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## LANDMINE MONITOR FACT SHEET

### Prepared by Human Rights Watch

For the Fifth Meeting of the Intersessional Standing Committee  
on the General Status and Operation of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty

Geneva, Switzerland

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### Claymore Mines

#### (Article 2)

*Claymore mines used in command detonated mode are permitted by the Mine Ban Treaty. However, use of Claymore mines in tripwire mode is prohibited. Though not legally obligated, States Parties should report on stockpiled Claymore mines and steps taken to ensure their use in command detonated mode only. This will contribute to effective and uniform state practice regarding use of Claymore mines.*

A Claymore mine is a generic term for a round or rectangular directional fragmentation munition that can function either in a command-detonated or victim-activated mode. They are mostly mounted above ground level and are designed to have antipersonnel effects. However, some of the larger variants of this type can be used to damage light vehicles.

When operated in the command-detonated mode, Claymore mines do not meet the definition of an antipersonnel mine in the Mine Ban Treaty. However, it is prohibited to use Claymore mines equipped with a tripwire in conjunction with a pull or tension release mechanical fuze as an initiating device.

The ICBL has repeatedly called for States Parties to include in their annual Article 7 reports information regarding stockpiles of Claymore mines and what measures they have taken to ensure that the mines cannot function in a victim-activated mode. Though not required by Article 7, provision of this important information will contribute to effective and uniform state practice regarding Claymore mines.

When initially produced by the United States, the Claymore was classified as an antipersonnel mine without regard for the activation mode. In fact, the designation "APERS Mine" was stamped into back of the plastic body. Between 1969 and 1992 the United States exported 1.36 million Claymore mines to the following 28 countries:<sup>1</sup> Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, El

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Watch obtained this information in August 1994 through a Freedom of Information Act request to the Defense Security Assistance Agency and U.S. Army



Salvador, Greece, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Many countries have either copied the original U.S. design or have produced mines with similar function. Countries that have produced a Claymore mine cosmetically similar to the U.S. design include China, Egypt, South Africa, and South Korea. In 2001 there were media reports that a South Korean company was pursuing sales of Claymore mines to Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore. These sales apparently did not occur because of a copyright dispute with between the United States and South Korea.

Other countries that also reported to have produced a Claymore mine include Austria, France, Italy, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Thailand, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, and Zimbabwe. The most common types of these Claymore-type mines are the MON series produced in the former Soviet Union and the MRUD produced in the former Yugoslavia.

Claymore-type mines have been found or cleared in demining operations in at least 33 mine-affected countries and regions: Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Chad, Chechnya, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Northern Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan), Rwanda, Thailand, Vietnam, Western Sahara, Yugoslavia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

A total of 15 States Parties are known to have decided to retain operational stocks of Claymore mines. These countries include: Australia, Austria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, Hungary, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as Honduras and Thailand which reversed their initial position of destroying their Claymore mines and have apparently chosen to retain them.

Representatives of several of these States Parties have made statements to Landmine Monitor confirming that measures have been taken to insure that their Claymore mines cannot be used in the victim-activated mode or that they have destroyed the tripwire assemblies and mechanical fuzes. These include Austria, Canada, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Norway made a detailed presentation at the December 2000 meeting of the Intersessional Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction of the steps it has taken ensure that its Claymore mines are permanently modified to operate only in a command-activated mode. No State Party has reported on modification measures of Claymore mines in their annual transparency measures reports required under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty.

A total of 11 States Parties have signaled their intention to destroy their stocks of Claymore mines, aside for those retained under Article 3 for training or research purposes, or to not retain any Claymore mines: Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jordan, Nicaragua, Peru, and Turkmenistan. The Philippines destroyed all of its Claymore mines, but is now considering re-obtaining them.

No indication has been received from the following States Parties that are known to have at one time produced, imported, or stockpiled Claymore mines on their interpretation of this issue: Eritrea, France, Germany, Italy, Malaysia, Moldova, Mozambique, Romania, South Africa, and Zimbabwe.

This fact sheet is based on information as of 25 January 2002.  
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