

# SAFELANE

## CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT

Fall/Winter 2001  
Number 13



# Mine action in the Americas

Landmine survivors  
learn new skills  
*Page 16*



Department of Foreign Affairs  
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères  
et du Commerce international

Canada 

# Landmine ban support continues to grow

## Countries that have formally accepted the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines (119 as of August 27, 2001)

Albania	Honduras	Saint Lucia
Andorra	Hungary	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Antigua and Barbuda	Iceland	Samoa
Argentina	Ireland	San Marino
Australia	Italy	Senegal
Austria	Jamaica	Seychelles
Bahamas	Japan	Sierra Leone
Bangladesh	Jordan	Slovak Republic
Barbados	Kenya	Slovenia
Belgium	Kiribati	Solomon Islands
Belize	Lesotho	South Africa
Benin	Liberia	Spain
Bolivia	Liechtenstein	Swaziland
Bosnia Herzegovina	Luxembourg	Sweden
Botswana	Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of	Switzerland
Brazil	Madagascar	Tajikistan
Bulgaria	Malawi	Tanzania
Burkina Faso	Malaysia	Thailand
Cambodia	Maldives	Trinidad and Tobago
Canada	Mali	Togo
Cape Verde	Malta	Tunisia
Chad	Mauritania	Turkmenistan
Colombia	Mauritius	Uganda
Congo	Mexico	United Kingdom
Costa Rica	Moldova	Uruguay
Cote d'Ivoire	Monaco	Venezuela
Croatia	Mozambique	Yemen
Czech Republic	Namibia	Zambia
Denmark	Nauru	Zimbabwe
Djibouti	Netherlands	
Dominica	New Zealand	
Dominican Republic	Nicaragua	
Ecuador	Niger	
El Salvador	Niue	
Equatorial Guinea	Norway	
Eritrea	Panama	
Fiji	Paraguay	
France	Peru	
Gabon	Philippines	
Germany	Portugal	
Ghana	Qatar	
Grenada	Romania	
Guatemala	Rwanda	
Guinea	Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Guinea-Bissau		
Holy See		

## Countries that have not formally accepted the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel mines (74 as of August 27, 2001)

\* Indicates that the country signed the Convention

Afghanistan	Guyana*	Palau
Algeria*	Haiti*	Papua New Guinea
Angola*	India	Poland*
Armenia	Indonesia*	Russian Federation
Azerbaijan	Iran	Sao Tomé
Bahrain	Iraq	Saudi Arabia
Belarus	Israel	Singapore
Bhutan	Kazakhstan	Somalia
Brunei Darussalam*	Korea, Democratic Peoples Republic of	Sri Lanka
Burundi*	Korea, Republic of	Sudan*
Cameroon*	Kuwait	Suriname*
Central African Republic	Kyrgyz Republic	Syria
Chile*	Laos	Tonga
China	Latvia	Turkey
Comoros	Lebanon	Tuvalu
Cook Islands*	Libya	Ukraine*
Cuba	Lithuania*	United Arab Emirates
Cyprus*	Marshall Islands*	United States
Democratic Republic of Congo	Micronesia	Uzbekistan
Egypt	Mongolia	Vanuatu*
Estonia	Morocco	Vietnam
Ethiopia*	Myanmar	Yugoslavia, Federal Republic of
Finland	Nepal	
Gambia*	Nigeria	
Georgia	Oman	
Greece*	Pakistan	



## SAFELANE

CANADA'S LANDMINE BAN REPORT

Fall/Winter 2001, Number 13

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Cover photo: Michael Simpson/One Sky. Story page 16.



Minister Manley and landmine survivor Song Kosal lead a Canadian Landmine Awareness Week panel discussion at Ottawa's Rideau High School.

Denis Dreier

## Our efforts will continue until the job is done

Since the mid-1990s, the states of the Americas have been mindful of the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines and have been leaders in efforts to comprehensively address the impact of these weapons.

The Americas was the first region to use multilateral cooperation mechanisms to call for the global elimination of anti-personnel mines and to support the Ottawa Process, and states of the Americas have committed themselves to making the Western Hemisphere mine-free.

Since the initial activism in the Americas on the landmine issue, a tremendous amount of progress has been made toward addressing the problem. Several states in the region, including El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Canada, have reported the complete destruction of their anti-personnel mine stockpiles. Impressive strides have been made to clear mined land, with major progress having been made along the Peru-Ecuador border and in Central America. The delivery of mine awareness education in mine affected areas is helping to prevent high-risk behaviour. And landmine survivors are receiving more and better services, in part through a Canadian-sponsored program to raise the voices of landmine survivors and ensure that their views are heard in matters that affect them.

The Third Meeting of the States Parties (TMSP) to the Ottawa Convention in Managua, September 2001,

### *Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, John Manley*

provides the Americas with an opportunity to showcase the efforts of states and non-governmental and international organizations to implement the Ottawa Convention in this region.

For its part, Canada has supported mine clearance in Peru, Ecuador, Honduras and Nicaragua; survivor assistance programs in Central America; mine awareness education in Colombia and Nicaragua; and stockpile destruction throughout the region. To accelerate the implementation of the Convention in the Americas, Canada has, since September 2000, supported the Managua Challenge, designed to provide greater assistance to states that are willing to work together to implement aspects of the Convention in time for the TMSP.

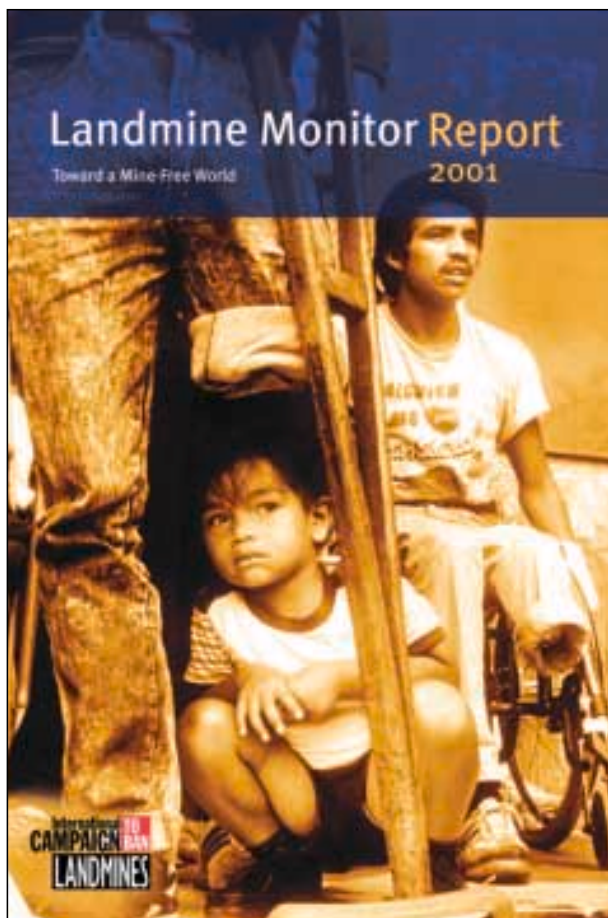
Without a doubt, states in the Americas have been leaders on the landmine issue. However, once the Third Meeting of the States Parties concludes, our work must continue.

This meeting provides us with a chance to reaffirm the commitment we made when we ratified the Ottawa Convention. I remain personally committed to ensuring the success of the Convention and I know that I am not alone in the Americas in stating that our efforts will continue until the job is done.

We have accomplished a great deal in a spirit of partnership and with the important support of the Organisation of American States, but we must not allow our level of engagement to diminish until we have truly reached our goal: a hemisphere free of anti-personnel mines. I look forward to arriving at the Convention's Review Conference in 2004 having met this goal.

# Global community gathers to measure progress

## The Third Meeting of the States Parties and the Ottawa Convention's Standing Committees



### Landmine Monitor Report 2001

will be released on September 12 in advance of the Third Meeting of the States Parties. This 1,175-page document is the third annual report of the Landmine Monitor international civil society reporting initiative and contains landmine-related information on every country in the world. It will be available from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and on the web at [www.icbl.org/lm](http://www.icbl.org/lm).

States Parties to the Ottawa Convention will return to a mine affected country when they convene for their annual meeting in Nicaragua in September 2001.

Representatives from over 100 states will gather in Nicaragua's capital, Managua, for the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention from September 18 to 21.

Under Article 11 of the Convention, States Parties are required to meet annually until the Convention's first Review Conference in 2004. The Meetings of the States Parties consider the application and implementation of the Convention and review the work of the four Standing Committees established by States Parties. The First Meeting of the States Parties was held in Maputo, Mozambique in May 1999 and the Second Meeting was held at the United Nations in Geneva in September 2000.

The Standing

Committees undertake a program of work between Meetings of the States Parties, aimed at consolidating global mine action efforts and highlighting the Convention as a comprehensive framework for mine action.

Over the past year, the following four Standing Committees each met twice: Mine Clearance and Related Technology; Victim Assistance, Socio-Economic Reintegration and Mine Awareness; Stockpile Destruction; and the General Status and Operation of the Convention.

At the Third Meeting of the States Parties, the four Standing Committees will issue their final reports and new Co-Chairs and Co-Rapporteurs will be selected to proceed with another cycle of intersessional work culminating in the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties.

The following are some highlights of the Committees' work in 2000-2001.



Michael Simpson/One Sky

### The Victim Assistance, Socio-Economic Reintegration and Mine Awareness Committee:

- Supported an initiative to deepen the involvement of landmine survivors in matters that affect them at the international level and in their communities;
- Promoted voluntary reporting of victim assistance programs and the use of the *Portfolio of Victim Assistance Programs* as a means to link resources with needs;
- Produced and distributed *Providing Assistance to Landmine Victims*, a compilation of victim assistance guidelines, best practices and methodologies;
- Raised awareness of the obligation of states to support the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration of landmine survivors and investigated issues related to vocational rehabilitation and peer-counselling initiatives.



Nicolas Drouin/CIDA

### The Mine Clearance and Related Technology Committee:

- Reviewed work related to socio-economic approaches to mine action, the global landmine survey effort and revisions to the United Nations International Standards for Mine Action;
- Examined the implementation and further development of the *Information Management System for Mine Action*;
- Received updates on the work of the Integrated Test and Evaluation Program for mine action technologies.



Bjorn Holmberg/UN-LIREC

### The Stockpile Destruction Committee:

- Explored avenues for finding new resources for stockpile destruction programs;
- Investigated enhancing the role of the United Nations in stockpile destruction;
- Received reports on conferences held in Budapest, Hungary; Bamako, Mali; and Buenos Aires, Argentina, which focussed on stockpile destruction.

### The General Status and Operation of the Convention Committee:

- Developed an *Article 7 Reporting Guide* and established an Article 7 Contact Group to promote a higher rate of compliance with the Convention's reporting obligations;
- Undertook a detailed examination of practical matters related to operationalizing the Convention's compliance provisions;
- Developed a guide to assist states in establishing legislation in accordance with Article 9 of the Convention.

# THE MANAGUA CHALLENGE: Toward a mine-free hemisphere

In September 2000, Nicaragua's Defence Minister invited the international mine action community to join him in Managua, September 2001 for the Third Meeting of the States Parties (TMSP) to the Ottawa Convention.

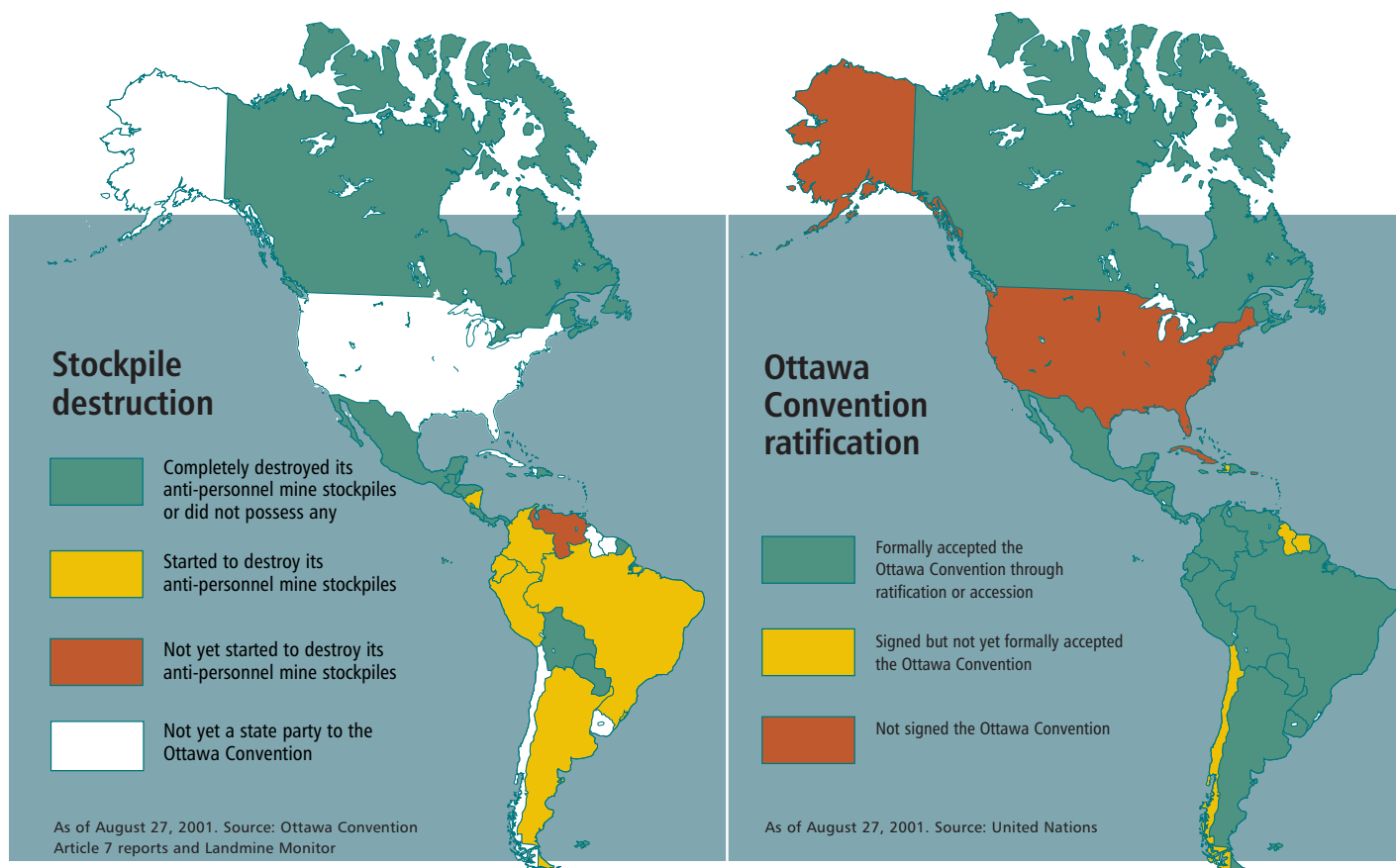
Holding the meeting in the Americas provides a focus on the mine problem in the region and the progress made in addressing it. To further this progress, the time-specific Managua Challenge was issued to states of the Americas that had signed or ratified the Convention, calling for:

- All States Parties to the Convention in the Americas to arrive in Managua with their anti-personnel mine stockpiles completely destroyed.
- Convention signatories in the Americas that had not yet ratified to complete the ratification process before the Managua meeting.
- All States Parties to the Convention in the Americas to complete their Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports in time for the meeting.

Since then, significant progress has been made in meeting the Managua Challenge.

## Stockpile destruction

Honduras has completed the destruction of its stockpiled mines and Ecuador, Peru and Colombia have committed to destroying theirs prior to the TMSP. Nicaragua is also well on its way to completing its destruction. Canada has been working closely with the Organisation of American States (OAS) to help these states meet the Challenge.





## Ottawa Convention ratification

When the Challenge was launched, six signatory countries in the Americas had not ratified the Convention. As of August 27, Uruguay and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had ratified, Chile and Suriname were in the final stages of their ratification processes and Guyana had begun its ratification process.

## Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports

Reports submitted by states parties reflect national implementation of the Convention and provide valuable information for those working to address the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel

mines. They also fulfil the obligation to provide annual input to the OAS Register of Anti-personnel Land Mines. To this end, Canada hosted a special session for OAS Member States on the drafting of Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports in Washington, May 18, 2001.

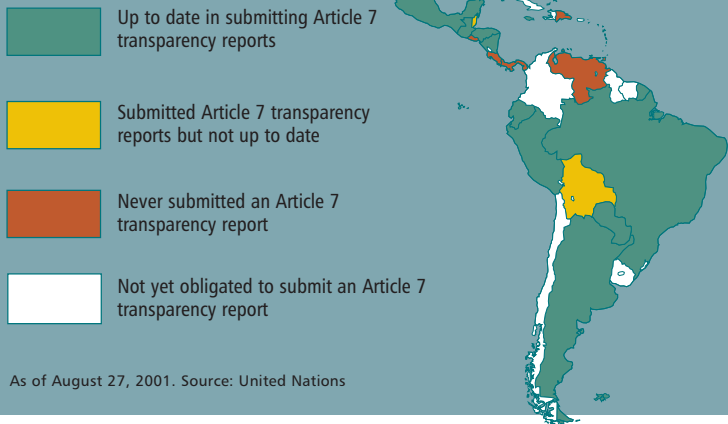
**Holding the meeting in the Americas provides a focus on the mine problem in the region and the progress made in addressing it.**



A stockpile destruction blast in Peru, May 30, 2001

Bjorn Holmberg/UN-ILREC

## Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports



As of August 27, 2001. Source: United Nations

## THE MANAGUA CHALLENGE FUND

The Managua Challenge Fund was created in November 2000 following the Regional Stockpile Destruction Seminar in Buenos Aires, to assist OAS Member States to acquire the most appropriate technologies and methodologies for the destruction of their AP mine stockpiles. It can also be used for stockpile destruction monitoring and verification measures, and completing Ottawa Convention Article 7 transparency reports. Administered by the OAS Mine Action Team, the Fund has received \$US 450,000 from Canada and \$AU 75,000 from Australia.

## STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION

# BUENOS AIRES SEMINAR: Advancing stockpile destruction in the Americas

A seminar on stockpile destruction held in Buenos Aires in 2000 covered items ranging from technical details to budgeting guidelines for countries of the Americas working to meet their Ottawa Convention stockpile destruction obligations. Canada and Argentina, with the collaboration of the Organisation of American States, co-hosted the Regional Seminar on Stockpile Destruction of Anti-Personnel Mines in the Americas in Buenos Aires, November 6 and 7, 2000.

The seminar brought together states of the Americas to exchange information on destruction methodologies. During the two-day meeting, participants compared experiences, best practices and lessons learned to date on stockpile destruction – from donor assistance and budgeting, to appropriate safety measures, the technical details of carrying out a destruction and verification.

The anti-personnel mines held in the Western Hemisphere are generally not very complicated to destroy. Virtually all of them can be destroyed by open detonation at relatively little cost to the states that possess them. However, safety standards must be followed to ensure safe and efficient destruction.

Canada offers technical and financial support through the Managua Challenge Fund to help states parties to the Convention to meet their stockpile destruction obligations.

### Steps to stockpile destruction

*(Below left)* Officials at the November 2000 Buenos Aires stockpile destruction seminar. Left to right: Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer Graham Goodrum; Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action Daniel Livermore; Colonel Bedon of Ecuador; and International Campaign to Ban Landmines – Mexico representative Claudio Torres Nachón.

*(Below)* Stockpiled anti-personnel mines in Peru.





# States of the Americas destroy their stockpiles



Destroying anti-personnel mine stocks by open detonation in Honduras.

## Peru

Peru was the first state to commit to destroying all of its stockpiled mines before the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention. With financial assistance from Canada and technical assistance from Australia, Peru will have destroyed approximately 313,000 mines by September 2001.

## Honduras

Honduras is the first state in the Americas to complete its stockpile destruction since the 1997 signing of the Ottawa Convention. It has now destroyed all of its 7,500 anti-personnel mines. Canada provided technical and financial assistance for the destructions through the Managua Challenge Fund.

## Colombia

Canada has offered to provide technical and financial assistance to Colombia through the Managua Challenge Fund to help it destroy the 18,000 anti-personnel mines it holds. A relatively recent adherent to the Convention, Colombia is committed to destroying its stockpiles well before its four-year deadline under the Convention.

## Ecuador

With the assistance of Canada, Ecuador is scheduled to have its 154,000 mines destroyed in time for the TMSF. Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer Graham Goodrum has assisted Ecuador with testing methodologies and with the country's first destructions.

## Nicaragua

Nicaragua anticipates having its 137,000 mines destroyed by October 2002. Canada has provided technical and financial assistance to Nicaragua's efforts.

## MINE CLEARANCE

# Mine clearance on the Peru-Ecuador border



Canada provided protective demining gear, produced by Canadian firm Med-Eng Systems, for mine clearance on the Peru-Ecuador border.

A commitment to mine clearance along a formerly disputed border between Peru and Ecuador was one of the cornerstones of a series of peace agreements signed between the former adversaries in October 1998. Since then, Canada and the Organisation of American States (OAS) have assisted mine clearance efforts to permit demarcation of agreed-upon boundaries as a way of encouraging stability in the region.

The Peru-Ecuador mine clearance effort has unfolded in two phases, with Phase I facilitating the entry into force of the peace agreement in May 1999 and Phase II focused on mine clearance to help further develop the border region. Canada has supported both phases of the Peru-Ecuador mine clearance operation, providing a total of \$800,000 since 1998.

Canadian contributions of \$50,000 each to Peru and Ecuador in 1998-99 supported the purchase of protective demining gear produced in Canada by Ottawa's Med-Eng Systems.

In 1998-99, Canada helped facilitate the creation of the OAS Voluntary Fund for Mine Action in Peru-Ecuador with a contribution of \$300,000. Administered by the OAS/Unit for the Promotion of Democracy, the Fund has been used to address the specific demining needs of Peru and Ecuador and has allowed for better coordination among various donors. Canada's first contribution to the Fund facilitated further procurement of demining equipment required for both countries.

Canada continued to provide support through the Fund, providing \$400,000 in 1999-2000 for Phase II of the plan, financing detection, protection and clearance equipment and logistical support for the clearance of the border.



## CLEARING MINES IN NICARAGUA: Through Hurricane Mitch and beyond

In the wake of the hurricane, Nicaragua saw years of painstaking work marking minefields washed away

Since 1998, Canada has supported mine clearance efforts on Nicaragua's northern border with Honduras – along what is known as Operational Front #4 – in cooperation with the OAS and Norway.

Canada has provided \$2 million in support to the mine clearance operation, coordinated by the OAS Assistance Program for Demining in Central America, which works in conjunction with the Inter-American Defense Board and the Nicaraguan Army. Canada's assistance has helped to cover field expenses including protective clothing, food for the deminers, vehicle maintenance, insurance and administrative costs for field offices in rural areas.

Through operations such as this, Nicaragua plans to have its mine clearance completed by 2004 – despite the set backs of November 1998's Hurricane Mitch.

In the wake of the hurricane, Nicaragua saw years of painstaking work in clearing mines washed away, as flooding and mud-slides displaced previously located and marked minefields. At that juncture, Canada contributed \$100,000 to enable the OAS to conduct a preliminary assessment of Mitch's impact on landmine clearance work. This funding also contributed to emergency mine clearance and to replacing essential surveying and demining equipment lost during the disaster.



(Above) Clearing mines in Nicaragua after the flooding caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

(Below) Soldiers from the Army of Nicaragua complete an OAS/Inter-American Defence Board mine clearance course.

## MINE CLEARANCE

# Honduras to be mine-free in 2001

Honduras is set to become the first state in the Americas to be declared mine-free since the establishment of the Ottawa Convention. The final module of the country's mine clearance program is scheduled to wind up in the department of Choluteca in September 2001.

Canada has provided \$500,000 toward the completion of this final

step of the program coordinated by the OAS Assistance Program for Demining in Central America in conjunction with the Inter-American Defense Board and the Honduran Army.

Previously, Canada contributed \$60,000 to the OAS to purchase shelters and related equipment for Honduras' demining teams. The

shelters were intended to improve the deminers' living conditions – especially during rainy season – and thus make clearance safer and more effective.

When mine clearance in Honduras finishes, the tents will be transferred to other mine action programs in the region.

Hank Morris

Canada provided tents like this one to improve the living conditions of Honduran deminers.



Scouts of Colombia participate in role playing and games that teach about the effects of landmine use.



## MINE AWARENESS

### Canada supports UNICEF mine awareness program in Colombia

Landmine victims now compose the fastest growing number of amputees in Colombia – the only country in the Americas where mines continue to be laid. Canada has supported a mine awareness program in the country since 1999.

Co-ordinated by UNICEF Colombia with the Scouts of Colombia and the Colombian Ministry of Communication, the program's first phase focused on creating national awareness of the dangers of anti-personnel mines. Its projects included a radio campaign and educational activities, including role playing, for children and youth.

The program's second phase will target rural, mine affected communities and focus on preventive mine action. Its main objective is to educate the population about mines and the dangers associated with them and it too will include a radio campaign. All of the program's elements will be in keeping with the International Guidelines for Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance Awareness Education.

Canada has contributed \$100,000 to each phase of the project, for a total of \$200,000.

These weatherproof plastic signs warning "Peligro Minas!" (Danger Mines!) are less likely than traditional metal signs to be stolen for use as cooking implements, and less likely than cardboard signs to be destroyed by the weather.

Canada provided 11,000 of these signs in 2000-01 to the Organisation of American States Mine Action Team for use in Nicaragua, and 5,000 in 2001 to the Colombian Office of the Vice President and Ministry of Defence for use in Colombia.

These signs will be used in the countries' mine awareness, mine marking and clearance programs to caution local populations about the danger of mined areas.



## SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

## Raising landmine survivors' voices

A new program aimed at developing survivor advocates in mine affected countries was launched by the Landmine Survivors Network, under the auspices of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines Working Group on Victim Assistance, in the spring of 2001 with the support of Canada.

The pilot session of *Raising the Voices* brought eight landmine survivors from Latin America to Geneva, Switzerland to attend meetings of the Ottawa Convention Standing Committees and to participate in advocacy training sessions.

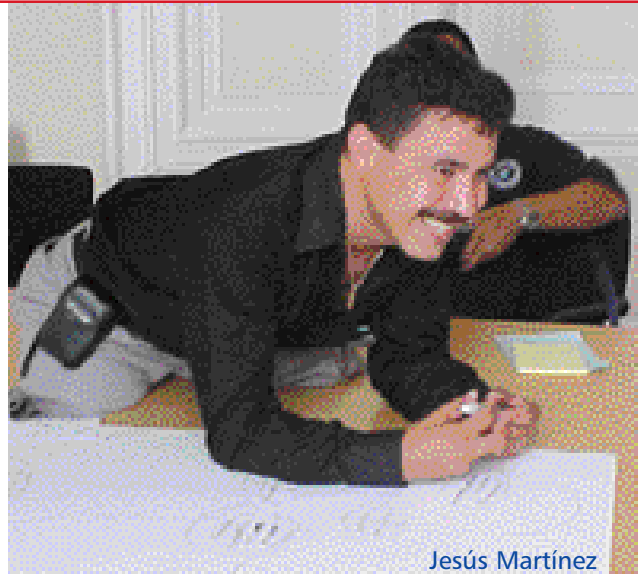
*Raising the Voices* is designed to build the capacity of landmine survivors to represent, organize and advocate on behalf of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities in their home countries and at Ottawa Convention meetings. Participants will attend Meetings of the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention and its Intersessional Work Program, as well as develop and carry out advocacy projects in their home countries.

With the Third Meeting of the States Parties' (TMSP) being held in Managua, Nicaragua, the first cycle of the program involves landmine survivors from five Latin American countries: Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Ecuador and Chile.

In Geneva, participants attended meetings of the Ottawa Convention Standing Committees, including the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance, and participated in sessions on human rights and the rights of people with disabilities, the history of the Ottawa Process and details of the Ottawa Convention. They also had the opportunity to meet government representatives, NGO campaigners and other individuals active on the landmine issue.

Participants developed their home country advocacy projects based on their individual goals and resources and the aspects of the training that resonated the most with them. They will report on their progress during the TMSP.

Another cycle of *Raising the Voices*, involving a new group of landmine survivors from Africa, is planned for 2002. For more information about the project, contact the Landmine Survivors Network, on-line at: [www.landminesurvivors.org](http://www.landminesurvivors.org).



Jesús Martínez

### Landmine survivor advocate home country projects:

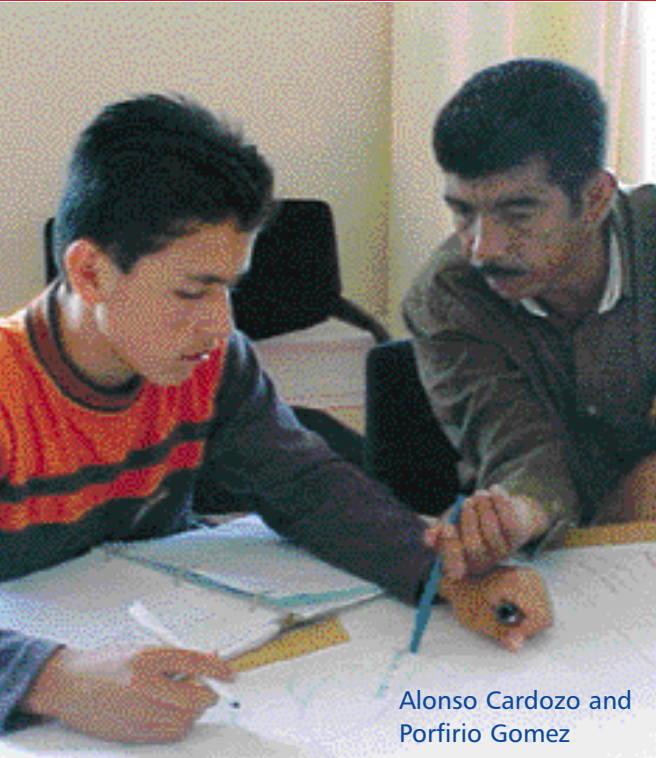


Nelson Castillo

*Jesús Martínez (El Salvador) - Director of the El Salvador branch of Landmine Survivors Network* Martínez plans to gather data about new landmine victims in El Salvador and to raise awareness about human rights, the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for People with Disabilities, and the landmine situation in his work with government representatives and other organizations.

*José Miguel Larenas (Chile) - An engineering student who, in his spare time, investigates the situation of landmine and UXO survivors in Chile and advocates for their care and rehabilitation.* Larenas plans to use e-mail and the Internet to create a network of landmine and UXO survivors within the Americas.

*Nelson Castillo (Ecuador) - President of the Asociación de Excombatientes Discapacitados "Alto Cenepa", a group of people with disabilities incurred during their military service.* Castillo plans to design workshops for military personnel on equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and to see the national law in Ecuador that protects civilians with disabilities extended and adapted to military personnel.



Alonso Cardozo and  
Porfirio Gomez

*Alonso Cardozo (Colombia) - The youngest survivor advocate stepped on a mine at age 14 while working on a farm in his village. One year away from graduating from high school, he is interested in organizing other survivors and people with disabilities to share experiences and provide support to each other.*

Cardozo plans to collect information about other mine survivors in his province and to help create support networks among them.

*Edgar Moreno (Colombia) - Studying to be a prosthetist; conducts vocational retraining for other people with disabilities.*

Moreno plans to work with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to organize a 120 kilometre marathon for amputee cycling and wheelchair racing in and around Bogota. The marathon is intended to raise awareness about the abilities and strength of people with disabilities and issue a call to action on the landmine issue in Colombia.

*Porfirio Gomez (Nicaragua) - Conducts mine awareness training; involved with victim assistance projects.*

Gomez plans to create a regional network of survivors to give mine awareness training in their villages. He will conduct a full day "train the trainer" seminar for these survivors, publicizing the training through community meetings and church services.



Uriel Carazo and José Miguel Larenas



Edgar  
Moreno



Danis Hernández

*Danis Hernández (Nicaragua) - Departmental co-coordinator for the Asociación de Discapacitados de la Resistencia Nicaraguense, teaches children about the danger of mines and works with the Organisation of American States and the Red Cross to help landmine victims receive physical rehabilitation.*

Hernández plans to post the United Nations Standard Rules in public places around his town of Ocotol for the August 25 Nicaraguan National Day of the Disabled Person parade. He will also educate people about the rights of people with disabilities and the United Nations Standard Rules at meetings of youth, police and women's organizations.

*Uriel Carazo (Nicaragua) - Coordinates mine awareness training and links survivors with prosthetic services and vocational retraining through the Comisión Conjunta de Discapacitados por la Paz y la Reconstrucción de Madriz.*

Carazo plans to identify landmine victims who are not benefiting from available services and to train the 30 Comisión Conjunta mine awareness educators about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Standard Rules so that this information can be disseminated throughout affected communities.

## SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE

## Conference aims to improve care for Colombia's landmine survivors

On March 26-27, the Colombian Foundation for Surgical Reconstruction (CIREC) hosted a conference in Bogota, Colombia aimed at improving medical care and rehabilitation for landmine survivors.

Landmine victims have become the fastest growing number of amputees in the country. The conference, entitled "One Step Forward," brought together actors involved in

mine victim assistance and rehabilitation in Colombia to exchange treatment expertise.

The conference focused on surgical methods for treating landmine wounds and the types of prosthetics needed. Basic mine awareness tools were also provided to practitioners in the field. Canadian prosthetic expert David Nielen of the Canadian Association of

Prosthetists and Orthotists was among the guest speakers who addressed conference participants.

Founded in 1976, CIREC is Colombia's only prosthetic and rehabilitation centre for amputees. Since its inception, it has helped more than 20,000 disabled people reintegrate into society. Canada supported the conference with a contribution of \$10,000.



Michael Simpson/One Sky

**The Sierra Club of British Columbia** is providing skills training and ecologically sustainable economic development opportunities to landmine survivors and their communities in El Salvador. The project called Healing Ourselves, Healing the Land trains mine survivors in environmentally friendly technologies, such as bicycle mechanics, and includes a small enterprise loan system and local alternative economic trading. The project also created a travelling mine awareness bus, driven, staffed and decorated (*left*) by landmine survivors.





## Group renamed in honour of the late General Gordon Reay

Lieutenant-General (retired) Gordon Reay, Special Advisor to Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action, died December 21 in Zagreb, Croatia after being involved in a car accident. A former commander of the Canadian army, Lt. Gen. Reay was chair of the Stability Pact for South East Europe Regional Support Group for Mine Action and was in Croatia to help establish a mine action co-ordination mechanism.

Lt. Gen. Reay played a key role in Canada's efforts to universalize and implement the Ottawa Convention, serving as an advocate of stockpile destruction and engaging military officials and civilian leaders in dialogue about alternative military doctrine without the use anti-personnel mines.

The Stability Pact for South East Europe Regional Support Group for Mine Action has been renamed The Reay Group in his honour and continues to work in the region.

# Mine Action Notebook

## Stockpile destruction begins in Albania

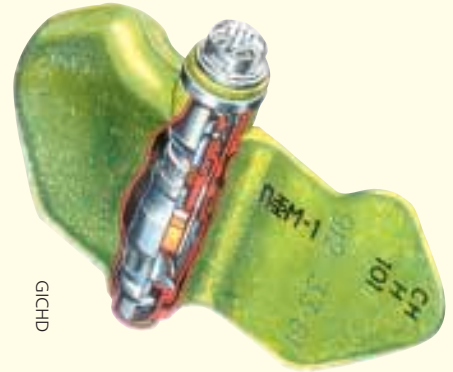
A stockpile destruction program in Albania was launched on June 29, 2001 with a ceremony to demilitarize the first mines. The Canadian-initiated and supported project is scheduled to demilitarize and destroy approximately 1.6 million anti-personnel mines by the end of 2002.

William Hunt



Gwyneth Kutz, a representative of Canada's mission to Albania, assists in the first demilitarization of mines in the current Albania stockpile destruction project.

The project will take place at Ulp Mjekës, a former weapons production facility near Elbasan in central Albania. It is being managed by the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency and funded through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council's Partnership for Peace Trust Fund for Anti-personnel Landmine Stockpile Destruction on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Canada, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



GICHD

A February 2001 seminar sponsored by Canada and Hungary focused on the challenges of destroying the PFM-1 "butterfly" mine.

## Regional seminars tackle Convention universalization, implementation

Canada has co-sponsored seven regional seminars in 2000-01 aimed at the Ottawa Convention's universalization and implementation. In November 2000, Canada and Argentina co-sponsored a seminar in Buenos Aires on stockpile destruction in the Americas. Canada and France supported Mali in hosting a February 2001 seminar in Bamako addressing universalization and implementation of the Ottawa Convention in Africa. Also in February, Canada and Hungary organized a conference in Budapest on the technical challenges of destroying the PFM-1 mine, and Canada sponsored a conference at Universidad del Rosario in Bogota, Colombia on Colombia's obligations under the Ottawa Convention. A June 2001 seminar on understanding the Ottawa Convention was sponsored by Canada and Poland in Warsaw.

That month, Canada and Mongolia sponsored a seminar on universalization of the Convention in Ulaanbaatar. And in August 2001, a joint Canada-Malaysia seminar on stockpile destruction was held in Kuala Lumpur.

Conference reports are available from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

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## Progress update: Canadian-funded Level One Surveys

Level One Surveys provide valuable information about the socio-economic impact of landmines and are extremely useful in developing mine action priorities. The results of the Level One Survey of Yemen, which Canada supported with \$1.5 million, were delivered in September 2000. Canada has provided an additional \$150,000 to facilitate the use of the survey's results.

The Level One Survey of Mozambique, funded by Canada at a cost of \$2.5 million and carried out by the Canadian International Demining Corps, has been completed and the results turned over to the Mozambique government in June 2001. Canada will follow up with support for Mozambique's National Institute for Demining.

The Level One Survey of Cambodia, funded by Canada at a cost of \$3.3 million and carried out by GeoSpatial International Inc., is scheduled for completion by the end of 2001, with the results to be delivered shortly thereafter.

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## Mine action part of Canada's support to Ethiopia and Eritrea

Canada is providing mine action assistance to Ethiopia and Eritrea as part of its support for the countries' 2000 cease-fire agreement and reconstruction efforts. Canada has provided \$870,000 to support coordination and capacity development, and emergency mine action, including surveys, demining and mine awareness campaigns, in the Temporary Security Zone and neighbouring regions of the two countries.

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## Reay group encourages regional cooperation in South East Europe

The Stability Pact for South East Europe's Reay Group, named in honour of the deceased Lieutenant General (retired) Gordon Reay, is continuing its work to encourage mine action cooperation in the region.

Chaired by Canada, the group has developed a work plan focused on three priority goals: developing a regional network of test and evaluation capabilities; creating a stockpile free region; and improving regional management, rehabilitation and mine awareness training.

Project proposals supporting these goals will be submitted to the Stability Pact Working Table for Security, and funds will likely be pledged at the next Regional Pledging Conference of the Stability Pact, scheduled for October 2001.




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## *Night of 1000 Dinners* international fundraiser planned for November

The Canadian Landmine Foundation and the United Nations Association of the USA are organizing an international mine action fundraising initiative called the *Night of 1000 Dinners*. On and around November 30, 2001, fundraising dinners will be held in countries around the world with proceeds going to the Adopt-A-Minefield mine clearance program. People are encouraged to host or attend a dinner – anything from a \$500 a plate affair to pizza and beer at \$25 a person. For more information on how to participate, including registering to host a dinner, visit [www.1000dinners.com](http://www.1000dinners.com).

## New group of Youth Ambassadors motivates Canadians to further action against anti-personnel mines

Seven new Youth Mine Action Ambassadors will be working in communities across Canada in 2001-02, promoting sustainable action in the effort to ban anti-personnel mines.

Through the Youth Mine Action Ambassador Program (YMAAP), these recent university graduates will develop and deliver mine action education programs in their regions, offering presentations to school and community groups and holding events to celebrate the Ottawa Convention signing anniversary on December 3 and the anniversary of its entry into force on March 1. They will also assist with the Canadian Landmine Foundation's *Night of a 1000 Dinners* international fundraiser.

The YMAAP is co-ordinated by the Canadian Red Cross, Mines Action Canada and the Department

of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), and funded by DFAIT's Mine Action Team and Canada's Youth International Internship Program. Youth Ambassadors are hosted by the Canadian Red Cross (in Vancouver and Calgary), the Canadian Landmine Foundation (in Toronto), Mines Action Canada (in Ottawa), UNICEF Québec (in Montreal) and OXFAM Canada (in Halifax and St. John's). The program has trained 24 Youth Ambassadors since September 1998. At least one-third are now employed in mine action-related work.

For more information, contact the YMAAP National Office at tel: (613) 241-4141, or e-mail: [ymaap@sympatico.ca](mailto:ymaap@sympatico.ca), or web: [www.dangermines.ca](http://www.dangermines.ca).

2001-02 Youth Mine Action Ambassadors. Left to right: Monique Auffrey (NS); Rebecca Ho-Foster (ON - Ottawa); Lisa Shebib (BC); Melanie Thomas (NF); Dawn Dittman (AB); Ève-Lyne Lacouture (ON - Toronto); Émilie Giroux-Gareau (QC).

## Wide range of activities marks Canadian Landmine Awareness Week

This year Canadian Landmine Awareness Week marked the anniversary of the March 1 entry into force of the Ottawa Convention with a wide range of activities across Canada.

Youth Mine Action Ambassadors held events in a number of cities and towns, hosting international guests from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and launching the Canadian Red Cross on-line mine action education web site *Survive the Peace* ([www.redcross.ca/english/peace/survive.html](http://www.redcross.ca/english/peace/survive.html)).

In Ottawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs John Manley, landmine survivor Song Kosal and other participants from the ICBL launched the Virtual Classroom project with high school students from Ontario, Newfoundland and Quebec. The initiative will see students from across the country participate in interactive video conference sessions about the global landmine problem.

Mines Action Canada hosted a breakfast on Parliament Hill for Members of Parliament and Senators, giving Parliamentarians a chance to meet international mine ban activists and learn about the current status of global mine action.

And the Canadian International Demining Corps (CIDC) hosted a fundraising dinner in Sydney, Nova Scotia, attended by Canada's Ambassador for Mine Action Daniel Livermore. The dinner raised \$10,000 for CIDC's mine clearance efforts.

Heather McBride/YMAAP



## PRO MAC brush cutter passes test in Thailand

In May 2001, after successful trials at the Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies, a brush cutter, developed by PRO MAC Manufacturing of Duncan, British Columbia underwent user trials at the Thailand Mine Action Centre. Trial results demonstrated the machine's potential for increasing the safety and speed of mine clearance operations. In response to a request from the Thai government, Canada has provided the PRO MAC BDM-48 within a program that will monitor its progress. The results will be shared with the international community.

## Canada hosts UN Mine Action Strategy Development Meeting

On June 8-9, Canada hosted a United Nations Mine Action Strategy Development Meeting in Ottawa. The meeting brought together a select group of experts to seek input on the follow-up to the UN General Assembly request for further development of the UN mine action strategy. Approximately 25 individuals participated from various UN agencies, UN-supported mine action programs, non-governmental organizations and donors. Canada provided a venue and administrative services for the meeting and participated in the discussion.

## Mine action technology workshop held at UBC

The Canadian Centre for Mine Action Technologies (CCMAT) organized a workshop on mine action technology at the University of British Columbia on June 4-5 with the assistance of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. Held at the Liu Centre for the Study of Global Issues, the workshop aimed to establish a productive dialogue between the developers and the users of mine action technology and included sessions on personal protective equipment, mechanical assistance equipment and test and evaluation. More information on the conference is available on the News and Events section of the CCMAT web site: [www.ccmata.gc.ca](http://www.ccmata.gc.ca).



The PRO MAC BDM-48 brush cutter undergoing trials in Thailand.

Major Harry Burke/DRDC