



An initiative of the International
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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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Mines Retained for Training and Development (Article 3)

A total of 38 of the current 122 States Parties have declared their intention to exercise the option to retain antipersonnel mines for training and development purposes as permitted by Article 3 of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Of these states, only ten intend to keep more than 5,000 mines. Brazil (16,550), Argentina (13,025), Japan (12,513), Sweden (11,120), and Italy (8,000) are keeping the most antipersonnel mines permitted under Article 3.

Fifty States Parties have chosen not to retain any antipersonnel mines. A total of 12 of these states once stockpiled mines but have destroyed them or are in the process of destroying them. Thirty-four States Parties have not yet declared whether they intend to retain any antipersonnel mines under the Article 3 exception.

Article 3 states that the amount of retained mines "shall not exceed the minimum number absolutely necessary..." In its report to the Third Meeting of States Parties in Managua in September 2001, the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation recommended that States Parties should reaffirm the understanding reached during Mine Ban Treaty negotiations in 1997 that the number of retained mines should be "in the hundreds or thousands, and not in the tens of thousands."

After the ICBL and many States Parties repeatedly raised this issue, at least 10 states decided to decrease the number of mines kept: Australia from 10,000 to 7,845; Bulgaria from 10,446 to 4,000; Croatia from 17,500 to 7,000, Denmark from 4,991 to 2,106, Ecuador from 16,000 to 4,000, Peru from 9,526 to 5,578; Slovakia from 7,000 to 1,500; Spain from 10,000 to 4,000; Thailand from 15,600 to 5,000. Slovenia confirms that it will reduce the number of antipersonnel mines retained from 7,000 to 1,500 after 2003.

Some States Parties are retaining an unusually high percentage of their original antipersonnel mine stockpile for training and development: Mauritania is retaining 54 percent of its original stockpile, Brazil is retaining 49 percent; Mali, 39 percent; Tunisia, 28 percent; Zimbabwe, 17 percent; Argentina, 15 percent; and Honduras, 11 percent. All other remaining States Parties are retaining less than 5 percent of their original stockpile.

Those States Parties retaining more than 5 percent of their original stockpile should explain the necessity for retaining such a large percentage of their stockpile. Additionally, States Parties should explain the necessity for retaining mines in their stockpiles that are not frequently encountered in mine-affected countries. For example, Japan retains for training and development over 12,000 antipersonnel mines of Japanese manufacture, but antipersonnel mines of Japanese manufacture are not encountered in mine-affected countries.

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. The ICBL believes that it is important to have complete transparency on mines retained for training, and strongly supports the recommendation of the Standing Committee in its report to the Managua Meeting that States Parties should in their Article 7 reports “include information on the intended purpose and actual use” of retained mines. Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Italy, and South Africa have provided such information in their annual Article 7 reports submitted in 2001.

Transfers of Mines for Training and Development

Article 3 of the Mine Ban Treaty allows transfers of antipersonnel mines for research and development of demining technologies and for training as well as for the purpose of destruction. Several states parties have commendably reported these activities in their Article 7 reports:

- Canada’s Department of National Defense received a transfer of four mines (two PROM 1, one MRUD, and one PMR 2A) from the UN Mine Action Coordination Center in Kosovo between March 2000 and February 2001.
- In September 1999, Nicaragua authorized the transfer of 286 mines to MARMINCA JID-OEA to be used in the training of mine detecting dogs.
- In 1999, the Danish Defence Command authorized transfer of mines to both Sweden and the Netherlands for development and training purposes. In October 1999 Sweden received 92 M/58 mines and 189 M/56 mines and in December 1999 the Netherlands acquired 864 M/66 mines.

This fact sheet is based on information as of 25 January 2002.
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Mines Retained Under Article 3 by States Parties

Retaining Mines		Not Retaining Mines	Not Known
Brazil	16,550	Albania (*)	Algeria
Argentina	13,025	Andorra	Bangladesh
Japan	12,513	Antigua Barbuda	Cape Verde
Sweden	11,120	Austria (*)	Chad
Italy	8,000	Bahamas	Chile
Australia	7,845	Barbados	Colombia
Croatia	7,000	Belize	Congo Brazzaville
Slovenia	7,000	Benin	Cote D'Ivoire
Mauritania	5,918	Bolivia	Djibouti
Belgium	5,770	Burkina Faso	Equatorial Guinea
Thailand	5,000	Costa Rica	Eritrea
Tunisia	5,000	Dominica	Guinea
Denmark	4,991	Dominican Rep.	Guinea Bissau
Peru	4,978	El Salvador (*)	Kenya
Czech Republic	4,859	Fiji	Liberia
United Kingdom	4,519	Gabon	Malta
France	4,514	Ghana	Mauritius
South Africa	4,505	Grenada	Moldova
Bulgaria	4,000	Guatemala (*)	Namibia
Ecuador	4,000	Holy See	Niger
Spain	4,000	Hungary (*)	Nigeria
Yemen	4,000	Iceland	Qatar
Netherlands	3,532	Jamaica	Romania
Portugal	3,000	Kiribati	St. Vincent & Gren.
Germany	2,753	Lesotho	Seychelles
Bosnia Herzegovina	2,405	Liechtenstein	Sierra Leone
Mali	2,000	Madagascar	Tajikistan
Nicaragua	1,971	Malaysia (*)	Tanzania
Canada	1,668	Malawi	Togo
Slovakia	1,500	Maldives	Uganda
Cambodia	1,000	Mexico	Uruguay
Jordan	1,000	Monaco	Venezuela
Luxembourg	998	Mozambique (*)	Zambia
Honduras	826	Nauru	
Zimbabwe	700	New Zealand (*)	
Ireland	129	Niue	
Macedonia FYR	50	Norway (*)	
Botswana	unknown	Panama	
		Paraguay	
		Philippines (*)	
		Rwanda	
		Saint Kitts and Nevis	
		Saint Lucia	
		Samoa	
		San Marino	
		Senegal	
		Solomon Islands	
		Swaziland	
		Switzerland (*)	
		Trinidad Tobago	
		Turkmenistan (*)	

The use of the (*) symbol in the "Not Retaining" column indicates states that once stockpiled mines but have destroyed them or in the process of destroying them.