

Making the Mine Ban Treaty Universal: Mission possible

Country backgrounders for the March 1st Action Alert

Bahrain

Mine Ban Treaty Status	Bahrain has not joined the MBT yet
Stockpiles	Yes but limited for training purposes
Contamination	No
Use	No
Production	No
Vote on UNGA resolution on the MBT	Voted in favour since 1997
Reasons for not joining the treaty	MBT accession is not a priority
Key recent developments	Bahrain has given several signs of support for accession. In May 2007, in response to an ICBL letter, Bahrain wrote that "His Highness the Prime Minister and his Government are tackling this issue with sincere concern and full commitment."
Goal	Accession before the Second Review Conference

Ten years after the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT), on 1 March 1999, we have no doubt that our goal of a mine free world can be achieved and should be pursued until it becomes a reality. Over the past years, the number of countries joining the treaty has continued to grow (from 71 in March 1999 to 156 in 2009), and many states still remaining outside the treaty are *de facto* already respecting its provisions.

We believe that there is no better way to celebrate the anniversary – and the upcoming Second Review Conference of the treaty, which will take place in Colombia in December 2009 – than by multiplying our efforts to bring on board the treaty more states, and encourage others to take positive steps in this direction. Join our global action on universalization and help us prove that this is "Mission Possible"!

Getting Bahrain on Board: Mission Possible

Bahrain has repeatedly expressed support for the MBT and its humanitarian goals. It has voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolution on the MBT since 1997. It has never used or produced antipersonnel mines, and it is not contaminated.

Reasons for Bahrain to join the treaty NOW:

- ⇒ Bahrain's participation in the MBT would **improve its diplomatic** profile. Bahrain is one of only 39 countries that have not joined the treaty.
- ⇒ Bahrain is already *de facto* respecting MBT provisions by not using or producing landmines, and only holding a limited stockpile. However, *de facto* compliance is not good enough – only when all countries agree to be irrevocably bound by the treaty we can be sure that antipersonnel mines will never claim the lives and limbs of innocent people ever again.
- ⇒ Accession would advance the humanitarian cause of a mine-free world and contribute to further isolating countries still holding on to this weapon.
- ⇒ Neighbouring states are also States Parties! For example: Iraq, Qatar and Kuwait (both of which belong, like Bahrain, to the Gulf Cooperation Council)
- ⇒ New accessions from the Middle East would send a powerful and positive signal to the international community as this remains one of the regions with the lowest rate of adherence to the treaty in the world.

For more information see *Landmine Monitor Report on Bahrain 2008* at www.icbl.org/lm

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