Landmine Survivors Network

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More than 80 percent of the funds will be allocated to ICRC programs which provide surgical care, medical assistance and physical rehabilitation for mine victims within the context of the organization's overall assistance to the war wounded. The ICRC is at home to open three new limb-fitting centers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. It also provides direct medical assistance to health facilities and appropriate training for nurses, doctors and surgeons treating mine victims.

In cooperation with a number of National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC currently runs mine awareness programs in Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Costa Rica. Similar programs are being drawn up in Angola, Georgia and Sudan. They aim to reduce the risk of mine-related death or injury by providing people in mine-affected areas with information on the precautions to be taken until the mines can be cleared.

Since February 1994, the ICRC and the entire International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have been actively involved in the drive to impose a total ban on anti-personnel mines, running public awareness campaigns and encouraging diplomatic and military circles to support their efforts. These efforts will continue in order to achieve universal acceptance of the Ottawa Treaty, to coordinate and improve the case given to victims, and to extend preventive mine awareness programs.

The ICRC is currently running 23 limb-fitting and rehabilitation programs in 13 countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan and Uganda. Twenty-four ICRC projects in 12 other countries have now been handed over to local or international NGO control, though many continue to receive financial and technical support from the ICRC. In a number of countries, the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supported by their International Federation, care for mine-injured people through health, rehabilitation and social welfare programs.

In addition to these activities, the ICRC and national societies are conducting mine awareness programs in several countries in order to reduce the number of landmine incidents in mine-affected areas.

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White's injury in a mine field in Israel belies the arguments of those who believe the mine problem can be solved by better signs and fences. White spent five months in a hospital in Tel Aviv, where he underwent five operations and learned to walk with a prosthesis. "I was only four years old when Syrian soldiers, retreating during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, laid Soviet-supplied mines in the Golani Heights. The soldiers no doubt hoped the mines would maim or kill Israeli troops. Instead, my mine waited silently in the ground for nearly 17 years until it exploded under my foot and blew off my right leg."

I was 20 years old. I had taken time off from my university studies in the United States to explore the Middle East. I wasn't a soldier, but armed with only a backpack and an Arabic and Hebrew dictionary. Two friends and I had decided to explore northern Israel on a hiking trip. We were looking for a place to camp and had no idea that we had entered a mine field. There was no fence and no signs to keep us out. The next morning, on a beautiful spring day, I stepped on a mine. I can still remember the deafening blast, the sound of blood, burnt flesh and metal. Only when my friends noticed me did they see the extent of my wounds. The explosions had ripped off my right foot, shaved my leg up to my knee and cut through my shin and leg. I was unconscious for a minute. "I would never have come out of it alive if you hadn't been there," my friends told me. Not a single one of them was hurt."

In 1993, Rutherford undertook 11 operations including the amputation of both his legs below the knee. Since his accident, he has traveled worldwide to speak out in favor of a ban and to raise awareness of the mass suffering caused by these weapons. Rutherford currently holds a teaching fellowship at Georgetown University, where he is pursuing doctoral studies in government.

"In December 1993, I was working as a training officer for the International Rescue Committee in Somalia, where my job was to help Somali farmers apply for loans so they could rebuild their country. My project was funded by USAID. On December 16, as I was inspecting a project site near the border with Ethiopia, my car hit a landmine. I suddenly became something rare for an American: a landmine victim. It was to change my life forever."

"After the explosion, I first remember seeing a four-foot long plume of smoke covering the top of my car. I remember thinking: 'Is it mine?' It was. It was my right foot. I remember that I kept trying to put it back on, but it kept falling off. Then I looked at my left foot. The top part was ripped off and I could see bones going to my toes, one of which was missing. I dragged myself out of the car and called for help on my radio. It seemed like a lifetime before help arrived. While I was waiting, I prayed to God. I was also祈祷ing up blood, so I thought that I might have internal injuries that could be fatal. I asked God that if I lived, I would like to marry Kim, my fiancée of two months, and raise a family. In the evacuation plane from Somalia to Nairobi, a Belgian doctor and an American nurse gave me blood from their bodies to mine."

"I am here today because of the resources I had at my disposal. I had a radio to call for help and airplanes to evacuate me. Most landmine victims are not so lucky. The United Nations estimates that the average lifetime care of a landmine victim costs from $7,000 to $30,000. My medical costs have already exceeded a quarter of a million dollars."

The statistics are staggering. Roughly every 20 minutes someone is killed or maimed by a landmine. That amounts to over 26,000 men, women and children each year injured through no fault of their own. The number of victims has been portrayed in terms of shocking ratios: one in every 230 Cambodians is an amputee from a landmine injury. In Afghanistan and Bosnia, only one knows the exact numbers. Most mine victims die without anyone documenting the tragedy.

Today, there are hundreds of thousands of landmine survivors worldwide, including thousands of children, with no access to proper and affordable medical care and rehabilitation. Moreover, the number of victims is increasing. Few non-governmental organizations are able to keep up with the demand."

LSD Achievements
- Recognition by the Norwegian Nobel Committee to the ICRC co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.
- A global ban treaty signed by 124 governments, including language recommending by the ICRC, signatories to rehabilitation mine victims, the first time humanitarian assistance for victims to be included in an arms control treaty.
- High-profile tour of Bosnia in August by White, Rutherford and Diana, Princess of Wales, attracting global attention to the landmine issue just prior to the September
Landmine Survivors Network

Landmine Survivors Network (LSN) works to help mine victims and their families recover through an integrated program of peer counseling, sports, and social and economic integration into their communities. For example, landmine survivors play a crucial role in landmine education, particularly for children within communities at risk. Since its inception, LSN has been building a worldwide network to link landmine survivors with the resources available to help them. LSN is developing the first comprehensive database designed to track the rehabilitation needs of mine victims and the organizations that can change urgently needed assistance to the impoverished survivors who need it most. Today, the network is concentrating its efforts on the mine-polluted countries where most survivors live, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia, Cambodia and Mozambique. In each country, we are working to bring medical supplies, education and employment opportunities to thousands of survivors. LSN is on the steering committee of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), a coalition of more than 1,000 humanitarian, religious and development groups, that was a co-recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

Jerry White

Jerry White, co-founder and director of LSN, stepped on a mine in Israel in 1984 while hiking with friends. He has 10 years experience tracking the spread of weapons of mass destruction. A graduate of Brown University, White worked at the Brookings Institution prior to becoming assistant director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control in Washington, D.C. He has testified before Congress and published numerous articles in The New York Times.

Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and International Herald Tribune. White is past

editor of the Risk Report, an award-winning publication and database that tracks military-related technology.

White’s injury in a mine field in Israel belies the arguments of those who believe the mine problem can be solved by better signs and fences. White spent five months in a hospital in Tel Aviv, where he underwent five operations and learned to walk with a prosthetic. It was only four years old when Syrian soldiers, destroying during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, laid Soviet-supplied mines in the Golani Heights. The soldiers doubt hoped the mines would main m or kill Israeli troops. Instead, my mine waited silently in the ground for nearly 17 years un til it exploded under my foot and blew off my right leg.

It was 20 years old. I had taken time from my university studies in the United States to explore the Middle East. I wasn't a soldier but I had armed with only a backpack and an Arabic and Hebrew dictionary. Two friends and I had decided to explore northern Israel on a hiking trip. We were looking for a place to camp and had no idea that we would enter a mine field. There was no fence and no signs to keep us out. The next morning, on a beautiful sunny day, I stepped on a mine. I can still remember the dazzling blinding flash of blood, burnt flesh and metal. Only when my friends noticed me did they see the extent of my wounds. The explosion had ripped off my right foot, shredded had lacerated my skin and my left leg. I was able to get a bone sticking out of my calf. We screamed for help but it seemed that no one but God could hear. Either I would bleed to death, or my friends would have to carry me out of the mine field. Luckily we made it out without further loss.

All the talk about fencing and marking mine fields is a distraction from the real challenge: to stop the proliferation of landmines. I was injured in a country that takes pride in how well it has fenced and marked its mine fields. But even in a small, security-conscious state like Israel, fences break down, signs fade, fall, or are stolen and mines shift with changes in weather and soil erosion.

Ken Rutherford

Ken Rutherford, co-founder of LSN, holds masters degrees in international af fairs and business administration and has extensive international experience, including work as a U.S. Peace Corps trainer in Mauritania and for the U.N. High Commission for refugees in Senegal. Rutherford was a training officer in Somalia for the International Rescue Committee when he was injured in a landmine in December 1993. Rutherford undertook 11 operations including the amputation of both his legs below the knee. Since his accident, he has traveled worldwide to speak in favor of a ban and to raise awareness of the mass suffering caused by these weapons. Rutherford currently holds a teaching fellowship at George Washington University, where he is pursuing doctoral studies in government.

In December 1993, I was working as a training officer for the International Rescue Committee in Somalia, where my job was to help Somalia apply for loans so they could rebuild their country. My project was funded by USAID. On December 16, I was inspecting a program site near the border with Ethiopia, my car hit a landmine and I suddenly became something rare for an American: a landmine victim. It was to change my life forever.

After the explosion, I first remember seeing a four foot long bloody stump on the floor of the car. I remember thinking: Is it mine? It was. It was my right foot. I remember that I kept trying to put it back on, but it kept falling off. Then I looked at my left foot. The top part was ripped off and I could see bones going to my toes, one of which was missing. I dragged myself out of the car and called for help on my radio. It seemed like a lifetime before help arrived. While I was waiting, I prayed to God. I was also spitting up blood, so I thought that I might have internal injuries that could be fatal. I asked God that if I lived, I would like to marry Kim, my fiancé of two months, and raise a family. In the evacuation plane from Somalia to Nairobi, a Belgian doctor and an American nurse gave me blood from their bodies to mine.

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Today, there are hundreds of thousands of landmine survivors worldwide, including thousands of children, with no access to proper and affordable medical care and re habilitation. Moreover, the number of victims is on the rise.

LSN Achievements

• Recognition by the Norwegian Nobel Committee in 1995 as LSN's contribution to the ICBL recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize.

• A global ban treaty signed by 124 govern ments, including language recom mended by LSN urging signatories to re habilitate mine victims, the first time humanitar ian assistance for victims to be included in an arms control treaty.

• High-profile tour contribution to Blonia in August by White, Rutherford and Diana, Princess of Wales, attracting global attention to the landmine issue just prior to the September
1997 treaty negotiations in Oslo, Norway.

- Establishment of working relationships with survivors in Africa, Asia, and Europe willing to promote cooperation on landmine issues, including better rehabilitation services.
- Development of an easy-to-use database to link landmine survivors with the resources available to help them.
- Over 35 public presentations and

Published with a USG-World Commission on

views to build support for a ban treaty and victim assistance.

Since its inception, the Landmine Survivors Network has been building a worldwide network of link landmine survivors with the resources available to help them. LSN is developing the first comprehensive database designed to track the rehabilitation needs of mine victims and the organizations that can channel urgently needed assistance to the impoverished survivors who need it most.

**Profiles**

Norwegian People's Aid

Founded in 1939, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is one of Norway's largest non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although NPA is currently involved in more than 300 projects in thirty countries, the organization still adheres to the basic principles set forth by its leaders, namely, to help local communities with projects that are responsive to needs, to contribute to the establishment of peace, and to work towards a just and equal world.

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**Technology (STINEF)**

- International campaign—Motivated by the everyday tragedy NPA bears witness to in its project countries, NPA supports the international ban on landmines, and takes an active part at both the national and international level in the international ban on landmines.

**Some Individual Successes**

Employing 350 deminers, 18 dogs and 2 demining machines, NPA is the largest operator in the mapping and clearance of mines in Angola. The NPA surveying unit has managed to register the dimension of the landmine problem in ten out of eighteen provinces and turn this valuable information over to the National Landmine Institute of Angola. Recent efforts include the use of new, time-saving technology to collect and analyze air samples to check for the presence of mines along roads. The samples are collected by mine proofing vehicles, and then given to specially trained dogs to sniff out the presence of mines.

In Mozambique, 1997 was a milestone year for NPA's demining efforts. Control of the demining program was handed over to Mozambican personnel. NPA continues to support its Mozambican partners in their quest to achieve the goal set through measures for regional development, mine clearance, and organizational and institutional development. So far, almost 2 million square meters of land have been cleared of landmines; 39 percent more land than NPA originally planned.

The Future of NPA's Mine Program

One of the only voluntary organizations that specialize in mine war work, NPA continues its efforts in accordance with the organization's founding principles of solidarity, unity, human dignity, peace, and freedom. To NPA, it is not enough to address only the physical problem of landmines, the political and social implications of the mine problem must also be addressed as an integral part of an affected country's redevelopment and rebuilding process. And for as long as the mine problem exists, NPA will be there to guide part of the solution.

**Contact Information**

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Patrick J. Leahy War Victims Fund

In 1989, Sen. Patrick Leahy started a fund to get medical aid to victims of landmines. There are an estimated 100 million unexploded landmines in over 60 countries, where they kill or maim an estimated 26,000 people each year. There are two areas of concern: Cambodia, Bosnia and Angola, where civilians have become death traps.

In 1992 Leahy sponsored an amendment to stop U.S. exports of anti-personnel landmines: the first law of its kind anywhere in the world. In 1993, the amendment to extend the ban passed both the Senate 100-0, and in 1997, President Clinton adopted it as permanent U.S. policy. The senator sponsored a 1995 amendment to halt U.S. use of anti-personnel mines for one year, beginning in 1999. That amendment was passed in the Senate 67-27, and was signed into law by Clinton on February 12, 1996. The law reads as follows:

USAID

**Leaky Amendment Moratorium on Use of Anti-personnel Landmines**

Sec. 583, (a) UNITED STATES MORATORIUM:

For a period of one year beginning three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States shall not use anti-personnel landmines except along internationally recognized national borders or in demilitarized zones within a perimeter of one mile marked area that is monitored by military personnel and protected by adequate means to ensure the exclusion of civilians.

(b) DEFINITION AND EXEMPTIONS:

For purposes of this section:

(1) ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES: The term "anti-personnel landmine" means any munitions placed under, on, or near the ground or other surface area, delivered by artillery, rocket, mortar, or similar means, or dropped from an aircraft and which is designed, constructed or adapted to be detonated by the presence of mines along roads. The samples are collected by mine proofing vehicles, and then given to specially trained dogs to sniff out the presence of mines.

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