Monitor
3. Cluster Munition Monitor

Why have we made these changes?

To best provide a broad and diverse global audience with updated information on the universalization and implementation of both the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Country Profiles

Every country will have a dedicated webpage on the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor website, with information on mine and cluster munition ban policy, mine action, casualties and victim assistance, and support for mine action. Country Profiles will be updated annually, with more regular updates on major developments. Country Profiles will be online starting 22 June, and they replace the Annual Report produced from 1999-2009.

Cluster Munition Monitor

Cluster Munition Monitor is a 400-page publication that will be released online and in print prior to the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention

on Cluster Munitions in Lao PDR late this year. It will include a global overview of ban policy, clearance, casualties and victim assistance, and international funding, as well as specific chapters for each country in the world with a brief summary of the cluster munition problem (for affected countries) and information on ban policy developments for the period starting May 2009.

Landmine Monitor

Landmine Monitor is a 150-page publication which will be released 24 November online and in print. It will be similar to the Executive Summary produced from 1999-2009, but will include more in-depth coverage of issues such as Article 5 mine clearance obligations.

Our network of over 80 researchers, an 18 person Editorial Team, and our Editorial Board will work together this year to provide you with the most updated, accurate, and relevant information on the landmine and cluster munition issues.

For more information: monitor@icbl.org ■

Jackie Hansen, Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor

Sri Lanka Seminar Raises Hopes for Accession

A seminar entitled *International Law on Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War* took place in Colombo on 27 & 28 October 2009, at the initiative of UNICEF, the GICHD, and the Sri Lanka arm of the ICBL. The first day brought together key government stakeholders, while the second day focused on non-governmental organizations. Participants were introduced to the impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war and briefed on the obligations of the Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Cluster

Munitions, and Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). "In the current post-conflict phase in Sri Lanka, it is timely that we focus our attention on the international legal instruments that limit or ban certain weapons based on humanitarian grounds," said Lieutenant General Jagath Jayasuriya, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, who participated in the event. Sri Lanka is party to the CCW but has yet to join the treaties banning landmines and cluster munitions. ■

India: Engineers and Scientists' Social Responsibility

The Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions was among the co-organizers of the national conference of the International Network of Engineers & Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), which took place in Nagpur on 17 January 2010. Participants included scientists, engineers, researchers, policy makers, legal experts and social workers. They discussed the role civil society can play in raising awareness

and addressing the impact of small arms, nuclear weapons, landmines and cluster munitions. The Indian Campaign reports that Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, guest of honor of the conference and former Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy, called on India to join the Mine Ban Treaty and Convention on Cluster Munitions at the earliest opportunity. More information: [Balkrishna Kurvey, iipdep_ngo@sancharnet.in](mailto:Balkrishna.Kurvee@iipdep-ngp@sancharnet.in) ■

Philippines: Mine Risk Education Providers Ready to Hit the Ground Running

The Philippines Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL) and its international partner, the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, ran a train-the-trainer course on mine and unexploded ordnance risk education (MRE) in November and December 2009, the first of its kind in the Philippines. The newly-trained MRE providers will deliver safety messages and give advice and assistance to internally displaced persons and other communities affected by

unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Mindanao. They will also be a conduit through which communities can report UXO so that bomb disposal teams can deal with the explosive hazards. After emphasizing the importance of mine action to the peace process and the role MRE providers can play in this, the training focused on the theoretical and practical aspects of MRE. Trainees practised MRE delivery, ranging from peer-assessed

micro-teaching sessions to a two-day practical exercise in local schools. Students worked in groups to produce messages and materials in the local language, specifically for Mindanao, as these did not exist. The organizers aim at having subsequent training conducted in the local language through the mentoring of local instructors. More information: [Soliman M. Santos, gavroche23@gmail.com](mailto:Soliman.M.Santos@gavroche23@gmail.com) ■

D.R. Congo: Calling for Concrete Action

A series of events were organized by the Congolese Campaign to Ban Landmines in November 2009 to raise awareness on Mine Ban Treaty obligations among government representatives. On 16 November, some thirty campaigners accompanied by a brass band marched to the Parliament and met with the Assembly President to urge the Assembly to complete the adoption process for domestic legislation implementing the Mine Ban Treaty. A workshop held a few days later brought together campaigners, representatives of the UN Mine Action Coordination Center, National Focal Point on Mine Action, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as many journalists, to set the scene for the Cartagena Summit and discuss challenges ahead. The national release of Landmine Monitor Report 2009 concluded that workshop. The D.R. Congo is among the States Parties with the highest number of survivors, and contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war exists across the territory. More information: [Francky Miantuala, francky_tos@yahoo.fr](mailto:Francky.Miantuala@francky_tos@yahoo.fr) ■



The newly-trained mine risk education providers and the organizers of the training. Photo: Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines



Students presented their demands on victim assistance to members of the German parliament at the Berlin conference.
Photo: Handicap International

Germany: Exploring Efficient Victim Assistance

Action Group Landmine.de and Handicap International hosted a conference entitled Explosive Remnants of War – Challenges for Victim Assistance, in Berlin on 4 November 2009. It brought together representatives from civil society, government officials and politicians from Germany, France Belgium, and Austria, as well as ICRC representatives. The presentations focused on achievements and challenges for victim assistance, on challenges for donor states, on the situation in South East Europe and on Vietnam, and exemplarily on the politics and activities of the government of Austria and

the European Commission. Two parallel workshops were held, one where participants discussed cooperation and possible synergies between mine action actors, and another where students were trained on campaigning for victim assistance. Among the conclusions drawn by the conference are the need for effective monitoring, capacity development and long term planning, and enhanced support from states. The report is available online at: http://www.landmine.de/download/Doku_Opferhilfekonferenz_2009_E.pdf
More information: Jan Schulz, janschulz@landmine.de ■

Netherlands: Students Question the U.S. Position

IKV Pax Christi participated in a panel discussion organized by a student organization (SIB) from Leiden on 19 January, on the significance of the Mine Ban Treaty and the reasons behind the U.S. not signing. Graeme Goldsworthy (Senior Fellow at Harvard School of Public Health) elaborated on the ban and the problems he sees with implementation and non-state actors. Afterwards Denny Merideth (Political-Military Officer at the U.S. embassy) spoke about the upcoming treaty review process by the

U.S., the importance of the treaty as well as the necessity of humanitarian mine action. Miriam Struyk (IKV Pax Christi) and Arjan Vermeer (ICRC) spoke about legal implications of the treaties, and the possibilities of civil diplomacy. In the lively discussion that followed, students asked why Graeme Goldsworthy believes that non-state actors undermine the treaty constantly, and expressed their views on the need for the U.S. to join the Mine Ban Treaty. More information: Miriam Struyk, struyk@ikvpaxchristi.nl ■

China: Public Launch of *Fatal Footprint* and *Voices from the Ground*

On 16 December 2009, the photo exhibition *Fatal Footprint* and the report on victim assistance *Voices from the Ground* were launched in Beijing. Organized jointly by Handicap International, the French Cultural Center in Beijing, G2Studios and ETWORC, the exhibition features the work of photojournalists Tim Diven, John Vink and Gaël Turine. It sheds light on the consequences of landmine and cluster munitions use, and emphasizes the courage of survivors. At the event, Kien Le and Nguyen Thi Huong, cluster munitions victims and Ban Advocates from Vietnam, spoke on behalf of thousands of survivors from their country to call for increased assistance in terms of medical care, psychological support and economic inclusion.

The deputy secretary general of the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association said "I think our government can further improve the transparency of the information and progress in this field, to let media and civilians witness the destruction of those weapons." Other panelists included the French and Belgian ambassadors to China and the director of Handicap International China. Some fifty journalists were present, generating substantial media coverage in China. View images from the event at http://en.handicapinternational.be/Fatal-Footprint-in-Beijing_a662.html More information: Stan Brabant, stan.brabant@handicap-international.be ■

Philippines: Investigating Mine Use Allegations

In November 2009, a Geneva Call-led team of experts travelled to the Philippines to conduct a verification mission into allegations that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had breached its obligations under Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action by using antipersonnel mines. An escalation in the conflict between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the MILF in August 2008 had brought with it allegations - reported in the media and elsewhere - that forces associated with the MILF were using antipersonnel mines.

Having received approval from both parties, the investigation team visited sites of alleged mine incidents in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, inspected devices that had allegedly been recovered, interviewed witnesses and analysed documentary evidence. Parties facilitated and, through their respective ceasefire committees, accompanied the mission. Mission findings have been shared with the MILF and are the subject of ongoing dialogue. A public report will be published within the next few months.
More information: Chris Rush, crush@genevacall.org ■

CARTAGENA SUMMIT

Campaigners present at the Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World held formal advocacy meetings with 95 governments, including 78 States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty and 18 states not party. Many informal discussions also took place on various occasions throughout the week! A rich program of side events helped shedding light on the many aspects of the landmine and explosive remnants of war issue. Detailed information is available at www.icbl.org/cartagenasummit.



Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti

The ICBL is a global network in over 70 countries, working for a ban on landmines and cluster munitions.

We welcome any comments and questions about ICBL News.

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