

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), formally launched in 1992 by six nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), is a broad-based coalition of over 1,400 organizations in 90 countries worldwide. Since its inception, the ICBL has remained focused on its call for a ban on the use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of antipersonnel mines, and for increased resources for mine clearance and victim assistance. A committee of thirteen member organizations and a staff of seven, based in three continents, coordinated the ICBL in 2001 and 2002.¹

In 2001 and the first half of 2002, the ICBL engaged in an exhausting number of activities aimed at achieving full universalization and effective implementation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, and adherence by all to the rapidly-emerging international norm against the antipersonnel mine.² It updated its 2004 Action Plan, adopted at the Third General Meeting of ICBL members in March 2001, which recommits the campaign to accomplish its goals within the 2004 timeframe by setting out detailed plans and priorities to do so.

The ICBL actively participated in numerous major events, including the Third Meeting of States Parties, where it released *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, intersessional meetings, and six regional and one global ICBL and Landmine Monitor meetings. In addition, the ICBL participated in several other regional and thematic meetings, undertook several advocacy missions, sent many letters to decision-makers, issued numerous Action Alerts to the network and published a report on ICBL Activities at the Third Meeting of States Parties and another report on Ban Landmines Week, as well as quarterly Landmine Updates. In 2001 and the first half of 2002, more information dissemination than ever was done through the ICBL's sophisticated system of electronic mail groups and its comprehensive website: www.icbl.org.

Third Meeting of States Parties

The ICBL took full advantage of opportunities presented by the Third Meeting of States Parties (3MSP) held in Managua, Nicaragua from 18-21 September 2001, as the most important landmine event of the year. Despite the tragic events of 11 September, and ensuing travel difficulties, 97 ICBL campaigners, researchers, deminers and survivors from 42 countries attended in the meeting in which 95 governments participated.³

In the months leading up to the meeting, the ICBL issued numerous ratification alerts and, with Chile's ratification on 10 September, reached its target of 120 ratifications by the time the meeting opened. During the weekend before the meeting, ICBL campaigners held preparation and orientation meetings, engaged in a series of trainings on lobbying, using the media and e-campaigning, and witnessed the destruction of 20,000 mines by Nicaragua on 17 September.

Throughout the week of the 3MSP, ICBL members held bilateral meetings with numerous governments, updated each other in daily campaign briefings and met to strategize in thematic and regional Working Groups, in addition to conducting several briefings for delegates and media. The ICBL spoke on numerous occasions throughout the 3MSP itself, including during the opening plenary. The ICBL's Head of Delegation, Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch, delivered a

¹ The CC membership has not changed since it was approved by the last General Meeting of the ICBL network in March 2001: Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Association for Aid and Relief/Japan, Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines, Colombia Campaign Against Mines, German Initiative to Ban Landmines, Kenya Coalition Against Landmines, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, Landmine Survivors Network, Lutheran World Federation, Mines Action Canada, Norwegian People's Aid, and South African Campaign to Ban Landmines. The ICBL staff are: Elizabeth Bernstein, Coordinator; Sylvie Brigot, Government Relations Officer; Dalma Føldes, Resource Center Director; Kjell Knudsen, Webmaster; Jackie Hansen, Project Officer; Susan B. Walker, Intersessional Program Officer; Sue Wixley, Advocacy and Communications Officer. Contact icbl@icbl.org.

² This chapter focused on the period from June 2001 to June 2002, but includes some information from the first half of 2001 also reported in the ICBL chapter in *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*.

³ The 95 government delegations to the 3MSP included 67 States Parties, 17 Signatories and 11 non-signatories.

statement on behalf of the campaign during the general exchange of views and throughout the week representatives of the ICBL Working Groups made numerous interventions.

The ICBL held a media briefing on the opening day and participated in a closing media briefing with the Foreign Minister of Nicaragua, Francisco Aguirre Sacasa, who was also 3MSP President. The ICBL prepared and distributed news releases and media kits, as well as participant kits for delegates. Outside of Managua, ICBL members and the general public were regularly updated in the lead-up to the meeting and during the week through regular email updates and a special web page: www.icbl.org/3msp. Several ICBL publications were distributed at the meeting, in addition to *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*. The ICBL also facilitated a photograph exhibit by Italian photographer Giovanni Diffidenti, sponsored by UNICEF, and entitled, "Legacy of the Perfect Soldier." The exhibition was located next to the conference center in Managua's main shopping mall and also made available online.

Intersessional Work Program

The ICBL continued its key role in the intersessional work program established in May 1999 at the First Meeting of States Parties to carry the work of the Mine Ban Treaty forward between the annual Meetings of State Parties. The regular intersessional Standing Committees (SC) meetings are uniquely organized in an informal and practical Geneva-based setting to further encourage continuity, transparency, inclusiveness and a cooperative spirit; all key elements in the success of global mine ban movement. The ICBL Intersessional Program Officer's near constant presence in Geneva contributed greatly to the ICBL's impact in, and the overall success of, the intersessional work program.

The 2002 intersessional Standing Committee meetings endeavored to take an integrated global approach and adopt a longer-term vision, with an enhanced focus on the assistance and cooperation matters related to core humanitarian objectives of the Mine Ban Treaty. One key goal remained to provide a clear picture of needs, gaps and available resources, particularly as the first treaty deadlines rapidly approached: 2003 for stockpile destruction and 2009 for clearance of mined areas. These objectives will become increasingly important in the two years leading-up to the first Review Conference in 2004.

The four Standing Committees -- Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration; Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness and Mine Action Technologies; Stockpile Destruction; and General Status and Operation of the Convention -- each met twice during one-week long periods in January and May 2002 at the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD). Participation in these meetings reached record levels in 2002. Approximately 450 persons representing more than 100 countries (73 States Parties and approximately 30 non-States Parties), ICBL members, and international, UN and regional organizations attended both sets of meetings. More than 90 ICBL members attended the January 2002 meetings, while over 70 participated in the May meetings.

A Coordinating Committee (CC) made up of States Parties also met monthly in 2001 and bi-monthly in 2002, with 3MSP President Nicaragua as its chair. The ICBL and ICRC were regularly invited to participate in these meetings, which addressed practical coordination matters relating to the intersessional work program and preparations for the annual Meetings of State Parties. From September 2001 to September 2002, the CC consisted of the sixteen Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the four intersessional Standing Committees (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, France, Germany, Honduras, Kenya, Norway, Peru, Romania, Switzerland, Thailand and Yemen). The need for balance between donor and mine-affected countries, and principles of regional representation and the need for continuity, as well as engagement of experienced and new countries governed selection of these leadership positions.

In September 2001, the 3MSP agreed to establish an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) to ensure the sustainability of the intersessional work, which the ICBL has worked closely with since its formation. The Mine Ban Treaty deliberately has no Secretariat to provide support functions as negotiating states viewed the delivery of mine action funds to the field as more urgent. The ISU was formed to ensure continuity and sustainability and, in particular, to enable full participation by

mine-affected countries and others with limited resources in the continued "Ottawa Process." The ISU was not established to replace the important efforts of States Parties.

The ICBL's Intersessional Program Officer continued to work to promote the intersessional work, bringing together present and past SC co-chairs and co-rapporteurs together with the ICRC, the ISU and ICBL Coordinator and Working Group chairs for meetings of the ICBL's Intersessional Contact Group (ICG, formerly known as "20 + 2") in January and May 2002. These meetings proved invaluable participants to substantively prepare for the SC meetings, and also served as informal fora for strategic planning with government partners. The ICG now includes representatives from 29 countries that have served as Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs of the intersessional Standing Committees since their inception in December 1999.

SC on General Status and Operation of the Convention (Co-Chairs: Norway & Thailand; Co-Rapporteurs: Austria & Peru) The ICBL, under the leadership of its Treaty Working Group (TWG), highlighted the following issues, all which were included on the agendas during the January and May meetings: possible antipersonnel mine use by non-signatories in joint military operations with States Parties, as well as foreign stockpiles and transit of mines (Article 1 – interpretation of "assist"); antivehicle mines with antihandling devices (Article 2 - definitions); mines retained for training and development (Article 3); timely destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines (Article 4); the need for comprehensive and timely transparency reporting (Article 7); compliance issues (Article 8); and the obligation to enact national implementation measures (Article 9). The ICBL was a key participant in the Universalization Contact Group chaired by Canada, which coordinates efforts to promote universalization by over two dozen governments, along with ICBL, ICRC and other international organizations. The ICBL was also an active participant in the Article 7 Contact Group chaired by Belgium, which expanded in 2002 to include Article 9.

SC on Stockpile Destruction (Co-Chairs: Australia & Croatia; Co-Rapporteurs: Romania & Switzerland) The Treaty Working Group also led ICBL's participation in this SC and the TWG Chair provided a global overview in the opening sessions of both meetings. The TWG emphasized the need for States Parties to provide regular progress reports (in addition to timely and comprehensive Article 7 transparency reporting), identified problem areas including resource constraints for stockpile destruction, and warned States Parties to take the rapidly approaching four-year deadline for destruction of stockpiles seriously as this constitutes one of the visible and essential aspects of treaty implementation. The ICBL also urged countries to provide more information on existence, numbers and types of antipersonnel mine stockpiles worldwide.

SC on Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness and Related Technologies (Co-Chairs: Germany & Yemen; Co-Rapporteurs: Belgium & Kenya) The ICBL Mine Action Working Group (MAWG) and its member mine clearance organizations assisted in turning the major focus of this Standing Committee to the 10-year deadline for clearing mined areas as outlined in the Mine Ban Treaty. The MAWG urged States Parties to determine the extent of the mine action work that has been completed, and what remains to be done in order to prioritize needs and assess what will be required to accomplish the clearance obligation laid down by the treaty. The MAWG is leading an ongoing process to gather information that will provide a global picture of the state of mine clearance to date and identify the work remaining to be done prior to 2009, with funding provided by Co-Chair Germany. The 3MSP shifted Mine Awareness discussions to this Standing Committee from the Victim Assistance Standing Committee, as urged by ICBL since 1999.

SC on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration (Co-Chairs: Canada & Honduras; Co-Rapporteurs: Colombia & France). The ICBL Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA) continued to play an important role in setting the agenda for this Standing Committee. In the May meeting, presentations looked at the progress made by a new consultative process to identify medium-term priorities for the Standing Committee, which will hopefully enable the Committee to show measurable progress in mine victim assistance by the time of the Review Conference in 2004. Although not definitive, priorities areas initially identified by the SC included: economic integration, national planning, prosthetics and emergency medical care. Areas supported by the Standing Committee included: "Raising the Voices," a leadership training for

landmine survivor advocates; critical issues and advancements in medical care and psychological, social and physical rehabilitation; human rights and disability issues; and prosthetics and orthotics. "Raising the Voices" continued in its second year, with financial support provided by Canada and Norway, and fourteen mine survivors from Africa (Angola, Chad, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda) participated in the intersessional meetings in January and May 2002.

Updated information and background on the intersessional work program can be found on the ICBL website at <http://www.icbl.org/sc> and on the GICHD website at <http://www.gichd.ch>.

Other Campaign Activities

ICBL/Landmine Monitor meetings. ICBL staff continued to conduct campaign seminars in conjunction with regional researcher meetings held to prepare *Landmine Monitor Report 2002*. At each ICBL session, campaigners strategized on their work in the region, discussed campaign priorities, updated the 2004 Action Plan, and engaged in events to raise public awareness.

In October 2001, Asia-Pacific campaigners met in Seoul, Republic of Korea, following their research meeting. They wrote a joint open letter to Korean President Hon. Kim Dae Jung, which was released in a joint press conference with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams during an international symposium at Chungbuk University. The campaigners undertook a field trip to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), where they presented an autographed *Landmine Monitor Report 2001* to Korean military officers following a briefing on the mine situation along the border with North Korea. Campaigners also met with farmers injured by mines dislocated from the DMZ.

In early November 2001, ICBL members from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region of the former Soviet Union met in Yerevan, Armenia. In addition to internal research and campaign meetings, the participants took part in a roundtable discussion at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited the Center of Trauma, Orthopedics and Rehabilitation to discuss mine survivor treatment, and spoke in a roundtable discussion hosted by Armenia's Deputy Minister of Defense. They made a field trip to the Tavush region in the north of the country along the border with Azerbaijan, where they met with local villagers and the governor of the province to discuss the mine problem. Every evening national television reported on activities of the campaigners.

Later in November 2001, Landmine Monitor researchers from Africa met in Nairobi, Kenya before their research meeting to discuss advocacy strategies and actions in support of the mine ban in the region. They brainstormed on fundraising strategies, actions to engage non-state actors on the mine ban and updated the ICBL's 2004 Action Plan. The meeting concluded with a roundtable on the mine problem in the region attended by Nairobi-based diplomats and government officials.

At the ICBL/LM Americas meeting held in Brasilia, Brazil in early December 2001 campaigners discussed their advocacy plans and targets for 2002. The Human Rights Commission of the Chamber of Deputies hosted a roundtable seminar on implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in the region, at the National Congress; campaigners and representatives of the Brazilian Campaign to Ban Landmines spoke.

The regional meetings for Europe and the Middle East/North Africa took place in January 2002 in Geneva during intersessional Standing Committee meetings. Again, the ICBL staff led advocacy discussions on campaigning in these regions and sought to identify specific campaigning challenges in Europe, including interpretation issues related to the Mine Ban Treaty, and in the Middle East, where civil society groups often have less status and freedom to campaign than elsewhere, and government support for the antipersonnel mine ban is lowest.

Over 90 researchers and campaigners from 75 countries participated in the Global Meeting of *Landmine Monitor Report 2002* researchers held in Paris, France in mid-April 2002, as well as representatives of key countries and international agencies. In an integrated ICBL/LM program, participants reviewed their research reports with all the research coordinators in small or individual group sessions, while at the same time participants attended a series of workshops prepared by the ICBL staff and working group chairs on various campaigning tools and topics. Several campaigners met with Paris-based representatives of their governments, as well as with members of the media.

Other events: In addition to the regional ICBL/Landmine Monitor meetings, the ICBL participated in numerous workshops, seminars and conferences throughout the year. A few of them are cited here. ICBL representatives and Landmine Monitor researchers attended a regional governmental seminar in Warsaw in mid-June 2001, which examined Mine Ban Treaty challenges for signatory state Poland and other countries of Eastern Europe and the Baltic. In late June 2001, the ICBL representatives from Japan and Russia and in-country Landmine Monitor researchers cooperated with Canada and Mongolia to conduct the first ever government seminar on landmines in non-signatory Mongolia. ICBL members from the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand participated a regional government meeting on stockpile destruction hosted by Malaysia and Canada in mid-August in Kuala Lumpur. ICBL members participated in a “Students for a Mine-Free World” Conference held in Sarajevo in late October 2001. In early November 2001, the ICBL attended a regional governmental conference on victim assistance in Bangkok, hosted by Thailand.

In mid-January 2002, ICBL representatives spoke in a regional seminar on the Mine Ban Treaty, in North Africa, organized by Tunisia and Canada in Tunis. The national campaign in Brazil represented the ICBL at the World Social Forum, held in late January 2002 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In May 2002, the ICBL participated in a government workshop in Kinshasa on the Mine Ban Treaty and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), during which the DRC deposited its instrument of accession to the ban treaty. Later in May, ICBL members attended a regional governmental conference on the mine problem in Southeast Asia, hosted by Thailand in Bangkok, the location for the Fourth Meeting of States Parties. Campaigners from the region met the day before the event, addressed the conference, and held a press briefing.

In addition to these events, the ICBL’s Ambassador, 1997 Nobel Laureate Jody Williams, undertook numerous speaking engagements in support of the ICBL in 2001 and the first half of 2002. ICBL members and national campaigns also held national seminars or workshops in many countries worldwide and the ICBL Ambassadors, staff and members undertook a number of advocacy and awareness-building missions. Between May 2001 and May 2002 awareness-raising activities were held in countries including: Afghanistan, Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, UK, and the U.S.

The ICBL sent letters to heads of state, issued media releases and engaged in other advocacy activities to promote the landmine ban at international fora in 2001 and the first half of 2002. ICBL members also participated in donors conferences and other meetings to help address mine action needs. These included: the UN General Assembly in New York, the UNGA’s Special Session on Children, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the European Union, the Francophonie, the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, the G8 and G6B, NATO, OSCE, Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity (the African Union since July 2002), the Assembly of African Francophone Parliamentarians, the Rio Group, MERCOSUR, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Arab League, the World Social Forum, the FIFA World Cup and the Centennial of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Coordinated campaign actions: The Mine Ban Treaty anniversaries of 3 December (the opening for signature in 1997) and 1 March (the entry-into-force in 1999) once again galvanized campaigners into action around the globe. The ICBL sent letters to Heads of State on these occasions and others, and issued regular Action Alerts on universalization and ratification targets, as well as denouncements of specific instances of mine-laying by treaty hold-outs and non-state

actors. In the US, the US Campaign to Ban Landmines called on ICBL members and pro-ban governments to join its push for a positive outcome to the Bush administration's landmine policy review. On 1 March 2002, ICBL members called on India and Pakistan to halt their laying mine along their common border.

In the last quarter of 2001, the ICBL responded to the increased demand for accurate and updated information on landmines in Afghanistan by creating a web page <http://www.icbl.org/country/afghanistan/> containing fact sheets, press releases, action alerts, photographs and more. The ICBL circulated several updates and press statements by the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines (ACBL) and worked with the ACBL, the Afghan government and United Nations to put together a governmental seminar on landmines in Kabul in late July 2002.

The ICBL published and updated several campaign tools in 2001 and the first half of 2002, such as its Campaign Kit (now available in Arabic, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian), its quarterly "Landmine Update," a new booklet on fundraising sources and strategies, and an ICBL Report on Activities at the Third Meeting of States Parties. It produced new brochures, bumper stickers, pins, caps and continued to make documents, photographs, videos and other material available in various languages for different audiences through its Resource Center, member organizations and the web site. The ICBL conducted a membership inventory of resource demand and availability and began the process of scaling down the Yemen-based Resource Center to increase effective and efficient production and dissemination of campaign resources through a decentralized system of regional, linguistic and thematic resource focal points.

On 3 December 2001, the ICBL launched two new youth advocacy tools: a "Youth Campaign Kit" and an extensive Youth section of its website, in cooperation with young campaigners in various countries around the world: <http://www.icbl.org/youth>.

In 2001 and the first half of 2002, the ICBL Webmaster worked with the ICBL Coordinator to train staff and campaigners in web-based advocacy, in addition to constantly improving and updating information dissemination through electronic mail groups and the ICBL website: www.icbl.org.

As in previous years, ICBL staff and leadership were invited to speak in various fora to NGOs and others on lessons learned both from the ICBL's campaign experience and the establishment and success of its Landmine Monitor initiative. The ICBL continues to be viewed as one of the world's most successful examples of an expertly coordinated, creative, systematic and sustained NGO initiative that continues to build on its enormous success. More information on the ICBL's activities is available at <http://www.icbl.org> and particularly through the quarterly "Landmine Update," at <http://www.icbl.org/update/landmines/>.

TREATY WORKING GROUP

Members of the Treaty Working Group (TWG) are tasked with taking the lead in developing and implementing the ICBL's strategies and actions related to the Mine Ban Treaty and dealing with other mine-oriented international bodies and instruments, such as CCW Amended Protocol II, as well as with national laws and measures.

Approximately twenty-four ICBL member organizations are part of the TWG, which is chaired by Human Rights Watch. While the TWG did not meet on a regular or formal basis in 2001 or the first half of 2002, its members consulted and met often during key meetings, including drafting common ICBL statements or positions.

Actions Taken

Universalization: The TWG and the Campaign overall continue work to convince the remaining non-signatories to accede to the treaty according to the universalization strategy outlined in the ICBL's 2004 Action Plan (adopted at the General Meeting in March 2001 and updated in April 2002), as well as year-by-year country targets. Members of the TWG participated in regular meetings of the Universalization Contact Group, an informal information sharing and strategy group consisting of more than twenty pro-ban governments, the ICRC, UNICEF and the ICBL.

Members of the TWG were centrally involved in the six regional Landmine Monitor researcher meetings between October 2001 and January 2002, including the meetings in two non-signatory countries, South Korea and Armenia. Members of the TWG played key roles in other regional landmine conferences, including in Bosnia, Brazil, China, Croatia, DR Congo, Malaysia, Mongolia, Poland, Thailand, and Tunisia. Members of the TWG visited target countries to press for accession to the treaty, including Afghanistan and the DR Congo, and spoke on multiple occasions in regional and international fora, such as the United Nations both in New York and Geneva, the European Community, NATO, and the Organization of American States.

Ratification: Following the 1 March 1999 entry into force of the treaty, TWG members continued to press for the remaining signatories to ratify the Mine Ban Treaty, of which there were less than twenty by June 2002. The TWG monitors the ratification process, coordinates advocacy efforts with key governments and international organizations, and sends out periodic updates through the ban movement network.

Implementation and Monitoring: The TWG works closely with national campaigns and other ban partners on the implementation and monitoring of the Mine Ban Treaty. The TWG monitors and reports on progress made by States Parties in submitting Article 7 reports and members distributed a "Handbook on Transparency Reporting," produced by VERTIC, to assist governments to meet this treaty requirement. Compliance with the reporting obligation rose considerably between 2000 and 2002, from approximately 55 percent to over 75 percent. TWG members also closely tracked developments in national implementation measures (Article 9), including commenting on draft legislation, and distribution of an "Information Kit on National Legislation," produced by ICRC.

The chair of the TWG serves as the coordination point of the Landmine Monitor and Landmine Monitor's data gathering process has served to reinforce the work of the TWG and the ICBL; persistent inquiries from researchers have helped convince governments to ratify and to better implement the treaty, especially in terms of submission of Article 7 transparency reports.

Third Meeting of States Parties: Nearly all TWG members participated in the 3MSP in Managua in September 2001. Along with the release of the *Landmine Monitor Report 2001*, TWG members used the meeting to educate and encourage governments to address issues of concern. The TWG chair served as the Head of the ICBL delegation to the 3MSP and delivered the ICBL statement to the Plenary. TWG members made interventions in other working sessions of the 3MSP, and also participated an opening and closing day press briefing and several media events.

Intersessional Work: The TWG chair was tasked with organizing the ICBL's participation in two intersessional groups, the Standing Committees on Stockpile Destruction and on General Status and Operation of the Convention. This was done through close coordination with the ICBL's Intersessional Program Officer. The ICBL played a prominent role in these SCs by providing relevant information, by clearly stating NGO positions and concerns, and by making specific recommendations that the SCs could carry out.

General Status: The TWG chair and the Intersessional Program Officer closely worked with SC co-chairs Norway and Thailand to include discussion on key items of interest to the ICBL in this SC's meetings including Article 1 (interpretation of "assist"), Article 2 (definitions, particularly antivehicle mines with antihandling devices), Article 3 (mines retained for training), Article 7 (transparency reporting), Article 8 (compliance) and Article 9 (national implementation measures). Prior to the January and May 2002 SC meetings, the TWG in conjunction with the ICBL Coordinator sent letters to all States Parties and signatories highlighting these and other issues with the aim of spurring the governments to prepare seriously for discussion at the SC. At the two SC meetings, a TWG representative gave a presentation on each issue. TWG chair Human Rights Watch, on behalf of Landmine Monitor, distributed fact sheets on Antivehicle Mines equipped with Sensitive Fuzes, Article 7 Reporting, Claymore Mines, National Implementation Measures, Mines Retained for Training, Foreign Stockpiling and Transit, and Joint Military Operations. TWG member Landmine Action distributed a publication on antivehicle mine pressure thresholds.

Stockpile Destruction: The TWG chair and the Intersessional Program Officer closely worked with SC co-chairs Australia and Croatia to develop the agenda for the SC meetings. The TWG chair presented a global overview of stockpiles and stockpile destruction efforts at both SC meetings. A "Landmine Monitor Fact Sheet, Antipersonnel Mine Stockpiles and their Destruction" was updated and distributed at both meetings. Largely as a result of TWG interventions, several governments have reduced or eliminated altogether the number of antipersonnel mines they intend to keep for training, and the number of governments providing progress updates increased during this period as the initial deadline of March 2003 loomed closer.

United Nations General Assembly: In November 2001, the ICBL circulated updates to the campaign on UNGA Resolution 56/24M, which urged universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. The resolution, introduced by Nicaragua, Norway, and Belgium (the present, past, and future presidents of Meetings of States Parties), secured 138 votes in favor (including 20 non-signatories), none against and 19 abstentions (three less than last year).

Convention on Conventional Weapons: In September 2001, the TWG Chair led a small delegation of ICBL members attending the 3rd Preparatory Committee meeting for the CCW Second Review Conference and a closing statement was delivered. In December 2001, about half a dozen NGOs from the ICBL, in a delegation led by the TWG chair, attended the third annual conference of State Parties to Amended Protocol II of the CCW, as well as the Second CCW Review Conference, in December 2001 in Geneva. The ICBL Intersessional Program Officer delivered statements to the AP II annual meeting, as well to the opening and closing plenaries of the CCW Second Review Conference. In the closing plenary, the ICBL announced its support for calls to establish a moratorium on the use, production and trade of cluster munitions, and stated the ICBL's strong support for efforts to create new international humanitarian law on the wider problem of explosive remnants of war, including cluster weapons, by negotiating of a new protocol in the CCW. The ICBL organized bilateral meetings with a number of other non-signatories, as well as various briefings for Conference delegates and the press during the course of the meetings. The ICBL also participated in a May 2002 meeting of a CCW Group of Governmental Experts formed to study explosive remnants of war and mines other than antipersonnel mines.

Conference on Disarmament: The TWG continued to monitor the CD's stalemate on reaching any agreement on an agenda. The ICBL strongly opposes any effort to deal with antipersonnel mines in the CD.

MINE ACTION WORKING GROUP

The ICBL Mine Action Working Group (MAWG) was formed in February 1998 to serve as the focal point for addressing issues related to mine action, with particular focus on work in the field. The core members of the group are project-implementing organizations, such as Handicap International France, Handicap International Belgium, Mines Advisory Group, Mines Clearance Planning Agency, Norwegian People's Aid, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation, Medico International, and advocacy organizations such as the German Initiative to Ban Landmines. In addition to this core, there is wider participation from a number of the other organizations either involved or interested in the issue. Norwegian People's Aid assumed the role of chair of the MAWG during this reporting period.

The MAWG is a loose structure, which communicates mainly by email, but MAWG members also meet to discussions strategy on the sidelines of various international mine action meetings. The MAWG's main goal is to ensure that the realities of mine action work in the field are reflected in the global mine action policies developed by the international community. It seeks to assist State Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty to achieve the goals outlined in the obligations of the treaty. The MAWG promotes the ICBL's call for more resources for humanitarian mine action and works to ensure meaningful NGO participation in all relevant political and decision-making processes that define the parameters for mine action. Some recent activities undertaken by the MAWG in 2001 and 2002 are listed below.

Intersessional work program: The MAWG members worked closely with the Standing Committees Co-Chairs, Germany and Yemen, and co-rapporteurs Belgium and Kenya on the agenda and goals of the January and May 2000 meetings. In January, the MAWG made a longer intervention than usual in the form of a “Global overview of Mine Action and Outlook for the Future,” as agreed at the agenda setting meeting by the Co-Chairs held in Geneva in November 2001. On an invitation from the Co-Chairs, the MAWG agreed to provide a status report of the actual situation on the ground. The presentation made clear that at current levels of funding and clearance, many mine-affected countries would not meet the treaty’s ten-year deadline to destroy emplaced mines. The presentation also identified key needs: 1) realistic and appropriate funding to mine action; 2) more and appropriate information for decision-making, priority-setting and tasking in humanitarian mine clearance operations; and, 3) national strategic mine action plans.

The presentation led to a request by the German Co-Chair that ICBL continue its work in status reporting on mine clearance and efforts to address the identified needs. Germany also offered to fund such research through the ICBL and the MAWG hired a consultant on a short-term basis to prepare a further intervention for the intersessional meeting in May 2002.

In May, the MAWG presentation highlighted the lack of consistent reporting procedures on mine clearance activities by operators, and stressed the need to constructively embark on an evaluation of the size of the mine problem worldwide through various forms of survey (such as Impact Surveys and General Level 1 Surveys), and to assess the priority of mine clearance in order to meet cost efficiency as well as cost effectiveness. The MAWG emphasized the need for urgent attention to the ten-year deadlines, and again pointed to the difficulties many countries will have in complying, without resorting to the provisions for extending the deadline.

MAWG and issues related to mine action funding and activities: MAWG members participated in the Steering Committee Meeting for Mine Action in May 2002, chaired by the UN. Members also participated in an annual meeting of mine action program managers and advisors from 24-26 February, chaired by the UNMAS and hosted at the GICHD. MAWG members continued to represent the ICBL at meetings of the Mine Action Support Group (MASG), which convene the major mine action donors.

Survey Action Center: The Global Landmine Impact Survey by the Survey Action Center (SAC) includes several MAWG members in the Survey Working Group, which parents the SAC. The MAWG continued to call for support for the implementation of more impact surveys in the near future to improve information for strategic planning of humanitarian mine action.

Third Meeting of States Parties: The MAWG made two statements at the meeting during discussions on the work of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness and Related Technologies, outlining key points that the international community will have to address in order to solve the crisis of landmines. Among others, these included: acknowledging the low impact that research and development has had on work in the field, and the importance of targeting research and development to focus more on operational needs; the need for an increased focus on the improvement of equipment and technologies currently in use; the need for increased and sustained funding levels with longer term commitment from the donor community, as well as more flexibility in financial budgeting and planning of projects.

These points as expressed by the MAWG, were also stressed at several bilateral and other international meetings and venues during the second half of 2001. Among them, a meeting of orientation for the European Commission, informing the EC of key points in the humanitarian mine action work globally.

For any information please contact the chair, Sara Sekkenes, Norwegian People's Aid, email: sa@npaid.org.

Mine Risk Education Sub-Group

The ICBL's Mine Risk Education Sub-Working Group (formerly Mine Awareness Sub-group) was created during a meeting of the ICBL Mine Action Working Group (MAWG) in September 1999. The Sub-Group operates within the framework of the MAWG, reflecting the understanding of its members that MRE be viewed as an integral component of mine action. Members of the Sub-Group include representatives from the following organizations: Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines, Handicap International Belgium, Handicap International France, INTERSOS, Landmines Resource Centre (Lebanon), Mines Advisory Group, Norwegian People's Aid, Rädde Barnen (Save the Children Sweden), and RaDO. Handicap International Belgium chaired the Sub-Group in 2001 and 2002.

The Sub-Group's main objective is to serve as a resource on MRE issues for the ICBL and others. As part of the ICBL 2004 Action Plan, the ICBL General Meeting adopted the following MRE goals in March 2001: advocate, monitor and provide guidance to the international community as to where/what/how mine risk education is needed; advocate for and maintain a higher profile of mine risk education in Standing Committees, Meetings of States Parties and the mine action community; advocate and encourage development of more programs and improved sustainability of programs; and promote improvements in the quality of mine risk education programs.

The Sub-Group urged States Parties to shift mine risk education to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance and States Parties accepted this proposal in September 2001. The Standing Committee was subsequently renamed to the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Awareness and Related Technologies.

Members of the Sub-Group delivered seven statements to States Parties, on the following subjects: International Workshop on the Design of Materials, Resources and other Media in Mine Awareness Programmes; Lessons Learned from Mine Awareness in Southern Afghanistan, Children's Role in Mine Risk Education, Evaluation of Effects, Situation and Needs in Most Mine-Affected Countries and The Mozambican Model [of MRE].

The Sub-Group co-organized a meeting together with UNICEF for all mine risk education operators (MRE Working Group) in Geneva on 30 May 2002.

The MRE Sub-Group established its own web page on the ICBL site: www.icbl.org/wg/maw. The Group has established two email groups to facilitate discussion on mine risk education, one for members of the ICBL Mine Risk Education Working Group and another for the group and all mine risk education practitioners. For any information please contact the chair, Stan Brabant, Handicap International Belgium, email: stan.brabant@handicap.be.

WORKING GROUP ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

Since its inception in February 1998, the ICBL's Working Group on Victim Assistance (WGVA) has had these general goals:

- Advocate for, monitor, and provide guidance to the international community as to where, what, and how victim assistance is needed;
- Promote increased coverage, funding, and sustainability of victim assistance programs;
- Promote improvements in the quality of programs for landmine victims/survivors and other persons with disability;
- Facilitate inclusion of landmine victims in Mine Ban Treaty-related processes.

The WGVA is chaired by the Landmine Survivors Network, and has 98 members representing approximately 40 organizations and country campaigns. In 2001 and 2002, the WGVA's main efforts included collaboration with the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance and Socio-Economic Reintegration on the content of the intersessional work, publication and dissemination of the 2001 Portfolio of Victim Assistance Programs, and implementation of the *Raising the Voices* program.

Collaboration between the WGVA and the Standing Committee

A main focus of the WGVA in 2001 and 2002, as in past years, was participation in the Mine Ban Treaty's intersessional work program and the Third Meeting of States Parties. Continued collaboration with the co-chairs and co-rapporteurs on the content of the agenda, on the selection of expert speakers, and on the aims of the meetings proved extremely beneficial in a number of ways. In particular, it allowed aspects of victim assistance that were not made explicit in the treaty to become part of the general discourse of the Standing Committee. Many issues were raised that would have otherwise been neglected or avoided. The collaboration allowed governments, NGOs and international organizations to become allies on some issues and to better understand different positions on other issues. Finally, the collaboration has allowed for more perspectives, ideas, strategies, and mutual accountability among the various actors in victim assistance than would have ever been possible in a more limited forum. For these reasons, the WGVA will continue to make this collaboration an important part of its work.

The WGVA views the links between mine victim assistance and broader disability issues and the international human rights framework as fundamental to advancing the rights of landmine survivors and all persons with disability. Following an intervention by Mexico on its initiative to establish a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, the WGVA endorsed this effort and worked to ensure that disability and human rights was included in each session of the Standing Committee. The WGVA has viewed the momentum for such a Convention and the momentum created by the Standing Committee to improve victim assistance as mutually reinforcing and beneficial.

Given that there the Mine Ban Treaty does not include any explicit deadlines or other criteria for "success" in victim assistance, the Standing Committee initiated a consultative process facilitated by UNMAS to focus and clarify the Standing Committees targets for actions in the lead up to the 2004 Review Conference. The WGVA played a key role in this process. It is too early for the process to have reached definitive conclusions, but four preliminary trends did surface. These were the need for: national level planning for victim assistance by States Parties; improved quality and coverage of prosthetics services in mine-affected countries; emergency medical care that extends to mine-affected areas; and a focus on economic reintegration programs for landmine victims.

2001 Portfolio of Victim Assistance Programs

The fourth edition of the "Portfolio of Victim Assistance Programs" was prepared for distribution to the Third Meeting of States Parties in September 2001, and is available in hard copy and on-line at www.landminevap.org. The compilation consisted of 119 program descriptions from 79 organizations in 39 countries.

The VAWG members worked hard to encourage more organizations to submit information to the Portfolio to provide a more comprehensive picture of available services, especially those programs that build local capacity. A fifth edition of the Portfolio is in preparation for release to the Fourth Meeting of States Parties in September 2002.

Raising the Voices

"Raising the Voices" is a leadership and advocacy training program for landmine survivors established in early 2001 to facilitate the inclusion of landmine survivors in Mine Ban Treaty-related processes. Landmine Survivors Network facilitates the program on behalf of the WGVA. Mine Ban Treaty processes have, from the beginning of the campaign, included survivors. Several survivors are official ambassadors for the ICBL and regularly travel around the world devoting their energies to the campaign. "Raising the Voices" is, in part, a "second wave" of this practice, and is intended to increase the number of landmine survivors who have the vision, experience, confidence, tools, and opportunities to promote the cause of all survivors.

The training prepares survivors to participate meaningfully in the substantive work of the Standing Committees, especially the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance. The survivors'

stories and their input to the Committee serve two purposes. They enrich delegates' appreciation of what survivors experience, and provide a channel through which survivors' voices are regularly taken into account within the workings of the committee.

The first cycle of "Raising the Voices" brought eight landmine survivors from Latin America to the May 2001 intersessional meetings in Geneva and to the Third Meeting of States Parties in September 2001 in Managua, Nicaragua. Since their graduation from the program, these survivors have been involved in various activities promoting victim assistance, the Mine Ban Treaty, and the rights of people with disabilities. The Raising the Voices program coordinator has maintained contact with these survivors and provides guidance and feedback, and coordinates additional trainings for the group.

Fourteen survivors from Africa participated in the training program and offered input into the second round of intersessional meetings in 2002. The French/English speaking group of survivors from Chad, Eritrea, Rwanda, Senegal, and Uganda highlighted the need for literacy training for survivors in the January 2002 session of the Standing Committee. The Portuguese/English speaking group included survivors from Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Africa, and Sudan. The group chose to highlight economic integration at the Standing Committee in May 2002 and advocated that all other forms of assistance should ultimately lead to one goal, that survivors be able to earn a living, and to sustain themselves and their families.

Three graduates of the program returned in May 2002 to discuss the work they have done since the training. Nelson Castillo, a landmine survivor from Ecuador, literally changed the law in Ecuador so that disabled military can now continue in military service after their injury rather than be discharged without a living pension or retraining. Danis Hernandez of Nicaragua spoke about his work with the Organization of American States (OAS) in reaching out to rural communities in the countries of Central America to bring mine risk education to these populations. Margaret Arach of Uganda spoke about her counseling work with women landmine survivors and economic reintegration for persons with disabilities.

More details on ICBL Working Group (WG) activities are available on the ICBL website at <http://www.icbl.org/wg>.

NON-STATE ACTORS WORKING GROUP

The Non-State Actors Working Group (NSAWG) was established by country campaigns in the ICBL to address the issue of non-state actors (NSAs) and landmines. One of the main challenges to the movement to ban and completely eradicate antipersonnel mines is the involvement of non-state actors -- or armed groups operating outside of government control -- in the landmine problem. The Working Group sees the need to develop a complementary process to the Mine Ban Treaty to engage NSAs in an unconditional ban on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of landmines and obtain their cooperation on integrated mine action. The Working Group promotes and disseminates research and information related to NSAs and landmines.

In 2001 and the first half of 2002, the NSAWG membership expanded from 17 to 23 country campaigns.⁴ The NSAWG co-chairs are the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines. The NSAWG collaborates closely with the Geneva Call, an independent, international humanitarian NGO, which provides a mechanism for NSAs to sign a "Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action" and/or to deposit their own mine ban declarations. The Deed of Commitment was expanded in 2001, but the main terms of the Deed remain unchanged.⁵

⁴ Country campaign members of the NSA WG now include Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Australia, Colombia, Canada, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Palestine, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, UK, and Zimbabwe.

⁵ The Deed includes now five new operative paragraphs (numbers 6-10) which deal respectively with: non-effect on legal status, publicizing compliance or non-compliance, attracting adherence of other armed groups, complementing or superceding existing unilateral declarations on antipersonnel mines, effectivity upon its signing and receipt by Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva as custodian.

The ICBL NSA Working Group coordinates, supports and initiates activities aimed at promoting NSA engagement on the landmine ban. Working through country campaigns and/or in partnership with other organizations, NSA-related work in 2001 and the first half of 2002 included the following activities.

Regional and International Initiatives

In 2001 and 2002, members of the NSAWG worked to draw governments' attention to the need to engage NSAs on the landmine ban. Following initiatives undertaken by Geneva Call representatives, the European Parliament passed a resolution on 7 September 2001 acknowledging the need to engage NSAs on the mine ban issue. The NSAWG and Geneva Call representatives attending the Fourth Meeting of State Parties in Managua, Nicaragua, in September 2001, worked with the governments of Colombia and the Philippines to successfully introduce wording into the Managua Declaration affirming the need to engage NSAs.

On 7 March 2002, the Geneva Call hosted an informational meeting on NSAs in the European Parliament attended by approximately 40 people, including the two Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Governments and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A). As a result, the European Parliament decided to create a Working Group on NSAs with a special focus on landmines, chaired by Bob van den Boos, a Member of the European Parliament.

NSAWG country campaigners promoted NSA-related work in various fora such as at the Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association Conference in the Philippines in December 2001; the Kuala Lumpur conference on stockpile destruction in August 2001; the Bangkok landmine conference in May 2002; and in various other conferences and seminars.

The Kenya Coalition Against Landmines continued to advocate for the inclusion of the NSA and landmines issue in the East Africa Community/Inter-governmental Agency for Development (EAC/IGAA) sub-region, especially in the peace processes.

Engaging NSAs

NSAWG country campaigns and partners continued their respective initiatives to directly engage NSAs on landmines and to indirectly reach out to NSAs through the media and conferences. Country campaigns in Australia, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, and South Africa, are engaged primarily through a third party, either an organization or individuals who have gained the confidence of the groups concerned. Actual engagement took place with NSAs in Bangladesh, Burma/Thailand, India, Northern Iraq/Iraqi Kurdistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Morocco/Western Sahara.

Key developments on this front included:

Sri Lanka: In January 2002, the Sri Lankan Campaign through the Inter-religious Peace Foundation launched a two million-signature petition campaign aimed at moving both the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) closer to supporting the ban on antipersonnel mines. The LTTE's eastern province leader, Karikalan, declared "full support will be accorded to the people's letter with two million signatures requesting the banning of landmines."⁶ A cease-fire accord, which took effect in February 2002, has hastened demining initiatives. In April 2002, the NSA WG chairs held a special session on Sri Lanka to assess possibilities and coordinate initiatives.⁷

The Philippines: In April 2002, the Philippine Campaign facilitated a Geneva Call mission to the Philippines to investigate alleged antipersonnel mine use by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which secured a reaffirmation of the MILF's commitment to an unconditional ban on antipersonnel mines, understood to be victim-activated. Previously, the MILF had justified use of

⁶ *Daily Mirror*, 25 January 2002, p. 5.

⁷ The meeting was attended by representatives of the Sri Lankan campaign, the International Working Group on Sri Lanka, Landmine Action-UK, Mines Advisory Group, Sri-Lanka Mines Action Resource Center, and the Geneva Call.

antipersonnel mines on “defensive and discriminate” grounds. A highlight was the signing of a new Deed of Commitment under the Geneva Call by the MILF’s Vice-Chairman for Military Affairs and Commander-in-Chief on 7 April 2002. The PCBL continued to track the government peace processes with the different rebel groups (Communist and Moro) in the country to secure a “landmine” component in negotiations.

Sudan: The SPLM/A signed the GC’s “Deed of Commitment” on 4 October 2001, after making a declaration of intent to sign on 10 August 2001. The European Union announced support for a “cross-conflict” project for mine action, with SPLM/A cooperation. NSAWG member country campaign/partners in United Kingdom are also actively involved in the field in Sudan, engaging NSA cooperation for mine action. The Kenya Coalition Against Landmines helped facilitate GC work with the SPLM/A.

Iraqi Kurdistan/Northern Iraq: The GC continued to collaborate with the Turkish campaign to engage in a dialogue with the Kurdish groups from Turkey, Iraq and Iran.

Publications

In September 2001, the NSAWG released a 192-page book on the proceedings and outcome of the “Engaging Non-State Actors in a Landmine Ban, A Pioneering Conference,” held from 24-25 March 2000. A second edition of the Working Group’s brochure was produced in April 2002. The NSA Database previously hosted by International Alert in London is being transferred to Geneva Call. In 2001 and 2002, Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan of the Thai Campaign continued to update the NSA-WG pages of the ICBL website page: www.icbl.org/wg/nsa.

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