

## New Antipersonnel Mine Use: We Must Stay Vigilant



Landmine recovered in a residential area of Misrata, Libya  
Photo: Amnesty International

Over the past several months, there have been a number of reports of new use of antipersonnel mines around the world. So far, the only confirmed instances of new use are in Libya and Myanmar/Burma, two States not Party to the Mine Ban Treaty. The ICBL and its Landmine Monitor initiative look into each allegation, but it is crucial that States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty also seek clarifications, and stand ready to condemn any new use of antipersonnel mines by anyone.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) documented use of antipersonnel mines by Libyan forces on 28 March. Over 50 newly laid antipersonnel and antivehicle mines were discovered outside the town of Ajdabiya, an area controlled by Libyan Armed Forces from 17–27 March. In May, Amnesty International found another instance of antipersonnel mine use by government forces in Misrata. The most recent use by government forces was reported at the beginning of June in the town of Zitan.

The ICBL condemned these cases of use of antipersonnel mines by the Libyan Armed Forces, and urged our government partners to do likewise. The ICBL has also strongly urged Libya to halt any further use of mines; provide information on the location, quantities, and types of all mines laid to enable rapid clearance; and to join the Mine Ban Treaty without delay.

HRW also documented the use by Libyan rebel forces of antivehicle mines around the city of Ajdabiya. Such mines may have been equipped with sensitive fuses, which would make them effectively antipersonnel mines. In response, HRW, Handicap International and other ICBL member organizations present in Libya helped convince the rebel leadership to sign a formal communiqué committing its forces to not use landmines, as well as to clear and destroy all mines in their possession. "The communiqué said further that any future Libyan government should relinquish landmines and join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty." The pledge was welcomed by the ICBL, which also wrote to the rebel leadership to ask for rapid implementation of the commitments it made and to disseminate the directive to all its combatants.

In addition, according to information provided to the UN Mine Action Office (UNMAO) by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the forces of General Athon, who is fighting the SPLA in southern Sudan, have been using antipersonnel and antivehicle mines. While the UNMAO has not yet been able to travel to the region in question to verify the information, news articles on the alleged use show they are taking it very seriously.

Also of grave concern is the ongoing trial of a member of the Turkish armed forces for use of antipersonnel mines in 2009.

We must stay vigilant until all states have joined the Mine Ban Treaty and all antipersonnel mines are destroyed. And we must continue to make it clear to forces worldwide that antipersonnel mines are not only outlawed, but are abhorrent and unacceptable weapons that must never be used again. ■

## ICBL Launches Push for Progress by Phnom Penh Action

On 4 April, the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, ICBL launched the "Push for Progress by Phnom Penh" action. The goal of the action is to remind governments about commitments made under the "Cartagena Action Plan 2010-2014: Ending the Suffering Caused by Anti-Personnel Mines" (CAP) adopted at the Second Review Conference of the treaty in 2009 in Colombia.

By adopting the CAP, states have committed to undertake 67 concrete actions in:

universalizing the convention, destroying stockpiled mines, clearing mined areas, assisting victims, providing cooperation and assistance, and other actions in the period 2010-2014 to enhance the implementation and universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT).

Recently, the MBT has been faced with major challenges on stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, and the continuing standstill on universalization. The CAP was designed to guide states' efforts to address these challenges in a timely and effective manner.

### The ICBL calls on states to Push for Progress by Phnom Penh, in four key areas:

- mine clearance
- victim assistance
- resources, cooperation and assistance
- ban and disarmament (including: stockpile destruction, mines retained for training, transparency reports, compliance, national legislation, universalization)

## Push for Progress Launch Around the World

### Cambodia: National Launch of the Road to 11MSP

The ICBL and the Cambodian Campaign to Ban Landmines took part in a national workshop on mine action hosted by H.E. Prak Sokhonn, the President Designate of the 11th Meeting of States Parties (11MSP) in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 4 April. The government, UN, and civil society representatives gathered to launch the road to the 11MSP, to be held in Cambodia in November this year. Cambodia has been heavily affected by landmines and is considered the cradle of the mine ban movement by hosting a pivotal conference on landmines in 1995. ■



**Mine Ban Treaty 11MSP  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
28 November - 2 December 2011**

The 11th Meeting of States Parties (11MSP), in November 2011 in Phnom Penh, will be a good opportunity to take stock of the progress made so far in implementing the CAP and the MBT. In Phnom Penh, states will be expected to report on what they have done so far "to translate this action plan into sustainable progress" and on how they plan to fully implement the CAP by the end of 2014, when the Third Review Conference of the MBT will take place. ■

Specifically, ICBL is asking governments to identify concrete CAP actions that are most urgent and relevant to their country, as well as realistically achievable by the 11MSP and to work hard throughout the year to meet their goals and report on their achievements in Phnom Penh at the 11MSP. ■



4 April celebrations in Siem Reap included a ceremony and performance by dancers with disabilities, organized by the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions. Photo: Stephane De Greef



Denise Coghlan from the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions addressed workshop participants. Other panelists included the Mine Ban Treaty's Implementation Support Unit, UNDP, the Cambodian Mine Action Authority and the ICRC. Photo: Stephane De Greef



Participants at "The Protection of Civil Populations: From Humanitarian Disarmament to Development". Photo: Campagna Italiana Contro le Mine

### Italy: Conference "The protection of civil populations: from Humanitarian Disarmament to Development"

To mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, Campagna Italiana Contro le Mine (Itcbl) organized, in cooperation with UNMAS, a conference on "The protection of civil populations: from Humanitarian Disarmament to Development". The conference was held under the High Patronage of the Italian Republic Presidency, and the patronage of Senate and the Chamber of Deputy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Region of Lazio, as well as the Province and

the City of Rome. Speakers at the conference included Mr. Alberto Cairo (ICRC Afghanistan), Mr. Andrea Cavallari (Head Office, Directorate General for the multilateral political cooperation and human rights), Miss Ginevra Cucinotta (UNMAS) and Ms. Falvia Taggiasco (Roots of Peace). The conference was accompanied by the photo exhibition "Enduring Fears" by Charlotte Oestervang. ■

### Israel: Raising Awareness and Pushing for Quality Mine Action

On the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and following adoption of the Landmine Bill by Israel in March this year, the Mine-Free Israel Coalition issued a press release warning that methods currently applied to remove landmines in Israel and territories under its control are not consistent with the International Mine Action Standards. It explained that methods recently applied included detonations causing damage to adjacent structures and use of bulldozers to move contaminated land from one area to another. Together with the UN, observers stationed along the Israeli, Syrian and Lebanese borders on the Golan Heights, the Coalition distributed

mine awareness materials in Arabic, Hebrew and English to local residents living in one of the most densely mined regions in the Middle East. ■

A UN observation post on the Golan Heights, the most densely mined area in Israel. Photo: Dhyan Or



### Turkey: Public Event at Istanbul's Park

On 4 April, the Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey and other organizations organized a public event in Istanbul's Taksim Gezi Park. The Initiative called on Turkey to fulfill its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty by fully implementing the Cartagena Action Plan. Other event sponsors included the Turkish Medical Association, Disabled People Association of Turkey, Social Democracy Foundation, Society for Forensic Medicine Specialists, Global Peace and Justice Coalition and Say Halt to Racism and Nationalism Initiative. The event drew extensive media attention. ■

### Syria: Condemning the use of Indiscriminate Weapons in Libya

On the occasion of the International Mine Awareness and Mine Action Day, The Arab Network for Research on Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War (ANROLM) issued a regional press release about the current explosive remnants of war crises in Libya. ANROLM condemned the use of indiscriminate weapons, including mines and cluster munitions in Libya, and called on the UN, specialized international and regional organizations as well as Libyan organizations to establish a risk education program. It also called on Libya and other states not party in the region to join both the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The event was widely covered by national media. ■

# Tell the USA to Ban Landmines Now!

Following the launch of the United States policy review on landmines at the end of 2009 and the ICBL's first Global Action on the US in 2010, the ICBL held in March and April 2011 a second global action focused on the US. As part of the action, campaigners requested meetings with US embassies around the world and wrote letters to world leaders to urge the US to ban landmines and join the Mine Ban Treaty.



RfP NAIYN event participants. Photo: Religions for Peace

On 1 March 2011, to mark the 12th anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, the ICBL launched "Global Action on the US: One Year On - Tell the USA to ban landmines NOW!" ICBL campaigners from 60 countries requested meetings with US embassy officials to follow up on the ICBL's previous Global Action in 2010. From March to May, 35 meetings were held between campaigners,

including survivors, and US officials, during which campaigners asked for updates on the US landmine policy review and urged the US to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty. Of the 35 meetings, four were held directly with US ambassadors (in Belgium, Cambodia, Serbia and Sierra Leone). All US representatives promised to transmit ICBL messages and materials back to the US Department of State in Washington D.C. In turn, campaigners sent reports back to the ICBL office with their perspective of the meetings.

According to campaigner's reports, most US representatives were aware of the US landmine policy review, but could not comment on the status of the review, or when it would be completed. On the whole, US officials were receptive to ICBL's points, and

many promised to inform campaigners of new information pertaining to the landmine policy review. For the US officials, the most common concern cited about the US accession to the Mine Ban Treaty was the limiting of options for the US military to be able to fulfill its commitments to its allies, and in particular to South Korea. US officials also underlined that the country already is a major mine action donor and adheres to main provisions of the Mine Ban Treaty, which campaigners argue is even more reason for US accession.

In addition to meetings, campaigners sent letters to government leaders encouraging them to engage with and urge the Obama Administration to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty. Letters were sent to national political figures, including Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Prime Ministers and Presidents.

Campaign events in the US included in Washington, D.C. co-hosted by Georgetown University and the US Campaign to Ban Landmines, featuring a discussion about the US and the international ban on landmines, with



Campaigners meeting with US embassy representatives: Korea Campaign to Ban Landmines. Photo: Korea Campaign to Ban Landmines

Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams, Ken Rutherford, and Stephen Goose as panelists. Additionally, the Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs (PSALM) from West Virginia released 50 balloons to mark the anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty as well as the organization's own founding. The symbolic balloons carried messages of hope that the US and all remaining countries will "GET ON BOARD" and ban landmines and cluster bombs. Finally, the Religions for Peace North American Interfaith Youth Network (RfP NAIYN) held a retreat with youth groups who enthusiastically drafted a letter to President Obama, asking him to complete the US Landmine Policy review with the ultimate result of acceding to the Mine Ban Treaty. ■



Campaigners meeting with US embassy representatives: ICBL Georgian Committee. Photo: ICBL Georgia Committee

# Meet Mines Action Canada's Young Professionals

Mines Action Canada (MAC) Young Professionals Internship program places youths for five months in overseas placements, working with partner organizations in the international movement to ban landmines. Their work can be followed at <http://2011thenextgenerationofmineactioncampaigners.wordpress.com/>

MAC's Young Professionals Photo: MAC



**Dustin Ciufu, Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines (NCBL)**

/// The opportunity to deepen my awareness of and contribute toward the ICBL-CMC is a remarkable privilege that I feel sincerely blessed to be undertaking as a member of the 2011 YPIMAP. The landmine and cluster munition issues are pressing humanitarian matters that can be resolved in our lifetime. Through collaboratively advocating against their use, writing funding proposals to support survivors and mobilizing youth for mine action outreach activities, I am truly honoured to be one of a multitude of voices calling on the Nepalese Government to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions." ■

**Jennifer Matthews, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF-RENEW)**

/// My YP placement has brought me to Dong Ha, Vietnam where I've been working with the Project RENEW team for the past two and a half months. I've had a rather multifaceted role at RENEW which has been really great! I've been working closely with the Public Relations team as the grand opening of the Quang Tri Mine Action Visitor Center is quickly approaching. I've been doing some promotional work for the Visitor Center, assisting the team with web-design, brochure development, press advisories, a whole range of tasks! It's really been a great learning experience for me. I had little knowledge of issues surrounding cluster bombs, landmines and other unexploded ordnance before my time with MAC, and the amount I've absorbed in the last 3 months almost shocks me! I'm very excited to see how the next two and half months will unfold!" ■

**Tyler Morden, Uganda Landmine Survivors' Association (ULSA)**

/// Greetings from Uganda! My main responsibilities include designing victim assistance and advocacy projects, drafting funding proposals, and developing advocacy materials through various forms of social media. I will also be creating a manual for recruiting and training youth campaigners and will be involved in facilitating some of these training workshops. I applied for the YPIMAP position because the landmine issue has been an interest of mine for quite some time. I volunteered with the Manitoba Campaign to Ban Landmines and have spent time seeing firsthand the destruction caused by landmines while in post-conflict regions. I have had a very positive experience with ULSA so far. There have been some difficult times with the recent riots; however the ULSA team has been incredibly supportive. They are approachable, professional, respectful, and very dedicated to the movement, and I am learning new things from them each day." ■

**Candice Botha, Zambia Foundation for Landmine Survivors (ZAFLAS)**

/// Muli shani! I am thrilled to have finally broken into the international humanitarian sector! I am working with organizations facilitating project planning, writing funding proposals and organizing a safe communities conference in Zambia. At a nshima shack in a Lusaka compound, I saw my dreams materialize. I was facilitating a Woman's Planning Meeting to strategize how to make organizations more inclusive of women and people with disabilities. After getting past the limitless topic of cultural differences it seemed that attitudes about women and their roles in society were the least of their barriers." ■

## YOUTH IN ACTION

Adrian Gregorich,  
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)

**///** I am currently working in Siem Reap, Cambodia through a placement with the Jesuit Service. I work as a researcher, and my main task is to complete a booklet on the various NGOs around the country that provide services to disabled people, but my work includes office administration and event coordination as well. I was drawn to apply to the YPIMAP position based on my experiences backpacking in South East Asia back in 2005. While visiting Siem Reap, we were warned not to veer off the beaten path around town, and sure enough, on the edges of town were skull-and-crossbones warning signs: DANGER MINES. Seeing small amputee children begging in the streets for money and food, I told myself that I had to find a way to contribute to the campaign to ban land mines". ■

## Story from the field

Katie Pitts,  
Mines Action Canada (MAC)/  
Nepal Campaign to Ban  
Landmines (NCBL).

On 14 May 2011, Katie Pitts and Dustin Ciufu, Young Professional interns at MAC/NCBL, left the city environment of Kathmandu, Nepal, to visit rural communities that were heavily affected by Nepal's internal conflict between 1996 and 2006. The primary purpose of the trip was to deliver school scholarships and supplies to girls in six communities in southern Nepal whose education is being supported by NCBL and its partner organization, Women Development Society (WODES). The systematic devaluation of girls in many Nepalese communities translates into girls missing out on formal

Rachel Dempsey,  
Colombian Campaign Against  
Landmines (CCM)

**///** I am working in Medellin, Colombia with the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines as a Mine Action Support Officer. I returned to school in 2003 to pursue a career in international humanitarianism. I wanted to work with MAC because I think the ICBL is a great place to learn - such an incredible success story and an example for other humanitarian initiatives. One of the important things I have learned about here is urgency. It's one thing to know statistics, and another to constantly hear about new accident victims, and meet survivors and see that with every accident, an individual, a family, and a community have been irrevocably changed. And as the number of phone calls add up, the urgency is so obvious, that you can't understand why you didn't feel it before". ■

education when difficult financial times hit a family. NCBL/WODES hopes to counteract this trend by providing scholarships to girls in need, specifically girls affected by Nepal's 10-year conflict, some of whom were injured by landmines or improvised explosive devices. NCBL planned programs in three of the communities, (Gohari, Gulariya and Madhi), to deliver the scholarships and to address over 90 students and their families about the importance of educating girls. They also spoke with families one-on-one to determine the impact that the scholarships would have both on children and their families. The realities of carrying out activities in a country still undergoing a peace process became

Ross Duncan,  
Colombian Campaign to Ban  
Landmines (CCCM)

**///** I'm currently working as a Mine Action Program Support Officer with the Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas. With the campaign, I am involved in campaigning and advocating so that current public policy reforms contain the voices of civil society and landmine victims through their formulation and implementation. I applied for the YP program at MAC as I have always had the desire to work with a civil society organisation in a conflict setting. Not once did I ever imagine that I would have learnt as much as I have whilst in Colombia. I have learnt and now appreciate a wealth of information on coca eradication, current legal reforms in health, victims and land restitution and fiscal sustainability, as well as being able to work in another language. I am proud to say that I am involved against landmines and cluster munitions". ■

apparent when a bandh (general strike) stalled NCBL activities for a day. This form of political protest proves to be detrimental to the Nepali economy, and serves as reminder of the conflict and the continued unrest that accompanies the peace process. The delivery of scholarship fees and school supplies for 54 girls has now been delayed as a result of the bandh, and the program will have to be rescheduled for a later date. Despite this, scholarship fees and school supplies were delivered to over 40 girls from five districts, and arrangements were made to return at a later date to deliver the remaining 54 scholarship fees from the program postponed by the bandh. While the peace process in Nepal continues, this

Tamar Zamir,  
Tajikistan Campaign to Ban  
Land Mines (TCBL)

**///** I am working in Dushanbe, supporting the Tajik campaign with project proposal writing, organizing and facilitating events, field visits, translating, conducting research and advocacy, as well as generating support for the Mine Ban Treaty implementation and accession to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Working as an intern with Mines Action Canada is a perfect opportunity to immerse yourself in the Mine Action Family. It gives you the right tools and opportunities to become an expert in the field of Mine Action. It was also an opportunity for me to contribute to a cause that so long concerned me". ■

NCBL staff member Dinesh Subedi recording information from conflict affected girls who are to receive scholarships from NCBL. Photo: NCBL



opportunity to speak with children and their parents highlights the hope that Nepali youth have for their future, and the importance of education as a tool in the development of a peaceful and productive future generation. ■

## THE MONITOR

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## Country Profiles-Be the First to Hear the News with Automatic Notifications

Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor online Country Profiles are being updated with data from 2010 and the first part of 2011. All updates will be available online by September. Go to [www.the-monitor.org/cp](http://www.the-monitor.org/cp) and click on the country or area of your choice to view the most recent update. If the profile hasn't been updated recently, click "Receive notifications

when this Country Profile is updated" at the top right of the screen, enter your email address when the pop-up window appears, and click "Subscribe" to receive a notification as soon as the profile you are interested in is updated.

**The Monitor wants to hear from you:** use the feedback form which appears with each profile to send us your comments. ■

## CAMPAIGN NEWS

### ICBL New Website Launch: Halt Mine Use in Burma

As the only country where mines have regularly been used by government military forces since the Mine Ban Treaty came into force, Myanmar/Burma is a key challenge to global

efforts to ban antipersonnel mines. Several non-state armed groups also use mines within the country. To bring attention to the landmine situation, in 2004 the International Campaign to Ban Landmines launched the Halt Mine Use in Burma campaign. This year the campaign launched its new website, [www.burma.icbl.org](http://www.burma.icbl.org). The website provides links to current news items on mine use, casualties and victim assistance as well as information on mine action events and activities. The site is also available in Burmese at [www.myanmar.icbl.org](http://www.myanmar.icbl.org). The website features video statements in support of the mine ban by Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate, as well as former General Thura Tin Oo, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of Myanmar, that were recorded during ICBL's mission to the country earlier this year. ■



Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Laureate from one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, speaking in May 2003 in Longkhin. Photo: Burma Campaign UK

**Aung San Su Kyi, 1991 Nobel Peace Laureate**

## New Factsheets-Available Online

The Monitor has prepared a new set of factsheets for the June intersessional Standing Committee meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Starting 18 June you can download them from the Monitor website by clicking "Our Research Products" on the site menu

and clicking the second-last option: "Factsheets" or go direct to the URL: [www.the-monitor.org/index.php/LM/Our-Research-Products/Factsheets](http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/LM/Our-Research-Products/Factsheets). ■

## Treaty Status at a Glance

Bookmark the Monitor's new online Treaty Status Table to keep up to date on the latest ratifications of the Mine Ban Treaty, Convention on Cluster Munitions, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and more. Find it by clicking "Multimedia"

on the site menu and clicking the first option: "Treaty Status Table" or go direct to the URL: [www.the-monitor.org/index.php/publications/display?url=lm/treaty\\_status/treaty.html](http://www.the-monitor.org/index.php/publications/display?url=lm/treaty_status/treaty.html). ■

## Turkey launches first Landmine and UXO Victims Network in Turkey

On 24 April, the first ever Landmine and UXO Victims Network in Turkey was launched. To mark this historical moment, Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey (IMFT) organized a victim assistance workshop in Diyarbakir. Participants came from a variety of mine affected regions, and included survivors, families of those killed, volunteers who will be part of the network,

ICBL representatives and lawyers and disability activists who will support the network's activities. Workshop activities addressed the victim assistance challenges identified by the group, and meetings were held with prominent national organizations and politicians, all pledging their support to this new Landmine and UXO Victims Network. ■

## New Campaigning Phase in Germany

After 15 years in operation, the German coalition ActionGroup Landmine.de decided to dissolve at the end of 2010. The group has been the driving force in Germany for both the Ottawa and Oslo processes. It has received widespread recognition for its work, including the 2009 "Wilhelm-Dröschner Prize" from Germany's Social Democratic Party and the 2010 Henry Mathews Prize, which was awarded to

the group and its director Thomas Kuechenmeister. Some Landmine.de members will continue to campaign on landmines and cluster munitions, including Handicap International Germany, Medico International and SODI, as well as the new alliance Facing Finance ([www.facing-finance.org](http://www.facing-finance.org)) that will campaign against unethical investments in human rights violations. ■

## ICBL Member Handicap International Receives Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize



Congratulations to ICBL's co-founder, Handicap International, for receiving the 2011 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize. "Receiving the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize is a great honor and underscores our collective responsibility to serve the world's most marginalized and vulnerable people," said Dr. Jean-Baptiste Richardier, CEO of Handicap International and one of its original founders. "We will,

Judy M. Miller, Jean-Baptiste Richardier, Princess Aga Khan and landmine survivor Mom Sok.  
Photo: Eric Roset / Handicap International

from now on, be in a much stronger position to convince donors to include the most vulnerable from the onset of an emergency and to ensure that long-term inclusive development for all becomes the norm rather than the exception". Handicap International was selected for this award by a prestigious independent international jury, including Judy M. Miller, Vice President of the Hilton Foundation and Director of the Hilton Prize ■

## ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth receives Honorary Doctorate Degree from Seattle University

ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth (called Reth) received an honorary degree from Seattle University on 12 June 2011 for his fourteen years of campaigning against landmines. On this occasion Seattle University President Stephen Sundborg said, "Mr. Channareth has reached out with compassion in service to other landmine victims, while working tirelessly to rid the world of these insidious weapons." Reth, a landmine victim, worked at the Jesuit Refugee Mission in Cambodia and has spent considerable time campaigning and advocating for mine-related issues. Although thrilled with the honorary degree, Reth has said that he wants attention to be focused on the on-going effort by the ICBL to pressure world leaders to join the Mine Ban Treaty. "When you see the new buildings and big construction in the cities of my country, do not be confused," he told students on campus during his visit to Seattle. "To know

what real life is in my country, go to Cambodia outside cities to see the real life of now," he told them. "There you will see poor, poor people, people living day to day. Look at them to find out, he continued, or look at me," he said, pointing to his legs.



ICBL Ambassador Tun Channareth encourages mine survivors and other persons with disabilities to make their voices heard in their communities. Photo: Jesuit Service Cambodia

About Tun Channareth: Born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Reth and his family were forced to leave by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. In 1982, as a resistance soldier on a mission near the Thai-Cambodian border, Reth stepped on a landmine.

He later had both of his legs amputated. He received vocational training at a Thai refugee camp, where he stayed for 13 years. In 1993 he moved back to Cambodia. Back home Reth started making wheelchairs as a way to help landmine survivors and support himself and his family. He also became active in the mine ban movement. He joined up with three other disabled veterans from other sides in the conflict to push for a ban on the weapon. They collected over one million signatures from Cambodian supporters. This led to the launch the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL), a prominent member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. In 1997 Reth accepted in Oslo, Norway, the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the ICBL. ■

The ICBL is a global network in over 90 countries, working for a ban on landmines and cluster munitions.

We welcome any comments and questions about ICBL News.

**International**  
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