

*****Save the date*****

LANDMINE MONITOR 2010 GLOBAL RELEASE 24 NOVEMBER 2010

Landmine Monitor will be released globally at a press conference hosted by Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor in Geneva, Switzerland.

This is the 12th *Landmine Monitor* report, the sister publication to the *Cluster Munition Monitor* report, which was published for the first time this year. *Landmine Monitor 2010* covers landmine ban policy, use, production, trade, and stockpiling for every country in the world, and also includes information on landmine and explosive remnant of war contamination, casualties, clearance, and victim assistance. The report focuses on the period from May 2009, with information included up to August 2010 when possible.

Landmine Monitor 2010 is being released in advance of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, being held in Geneva, Switzerland from 29 November –3 December 2010.

WHAT: Press conference to launch *Landmine Monitor 2010*

WHO: Members of the Monitor's Editorial Team, some of the world's leading experts on landmines, will be on hand to answer media questions and conduct interviews in English and French.

WHEN: Wednesday 24 November, 10:00-11:00

WHERE: Press Room III, Palais des Nations, Avenue de la Paix, Geneva

*The entire report is embargoed until after the press conference. Hard copies of the report and a **media kit** in English, French, and Spanish will be available at the press conference and posted online at www.the-monitor.org.*

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

- Ms. Amelie Chayer, ICBL Communications Officer, mobile +41-78-728-53-20 (23 November-3 December) and +33-6-89-55-12-81, email amelie@icbl.org
- Jacqueline Hansen, Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor Program Manager, mobile +41-78-606-94-68 (22 November-3 December) and +1-613-851-5436, email jackie@icbl.org

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EMBARGOED UNTIL 10:00 GMT, 24 NOVEMBER 2010

RECORD-BREAKING PROGRESS FOR MINE BAN **According to *Landmine Monitor 2010* released today**

Geneva, 24 November 2010 – Record-breaking progress in implementing the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty was made in 2009. Use and production of the weapon, as well as casualty rates, were the lowest on record, while more contaminated land was cleared than ever before according to *Landmine Monitor 2010*, released today at the United Nations.

In 2009, 3,956 new landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties were recorded, the lowest number for any year since the Monitor began reporting in 1999. The Monitor removed Nepal from its list of mine producers, leaving a dozen countries on the list, of which as few as three are believed to continue to actively manufacture antipersonnel mines (India, Myanmar, and Pakistan). For the first time the Monitor did not list Russia as a mine user, leaving Myanmar as the only government confirmed as using mines in 2009–2010.

An area over five times the size of Paris was cleared of mine/ERW contamination in 2009. International funding for mine action remained stable despite the global economic downturn. International support for mine action totaled US\$449 million, the fourth consecutive year that funding has surpassed \$400 million.

“The record progress made in the past year toward eliminating antipersonnel mines shows that the Mine Ban Treaty is working,” said Mark Hiznay of Human Rights Watch, *Landmine Monitor*’s Final Editor. “Sustained action by governments and civil society, including stable funding, are the key to ensure this progress continues until we completely eliminate the weapon.”

Eighty percent of the world’s states are party to the Mine Ban Treaty. Thirty-nine countries—including China, India, Pakistan, Russia, and the United States—have yet to join the treaty, but most are in *de facto* compliance with many of the treaty’s key provisions. The US is engaged in a comprehensive review of its landmine policy.

In 2009 and 2010, in addition to government forces in Myanmar, non-state armed groups in only six countries (Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Yemen) continued to use the weapon. There were disturbing allegations of use of mines by the armed forces of Turkey, a State Party, which the government is investigating.

Eighty-six states have completed destruction of their stockpiles, collectively destroying over 45 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines. In 2010, however, Ukraine joined Belarus, Greece, and Turkey in failing to meet their treaty-mandated stockpile destruction deadlines, placing all four in serious violation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

In 2009, a total of 66 states and seven other areas were confirmed or suspected to be mine-affected. In 2009 and 2010 seven countries announced completion of their clearance activities (Albania, China, Greece, Nicaragua, Rwanda, Tunisia, and Zambia).

Mine action programs cleared at least 198km² of mined areas in 2009, by far the highest annual total ever recorded by the Monitor, resulting in the destruction of more than 255,000 antipersonnel mines and 37,000 antivehicle mines. At least 359km² of former battle areas were cleared in 2009, disposing of 2.2 million ERW. Eighty percent of recorded clearance occurred in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, and Sri Lanka.

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Ensuring full compliance with Mine Ban Treaty clearance obligations is one of the greatest challenges facing States Parties. As of September 2010, 22 States Parties had received or were formally seeking extensions to their mine clearance deadlines. According to Stuart Casey-Maslen of Norwegian People's Aid, the Monitor's Mine Action Editor, "Too many of the State Parties granted extensions in 2008 and 2009 have since made disappointing progress and in some it has been totally unacceptable. Venezuela, for example, has not even started clearance operations more than a decade after ratifying the treaty."

A 28% reduction in the number of recorded mine and ERW casualties in 2009 is cause for hope, although because of incomplete data collection the actual number of casualties is certainly significantly higher. Some improvement in victim assistance services was noted in 11 countries or other areas in 2009, but declined in nine others. "While survivors know their needs and rights best, it is disappointing survivors or their representative organizations were involved in victim assistance implementation in less than half of affected countries," said Katleen Maes of Handicap International, the Monitor's Casualties and Victim Assistance Editor. "Given that survivor participation usually consists of small, non-governmental peer support activities, much work remains to be done to ensure that survivors are decision-makers whose rights are respected."

The \$449 million in international support for mine action in 2009 is roughly equal to 2008 contributions. The United States gave the most money (\$119 million), while Afghanistan received the most (\$107 million). Just 9% of funding for mine action was dedicated to victim assistance.

This is the 12th annual Landmine Monitor report. *Landmine Monitor 2010* covers global developments in landmine ban policy, use, production, trade, and stockpiling, and also includes information on landmine and ERW contamination, casualties, clearance, and victim assistance. The report covers calendar year 2009, with information included up to August 2010 when possible.

Landmine Monitor 2010 is being released in advance of the Tenth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, being held in Geneva, Switzerland on 29 November–3 December 2010.

The Monitor was created in June 1998 by the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines and is coordinated by an Editorial Board drawn from five organizations: Mines Action Canada, Action On Armed Violence, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, and Norwegian People's Aid. It constitutes a sustainable and systematic way for non-governmental organizations to monitor and report on the implementation of humanitarian and disarmament treaties. The Monitor released the first Cluster Munition Monitor report earlier this month.

Landmine Monitor 2010 and related documents will be available at 10:00 GMT on 24 November at www.the-monitor.org/lm/2010.

For more information or to schedule an interview, contact:

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Landmine Monitor 2010

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Key Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor team members are available for in-person and telephone interviews. They are all well-versed in *Landmine Monitor 2010* findings, have interesting personal stories, perspectives, and in-depth knowledge of landmine and explosive remnants of war issues. These individuals can provide interviews on the global landmine situation and specific countries.

Interviews can be arranged in English, French, and Dutch.

To request an interview please contact:

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Geneva (GMT+1)

Mr. Stuart Casey-Maslen

Casey-Maslen works with Norwegian People's Aid and coordinates the Monitor's research on mine action. He also sits on the Monitor Editorial Board. Languages: English, French.

Mr. Stephen Goose

Serving as the Editor-in-Chief of the Landmine Monitor report from 1999-2004, the Monitor's Ban Policy Editor, and Cluster Munition Monitor's Final Editor, Goose is the Executive Director of the Arms division at Human Rights Watch. He also sits on the Monitor's Editorial Board. Language: English.

Mr. Mark Hiznay

Hiznay is a senior researcher in the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch, where he works on all aspects of landmines and cluster munitions issues. He is an expert on the technical and policy aspects of these munitions. Language: English.

Ms. Jacqueline Hansen

Hansen served on ICBL staff until early 2005 when she became the Monitor's Program Manager. Language: English.

Ms. Katleen Maes

Maes works with Handicap International and coordinates the Monitor's research on casualties and victim assistance. Languages: English, French, Dutch.

QUICK FACTS

Use

The Monitor identified only one government laying antipersonnel mines: Myanmar.

Antipersonnel mine use by non-state armed groups was confirmed in six countries—Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Yemen.

This is the lowest level of recorded use since the Monitor began reporting in 1999. For the first time, Russia was not identified as an active user.

Production

The Monitor identified 12 producers of antipersonnel mines—the smallest total ever recorded.

Of the 12, as few as three were actively manufacturing mines—India, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

Following official declarations of non-production, Nepal was removed from the list of producers.

Casualties

In 2009, 3,956 new casualties to landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) were recorded, the lowest annual total since monitoring began in 1999 and 28% lower than in 2008.

Due to incomplete data collection, the actual number of casualties was certainly higher than recorded.

Contamination

A total of 66 states and seven other areas were confirmed or suspected to be mine-affected. This is a decrease of three states.

Mine Action

Mine action programs cleared at least 198km² of mined areas in 2009, by far the highest annual total ever recorded by the Monitor, resulting in the destruction of more than 255,000 antipersonnel mines and 37,000 antivehicle mines. At least 359km² of former battle areas were cleared in 2009, disposing of 2.2 million items of ERW.

Programs in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, and Sri Lanka accounted for more than 80% of the total recorded clearance.

Mine/ERW risk education continued to be conducted in many affected locations, with new projects being initiated in Algeria and Pakistan.

Victim Assistance

In 2009, there was some improvement in quality and/or accessibility of victim assistance services in 11 countries or other areas, but a decline in nine others.

While victim assistance coordination improved in some places, the vast majority of countries did not provide assistance based on data assessing the number of survivors and their needs.

Survivors or their representative organizations participated in victim assistance implementation in under half of affected countries, mostly through non-governmental peer support networks.

Only 15 international donors reported supporting victim assistance, totaling US\$38 million—only 9% of the global total of funding for mine action.

Support for Mine Action

Donors and affected states devoted about \$622 million to mine action in 2009.

Thirty-three donors contributed \$449 million to 54 countries/ areas, nearly the same as in 2008.

2009 saw the third highest level of international funding ever and was the fourth year in a row of

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LANDMINE & CLUSTER MUNITION MONITOR



The Monitor provides research and monitoring for the Cluster Munition Coalition and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.
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international contributions totaling over \$400 million.
Contributions from the top five mine action donors—the United States, European Commission, Japan, Norway, and Germany—accounted for 61% of all funding.
The top five recipient states—Afghanistan, Iraq, Cambodia, Sudan, and Sri Lanka—received almost 50% of all international mine action contributions in 2009. Afghanistan received the most for one state with \$107 million.
National mine action contributions from affected states increased from \$144 million in 2008 to \$173 million in 2009, with Croatia and Angola accounting for 56% of the total.

Mine Ban Treaty Implementation and Compliance 2009–2010

The Good	The Bad
156 countries have joined the Mine Ban Treaty—80% of the world's nations.	No state has joined the treaty since Palau acceded in November 2007.
The Cartagena Action Plan adopted at the Second Review Conference provides an ambitious and concrete five-year roadmap to implement and universalize the Mine Ban Treaty.	
There has been no need for States Parties to invoke the treaty's formal compliance provisions to clarify any compliance matters.	There are highly disturbing allegations that members of the armed forces in Turkey used antipersonnel mines in 2009; these are currently the subject of a legal investigation by Turkey.
86 states have completed the destruction of their stockpiles, collectively destroying over 45 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines.	Ukraine missed its stockpile destruction deadline in June 2010 and is in violation of the treaty; as are Belarus, Greece, and Turkey, which missed their deadlines in March 2008.
A rigorous process is in place for extending the 10-year mine clearance deadlines. As of September 2010, 22 States Parties have received or were formally seeking additional time. In June 2010, Nicaragua formally declared that it had completed its clearance obligations. It was the 16 th state to do so; Albania, Greece, Rwanda, Tunisia, and Zambia declared they fulfilled their clearance obligations in 2009.	Too many States Parties granted extensions in 2008 and 2009 have since made disappointing progress. Of greatest concern is Venezuela, which has not started clearance operations more than 10 years after ratifying the treaty.
	The rate of compliance with submitting annual transparency reports is at an all-time low (56%); Equatorial Guinea is 11 years late with its initial report.
	Less than 40% of states have passed domestic laws to implement the treaty.

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SAMPLE ARTICLE

RECORD-BREAKING PROGRESS FOR MINE BAN

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“The record progress made in the past year toward eliminating antipersonnel mines shows that the Mine Ban Treaty is working,” said Mark Hiznay of Human Rights Watch, Landmine Monitor’s Final Editor. “Sustained action by governments and civil society, including stable funding, are the key to ensure this progress continues until we completely eliminate the weapon.”

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