



AMBASSADORS BEFORE THEY KNEW IT



SONG KOSAL AND TUN CHANNARETH
OF THE
CAMBODIA CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES
1994-2011



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This book is dedicated to Suon Chreuk and all those injured or killed by mines.

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Introduction



Beginnings

We are amputees.
 Before we were soldiers, members of different armies
 that laid mines and blew the legs and arms and eyes off one another.

Now we teach and learn together in the Centre of the Dove.

We beg the world to stop making mines,
 We beg the world to stop laying mines,
 We beg for the funds for clearing mines so that we can rebuild
 our families, our villages and our country again.

Hem Phang, Klieng Vann, Tun Channareth, Soun Chreuk

This letter from survivors was used as the call of the Cambodian Campaign to Ban Landmines. They wrote it at the Centre of the Dove which was established by the Jesuit Refugee Service in 1991. The local people told JRS that this area had formally been an arms storage facility, a place of carrier pigeons a killing field and prison. Many landmines and cluster submunitions were discovered as they began to build and renovate a vocational training centre for people with disabilities.

As well as the survivors, the founding members of the Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines included Handicap International, the International Committee of the Red Cross, JRS, Mines Advisory Group, and many members under the umbrella of the NGO Forum and the Dhammayetra Movement.

It became a part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, coordinated by Jody Williams.



Here, tun Channareth and Soun Chreuk are gathered with other friends at Banteay Prieb where this letter was written in June 1995. On their return from the refugee camps, Tun Channareth and Soun Chreuk, worked here producing wheelchairs. Sadly, Soun Chreuk has since passed away.



Hem Phang, also a landmine victim, was an electronics teacher at the centre and has published two books to teach other disabled men a trade. He now directs a local NGO he founded.



Kleang Vann lost his leg to a landmine in Banteay Meanchey, Having graduating from the Training Centre for Handicapped, Banteay Prieb, he now works as a student adviser there.

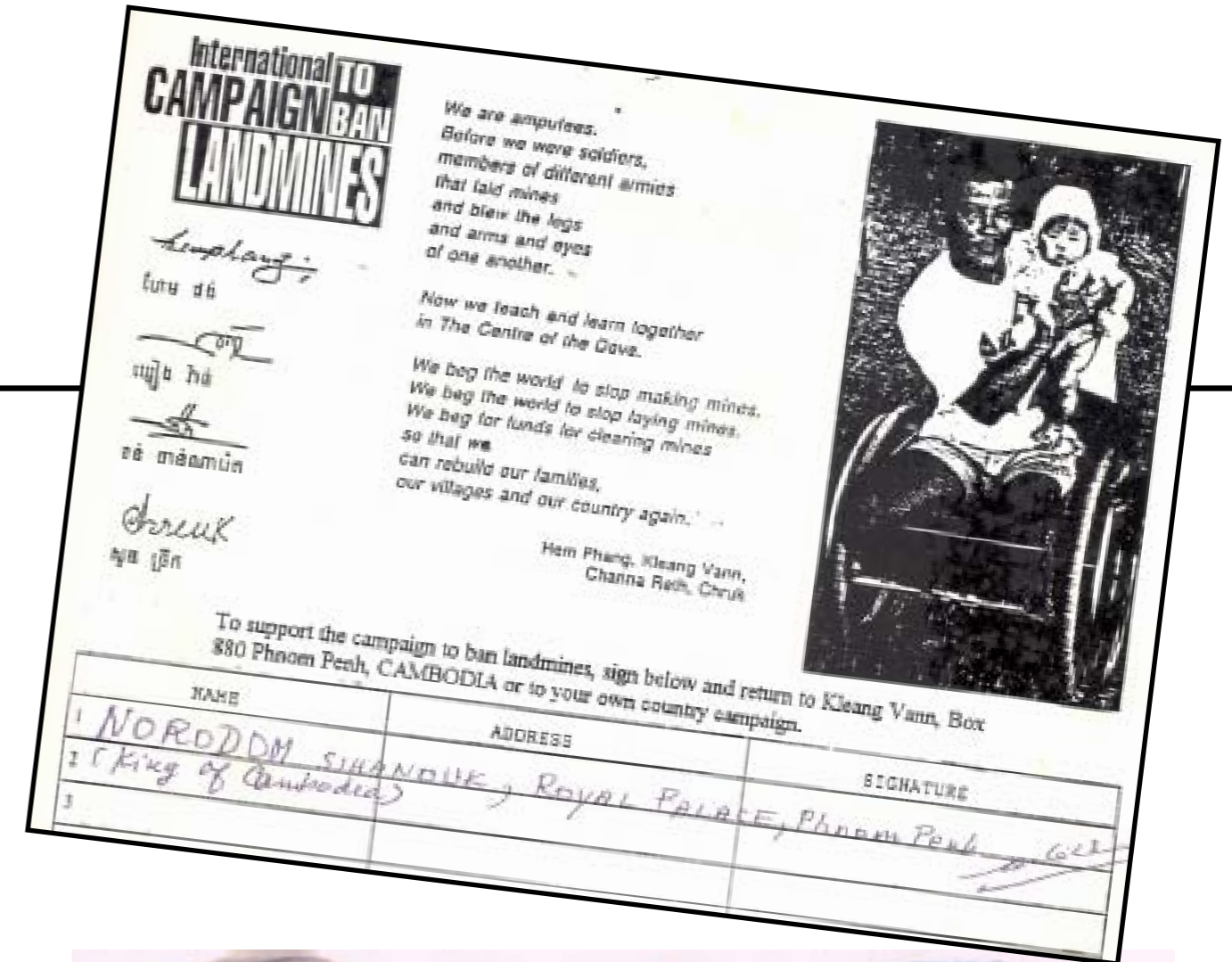


Gaining local support

From June 1994, de-miners, survivors and campaigners, spread the campaign message.

“Ban the production and use of all landmines.
Clear mines quickly.

Make the land safe for people, destroy all stockpiles and assist survivors.”



The King of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk signs the petition to ban landmines with Tun Channareth. Even before this, he himself had called for a ban and reminded the Cambodia Campaign of this. He was the first monarch in the world to do so.



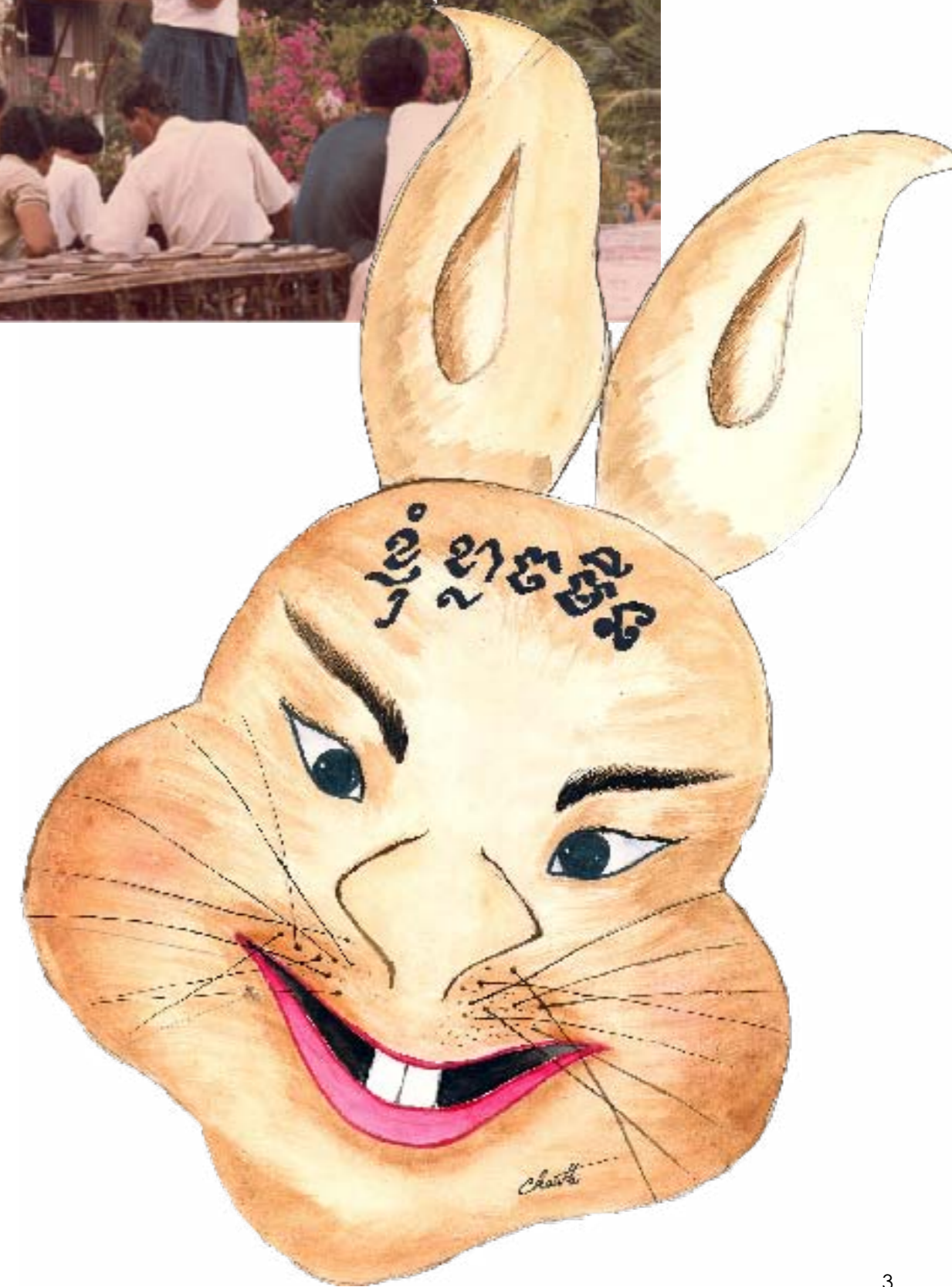
Sok Eng and Dalma Foldes, asked Prime Minister Hun Sen to add his signature to the petition to ban landmines in Phnom Penh in 1994. Prime Minister Norodom Ranaridh also signed the petition.

A soldier signs the petition to ban landmines in the streets of Phnom Penh with Chen Sokhun and a CISI worker.

Left: Sok Eng gathered signatures for the petition in



Song Kosal says
 "Mines? No thank you!
 Don't use any more mines."





Monks bless the Campaign

“Ban the landmines of the heart
as well as in the earth.”

Preah Maha Ghosananda often
quoted this



Preah Maha Ghosananda, a holy Buddhist monk, worked tirelessly for reconciliation prior to the Paris Peace Accord. Afterwards, he led peace walks across Cambodia, calling for a ban on landmines and for a lasting peace. The Buddhist monks played a prominent role in the Campaign both in Cambodia and around the world.



Taking the message to the world

The Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines traveled the world in 1995 raising awareness in order to achieve a ban.



Tun Channareth and Reverend Kike Figaredo with His Holiness the Pope John Paul II in Rome 1995. He released a letter that year condemning the use of landmines.



Top: Mary Robertson, President of Ireland with campaigners.



Far left: Glanda Jackson, an English actress, with Tun Channareth.



Left: Song Kosal and Tun Channareth with the Queen of Spain.



Bringing the world to Phnom Penh



Peace dancers at the conference.

The Cambodia Campaign, as part of the NGO Forum, hosted a conference in Phnom Penh entitled “Towards an International Ban on Landmines” in June 1995. The conference discussed affective advocacy to ban landmines, the ethical dimensions of mine usage and the socio-economic impact of mines. Jody Williams was a keynote speaker and survivors presented their views. The conference was opened by His Excellency Chea Sim and closed by His Excellency Tea Banh. A delegation was received at the Royal Palace by the King.

At the conference, faith leaders from Buddhism, Christianity and Islam showed that the use of anti-personnel landmines against civilians long after war had ended could not be accepted by their faith traditions.

Four hundred civil society participants from more than 40 countries attended the conference which led to new national campaigns being formed in Afghanistan, Canada, Nepal, India, Japan, Kenya, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa and Thailand.



The King is photographed with campaigners at the reception at the Royal Palace during the Conference.

I went to the CCW in Vienna in September 1995 to try to tell them, "Please ban landmine so that children can run safely in the field," but I was so afraid when I saw all those men in their suits I forgot what I wanted to say. But Tun Channareth and Sok Eng called strongly for a ban on landmines. It was the first time survivors of landmines spoke to the UN and some people called us amputee ambassadors.

Song Kosal

Lost in Vienna



Song Kosal, 11, Tun Channareth and Sok Eng speaking at the United Nations in Vienna in 1995.

In 1995 the Convention on Convention Weapons was held in Vienna. This was the forum to discuss disarmament and the eradication of the use of anti-personnel mines. The International Campaign, including Reth, Kosal and ten other campaigners from Cambodia, travelled to Vienna to push for a comprehensive landmine ban.

The movement was defeated at Vienna despite the support of many governments and NGOs.





Sok Eng, Song Kosal and Tun Channareth in front of a pile of shoes belonging to landmine survivors who only need one shoe.

Song Kosal in 2011 reflecting on 1995.

Back in 1995 when I was a small girl we had a big meeting in Phnom Penh of people who wanted to ban mines and stop more people being injured.

We heard from the field, from lawyers and human rights experts, from clearers and survivors. We talked about the ethics of using these weapons, their social impact and what we could do to stop them. Members of different faiths Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Jewish religion (Judaism) spoke and prayed together and resolved to work to ban mines. One of the leading Buddhist monks told us to ban the landmines of the heart, as well as those in the ground. The King of Cambodia-Norodom Sihanouk received us at the Palace and signed the call for a mine ban from the survivors.

It was a wonderful time together, and out of it grew our Campaigns in Kenya, South Africa, Nepal, Norway, India, Thailand, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Philippines, Canada and other places.

Dear Delegates in Geneva,

Last October we wrote a farewell letter to you before we left the conference on landmines in Vienna. Tun Channareth called the letter "Lost in Vienna", because we went home very disappointed thinking that you world leaders, deciders of our future, had let military desires and business interests prevail over humanitarian needs. We felt that we amputees and women, children and men affected by mines had indeed lost!

So we were delighted when we heard that you leaders and military experts had gone home to think again. We gave you nearly 2 million signatures to ban landmines in September. Now we have many more. As well many TV stations, newspapers and people all over the world have come to meet us and joined the movement to ban landmines. They tell us that their governments are the servants of the people and they must listen to the voice of the people when they call for a ban on mines.

We are little people in a small, poor, mine ravaged country. Our power does not come from money or position. No, our strength comes from our suffering, caused by mines and war and subsequent poverty. Our faith in the ultimate goodness of other human beings comes because we experience deep within our bodies the inner courage and resilience to begin life again, maimed and poor as we might seem to you. Our hope is for our children. If you fail to outlaw landmines you will not extinguish our hope and our will to keep on campaigning. But you will be less human for your decision. You will go home knowing that you had it in your power to alleviate the suffering of many and you will also know you did not have the courage to break free from old thinking and out of date war ideology. The world will be a sadder place because of your decision. Please think very deeply. Landmines are a scourge in countries like ours.

Once again, we beg you for a complete ban on the production, use, export, transfer and stock-piling of landmines. Please show us that you really did go home to think again and that you really understand what a ban would mean to us.

We will not be able to meet you in Geneva in January because we do not have enough money but some of us may be able to come and celebrate with you in May when you ban our enemies the landmines forever.

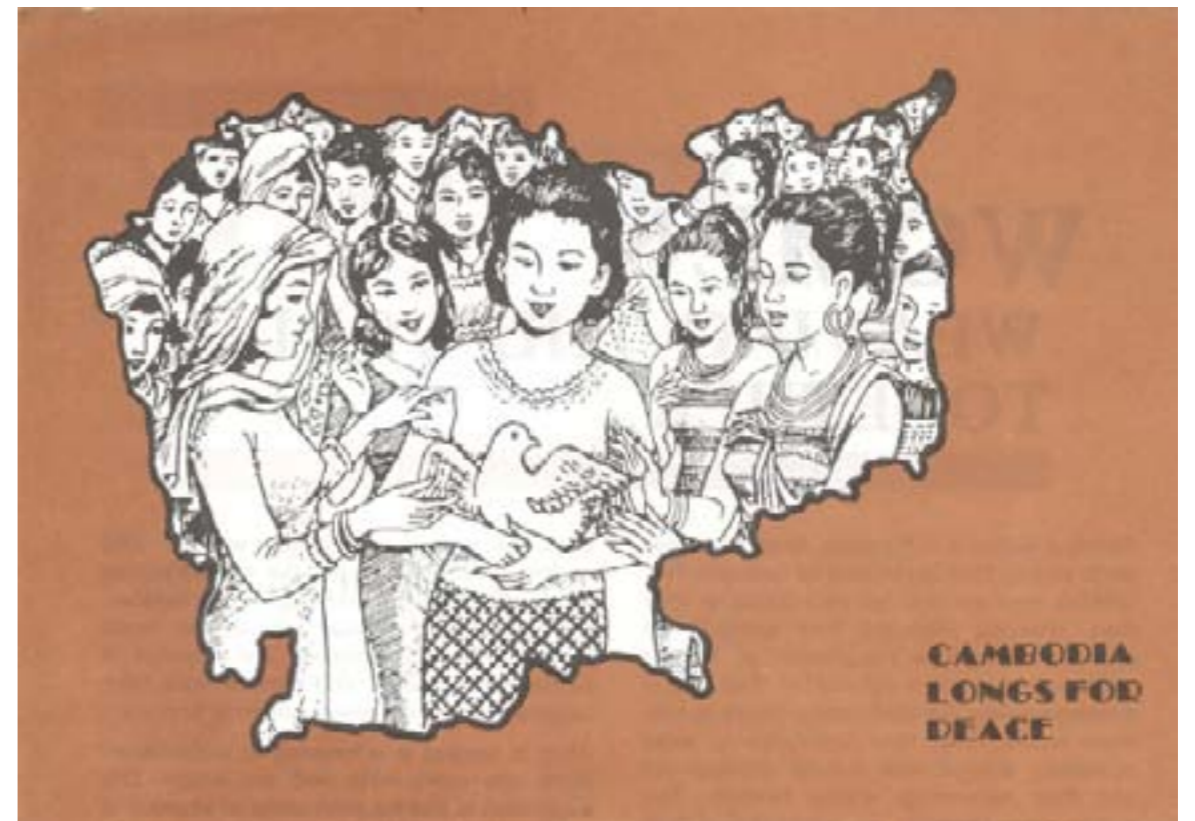
Sok Eng, Song Kosal, Tun Channareth, Suon Chruk, Hem Phang, Klieng Vann



'Women Weaving the World Together' Beijing



Another effort in Cambodia's Campaign to Ban Landmines was joining the 'Women Weaving the World Together' project at the World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995, initiated by Sochua Mu Leiper of Cambodia. The plan was to make a twenty kilometer ribbon of thousands of pieces from all around the world and to stitch the pieces together in Beijing. The weavings featured stories of landmine victims of exile, of displacement, of refugees, of women seeking peace and wanting to create a better world for the children of the future. The Cambodia Campaign sent two weavings; one done by landmine survivors in Banteay Meanchey, and one by refugees in Phnom Penh.



"Are We The Enemy?" a film by the Women's Media Centre in Cambodia about the effects of landmines on Cambodian women, their families and communities, was awarded best film during the fifth International Women's Conference in Beijing, China.

Lost again: Geneva



Dear Chairman Molander, Delegates, Friends:

We, my friends from Afghanistan, Mozambique and Cambodia came to Geneva to put a human face on the mass suffering caused by landmines. We are living reminders of what the power of hate can do to our legs and arms and eyes.

We want you to see us because it is easy to inside big buildings and legalize new war toys for new generation soldiers, when you do not see the hospitals and killing fields of our country. Please come yourselves and see and have pity on the poor.

It is hard for us not to have legs but we most pity our children. I am the father of six children and I want them to have a future free from landmines, so I am very disappointed you could not agree to ban landmines here now.

I really thought the work of the United Nations was:

- to make unity between countries, not weapons that divide nations
- to make peace, not war
- to stop poverty, not increase it for generations
- to gather together clever brains to solve difficult problems

This is what ordinary people all over the world are asking the UN to do.



Presenting two million signatures in Geneva in 1996.

We do not want the UN to be ruled by armies. We want peace-makers deciding the future of our world.

PLEASE go back to your own countries and work for a total ban there.
PLEASE go back to your countries and ask them to give money to de-mining.
PLEASE go back to your countries and use your minds to solve the problems of poverty.

Many of you want to do this but you are trapped by fear and mistrust. First, let us remove the mines from our hearts. Then let us remove them from the world.

Our campaign will not stop until our children, like Kosal and Khern, can run and play freely in the rice fields of the world. Because we believe that the power of LOVE and KINDNESS is much stronger than the power of hate...

WE WILL WIN! LANDMINES WILL BE BANNED.

Tun Channareth,

Road to Ottawa



After the ineffectiveness of the CCW process, four governments met with campaigners, including David Atwood, Liz Bernstein, Jody Williams and Steve Goose, to discuss the way forward to achieve a total ban on landmines. In December 1996, Lord Axworthy, Foreign Minister of Canada, invited any countries who wanted a ban to come to Ottawa to sign in December 1997. Some thought 22 countries might come. Kosal, Reth and others said, “Nothing less than 100.”

The road to Ottawa was a very busy time. Kosal at only 13 years of age, traveled to Thailand, Morocco, Canada, United States and England with the ICRC, to France with HI, to Rome with JRS and to many other places. Reth went to Japan, New Zealand, Australia, France, Belgium, Ireland, Spain, Italy, England, Norway, Switzerland, Austria and Germany.



‘President Charic’ of France, ‘President Clinton’ of United States, ‘President Yeltsin’ of Russia and ‘Prime Minister Tony Blair’ of England (who had not signed the ban) were taken by cyclos from Paris to Brussels. They were ridden by survivors including Reth, Chim Phan, Klieng Vann from Cambodia and other survivors from Thailand, Bosnia, France, and Angola in an event organized by Handicap International.

Meanwhile, campaigners all around the world were organizing events. The whole campaign was excited. Sok Eng and Chim Kong went to New York to meet Princess Diana to get her support for the Campaign. Princess Diana later went to Angola with Halo Trust to support the cause. In September, in Oslo, campaigners converged as the governments agreed the final draft of a new treaty to ban landmines. Success at last!

The Mine Ban Treaty



On 3rd December, 1997, the Ottawa Treaty was signed by 122 countries. Reth and Kosal were in the hall for the historic moment. The Ottawa Citizen newspaper quoted Reth in saying the Mine Ban Treaty heralded, “a new dawn of peace and kindness.”

Prime Minister Ung Huot signs the Ottawa Treaty to Ban Landmines witnessed by Ieng Mouly, Som Sotha, Prak Sokhonn and others.



Left: Tun Channareth is presented with the Ottawa Treaty after Cambodia signs.

Below: Celebrating with Kofi Annan after the signing!



KEY PROVISIONS IN THE 1997 MINE BAN TREATY

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Open for signature at Ottawa, Canada, on December 3, 1997.

ARTICLE 1

General obligations

1. Each State Party undertakes never under any circumstances:

a) To use anti-personnel mines;

b) To develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines;

ARTICLE 4

Destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel mines

The treaty requires that existing stockpiles of AP mines must be destroyed as soon as possible but not later than four years after the treaty enters into force.

ARTICLE 5

Destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas.

The treaty requires that mines already in the ground must be removed and destroyed as soon as possible but not later than ten years after the treaty enters into force.

ARTICLE 6

Mine victim assistance

Each state party in a position to do so shall provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims and for mine awareness programs.



from
words to reality
The Mine Ban Treaty 10 TMSF Geneva 18-22 September 2008

ARTICLE 1

1. Each State Party undertakes **never** under any circumstances:

- a. To **use** anti-personnel mines;
- b. To develop, **produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer** to anyone, directly or indirectly, anti-personnel mines;
- c. To **assist, encourage or induce,** in any way, anyone to engage in any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.

Excerpts from the Mine Ban Treaty, signed on 3 and 4 December 1997.

International **TO BAN** CAMPAIGN **LANDMINES**
www.ichl.org

Tan Chuanjeck III, ambassador of ICHL, accepts a copy of the convention from Deputy Chief of Protocol William Brundage III in Ottawa, on 3 December 1997. Photograph: ICHL/Schlagel, courtesy of www.ichl.org

A Long Way From Home



Tun Channareth spoke in Ottawa at the inter-faith ceremony in honour of the Treaty.

Some people call me a 'landmine victim'. So I am. So are you in a different way. You can see I carry in my body the injury caused by landmines. Forty thousand people look like me. Many, many more have lost arms or eyes or one leg. Many too still carry pieces of shrapnel in their bodies causing them suffering and new medical expenses for years. Others carry the emotional scars, the memory of loved ones killed, the sense of being useless, no good, maimed.

I speak for them all when, once again, I recall the words written in 1994 by four of us, all handicapped by landmines:

"Before we were soldiers of four rival armies that laid mines that blew the legs and arms of one another. Now we live and work in the Centre of the Dove. We beg the world to stop making mines We beg the world to stop laying mines We beg the world to give money for de-mining and development so that we can rebuild our lives, our communities, our village and our countries again!"

Village communities and countries are victims of landmines too. I often say my country is a handicapped country, a country where good land is planted with mines instead of rice, - where women collect wood in fear, where children are afraid to run and play freely in the fields, where families are displaced from their homes. The lands of Angola, Sudan, Bosnia, Rwanda, and Afghanistan are victims of mines. They are weeping for peace, wanting the deadly weapons to be lifted from their earth. Our countries remain in t e r - rible poverty, while greedy producers grow rich on our misery.

The "mental landmines" of these producers and exporters and fearful governments make them architects of death and destruction. They use their skill and energy to find new ways of blowing one another apart and killing peace.

Remember this: we are all landmine victims when we allow this system to continue, when we refuse to ban, to de-mine, to assist communities and people suffering.

Some people worry that I am receiving the Nobel Peace Prize along with my co-campaigner, friend and our international co-ordinator Jody Williams. They are afraid that the world will only see the picture of a "worthy helper" from the north with a "useless, handicapped victim" from the east. No, we are both campaigners with different gifts and ... many faults too.

My handicaps are quite visible to you. They can remind us of the invisible handicaps we all have. People from the east and west, north and south all have "landmines of the heart". These landmines inside can lead us to war, to jealousy, to cruel power over others.

If we ban the landmines of the heart along with the landmines in the earth, the needs of the poor will take priority over the wants of the



"Where are the other three?" Reth with his wife and three of his six children.

rich, the freedom of the dominated over the liberty of the powerful, and marginalized groups will be included. Together we can stop a coward's war that makes victims of us all.

Some call me a landmine survivor. That is true too. But so are you. When I first woke up to find both legs gone, I wanted to die. I tried to find ways to kill myself. Now my six beautiful children make me want to survive to build a better world for all the children 'of the world.

Each day I go with a friend, Hul Bros, to visit others injured by mines or polio in Siem Reap. We travel up to 40 Km a day on a motorbike - one leg between two of us! When I met these villagers without rice, without limbs, some without hope, my heart is touched. Children injured by mines bring tears to my eyes. These new friends are precious gifts, sacraments. They draw out mercy and compassion from



“Mr Minister, can you tell me when Japan will destroy its stockpiles?” Tun Channareth.

me. Without them this metta-karuna (loving kindness) might be still locked inside and I would not know the power it has to urge me to change evil into good.

Around the world there are thousands and thousands of people injured by mines who are trying to build their lives again. Sadly some are confined to beds or mats, unable to move; sadly again some are begging at market places all around the world, feeling cheated and hopeless. However the courage and resilience of so many other landmine survivors give me energy and strength. When landmine survivors from Thailand, Angola, Bosnia and Cambodia rode our cyclos and wheelchairs from Paris to Brussels in June, we shared stories. Many of us were helping other handicapped in prosthetic workshops, in wheelchair making, others were carpenters and electricians. In our worldwide networks we have sculptors, weavers, mechanics, doctors, university graduates, farmers, mothers and fathers, students and children - all wanting peace and a better future for the next generation. To survive into the future, root causes of war and displacement have to be stopped. The international treaty to ban landmines, when it is signed and implemented by all removes one major root. The tree of peace can blossom in its place! In that way we all become landmine survivors with peace and compassion as our banner!

Some people call me a campaign ambassador. Yes I am an amputee ambassador. You too are all campaign ambassadors when you support the ICBL in its goals:



“Mr Minister, can you tell me when Japan will destroy its stockpiles?” Tun Channareth.

- 1) a ban on landmines
- 2) lands de-mined
- 3) the development of people and communities victimized by mines.

My trips have led me to meet people in villages and towns in Cambodia, Mozambique, Thailand, Austria, France, Spain, U.K., Ireland, USA, Switzerland, Canada, Malaysia, Japan and Belgium. Royalty in Spain, Cambodia and Belgium, the Pope, the President of Ireland, the Prime Minister of Japan, ambassadors and foreign ministers have all listened to our message. Mr. Molander chairman of U.N. CCW meetings knelt to receive our millions of signatures in Vienna and Geneva - a moment I will always remember and treasure.

What I have learnt is that ordinary people everywhere want peace. I have spoken to people of many faiths. Throughout our campaign we have called on religious leaders for support and words of challenge. All the great religions of the world see Peace as a gift with justice and mercy as the road. For instance Judaism through Micah calls us “to act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with your God”. Islam bids us not to act aggressively to cause damage to the world and that even to remove a piece of stone from the road of the other is a good action. Christianity tells us to love one another. Buddhism says ‘hatred never ceases by hatred but by love alone is healed.’

May this treaty be a new dawn of loving kindness.

Speech composed by Sok Eng and Denise Coghlan in dialogue with Tun Channareth in Banteay Meanchey and Siem Reap.

The People's Treaty



The People's Treaty was the idea of Paul Hannon, of Mines Action Canada and it was immediately supported by the Cambodia Campaign. It was an invitation to civil society to sign their support of this treaty at the same time as governments. On 3 December 1997, as governments signed their support, people gathered to show their own support in a celebration in Ottawa. The first signatories were Song Kosal, Lindsay Wilcox, Kosal's peer in Canada, Jody Williams and Paul Hannon.



Campaigners Sok Eng, Jody Williams, Lindsay Wilcox, Song Kosal, Dalma Foldes and Tun Channareth celebrate after signing the People's Treaty.



Lord Axworthy, Foreign Minister of Canada and President of the meeting, signs the People's Treaty.

Nobel Peace Prize



On 10 December 1997 Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in a ceremony in Oslo. Campaigners joined to rejoice. Tun Channareth accepted the award on behalf of the Campaign.



Left: Jody Williams, Song Kosal and Denise Coghlan after the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony.

Below: Jody Williams, Nobel Laureate and coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Tun Channareth at the ceremony.



Kids Against War



Youth for Peace



In 1998 Kosal started 'Kids Against War' Campaign. "No more landmines, no more war, no new landmine victims."

When Reth visited Lourdes in 2000, Mairead Corrigan, another Nobel Peace Prize winner, challenged the 'Kids Against War' Campaign to say what they were for, not just what they were against. So 'Kids Against War' became 'Youth For Peace. Kids against War.' Kosal asked young people to promise at least one of five things, if they couldn't promise all:

I will help those hurt by landmines and war.

I will solve arguments without violence.

I will care for the environment.

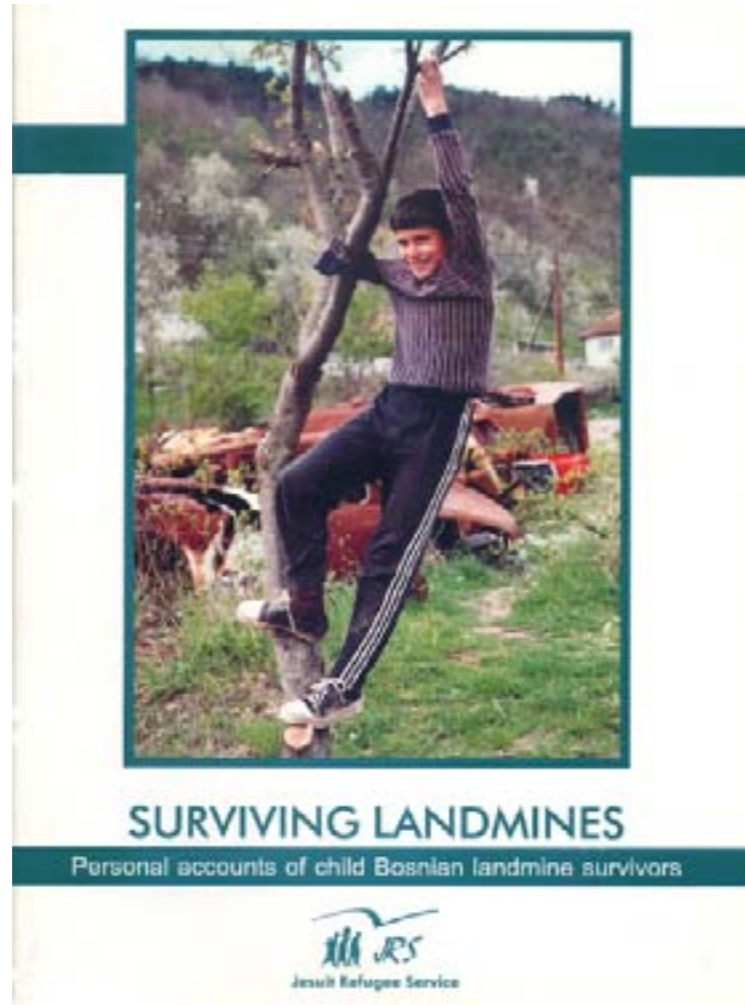
Every day I will spend 5 minutes reflecting peacefully.

Every day I will do one thing to make peace grow like a flower.



Mines Action Canada were collaborators in this effort and took it much further with their Youth Forum programs and Young Professional internships. Song Kosal travelled many times to Canada.

Letter to Bosnia



A letter from Kosal for the book JRS edited about landmine survivors in Bosnia

To my friends in Eastern Europe,

When I hear your stories I remember my story. At first I want to cry again. I remember wanting my leg back, I wanted to be just like everybody else, too. I wanted to run and play freely in the fields. I wanted to go to school without everybody looking at me. I still want to shout at the people who made the mines and sold the mines and planted the mines in our beautiful fields where the butterflies and flowers live! And I want you to keep shouting for a universal ban on land-mines.

But I am also very glad when I read your stories. I am so happy to hear that you continued to study and that you are doing many interesting things with your lives, that one of you has a gold medal for sport.

Although I am the Youth Ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, I am still in Grade 11, because after the war it was difficult to go to school and many of us spent three years in the first class. I used to be shy and ashamed but now like you I want to do something to make the world a better place for people. Can you help me?

With much love,
Song Kosal Youth Ambassador, ICBL

Song Kosal's Speech
Ban Landmines Week Press Conference, Thursday March 8, 2001

Good morning everybody.

I'm Song Kosal from Cambodia, leader of the Youth Against Landmines Campaign. I want a world where every child has a chance to wear two shoes. When I buy shoes, I have to hide one shoe because the empty shoe reminds me of my missing leg and the horror of landmines.

Once I went to a shoemaker and asked, "Would you make me one shoe? Would you mind helping me by making me one shoe?" "No," he said, "that would bring me bad luck."

So I am asking the United States to ban landmines and give all children good luck. We gathered people want a world with no landmines where all children can play freely and not be afraid that they will lose a leg, an eye, an arm or become deaf. In my campaign I ask everybody to do one thing each day to make peace grow like a flower.

Come on United States. Do it today. Ban landmines now. Why not USA? Why not USA?

Monitoring and implementing the Treaty



Tun Channareth meets with Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni in 2004 at the launch of the Landmine Monitor.

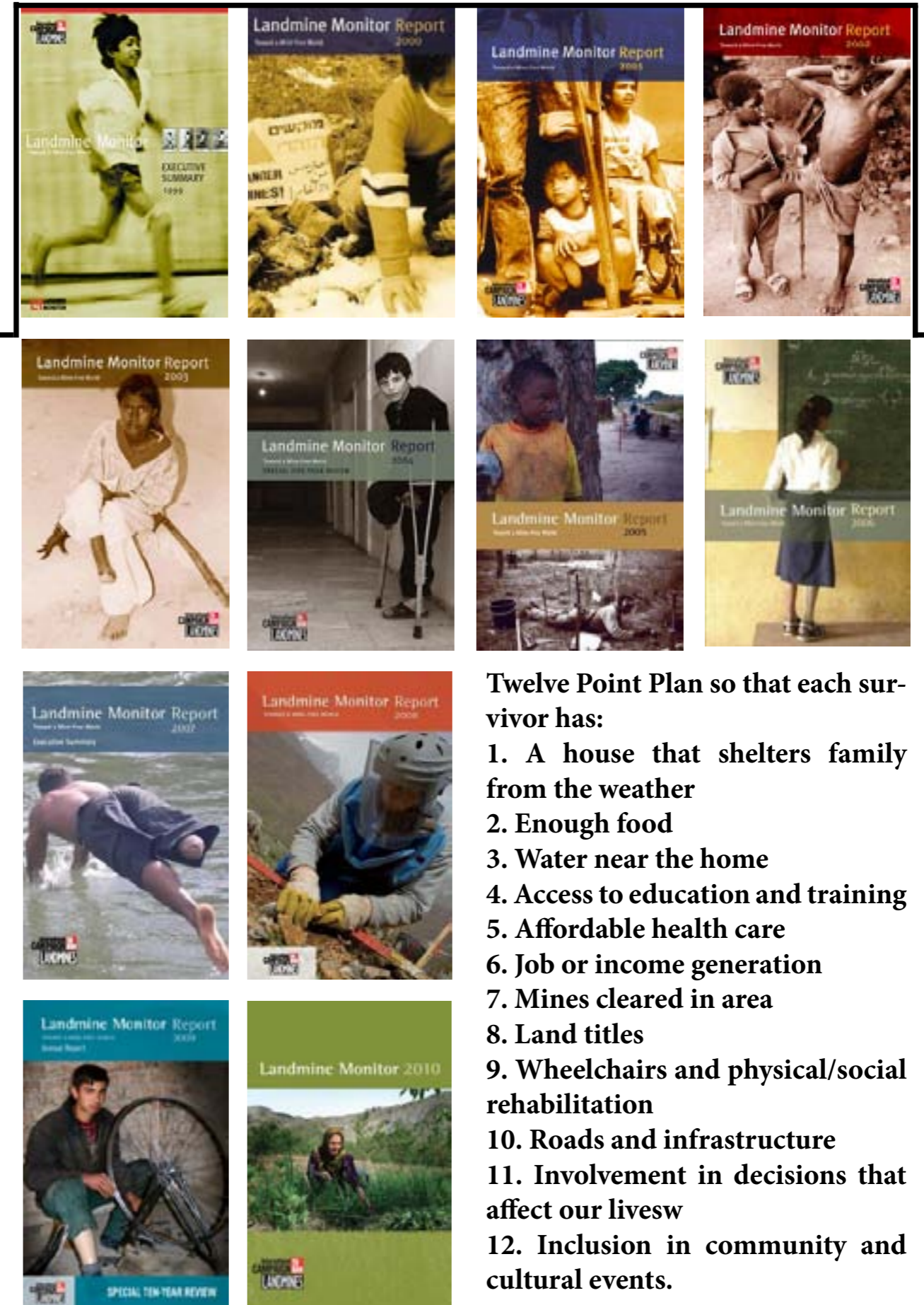
Steve Goose created the Landmine Monitor to ensure that the words of the treaty became a reality on the ground. The first book was published in 1999 and Monitor has been issued every year since.

Cambodian survivors, led by Reth, began writing their practical 12-point plan for how the treaty should implement the victim assistance. It reflected the real conditions rural survivors lived in.

Mine clearance agencies developed and became more professional.

“The credibility of the Treaty depends on the difference it makes in the lives of survivors and in mine affected countries.”

Preface of the Cambodian section of the Landmine Monitor 1999



Twelve Point Plan so that each survivor has:

- 1. A house that shelters family from the weather**
- 2. Enough food**
- 3. Water near the home**
- 4. Access to education and training**
- 5. Affordable health care**
- 6. Job or income generation**
- 7. Mines cleared in area**
- 8. Land titles**
- 9. Wheelchairs and physical/social rehabilitation**
- 10. Roads and infrastructure**
- 11. Involvement in decisions that affect our livesw**
- 12. Inclusion in community and cultural events.**

States Parties Meetings

First Review Conference Nairobi 2004



The President of the Nairobi Review Conference presents Kosal and Reth with the Nairobi Action Plan.

Nairobi Action Plan calls for national plans for “victims” on:

- rehabilitation and medical services
- psycho-social support
- economic inclusion
- good data
- laws/ policies

and for efficient/effctive mine clearance.

Song Kosal speaks at the Opening Ceremony in Nairobi.

Friends from around the world, I would like to greet you all in the traditional way of my country Cambodia. Chum Rieb Suor. When I greet you like this it reminds me of the day that Jody Williams greeted me from the stage after the treaty to ban landmines was signed. Chum riep sour, Jody! It was so wonderful. We had a treaty at last.

When I was 12 years old I spoke at the United Nations in Vienna and asked them to ban landmines. But they did not!! I lost hope for children. In 1996 we tried again in Geneva and failed again but we did not give up. It is 5 years since the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty became law.

Many mines have been cleared, but not enough. Many people have got new legs but not enough. Many people have been given wheelchairs and assistance, but not enough. Many people disabled by landmines are working hard in their rice fields, repairing machines, sculpting, selling things, learning to use computers and mobile phones. This is good news but we need to do more.

In Cambodia this year alone, 772 people were injured or killed by landmines. This is sad news. Many communities living in newly cleared mine fields still do not have houses, water, food, safe land for farming, schools or medical care. This is not fair. In some countries landmine victims still make new legs from old bombs. This is not just.

So today I ask governments: See, hear and listen to the voices of the poor, especially those in mine affected areas. Make sure the mines are cleared. Fund programmes that directly assist survivors.

My message to children and young people is: Build a different world, a world of peace not war. My message to everyone: Our world needs peace. A mine free world is one big step forward. We are never too young or too old to build this world of peace.

We want a mine-free world. Come on everybody! Let's do it together now and see an end to mines by 2009.



Your Royal Highnesses, Excellencies and Friends of peace.

We celebrate 10 years since our Mine Ban Treaty was signed in Ottawa. Congratulation to all of us, because here we are in Jordan, still working to make our Mine Ban Treaty a reality in the poorest countries.

In 2007 we are not in Ottawa or Oslo, but in Jordan a very different place with a very wonderful history. This land of Jordan is very important historical and religious significance. Last night, as we drove along, we saw the special places of Moses. As we arrived we heard the prayer call of Islam. This morning we visited the Baptism site of Jesus. The guide at the Jordan River site this morning told us of the words of the King of Jordan, "We look after this Baptism site as a heritage for humanity." What beautiful words! "Heritage for Humanity."

I think our Mine Ban Treaty is something that we have made into a heritage for humanity. It represents a commitment to peace, a commitment to justice, a commitment to human rights and especially a commitment to Compassion. All these things together.

We need rights and compassion with charity. We see this very clearly in many of the people TUN CHANNARETH meets each day. He will tell you of people who have lost eyes and two legs and need to support five children. Let their need evoke compassion in your hearts and the hearts of government, to experience compassion makes you and me a richer human being! Right now we need the same energy, commitment, courage and compassion to make a new treaty banning CLUSTER MUNITIONS.

Sadly, in Geneva last week the CCW meeting came up with a wishy washy mandate that will not make a heritage for humanity any time soon. So everyone I call on you to support the Oslo Process and give us a strong treaty against CLUSTERS by December 2008.

SPEECH IN CARTAGENA 2nd REVIEW CONFERENCE
ON 29th Nov. 09 (COLOMBIA)

Good Evening Everybody/Buenos Tardes,

It is wonderful to see you again here in beautiful Cartagena!
Together many of us have walked a long road which included Oslo, Ottawa, Nairobi Review Conference in 2004 and now Cartagena in 2009!

Before we came here from Cambodia our wheelchair dancers blessed the road TO CARTAGENA. They want to know what will happen here. Will it be good news for them?

Working for the mine ban treaty has changed my life! Now I am starting my final year at the university and I will not stop campaigning until all the survivors have a chance for education and a better life.

Cartagena is the city of San Pedro Klaver and the beautiful old monastery named after him. Pedro Klaver spent his life here working so that all slaves might become free men and women and live in dignity.

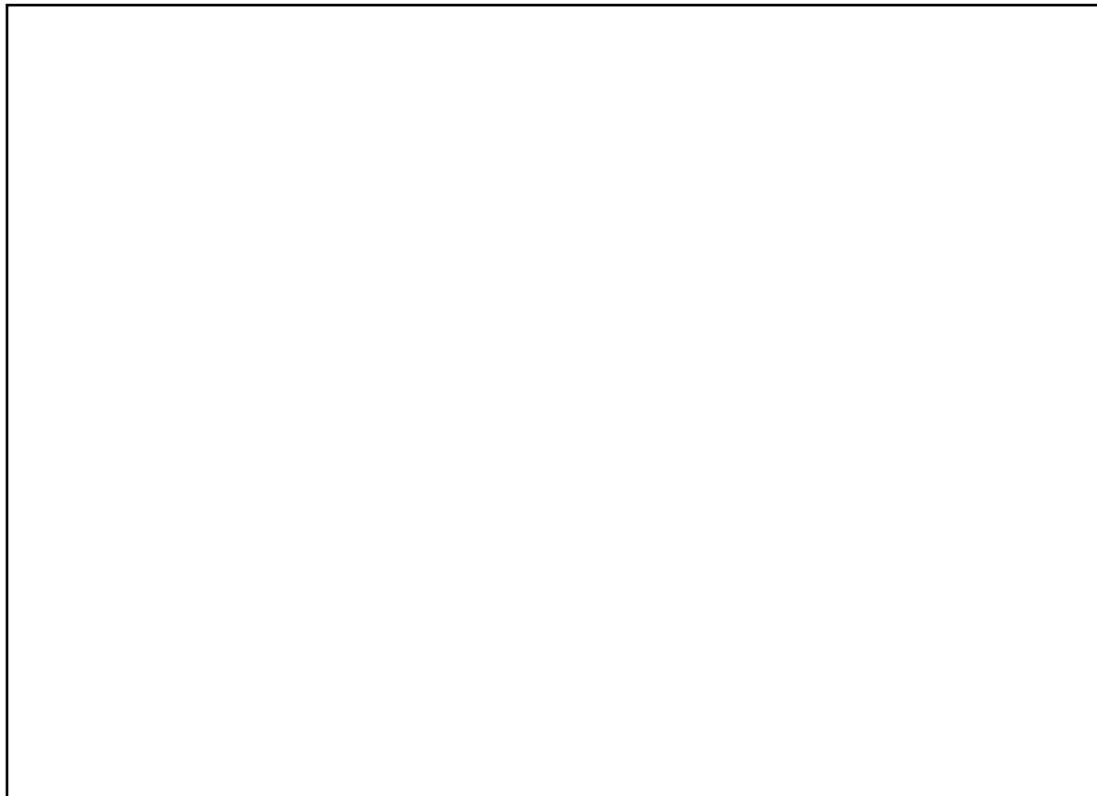
That was 200 years ago. Today we too, are here, so that people victimized by mines live in dignity with all their rights respected, that land enslaved by these deadly weapons is liberated rapidly. Cartagena is not the end of our road. but the beginning of a new journey where: we commit to implementing our very good draft action plan with new energy and purpose. These plans insist that, survivors will be heard and that if implemented will ensure

- Survivors receive more effective, accessible and affordable services
- Mined land will be cleared more rapidly
- States commit themselves to clearing border areas.
- Stockpiles of mines no longer exist!
- Funding is provided to finish the job!

We can look back in gratitude for what we have achieved since Nairobi and rejoice! But let us look forward and do much greater things. Our new road will be made by walking it together in JUSTICE AND COMPASSION, IN NON VIOLENCE AND SOLIDARITY.

BLESS THE ROAD FROM CARTAGENA!
BENDICE EL CAMINO DESDE CARTAGENA!

Cluster Munitions



Caption goes here

What are cluster bombs?

A cluster bomb, or cluster munition, consists of a container filled with lots of smaller bombs (submunitions). These containers might be dropped from aircraft or fired from the ground. Breaking open in midair, the container releases the submunitions - saturating an area the size of several football fields. Anybody within that area, be they military or civilian, is likely to be torn apart.

Campaigners were reporting on the havoc caused by left over cluster munitions. Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos had been bombed unmercifully in the 1970's and these remnants of war were still causing deaths and horrific injuries. In 2006, when Israel bombed Lebanon, there was global outrage. Norway, Austria, Ireland and the Holy Sea and New Zealand and Civil Society were reenergised to address this huge humanitarian problem. Tun Channareth and Kosal, along with many other Cambodian survivors and campaigners, engaged vigorously in the Campaign.

Cluster Munitions Convention Becomes International Law



Oslo Sept 2008.

Kosal in Oslo. Kosal felt that many countries were still ready to be satisfied with a “wishy-washy” treaty. Earlier in the day, the Japanese ambassador remembered that he was booed by civil society at one stage in the mine ban negotiations and he felt a little afraid that his governments position on cluster munitions might evoke the same response. Later in the day, Kosal, in her presentation said she was far too polite to ‘boo’ but she was closely watching countries beginning with ‘J’, ‘F’, ‘U’, ‘A’! Reth and Kosal were both in New Zealand and Dublin and involved in the coordinated effort of the cluster munition coalition.

The Cluster Munitions Convention was signed in Oslo in December 2008 and became international law on the 1st August 2010.

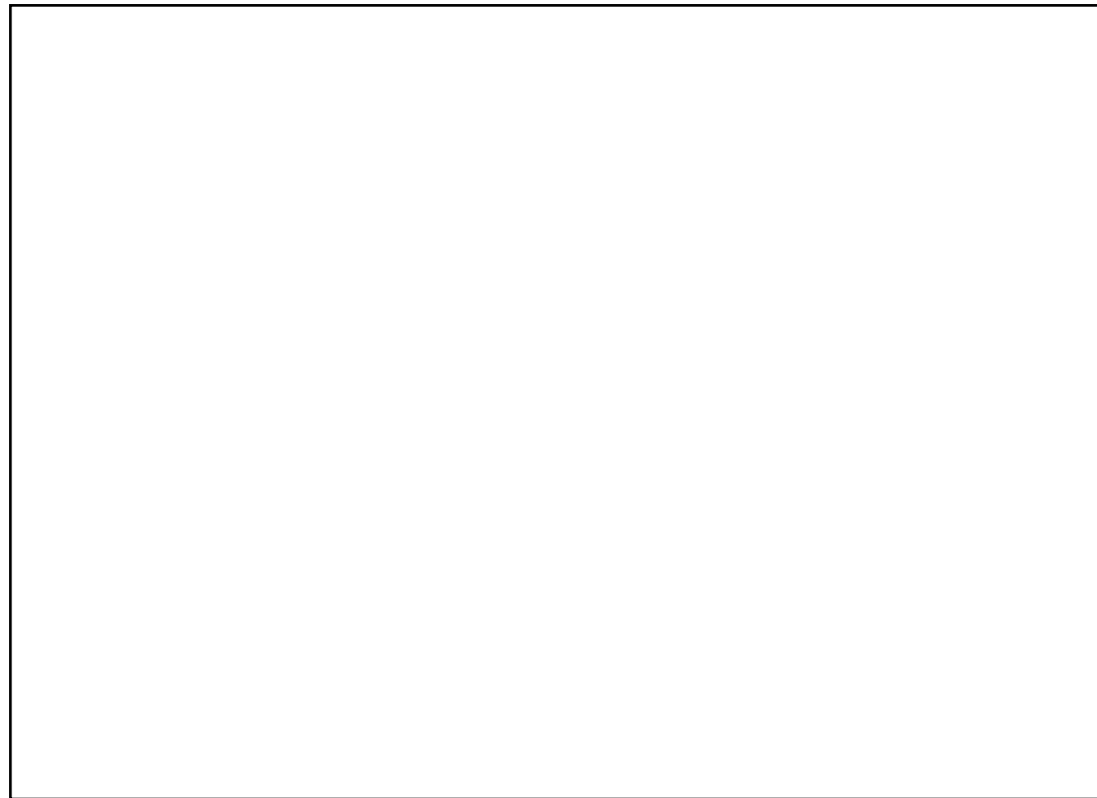
New Zealand February 2009.

Dublin May 2009

Oslo September 2009.

NEED PHOTO

Welcome back to Phnom Penh



Caption goes here

PUSH FOR PROGRESS back in your home countries. We want you to make 2011/2012 the BEST YEARS ever for MINE ACTION.

SO:

Clear more Mines. Get those extension requests progressing along

Meet some survivors, listen to them and uphold their Rights

Give more money to Mine Action

Destroy stockpiles safely

Condemn strongly any new use of Mines

And see if you can bring Laos, Singapore, Vietnam, USA, Tuvalu and others to Phnom Penh as new STATES PARTIES.

Now in 2011 we campaigners are going back to Cambodia the heart of the movement with old memories and new enthusiasm. We want all States to come with energy to Phnom Penh. Together we will make sure our Treaty makes progress and does what it promises.

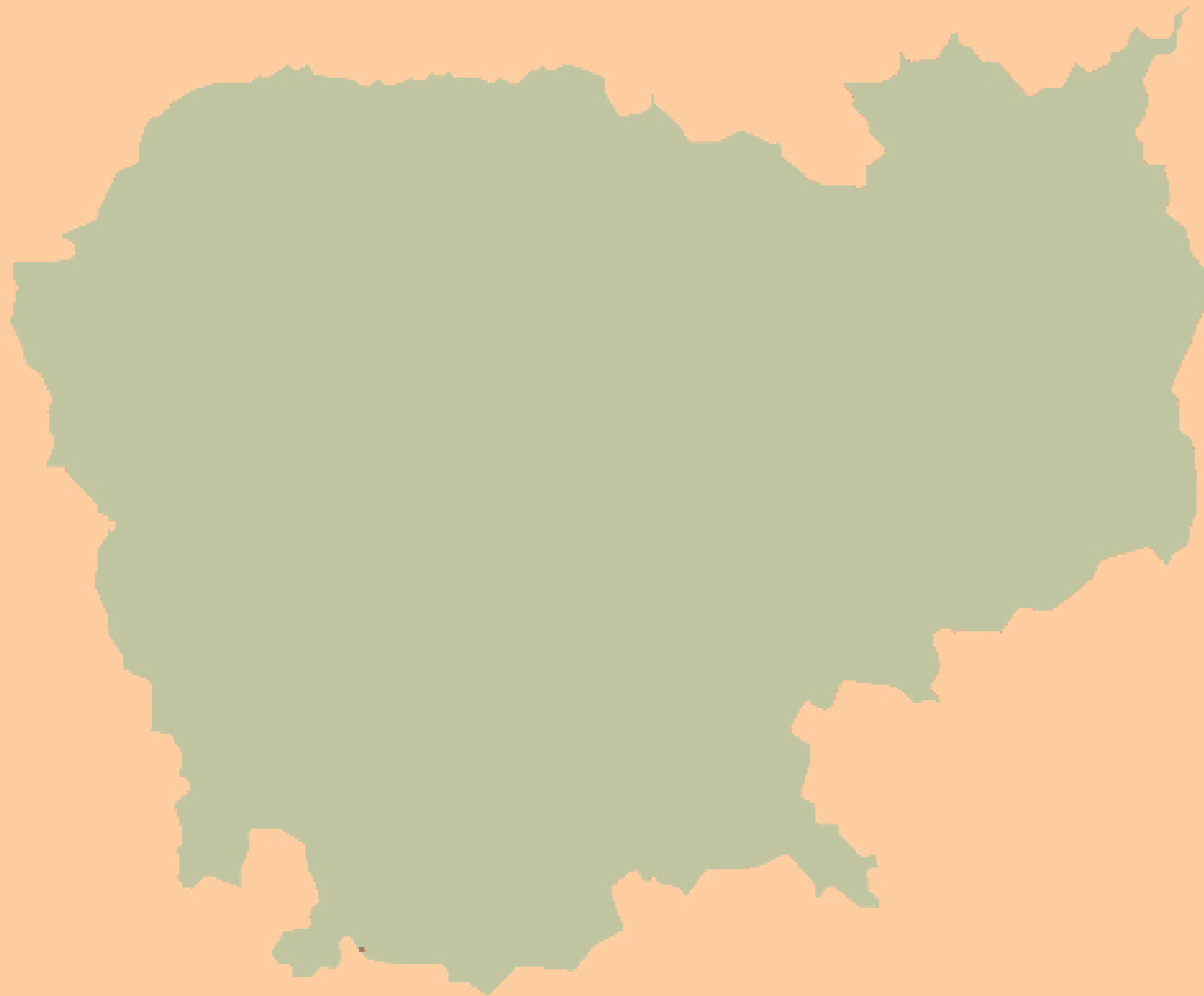
Everybody KEEP PUSHING FOR PROGRESS! MAKE THE PHNOM PENH PROGRESS REPORT, A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION AND A COMMITMENT TO A MINE FREE WORLD. Nothing wishy washy please! Lots of good true information and realistic plans.

COME ON EVERYBODY PUSH FOR PROGRESS AND SEE YOU SOON!

And we also promise lots of fun in our Kingdom of Wonder.

red with white
yellow with black





Tun Channareth hands out information in front of the UN in Geneva in 1996.

After the success of the landmine campaign, the international community turned its attention to a comprehensive ban on cluster munitions.

In February 2007, the Oslo process began in Norway.

Campaign against cluster munitions signed 30 May, 2008, became law August 1, 2010
Second Review Conference: 29 November – 4 December 2009, Cartagena, Colombia:
Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World



