



THE UNITED STATES AND THE 1997 MINE BAN TREATY



FEBRUARY 19, 2014

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Washington DC

THE UNITED STATES AND THE 1997 MINE BAN TREATY

PROGRAM

Hosted by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit and Human Rights Watch on behalf of the United States Campaign to Ban Landmines, with the support of the European Union.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES (9:30AM-9:55AM)

Introduction by:

François Rivasseau
European Union Delegation to the United States

Featuring:

Jody Williams
1997 Nobel Peace Laureate

Prince Mired Bin Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan
Special Envoy for the Mine Ban Treaty

Statement by Senator Patrick Leahy
read by Channapha Khamvongsa, Legacies of War

Technical Break

US EXPERT PANEL DISCUSSION (10:00AM-11:15AM)

Moderator:

Rachel Stohl
Stimson Center

Featuring:

Heidi Kuhn
Roots of Peace

Steve Goose
Human Rights Watch

Ken Rutherford
Center for International Stabilization and Recovery

Lt. Gen. Robert Gard (Ret.)
Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

Technical Break

CLOSING REMARKS (11:20AM-11:30AM)

Introduction by:

Beth MacNairn
Handicap International US

Ambassador Amélia Sumbana of Mozambique
on behalf of the President-Designate of the
Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention



THE UNITED STATES AND THE MINE BAN TREATY

The United States has not banned antipersonnel landmines and its policy on doing so has been under review for the past five years. The US Campaign to Ban Landmines is urging that the outcome of the review be a decision to join the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty as soon as possible, to prohibit the use of antipersonnel mines immediately, and to begin destruction of all stocks of antipersonnel mines.

US landmine policy

President William Jefferson Clinton was the first world leader to call for the eventual elimination of all antipersonnel landmines almost two decades ago, in September 1994. While his administration did not sign the Mine Ban Treaty after it was negotiated in 1997, Clinton set the goal of joining in 2006. That approach was abandoned by President George W. Bush in February in 2004, who issued a policy that the US would never join the treaty.

Despite the fact that it has not yet joined the Mine Ban Treaty, the United States has not used antipersonnel mines since 1991, has not exported them since 1992, has not produced them since 1997, and has no plans for future procurement. It has been the world's leading donor for mine clearance and victim assistance.

In December 2009, a State Department official confirmed that a comprehensive landmine policy review had been “initiated at the direction of President Obama.” Until the current policy review is completed, the Bush administration policy remains in place, permitting the US to use its stockpile of millions of self-destructing, self-deactivating antipersonnel mines. Under this policy, the US has since 2011 prohibited the use of antipersonnel mines that do not self-destruct – sometimes called “persistent” or “dumb” mines.

Since the United States began its policy review in 2009:

- The Obama Administration has received letters of support for the US to join the Mine Ban Treaty from treaty states parties, 68 Senators, 16 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, key NATO allies, senior military veterans, dozens of leaders from non-governmental organizations, victims of US landmines, and more than 200,000 concerned Americans;
- Mine Ban Treaty special envoy Prince Mired of Jordan and representatives of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines have met with US officials in dozens of capitals around the world to discuss the need for the US to join the Mine Ban Treaty;
- The US has participated as an observer in every meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty since the Second Review Conference in Cartagena, Colombia in December 2009;
- US officials have expressed concern at new use of antipersonnel landmines by states not party to the treaty.

The Mine Ban Treaty

March 1, 2014 marks the 15-year anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty’s entry into force. Since the treaty entered into force, and with the assistance of the US and other donor nations, large tracts of land have been cleared of mines and returned to productive use. The number of civilians killed and wounded by mines each year has fallen dramatically. More than 46 million antipersonnel mines have been destroyed from stockpiles and use of the weapon even by those not party to the treaty is rare.

A total of 161 nations are States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, including all European Union member states, all of NATO (except the US), and major US allies such as Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, and Japan. Nearly all of the 35 states outside the Mine Ban Treaty are in de facto compliance with most of the treaty’s provisions.

US accession to the Mine Ban Treaty would help to convince the other countries not yet party to join, strengthening the norm against antipersonnel mines, thereby ensuring they are not used in the future and create no additional humanitarian and socio-economic harm.

This event is being held in advance of the Third Review Conference of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, which opens in Maputo, Mozambique in June 2014.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Introduction

MR. FRANÇOIS RIVASSEAU, EUROPEAN UNION

www.euintheus.org
@EUintheUS



Since April 2011 François Rivasseau has been Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the United States and from 2007 to 2011 served as the Deputy Head of France's Diplomatic Mission to the US. Rivasseau has spent much of his career working on disarmament, security, and multilateral affairs for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1995, he became the Deputy Permanent Representative at the French Mission to the Conference on Disarmament, where he took part in negotiations over the Mine Ban Treaty. In 2003, Mr. Rivasseau returned to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France, where he served president of the Third Review Conference on the Convention on Conventional Weapons in 2006. He currently serves also as a Member of the Advisory Board on Disarmament of the UN Secretary-General.

Keynote speakers

MS. JODY WILLIAMS, 1997 NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE

nobelwomensinitiative.org
@NobelWomen @JodyWilliams97



In 1997, Jody Williams became the tenth woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She was honored for her role as the founding coordinator (1991-1998) of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. Williams oversaw the growth of the ICBL from two NGOs in 1991 to a global network comprised of 1,300 organizations in 95 countries working to eliminate antipersonnel landmines. In 2006, Williams together with five of her sister Nobel Peace laureates established the Nobel Women's Initiative, which works for a democratic world free of physical, economic, cultural, political, religious, sexual and environmental violence and the constant threat of these forms of violence against women – indeed against all of humanity.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Keynote speakers

PRINCE MIRED RAAD AL HUSSEIN OF JORDAN, SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE MINE BAN TREATY

www.apminebanconvention.org
[@MineBanTreaty](#) [@MiredRaad](#)



His Royal Highness Prince Mired Bin Raad Al-Hussein of Jordan has since 2009 served as a Special Envoy for the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, where he is leading efforts to promote further acceptance of the treaty. Prince Mired served as the President of the Eighth Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in 2007. Since 2004, Prince Mired has served as Chair of Jordan's National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation and since 2000 he has served as President of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers and Vice President of the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities. Prince Mired has extensive military experience and holds degrees from Tufts University in the US and the University of Cambridge, England.

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY (statement read by Channapha Khamvongsa)

www.leahy.senate.gov
[@SenatorLeahy](#)



In 1974, Patrick Leahy became the first Democrat from Vermont elected to the United States Senate, where he now ranks second in seniority. Leahy serves as Chairman of both the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations. Leahy has long been a leader in the U.S. and international efforts to ban antipersonnel landmines and, in 1992, he wrote the world's first law to ban the export of these deplorable weapons. Leahy has led congressional efforts to create a special fund in the foreign aid budget to help landmine victims, known as the Leahy War Victims Fund. This fund now provides up to \$12 million a year to humanitarian anti-landmine efforts.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Keynote speaker

**MS. CHANNAPHA KHAMVONGSA,
LEGACIES OF WAR**

legaciesofwar.org
@legaciesofwar @channaphasays



Channapha Khamvongsa is executive director of Legacies of War, an organization which seeks to address the problem of unexploded cluster bombs in Laos, to provide space for healing the wounds of war and to create greater hope for a future of peace. The organization uses art, culture, education, and community organizing to bring people together and create healing and transformation out of the wreckage of war. Khamvongsa's father is from Luang Prabang and her mother is from Thakhek. She was born in Vientiane and came to the U.S. at the age of seven. Khamvongsa has studied at George Mason University and Oxford University. She received her Master's Degree in Public Policy from Georgetown University.

Expert US Panel Discussion

Moderator

MS. RACHEL STOHL, STIMSON CENTER

stimson.org
@StimsonCenter



Rachel Stohl is a senior associate with Stimson's Managing Across Boundaries initiative. Her areas of expertise focus on issues relating to the international arms trade, including small arms and light weapons, as well as children and armed conflict. Prior to joining Stimson she was an associate fellow at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs and a senior analyst at the Center for Defense Information. Stohl was the consultant to the Arms Trade Treaty process from 2010-2013 and was previously the consultant to the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the Arms Trade Treaty in 2008 and the UN Register for Conventional Arms in 2009. Stohl is co-author of two books, *The International Arms Trade* (Polity Press, 2009) and *The Beginners Guide to the Small Arms Trade* (Oneworld Publishing, 2009). Stohl holds an M.A. in international policy studies from the Monterey Institute of International Studies and an honors B.A. in political science and German from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Panel speakers

MS. HEIDI KUHN, ROOTS OF PEACE

rootsofpeace.org
[@Heidi_Kuhn](https://www.instagram.com/Heidi_Kuhn) [@RootsofPeace](https://www.facebook.com/RootsofPeace)



In September 1997, Heidi Kuhn was inspired to create an organization dedicated to the eradication of landmines worldwide. She sought the support of the Napa Valley vintners to turn MINES TO VINES—replace the scourge of landmines with the nectar of grapes in war-torn countries. Today Roots of Peace is an international non-profit humanitarian organization working to clear landmines in war-torn countries and empower local communities to plant sustainable crops on the cleared land. In countries including Afghanistan, Croatia, Israel/Palestine, and Vietnam, Roots of Peace is working to implement a comprehensive and lasting solution that not only removes the landmines, but also restores the land and livelihood of the local community through sustainable agricultural use.

PROF. KEN RUTHERFORD, CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STABILIZATION AND RECOVERY

jmu.edu/cisr
[@cisrjmu](https://www.instagram.com/cisrjmu)



Ken Rutherford is professor of political science and director of the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Rutherford lost both his legs when his vehicle hit a landmine in Somalia on 16 December 1993. Rutherford was an early advocate for the landmine ban and in 1997 co-founded the Landmine Survivors Network, a non-profit organization that worked to promote the rights of landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Rutherford has published a number of articles and four books including *Humanitarianism Under Fire: The US and UN Intervention in Somalia* and, most recently *Disarming States: The International Movement to Ban Landmines* (Praeger, 2011). He holds a PhD and MALS from Georgetown University, and MBA and BA from the University of Colorado, where he was a football letterman and inducted in the Hall of Fame for distinguished alumni.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Panel speakers

MR. STEPHEN GOOSE, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

hrw.org
@hrw @SteveDGoose



Steve Goose is executive director of the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch and chair of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munition Coalition (ICBL-CMC). Goose played a central role in the creation of the Mine Ban Treaty and is the intellectual architect behind the ICBL's unprecedented civil society-based verification initiative, Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor. Steve has been at the forefront of international efforts to address the humanitarian harm caused by other weapons, including the global bans on cluster munitions and blinding lasers. Before joining Human Rights Watch in 1993, Steve was a staff member of the House Appropriations Committee and a senior researcher at the Center for Defense Information.

LT. GEN. ROBERT GARD (RET.), CENTER FOR ARMS CONTROL AND NON-PROLIFERATION

armscontrolcenter.org
@nukes_of_hazard



Lieutenant General Robert G. Gard, Jr. is chair of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation where he focuses on nuclear nonproliferation, missile defense, military policy, nuclear terrorism, and other national security issues as well as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Iran. During his 31 years of distinguished military service, Gard saw combat in both the Korea and Vietnam wars, served a three year tour in Germany, served as assistant to two secretaries of defense, and was president of National Defense University. After retiring from the U.S. Army in 1981, he served as director of the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies Center in Bologna, Italy and then as President of the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Since 1996, Gard has worked in support of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines to promote the Mine Ban Treaty in the US and abroad.

BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS

Closing Remarks

AMB. AMÉLIA SUMBANA, MOZAMBIQUE

www.maputoreviewconference.org
@MineBanTreaty



Amélia Matos Sumbana became ambassador of Mozambique to the United States on Nov. 4, 2009. She previously served as a member of the National Parliament (1994-2009) as well as secretary of the Central Committee for International Relations of the FRELIMO Party (1997-2006), and was a founding member of the Mozambique Red Cross. At this event she is representing Henrique Banze, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mozambique and the President-Designate of the Third Review Conference of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. With the 23-27 June 2014 Third Review Conference, the international community will be returning to where global efforts to implement to the Convention all began in 1999.

MS. ELIZABETH MACNAIRN, HANDICAP INTERNATIONAL U.S.

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Elizabeth MacNairn is the Executive Director of Handicap International U.S., which has run mine action projects in more than 40 countries since 1982. She joined the Handicap International U.S. staff in 2008 and has served as Executive Director since June 2011. MacNairn wields two decades of experience in international development and humanitarian relief program management, communications, fundraising and teaching/training. She has worked with non-governmental organizations and educational institutions based both in the United States and abroad. She currently serves on the Board of InterAction.

ABOUT THE HOSTS



**Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Implementation Support Unit**
www.apminebanconvention.org
@MineBanTreaty

The Implementation Support Unit is the secretariat to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction. It is directly accountable to the States Parties to the Convention while being hosted by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and funded on a voluntary basis by States Parties. The Implementation Support Unit is mandated to support the States Parties to the Convention, in particular by doing the following:

- Providing support to all States Parties through support to the Convention's implementation machinery and office holders,
- Providing support to individual States Parties, including by providing advice and technical support on implementation and universalization,
- Communicating and providing information about the Convention,
- Keeping records of formal and informal meetings under the Convention, and
- Liaising and coordinating with relevant international organisations that participate in the work of the Convention.



United States Campaign to Ban Landmines
www.banminesusa.org
@BanMinesUSA @minefreeworld

The US Campaign to Ban Landmines is the US affiliate of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), co-laureate together with former ICBL Coordinator Jody Williams of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. Human Rights Watch serves as chair of the coalition, which is comprised of more than 400 non-governmental organizations. Previously, the US campaign has been coordinated by NGOs including the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (1996-2000), Physicians for Human Rights (2000-2005), Friends Committee on National Legislation (2005-2009), and Handicap International (2009-2013).



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