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Colombia

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Education in schools in close proximity to minefields, which CNAD, local NGOs, and the Ministry of Education are running, has also been working in collaboration with the National Tourism Service to promote MRE to domestic and foreign tourists, in addition to local corporations.9

Conclusion
Chile is a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, but has not yet created national legislation to fully implement the requirements; however, Chile has shown commitment to the Convention through its efforts to destroy its stockpile before the Ottawa-imposed deadline. Active participation with the convention and the creation of CNAD have allowed Chile to collaborate with other countries and learn new techniques for landmine removal and mine-risk education. There have been very few landmine casualties, and those that have occurred are being investigated by officials. According to Philip von Michaud at MineWolf, "Chile is well-prepared to make significant progress in clearing their minefields in the years to come."10 This fact is obvious, as Chile has taken many positive steps beyond its mandated requirements, and the country is becoming a leader in mine-action initiatives with national and international assistance. ❖ See Endnotes, Page 114

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Art Exhibit Showcases Mine Victims
Award-winning photographer Gervasio Sánchez’s latest work, Mined Lives: Ten Years Later, published in 2007, has been on tour around the world since 2008, and will continue to be showcased in numerous cities in 2009. Sánchez began the “Mined Lives” series in 1997, and he followed up with the featured survivors five years and, most recently, 10 years after originally photographing them. The series of books, published by Editorial Noos, share the message that there is still a vast amount of work to be done in solving the landmine problem around the world as victims continue to suffer.

Born in Cordoba, Spain, in 1959, Sánchez became a journalist in 1984, and has worked with the BBC, the Telegraf, Res-

dale del Aragón, and La Vanguardia. He has published numerous photographic works focusing on areas involved in con-

flict, including The Siege of Sarajevo, Victims of Pinochet, and Now Live, and the series from 1996. In 1996, Sánchez was awarded the Cirilo Rodríguez Award, the highest award the Spanish government extends to journalists working abroad. He has also been awarded the Digno Rights Award for Journalism. On the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 1998, Sánchez was named United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Special Peace Envoy.

Mined Lives, Ten Years Later focuses on landmine survivors in some of the world’s most landmine-affected countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, El Salvador, Mozambique and Nicaragua. The 2007 edition of the series also includes Iraq and Colombia. The goal of the traveling exhibition is to raise awareness of the landmine problem not just with the general public, but also with the media and political institutions that may not place as much em-

phasis or awareness on the landmine issue that is needed for substantial change to occur.

Columbia
Columbia, a country overwhelmed by four decades of war, has the highest concentration of contamination from landmines and other explosive remnants of war in the Americas. The conflict, which was and continues to be waged between the Colombian government and various non-
state actors, reached its peak during the early 1990s. The use of improvised explosive devices, anti-personal landmines and other forms of explosive ordnance has rapidly increased in Colombia since then, due to heavy usage by NSAs such as the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia.1 In the past, the Colombian government laid landmines around 14 military bases to protect key infrastructure, but it renounced their use since 1997. Landmines are primarily used by the NSAs to protect their home bases and illegal drug crops, which fund the conflict. The Landmine Monitor Report observes that landmine usage may not be limited to use by NSAs against the Colombian government, but may also be employed by different non-
state actors against one another.2 The use of landmines has become increasingly common; during 2005 and 2006, over 1,200 landmine victims were reported each year, about three victims a day since then, the number of new casualties has decreased, yet the rate remains at an alarming level, with 709 victims for 2008.3

Casualties
Reported casualty rates due to landmines, IEDs and other ERW are higher in Colombia than in any other part of the world. The majority of these casualties are attributed to IEDs; however, rather than traditional land-

mines.4 The prevalence of IEDs is due to training that the two Colombian rebel groups, FARC and Ejército de Liberación Nacional, or ELN, undertook in the 1980s, from groups such as the Irish Republican Army and the Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (Basque Homeland and Freedom) concerning homemade explo-

sives. IEDs are a serious problem, as "they have proven to be very unstable, very diffic-


tool to detect, and cause immense injuries," according to Pablo Esteban Parra Gallego, Director of Humanitarian Demining for the Programa Presidencial para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal, Colombia’s mine-

action program.5 The way that IEDs explode is fragmented, due to the numerous materials used to build them, making them very deadly and unpredictable.6 Furthermore, it is thought that the civilian casualty rates are under-re-

ported, especially in high-conflict areas, rural areas and among displaced populations. Hos-
pitals often neglect to document civilian mine victims by security reasons.7

Survivor Assistance
Survivor assistance in Colombia is some-
what inconsistent. Free emergency transport, hospitalization and rehabilitation are available to all survivors throughout the country, however, the quality and consistency of these services varies depending on the location. Emergency responses involving transportation and first aid is often inadequate, while road blocks and oth-

er infrastructural issues also hinder initial re-

sponses.8 Hospitals in the cities are fully equipped with the staff and supplies necessary for providing aid to landmine survivors. Many of the areas most heavily affected by mines are rural, how-

ever, and hospitals in the less-populated areas of Colombia are not well-staffed and often lack the resources necessary to properly treat landmine victims. The problem is even more complicated in high-conflict areas, where hospital staff face constant threats of kidnapping and raids from NSAs, greatly disrupting their ability to provide care to victims of landmine accidents.9

Minerisk Education
Although mine-risk education began to ex-

pand in 2006, it is still insufficient throughout

by Leah Young | Center for International Stabilization and Recovery |
Planificación del Desminado Humanitario en Colombia (Colombia Humanitarian Demining Planning Workshop) in Bogotá, Colombia considering the high level of civilian casualties. The workshop was facilitated by the Mine Action Information Center at James Madison University, and was attended by representatives from the U.S. and Colombian governments, international organizations, and key stakeholders in Colombia’s war against landmines.

More than 40 participants worked together to draft a plan of action for Colombian humanitarian-demining activities. They used the plan as a guiding document for developing future mine-action activities. The plan emphasized integration and cooperation among military forces, national authorities, and international partners.

The workshop opened with speeches from Colombian Vice President Francisco Santos Calderón and Andrés Darío, Director of the Programa Presidencial de Acción Integral contra las Minas Antipersonal (PAICMA, the Presidential Program for Comprehensive Action against Antipersonal Landmines). Presentations by international counterparts from the Organisation of American States, Jordan’s National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, Mines Advisory Group, the U.S. Department of State, and the Colombian military forces followed.

Working groups discussed ways forward with command-and-control models for mine action and how to best manage information gathered by survey and demining teams. The groups developed a 13 point Plan of Action, which was presented to a closing session of about 100 dignitaries and representatives from mine-action organizations, diplomatic missions to Colombia, and landmine survivors.

The closing session was addressed by the Honorable William Brownfield, U.S. Ambassador to Colombia, and Sergio Jaramillo, Colombian Vice Minister of Defense. COL (ret) Dennis Barlow, Director of James Madison University’s Mine Action Information Center in the Center for Stabilization and Recovery, and representatives from PAICMA also spoke.

**The Future**

Despite being a State Party to the Ottawa Convention, Colombia’s problem with landmines persists as the conflict between the Colombian government and NSAs drags on. The Colombian government and the international community are making efforts to combat the problem, and improvements in security have been observed in many regions of the country. The ongoing conflict has undoubtedly hindered efforts to eradicate Colombia’s dangerous legacy, yet it is encouraging to witness the Colombian government’s efforts, as well as that of other actors, to resolve the situation despite the dangers posed by the ongoing conflict.

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**Peru**

by Lauren Hill and Cory Kuklick

[Center for International Stabilization and Recovery]

Stratified between Chile and Ecuador, next to the South Pacific Ocean, Peru faced a decade of military rule in the 1970s and internal conflict in the 1980s when democracy was reestablished. Those periods of conflict, as well as a border dispute with Ecuador in the 1990s, have resulted in landmine problems. The Ottawa Convention went into force for Peru in 1999, meeting its deadline for total mine clearance should be reached in 2019. Peru requested, and was granted, a deadline extension through 2017, citing a lack of funding.

**History of the Mine Problem**

The majority of the landmine contamination in Peru is located near its border with Ecuador, an area known as Condor del Condor, which was heavily mined during the border dispute between the two countries. Electricity towers and public infrastructure are also heavily mined in Peru. Internal conflict during 1980–92 led Peru to use anti-personnel landmines as a defense against the Maoist guerrilla organization Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and other revolutionaries, making explosive remnants of war the greatest concern within the country.

**Mina Ban Policy**

By 1999, Peru had signed and ratified the Ottawa Convention, and in 1999 it became a State Party when the Convention went into effect. In 2008, the Peruvian Congress passed a law making the manufacturing, use, storage, transfer or disposal of AP mines punishable by fine to eight years in prison. That same year, Peru formally expressed the challenges it faced regarding the 1992 deadline for total mine clearance. Peruvian officials stated that the demining around high-security prisons and police stations was the greatest concern within the country. Progress

Peru requested a 10-year extension to its original 1 March 2008 clearance deadline, set in place by Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention to diminish the estimated 50,000 remaining mines. Preparing for the completion of demining, Peru set a 12-year plan for 2007 through 2019, its proposed 10-year extension date. However, the plan’s mine-clearance strategy concerning Peru’s border with Ecuador was deemed inadequate, and Peru’s 10-year extension request was rejected. Peru then requested an eight-year extension, which was approved in 2008.

A DRECOM update in March 2007 stated that the demining around high-security prisons and police stations was still ongoing and could not be completed until the money was available. Progress remains slow because of problems with mine-action management; however, some progress has been made. China, for example, donated US$100,000 in 2008 to help clear landmines on the border between Peru and Ecuador. Other financial contributions to mine clearance in 2008 included a total of US$237,110 from Germany and the Republic of Korea.

Ecuador and Peru have joined together on a project in the Condor region coordinated by their respective national mine-action programs. The Centro de Desminado del Ecuador and the Centro Perspectiva de Acción contra las Minas Antipersonal will work in coordination with the OAS program, Acción Integral contra las Minas Antipersonal, to ensure the commitments to the Ottawa Convention are followed. The OAS–AICMA program assists with these projects by overseeing the allocation of funds from international donors and gathering contacts to help coordinate projects. A single regional coordinator directs the OAS–AICMA offices in Quito and Lima, making effective communication possible between the countries. Funded by countries such as the United States, as well as the European Commission, OAS–AICMA supports both national mine-action centers to ensure that goals are reached in a timely manner and efforts to help clear mines in the Condor del Condor region are initiated.