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Landmine Monitor is an initiative of the
International Campaign to Ban Landmines,
1997 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate

LANDMINE MONITOR FACT SHEET

Prepared by Human Rights Watch

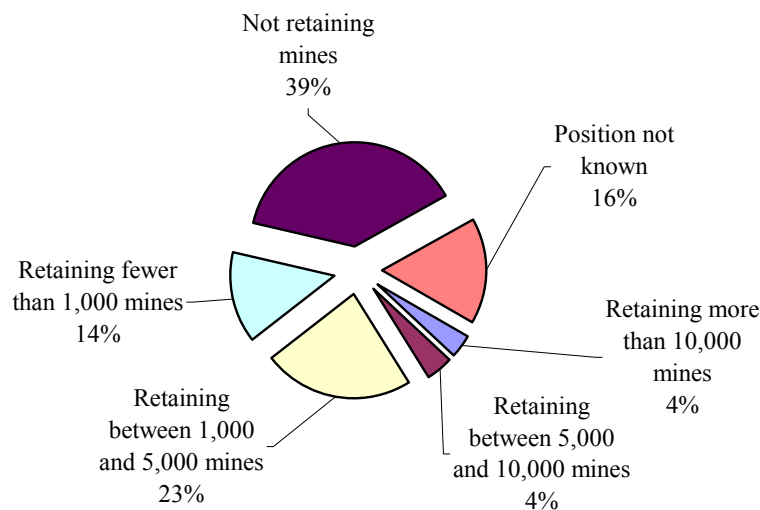
for the Ninth Meeting of the Intersessional Standing Committee
on the General Status and Operation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty

Geneva, Switzerland

9 February 2004

Mines Retained for Training and Research (Article 3)

Of the current 141 States Parties, 64 retain over 289,000 antipersonnel mines for training and research purposes under Article 3 of the Mine Ban Treaty. The status of practice among States Parties in this area is depicted in the following chart:



While significant progress has been made over the past five years, some troubling practices remain that must be addressed before the First Review Conference in November 2004:

- Five States Parties account for nearly half of all the mines retained-- **Turkmenistan** alone accounts for 25 percent, with 69,200 mines retained. Others with very high levels are **Brazil** (16,545), **Sweden** (16,015), **Algeria** (15,030), and **Bangladesh** (15,000).
- Only 16 States Parties reported the consumption of 3,815 antipersonnel mines for permitted purposes in 2002. A total of 29 States apparently did not use any retained mines in 2002.
- Too many States Parties, a total of 23, have not declared the number of mines to be retained.

Notable Developments

- The most distressing development in this area is **Turkmenistan's** announcement that it plans to retain 69,200 antipersonnel mines for training. The ICBL believes that 69,200 mines is an unacceptable, and likely illegal, number. It is obviously not the minimum number absolutely necessary, as required by the treaty.
- **Lithuania** has stated its intention to retain its entire stockpile of 8,091 antipersonnel mines, the seventh largest amount of all States Parties, despite the fact that it conducts only small scale demining training in cooperation with other Baltic countries. **Latvia** appears poised to follow Lithuania's lead, keeping all 2,980 mines, based on its voluntary Article 7 submission of 1 May 2003.
- **Zambia** originally proposed retaining its entire stockpile of 6,691 antipersonnel mines. It subsequently stated its intent to destroy some of the mines, but has not announced how many will be destroyed or when.
- One encouraging trend is the significant number of States Parties that have reduced the number of mines retained from the high levels originally proposed. **Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Peru, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Thailand** have taken this step in previous years. Other States Parties have followed this example more recently: **Chile** reduced the number of mines retained from 28,647 to 6,245; **Italy** reduced from a ceiling of 8,000 mines retained to 811; **Mauritania** reduced from 5,728 to 843; the **United Kingdom** reduced from 4,949 to 1,783; and **Uganda** reduced from 2,400 to 1,764.
- Against the trend of reducing the numbers of mines retained, a handful of countries have actually increased their holdings. **Macedonia FYR** is now retaining 4,000 antipersonnel mines, a vastly greater amount than the 50 originally declared. **Venezuela**, in modifying the number of mines in its stockpile, also increased the number of mines retained from 2,214 to 4,614. Previously undeclared antipersonnel mines held by a private defense manufacturer in **Sweden** resulted in an increase in mines retained from 13,948 to 16,015; however, Sweden is discussing how to reduce the number. **Bosnia & Herzegovina** is now holding 2,525 antipersonnel mines, 120 more than previously reported.

Recommendation

The ICBL continues to question the need for live mines for training and calls on States Parties to continue to evaluate the necessity for this exception, especially for those states that have not used mines for permitted purposes in prior years. The ICBL also encourages all States Parties retaining mines to continue to reduce the numbers held to a level consistent with an annual requirement for live mines actually used in training and research activities. States Parties must also ensure complete transparency on mines retained.

The Final Report of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties in Bangkok in September 2003 states that "the meeting called upon States parties to continue to share information and views, particularly with respect to articles 1, 2, and 3, with a view to developing understandings on various matters by the First Review Conference." With regard to Article 3, the ICBL urges States Parties to affirm the common understanding that the number of retained mines should be "in the hundreds or thousands, or less, and not in the tens of thousands." States Parties should also agree that States should report voluntarily under Article 7 on the intended purpose and actual uses of those mines, including the number used.

Current Levels of Mines Retained for Training

Retaining Mines	Used in 2002	Not Retaining Mines	Not Known
Turkmenistan	69,200	-	Angola
Brazil	16,545	5	Belarus
Sweden	16,015	1,002	Burundi
Algeria	15,030	-	Cape Verde
Bangladesh	15,000	-	Central African Rep.
Japan	9,613	1,610	DR Congo
Lithuania	8,091	-	Cote D'Ivoire
Australia	7,513	213	Cyprus
Zambia	6,691	-	Equatorial Guinea
Croatia	6,546	200	Eritrea
Chile	6,245	-	Greece
Tunisia	5,000	0	Guinea
Thailand	4,970	-	Guyana
Czech Rep.	4,849	0	Liberia
Belgium	4,806	293	Namibia
Venezuela	4,614	-	Nigeria
France	4,479	17	Sao Tome e Principe
South Africa	4,400	55	Serbia & Montenegro
Peru	4,024	0	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Macedonia FYR	4,000	-	Sierra Leone
Romania	4,000	0	Sudan
Spain	4,000	0	Timor Leste
Yemen	4,000	0	Turkey
Ecuador	3,970	-	
Netherlands	3,866	314	
Bulgaria	3,693	0	
Kenya	3,000	0	
Slovenia	3,000	-	
Djibouti	2,996	-	
Germany	2,555	19	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	2,525	0	
Denmark	2,058	33	
Mali	2,000	0	
Nicaragua	1,971	0	
Canada	1,935	12	
Cambodia	1,877	-	
United Kingdom	1,783	-	
Uganda	1,746	-	
Hungary	1,500	50	
Slovakia	1,486	14	
Tanzania	1,146	-	
Portugal	1,115	-	
Argentina	1,000	-	
Jordan	1,000	0	
Luxembourg	988	10	
Colombia	986	-	
Moldova	849	0	
Mauritania	843	-	
Honduras	826	0	
Italy	811	-	
Zimbabwe	700	0	
Cameroon	500	0	
Uruguay	500	0	
Togo	436	-	
Rep. Congo	372	-	
Suriname	296	-	
Tajikistan	255	-	
Ireland	116	9	
Rwanda	101	-	
El Salvador	96	0	
Mauritius	93	-	
Botswana	unk	-	
Guinea Bissau	unk	-	
Mozambique	unk	-	