



NEW ZEALAND
CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES

CALM newsletter

Part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
Winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize

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New-look international campaign

In addition to marking a milestone in the life of the Ottawa Convention (it's first five years in operation), the Nairobi Summit on a Mine Free World also marked a time of change for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and Landmine Monitor.

Some of the changes to the ICBL are structural, others include changes to personnel. The ICBL will farewell staff who have been instrumental to the success of the campaign in their home countries and globally.

Among those departing to take on new challenges are Liz Bernstein (ICBL coordinator), Sue Wixley (ICBL Advocacy and Communications Officer), and Jackie Hansen (ICBL Project Officer). The New Zealand Campaign Against Landmines extends sincere thanks for all the work these amazing women have done over the years and we wish them well for the future.

At this point of time, ICBL has also begun the massive task of archiving campaign materials from around the world. As such, former Convenor of CALM John Head, with the help of Deputy Convenor David Zwartz, has despatched boxes of NZ CALM documents to be included in the ICBL collection in Washington DC.

In this newsletter we report on the appointment of the new ICBL Coordinator. Geraldine Canham-Harvey brings us the latest on the evolution of Landmine Monitor and we tell the story of Colin McLennan's efforts to assist mine survivors in Cambodia.

Nairobi Summit
29 November / 3 December 2004, Kenya
WANTED
a Mine-Free World

Of course, no newsletter would be complete without an update on the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) so we bring exciting news of developments in Europe.

We also take a brief look at the biggest and most devastating news of the New Year ... the Boxing Day tsunami.

In the weeks ahead, remember 1 March is the anniversary of the Ottawa Convention entering into Force six years ago. On 3 March CALM will be meeting with Parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee to brief members on the Nairobi Summit and efforts to reduce the harms caused by cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war.

CALM wishes you a prosperous and productive 2005. Thanks for your continuing support!

New ICBL Coordinator takes up post

By David Zwartz, Deputy Convenor
of NZ CALM

Anne Capelle, a 39-year-old Belgian, is the new Executive Director of ICBL (International Campaign to Ban Landmines). Her job includes co-ordinating the activities of a network of 1,400 organizations working to rid the world of the plague of landmines. Anne is a trained physiotherapist who worked with Handicap International (HI) for four years, both in Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan and in Angola, where she discovered the horror and extent of the landmine problem.

From 1996 to 2000 Anne was co-ordinator of the HI Mines Unit and very actively involved in the work of the ICBL, participating in the establishment of the Landmine Monitor. After two years as director of communication and development for HI, she established the UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service) liaison office in Geneva. In 2004 she worked for Landmine Survivors Network where she was in charge of the "Raising the Voices" programme culminating in the organization of the Survivor Summit in Nairobi, and the survivors' participation to the Review Conference of the Ottawa Treaty.

Anne took over on 24 January 2005 from the outgoing co-ordinator, Liz Bernstein. Many members of CALM have met and worked with Liz, and admired her energy and dedication to the work of ICBL from its earliest days. We thank her and wish her well in her future activities.

Anne Capelle addresses the
Survivors' Summit in Nairobi



Landmine Monitor in evolution

By Landmine Monitor 2005 Researcher, Geraldine Canham-Harvey

Since 1998, the Landmine Monitor has monitored the implementation and compliance with the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty (MBT). It has been comprised primarily of country reports for every state, and as a whole has indicated global progress towards creating a mine-free world. Every year, CALM has contributed annual reports not only of New Zealand's political decisions and practical assistance rendered in respect to landmines, but also on developments with the South Pacific island states.

2005 heralds the seventh edition of Landmine Monitor (LM). However, after comprehensive discussions with researchers, coordinators, campaigners, donors, and other interested parties, it was decided in 2004 to redesign the focus and format of future Landmine Monitors. The objective of redesigning LM was to ensure that research and reporting continue to highlight the landmine issue most effectively and consistently.

This year's Landmine Monitor will be the first edition built on the revised structure. The new format focuses on thematic aspects rather than country-by-country reporting. The specific themes are:

- Ban Policy, Production, Trade, Use, Stockpiling
- Mine Action - Data, Demining, Survey and Marking
- Mine Risk Education
- Landmine Casualties and Survivor Assistance

Landmine Monitor 2005 will still feature country updates, although reporting will focus on approximately 85 countries, chosen for the challenges they present for the future work of the ICBL and ban movement (namely mine-affected, mine users, producers, exporters, stockpilers, and non-States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty). That being said, other countries will continue to be monitored. Landmine Monitor 2005 and future Monitors may report in summary on donor countries and issues of concern in other states.

Where does this leave the role of CALM in terms of reporting for Landmine Monitor 2005? CALM has submitted a proposal to research and report on progress and development in specific South Pacific states. These five states highlight the lack of resources and instability which have impeded commitment to the MBT process in the South Pacific.

Papua New Guinea was the only South Pacific mention amongst the 85 countries of priority and concern to the ICBL. After many years of delay, PNG finally signed the MBT in 2004, and the country's progress towards fulfilling its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) will be monitored by CALM for Landmine Monitor 2005.

CALM thinks it important, however, to continue to monitor and report on Tuvalu, which is yet to join up to the MBT, and on Vanuatu, which has signed but is yet to ratify. Meanwhile, ongoing tensions and political instability in the Solomon Islands, as well as faltering political and economic development in Timor Leste (East Timor), have lead CALM to consider that it must continue to report on these states and their activities and commitment towards fulfilling MBT requirements.

Additionally, CALM will report on the New Zealand government's measures to strengthen the international community's resolve to universalise the MBT. CALM will report on New Zealand's ongoing work in providing demining personnel and training to mine-affected countries and victim assistance. In addition, CALM's report will describe its own campaign work, including progress towards getting government support for a ban on explosive remnants of war (ERW); its successes in publicising to Kiwis the plight of landmines and their victims; and the further expansion of its youth campaign.

For information about Landmine Monitor 2004, visit:

www.icbl.org/lm/2004/

Like all people ... mine survivors in Cambodia need opportunities for education and employment

By Colin McLennan

While on an exploratory visit to Cambodia in 1993, in search of an employment opportunity in the field of rehabilitation of the physically disabled I soon became aware of the huge need in that country. I was nearing the end of 11 years in Indonesia where I had established and directed a rehabilitation centre for physically handicapped children and young adults. The sight of amputees and other disabled people at every turn on the streets of Phnom Penh, and visits to all the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in rehabilitations showed a major gap - that of employment and income generation opportunities. I was also incensed by the indiscriminate use of land mines and the damage they caused to the human body. At that time it was estimated that 300 people a month sustained horrific injuries, usually the loss of limbs, and an equal number were killed. It appeared that peace was returning but mine clearance had barely begun. So, despite the peace, the devastation caused by these weapons continued. I felt the need to tell the New Zealand public about the ongoing atrocity of these weapons, which killed and maimed more civilians than military personnel. Arming myself with a professional video camera I returned to Cambodia in 1994 to make a programme about the devastating effects of landmines on the Cambodian people. My plan was to sell the completed video to television but in this I was not successful. In 1995 I returned to Cambodia and established "Rehab Craft Cambodia." The objective was to provide employment by producing and marketing a range of quality of handcrafts for the tourist and export markets using hand woven Cambodia silk and napa leather. Two instructors, both disabled, were recruited from Indonesia for a year. Advertising for trainees and staff began. The only criteria was that all applicants had to be physically disabled and those who wished to undertake training as potential producers were required to have some experience at using a sewing machine. There were several NGOs providing training in tailoring and dressmaking so most of the applicants came through these organizations. Having a physical disability was the basic requirements for all staff. The security guards, for example, were mainly double amputees - some depending on wheelchairs for their mobility. The advertising programme created quite a stir and a lot of interest, particularly among NGOs involved in various aspects of rehabilitation as very few at the time actually employed disabled people. There was no shortage of applicants. At that time in Cambodia there was a very limited range of handcrafts available and the quality was poor. Many of the old skills had been lost as a result of the Pol Pot years when many of the artisans were killed. Traditional hand- weaving skills were lost. However, our search for the finer silks and encouragement of village weavers played a significant part in leading to a resurgence in fine silk production and in turn provided much needed income to women during the long dry months when there was little agricultural work. About six months into the project the first products went on sale at a ten day exhibition at a new hotel. It created a great deal of interest and disbelief that the products were made in Cambodia and by the disabled, rather than coming from Thailand or Viet Nam. A few months later a craft exhibition was held. The official opening was conducted by HM Queen Monineath Sihanouk who expressed amazement at the quality of the handcrafts and later purchased many items. Now more like a cooperative, Rehab Craft Cambodia continues. Although struggling, the cooperative is sustained by its ability to produce and sell quality products. In some ways, it is a victim of its own success because the high standards of workmanship and quality introduced by Rehab Craft Cambodia a decade ago have now been adopted by many other NGOs and commercial enterprises. Many of those trained within the organization are now designers and instructors with competitors.

My other interest in Cambodia was the educational needs of children with physical disabilities. In a country with a totally inadequate schooling system and no provision for children with disabilities, few such children were accepted into the overcrowded schools. During the time of our initial recruiting campaign we also advertised for potential teachers. Two men, both disabled, who had completed some teacher training but were unable to gain employment were signed on and a small school was established. The Rehab Craft Cambodia School slowly built up its roll to twenty students, with the support of the same two teachers and some voluntary helpers. In 1998, the Marist Brothers from Australia decided to open a larger school so the students and staff from Rehab Craft transferred to the new LaValla School. Some of those early students are now studying at university. The LaValla School - beyond doubt the best primary school for Khmer children in Cambodia, now has 85 students and plans are afoot for further expansion.

One international expert in the rehabilitation field has described Rehab Craft Cambodia as the best project of its kind he had ever seen. Certainly, Rehab Craft's philosophy of training and employing people with physical disabilities set an example which has now been followed by many others in Cambodia.

Still, Cambodia suffers the impact of land mines and there is a lot of work to be done to complete the demining effort.

Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC)

The CMC is working to raise awareness of the problems cluster munitions pose to civilians. It now has a membership of 151 NGOs who we are supporting and encouraging in the organisation of campaign events, public meetings, postcard campaigns and through a new website which will provide a function allowing visitors to send automatic emails to government decision makers. The CMC is also engaging with governments on a bilateral and regional basis as well as within the CCW. As a coalition and via its membership, the CMC is urging governments to stop using cluster munitions and calling for the development of national policies that stop cluster munitions killing civilians.

Latest developments include:

- On 7 February, Thomas Nash, CMC Coordinator met with the newly formed UN working group on cluster munitions in New York. The working group, which was set up in January by the Inter-agency Coordinating Group on Mine Action, brings together UNMAS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNDDA and UNOPS. The group invited the CMC to meet with it as it seeks to develop a common UN position on cluster munitions.

- On 8 February, the group met with the ICRC and Human Rights Watch. Within this UN working group there is considerable interest in and support for a stronger UN position on cluster munitions. Should UN States Parties decide to work towards a new instrument on cluster munitions, there is potential for the UN to play a supportive role in this process.
- The German Parliament has debated a Motion on explosive remnants of war
- In late February, 21 members of the Italian senate will be tabling a bill to extend the ban on landmines to include submunitions. While the bill may not proceed into law it sends a strong message and will hopefully stir a debate at national level.

For more information about the CMC, visit:

www.cmc-international.org/

Please join CALM and help to spread its campaign message through these newsletters. These cost about \$10 per person per year to prepare and despatch so donations to the CALM Treasurer, PO Box 17 195, Wellington would be appreciated.

Boxing Day tsunami

For many of our colleagues working in non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in New Zealand and around the world, the start of 2005 has been marred by the gruesome impact of the Boxing Day tsunami.

NGOs have been at the forefront of relief efforts to assist communities devastated by the impact of the tsunami. They have had a central role in collecting the financial resources necessary, and in delivering practical assistance on the ground.

This work is another example of the vital role NGOs play in supporting humanity and working tirelessly to improve the lives of those who most need assistance. It is a demonstration of the importance of civil society and why we must maintain our capacity to work in communities around the world.

Included among those NGOs helping to clear up the mess, and among those directly affected by the disaster, are some who are members of the International Campaign to ban Landmines. NZ CALM extends its sympathies to those who have lost friends and family members. We also express our support and solidarity with those working to reconstruct the lives of affected communities.

Following the tsunami there were media reports that floating landmines had increased mine casualties in afflicted countries. However, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) said that while landmines are a threat in some places hit by the disaster, following the tsunami the risk had not increased dramatically. For more information about the situation in afflicted countries, visit: www.icbl.org/news/tsunami

www.calm.org.nz

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