



What you read below, are the summaries of the information that ICBL received from its national campaigners about their campaign activities in the lead up to the Third Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty. This document will be updated frequently.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization, Rahmatullah Merzayee, rahmat_merzayee@yahoo.com

The campaign carried out face-to-face advocacy meetings with government authorities as well as with popular candidates to the presidential election, to push them to include the rights of persons with disabilities and survivors as a priority on their agendas throughout their election campaign, and to also consider them as a priority once elected.

On 15th April, ALSO conducted a session under the title “Supportive Peer Group meeting”, which aimed to share life experiences of Persons with disability. Persons living with disability who have experienced difficulties throughout their lives, shared their wonderful ideas and lessons learnt with those who recently became disabled. The ultimate outcome was strengthened self-reliance and self-confidence as well as increased social inclusion of Persons with disabilities in the society. ALSO organized a visit for participants to the historical site of Bagh-e-Babur (Babur Garden). The Afghani campaign is also working with the government on a high level participation to the Third Review Conference of the MBT in Mozambique, in June 2014.

A Disability group, which included members of advocacy committees for the rights of persons with disability and disability association representatives, conducted a meeting with H.E. Yonus Qanuni, first vice president of the government of Afghanistan, relevant Ministers and Disability Commissions representatives. The meeting took place in the Prime Minister’s Palace. The discussions focused on removing the barriers that are restricting the participation of persons with disabilities in Afghanistan, including landmine survivors. The first vice president and other authorities’ representatives pledged to reply to the urgent needs of PwDs, including landmines survivors, within one or two months.

ALBANIA

Albanian Network to Ban Landmines, Jonuz Kola, albaid@alb-aid.org

ALB-AID organised a workshop on February 19 for the presentation of the study on the assessment of the needs of victims of ammunition (AXO) for medical services and support for their socio-economic inclusion. The situation and needs of survivors of 6 counties of Albania were presented to the

representatives of Government Institutions. The workshop was an opportunity for survivors to speak out in the national Media. The director of AMMCO (a local organization) gave a presentation about the work done by AMMCO towards the fulfilment of the obligations deriving from the Mine Ban Treaty. He also spoke about the international support for mine action and Victim Assistance and current efforts to clear contaminated areas in Albania. The workshop was attended by the Deputy Minister of Social Welfare and Youth and several other authorities.

The Albanian campaign marked the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action by opening an Exhibition with school children. A landmine survivor, Izet Ademaj, made a speech and material was distributed to local Media.

ALGERIA

Handicap Association of Igli wilaya Bechar, Faradji Djillali, faradjidjillali@yahoo.fr

Campaigners in Algeria have planned to carry out a number of activities in 2014 to advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities and mine victims, including: 1) celebrating the National Disability Day on March 14; 2) carrying out an advocacy project for economic integration of disabled people and landmine victim with support of Handicap International; 3) organising an audiovisual project for disabled children and victims of mines in the region, sponsored by the French Embassy; 4) celebrating the International Mine Awareness Day on April 4; and 5) organizing a study day on diabetes to avoid amputation and hence disability.

In May, a coordination meeting was held between ASHVM and HI to consolidate and strengthen the relations between the two organisations, in order to improve the work methods with landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. Both parties signed a financing contract for a micro-project about functional rehabilitation for landmine survivors and other persons with disabilities. On May 8th, the head of state and the local authorities of the Wilaya of el Tarf and some members of Parliament, ASHVM organized a photo exhibit concerning the activities of the association and the assistance it provides to mine victims and persons with disabilities. The exhibition also included figures regarding the number of mined areas in Algeria; the number of mines destroyed by the national army; and the number of areas which have been cleared by March 2014. There was also a talk about the national plan to assist the victims. CDs and brochures were distributed to sensitize children to the dangers of mines.

AUSTRALIA

Safe Ground, Lorel Thomas, lorelt@optusnet.com.au

The South Australian Branch of SafeGround marked April 4 with an exhibition of illustrations to be used in the children's book "One Step at a Time". The book uses the story of a young elephant injured in a landmine accident to teach landmine awareness.

Some of the illustrations for the children's book 'One Step at a time' made by Sally Heinrich can be viewed here: <http://on.fb.me/1INczLP>.

BELARUS

Belarus Campaign to Ban Landmines, Iouri Zagoumenov, izaqlm@yahoo.com

In Belarus, the campaign organised cultural and sporting events as part of the ICBL global “Completion Challenge” initiative in the lead up to the 3 Review Conference as well as to celebrate the 15th anniversary of entry into force of the MBT and the 10th anniversary of ratification of the MBT by Belarus. These events included concerts, film screening, photo exhibitions, presentations by the Belarus CBL/CMC campaigners, round-tables, as well as chess and basketball competitions. Participants included members of the government, the civil society, the international community and persons with disabilities. They received media coverage at the national level.

After years of campaigning, a mine disposal center has finally opened in Rechitsa in May. It is designed to destroy the Belarussian stockpiles of antipersonnel mines, which should have been destroyed by 2008. Belarus will thereby be able to fulfil its obligation under the Mine Ban Treaty.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Landmine Survivors Initiatives BiH, Amir Mujanovic, amujanovic@ipm-lsi.org

The Bosnian campaign translated the ‘Commit to Complete’ memo into Bosnian and shared it with relevant authorities. The campaign also issued a press release which mentioned new mine casualties in the country, called for clearance of all contaminated areas and made a reference to completion challenge action. The Landmine Survivors Initiatives (LSI) in Bosnia and Herzegovina has contacted the main donors for Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina requesting them to put pressure on the national mine action authorities to fully implement the Mine Action Strategy 2009-2019 and to present the progress made at the Third Review Conference in June.

On March 1st, LSI disseminated the ICBL’s Completion Challenge memo and called on relevant authorities to prepare for the Third Review Conference of the MBT.

The Landmine Survivors Initiatives has marked 4th April under the slogan “Commit to complete – mine free Bosnia and Herzegovina by 2019”. Various activities have been organized in four municipalities in which mine incidents have occurred over the past six months, with the active participation of survivors, local authorities, associations of victims, mine action stakeholders (BHMIC, Civil Protection, BiH Armed Forces) and the media. Events organised on April 4th included a photo exhibition of survivors and victims' portraits, press conferences of survivors and survivors' associations, survivors' public meetings and a visit to BiH Armed Forces which are deployed on the ground and conducting demining activities.

The campaign took advantage of the April 4th celebrations to communicate a request to national authorities to review the national Mine Action Strategy and make a realistic assessment on how to achieve a mine free BiH. A press release containing a similar message was posted on over 30 web portals.

BHMIC has organized a public event which included a demining demonstration by BiH Armed Forces demining unit on the ground. However, attendance was disappointing as no national high ranking

individuals or high profile international mine action donors attended this public event. There was therefore no new information given on how BiH will achieve its ultimate goal to become mine free by 2019.

BURUNDI

Training Centre for Development of Ex-Combatants, Eric Niragira, cedac20054@yahoo.fr

On February 25 CEDAC held a meeting with associations of survivors of landmines and members of the government on the issue of the UN CRPD and its ratification by the government of Burundi. Subsequently, the parliament of Burundi ratified the CRPD on March 6 2014.

In April, CEDAC and AOAV organized a round table with stakeholders on handicap. The aim was to discuss the actions to be undertaken as part of the implementation of the CRPD. The event was supported by the government of Australia.

CAMBODIA

Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions, Denise Coghlan, cambanlmcm@gmail.com

The campaign held a photo exhibition on accessibility in Siem Reap at the Foreign Correspondents Club. As part of the Interfaith Harmony Week, the campaign called for a ban on Cluster bombs and for upholding the rights of people with disability/survivors in Battambang and in Siem Reap. This was followed by several advocacy activities as a follow up to the CCBL 2013 campaign, including: a visit from the Red Cross societies on Disability, featuring I am Glad I am alive research; a tour at Mindol Metta Karuna and a panel for two hours at a hotel; and a visit from HI Germany with a male model to lend his leg with Tun Channareth to raise awareness. The campaign also contacted the Embassy of the United States to call on President Obama to join the Ottawa Treaty.

The campaign is following up on the National Strategic Plan on Disability and the Completion Challenge. On May 6, the CCBL held a Complete the Challenge workshop with government representatives, deminers and Victim Assistance stakeholders in the lead up to Maputo.

CANADA

Mines Action Canada, Erin Hunt, erin@minesactioncanada.org

In January, Mines Action Canada launched a campaign to call on the 36 States not Party to the MBT to join the Treaty: <http://minebantreatydirtythreedozencountdown.wordpress.com/>. They have put together background information about these 'Dirty Three Dozen' States not party and where they stand on the Treaty issue, and how to contact them. MAC has been encouraging campaigners around the world to put pressure on these states by contacting them and calling on them to join the Treaty.

To mark April 4th, MAC launched an online seminar for youth and new campaigners to help everyone gain a more in depth understanding of the issue of landmines.

CHILE

Centro Zona Minada, Elir Rojas Calderón, elir.rojas@gmail.com

On April 4, the Chilean campaign had a meeting with the Defence specialized unit of the Controller General of the Republic to discuss the lack of assistance to victims, the issue of certification and the lack of transparency in demining. On the same day, the organisation met with the Chief Cabinet Minister of Defence to discuss the victims' bill.

On April 8, the Minister of Defence, their advisor and Elir Rojas Calderón from Centro Zona Minada were invited to attend a session of the Senate Defence Committee. Senators raised concerns regarding demining in general and advocated for a bill in favour of victims. The Minister also attended the Defence Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, to which Elir Rojas Calderón was also invited. From these meeting, the Chilean campaign felt that Senators and Deputies fully supported the idea of improving the victims' bill.

CROATIA

Mine Aid Association, Marija Breber, marijebreber@gmail.com

The Croatian Campaign marked the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action with an action around Commit to Complete, whereby they challenged the government of Croatia to commit to respect the deadline and clear all mined areas by 2019, and to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all persons with disabilities. More details about the event as well as photos can be found here: <http://www.mineaid.hr/>.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Campagne congolaise pour interdire les mines, Francky Miantuala, drcongo@icblcmc.org

Within the framework of Completion challenge and in order to mark the 15th anniversary of entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty, the Congolese Campaign to Ban Landmines and cluster munitions organised a series of events. From 20 to 28 February the CCBL participated in the task group working on the extension request under article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty. The objective is to make sure that the government of DRC follows ICBL recommendations and will submit an extension request with a clear plan to complete clearance and an accurate budget.

In March, three campaigners were invited for a 45 minutes discussion about the Mine Ban Treaty in a TV show at the second national TV channel. They talked about the obligations that the Democratic Republic of Congo is to complete under the Treaty and mentioned the Third Review Conference to be held in Maputo in June and the expectations the campaign has from the Conference. The campaigners sent a clear message to the government with regard to the need for DRC to complete the clearance of its territory by 2019.

Within the framework of International Mine awareness day, some organizations working on disarmament and disability issues (Campagne Congolaise pour Interdire les Mines et les sous munitions, Association Nationale des Survivants des Mines, Femmes des Médias pour la Justice au

Congo, Religions pour la paix, Association Congolaise pour la Libération et le Développement de la Maman Handicapée, PAROUSIA and Centre Congolais d'Expertise Médico-Social pour PVH) have organized on April 2nd a Roundtable on the ratification and the implementation of disarmament treaties. The topics discussed included the completion challenge towards the 3RC in Maputo; the challenges to the ratification of disarmament treaties; and the role of civil society in the ratification and the implementation of disarmament treaties. The musical group "Les partisans de la paix" shared a song on peace culture.

ETHIOPIA

Bekele Gonfa, bekele818@gmail.com

The Ethiopian campaign is regularly in contact with relevant people at the Ministry of National Defence and/or Ministry of Foreign Affairs to brief them about the completion challenge action and encourage them to take up those challenges, in particular clearance and victim assistance. The campaign is working closely with victim assistance authorities and briefing them about the challenge and the Third Review Conference of the MBT.

FIJI

Pacific Peace and Disarmament Program, Pacific Foundation for the Advancement of Women (PACFAW), Ema Tagicakibau, etaqgy@hotmail.com

On March 1, the Pacific Peace and Disarmament Program and the Nuclear Free Pacific Movement held a public forum to mark the 15th anniversary of entry into force of the MBT as well as the Nuclear-free Pacific Day. An initial briefing on the 'State of the Pacific on the MBT, the CCM and the ATT' was presented to the participants of the Forum and at the end we had a list of resolutions that were sent out to the Pacific Island Forum, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all Pacific Island Foreign Ministries. Responses to the briefing paper will be collated for the campaign's mid-year report in June.

On April 3, campaigners met with the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mrs Angela Kane and with Ambassador Del Higgle of New Zealand, in Auckland.

In April, the campaign also sent letters to the Foreign Ministries in capitals and to Permanent Missions in New York reminding them of their reporting obligations under the MBT.

On April 26th, the campaign made a presentation on the 'Status of the Pacific on the MBT and CCM' at a Women's international conference in Auckland – the WILPF International conference for Asia-Pacific on "Militarisation in the Pacific: Women, Peace and Security".

GEORGIA

ICBL Georgian Committee, Nino Mikhanashvili, nini.mikhanashvili@gmail.com

In April, the Georgian campaign, jointly with young Parliamentarians, held a Lend Your Leg event.

GERMANY

Handicap International and Solidarity Service International, Ruppert Grund, RGrund@handicap-international.de

Focusing on the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs (MFA) throughout the year, the German campaigners are urging the MFA to: 1) financially support mine actions; 2) urge other governments to accede to the treaties; and 3) stop investments in cluster munitions. The petition is available on the German Lend Your Leg website at <http://www.zeigdeinbein.de/>. The website offers a number of functionalities, including the possibility for people to upload a photo of themselves lending their leg. HI and SODI collaborated with an artist to create a sculpture that was filled with material symbolizing the campaign's signatures. Each day, one person with stilts filled this material in the sculpture. On April 4, the campaigns held an important event in Berlin as the culmination of the Lend Your Leg campaign. Visit their [website](#) to see the photo of Mario Galla, a model with prosthesis, meeting with Tun Channareth in Cambodia for the launch of the German Lend Your Leg campaign.

On the political side, the German campaigners got in touch with the 50 Politicians from the German parliament that already supported the campaign in 2013. They met with 3 Politicians important to the topics and visited – together with Ban Advocate Umedjon Naimov – the Tajik Ambassador in Berlin.

The other German based campaign, Ju Care Kinderhilfe, organised a Lend your Leg event in March for local families, who also took this opportunity to sign the petition. Photos and articles about the event have been published on websites, social media, as well on a family magazine – check out www.revierkind.de. The campaign also held an action day with a women's football team on March 23.

GUINEA-BISSAU

Ignitus Guinea-Bissau, Naiel Cassama, naiel07@yahoo.com.br

During the presidential election in May, the Guinean campaign closely worked with the candidates to encourage them to include victim assistance in their programme. As a result of these advocacy efforts, candidates have been raising the issue of victim assistance and disability during public meetings.

INDIA

Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Munitions, Dr. Balkrishna Kurvey, iipdep_nqp@sancharnet.in

On April 4, the Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines & Cluster Munitions organized a seminar in Nagpur, coupled with a photo exhibition of landmine victims, to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and urge government of India to sign the MBT and provide assistance to mine victims. A Mine Awareness booklet was distributed to school children in Sri Ganganagar, a city located 15km away from the India-Pakistan border.

On the same day, the Indian campaign held another seminar for politicians and policy makers including MFA representatives in Sri Ganganagr in order to raise awareness and inform them about the Completion Challenge. Following the event, the campaign met with MFA officials in Delhi along with landmine victims and urged them to submit a voluntary Article 7 report for the MBT.

IRAQ

Iraqi alliance for disability, Moaffak Alkhafaji, maffak62@yahoo.com

From 12-13 March, the Iraqi campaign participated in an international conference against terrorism, organised in Baghdad. The conference was attended by 50 countries – including permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – representatives of the United Nations, the European Union and a number of Ambassadors, as well as by media and civil society representatives. The main outcome of the conference was the creation of an international council against terrorism based in Baghdad.

During the conference, IADO talked on behalf of victims, highlighting their specific needs. The campaign also talked to the Prime Minister of Iraq about the urgent need to accelerate the implementation of the international treaties to which Iraq is a State Party.

ITALY

Campagna Italiana contro le mine, Tibisay Ambrosini, t.ambrosini@campagnamine.org

From 1 March to 4 April 2014, the ItCBL, through a network of associations, handed out material on Human Rights and disarmament to high school teachers.

As part of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, the ItCBL carried out various awareness raising initiatives, including the launch of ItCBL's new website (www.campagnamine.org), and a conference on "The Humanitarian Demining Problem: Current Status and Future Prospects", organised jointly with the University of Florence. The ItCBL, in partnership with You Able, also sponsored athletes with disabilities running the Milano Relay Marathon on 9 April.

The ItCBL, You Able and Life Line Consultancy and Rehabilitation are currently working together to support the development of a prosthesis laboratory and training of local staff in order to respond to the emergency situation affecting in particular Syrian and Palestinian refugees. Prostheses have been sent to Jordan; this is the first step of a more structured cooperation.

The ItCBL is also pursuing its advocacy activities, especially with regards to the maintenance of the National Mine Action Fund.

JAPAN and SOUTH KOREA

Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Toshihiro Shimizu, tigertoshi@msi.biglobe.ne.jp

On February 25, the Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL) held a symposium in Tokyo to discuss the obstacles preventing South Korea from joining the Mine Ban Treaty and what can be done. Dr. Cho from the Korean Campaign to Ban Landmines (KCBL) was the main speaker; he presented the current situation in South Korea and North Korea with regard to landmines and mentioned that President Pak of South Korea committed to turning the Demilitarized Zone into a “Peace Park” after it has been cleared.

The JCBL and the KCBL will continue their partnership in order to make this happen in the nearest future through awareness raising among the Korean population and through the acceleration of government-to-government dialogue between South and North Korean and Japan.

LIBYA

Assalama for Mines and UXO Actions, Rudwan Elqhiryany, erudwan@yahoo.com

At a press conference organised by the Libyan national TV channel, Mr Rudwan Elqhiryany spoke about the mine problem in Libya and about the Mine Ban Treaty and the need for Libya to accede to the treaty. He met with the office of the Prime Minister as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Libya to encourage them to either join or at least announce a date for accession during the Third Review Conference in Maputo, depending on the current legal status of the Libyan government.

The Libyan campaign organised celebrations to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and they received good media coverage. In Nafosa Mountain, a mine-affected zone, Assalama and the Military Engineering Squad worked together in celebrating April 4. The campaign also gave a lecture on the mine's situation in Libya and explained what the MBT is, why Libya should join this treaty and the efforts done in this regard. Examples of the media coverage of these events can be found [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#).

Assalama met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Libyan Mine Action Centre to encourage them to participate in the Third Review Conference in Maputo. These efforts proved fruitful, as the government of Libya will be sending a delegation to Maputo and committed to present a statement during the Conference.

MOZAMBIQUE

Rede Para Assistência as Vitimas de Minas, Luis Silvestre Wamusse, lwamusse.ravim@gmail.com

On March 21, Luis Silvestre, from ICBL member RAVIM, made a presentation at a ceremony organised to officially declare the Maputo province mine free. The ceremony was attended by representatives from the Government of Mozambique, Embassies, and Mine Action NGOs. FORMICRES held an informative session for Civil Society organisations on the work that FORMICRES is doing and on the objectives of the Review Conference. The event was held on April 24 in Maputo. FORMICRES also organized a lecture to spread information regarding the Third Review Conference and ways to participate before, during and after the Conference, among Civil Society organisations. The event took place on June 4, 2014 in Maputo.

MYANMAR

Myanmar Campaign to Ban Landmines, Thant Zin, taynuyin26@gmail.com

In 2013 and 2014, the MCBL met with a number of media and journalists and advocated for a ban on landmines in Myanmar. The campaign also published articles about Landmines and disabilities in several newspapers.

In March 2014, the MCBL distributed stickers with the message “Stop using Landmines and help the Disabled”. 1000 stickers were stuck on buses, trains, taxis, and on shops and restaurants’ windows in Yangon City.

In April 4, 2014 at Yangon, the MCBL attended the ceremony of the International Mine Awareness day at Myanmar Peace Centre. During the ceremony, the MCBL showed pictures of landmines used by the Army and by the ethnic armed groups.

From April to June, the MCBL in cooperation with Myanmar Physically Handicap Association (MPHA) and Peace Myanmar Aid Foundation (PMA) donated prosthetics legs, wheel chairs and crutches to landmines victims at the townships of Bago and Shwegyin.

The Myanmar National Disability Conference opened at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 10 June 2014. Speakers included international experts, as well as the Chief Minister for Yangon Region, the US Ambassador, the Director General of Social welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department and Lower House Social Development Committee member on behalf of Aung San Suu Kyi. The President of the Republic of Union of Myanmar also addressed the Conference via a video message.

The conference built on recent momentum at the national level to protect the rights of persons with disabilities throughout the country. Nearly 650 people with disabilities and their representatives/parents attended at the conference.

On the second day of Conference, the MCBL gave a presentation on “Landmines and Persons with Disability”. Through its presentation, the MCBL strongly urged the national authorities to ban the use of landmines by military and ethnic armed groups and to negotiate and discuss for a durable and sustainable peace agreement.

On the last day of meeting, the Conference called for the negotiation of a durable and sustainable peace agreement as early as possible, as well as for a ban on the use of landmines in Myanmar and for the ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty.

The MCBL met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar in June to encourage the national authorities to participate in the Third Review Conference and to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty.

NEPAL

Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal, Purna Shova Chitrakar, ncbl@mail.com.np

In Nepal, the campaign has met with the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction on January 22. Both parties shared updates on mine actions and the NCBL took this opportunity to urge the government of Nepal to join the MBT as soon as possible and provided the Ministry with a lot of information on

landmines and cluster munitions. During the meeting, the NCBL raised a number of issues, such as the lack of records, maps and signs to mark the location of mines, or the lack of funds for emergency Mine Risk Education. The campaign pointed out the lack of reports concerning the number of victims of landmines and IEDs. The NCBL also encouraged the government of Nepal to report on its activities to Meetings of States Parties, for instance by submitting Article 7 reports.

The Nepalese campaign subsequently sent an email to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to inform them about the Third Review Conference in Maputo and about the Intersessional Meetings of the CCM and the MBT in April, in Geneva, Switzerland. The NCBL also took this opportunity to call on Nepal to join the treaty as soon as possible, to support victims and to ensure that the land is cleared. The NCBL has created a petition (<http://nepal.icbl.org/petition>) to encourage the government of Nepal to join the MBT – NCBL has invited all campaigners to sign the petition.

The government of Nepal and the NCBL jointly organized celebrations in Kathmandu to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action on 4 April 2014. The event was chaired by Mr. Dhana Bahadur Tamang, secretary of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. In its welcome speech, the NCBL urged the government to join the MBT as soon as possible. The campaign reminded participants of the importance of the treaty which reduced the number of new victims of mines each year. The NCBL also urged the government of Nepal to listen to the voice of the international community and contribute to the universalization of the treaty. Krishna Bahadur Ghishing, the coordinator of the National Network of Mine Victims, raised the issue of the rights of survivors and put forward a series of demands to improve the situation of survivors.

Prior to the start of the event, the NCBL organized a rally and used placard to send various messages to the Army and the Police which were all attending the 4 April event. Purna Shova Chitrakar from the NCBL gave interviews to around one dozen radio and TV channels both before and after the Mine Awareness Day celebrations. It was good opportunity to raise awareness and create pressure to complete the challenges, which are a) joining the Treaty; b) providing adequate support to victims; and c) rendering Nepal a safe place through raising awareness and clearing the land.

The NCBL also organized a 21 member delegation to various ministries and National Human Rights Commission. The delegation presented a memorandum in which the NCBL urged the government to join the Treaty, to participate in the Third Review Conference, to assist victims and to clear ERW and facilitate the access of victims to all sectors. The delegation reminded the Hon. Minister Nara Hari Acharya, Minister for Peace and Reconstruction that the Minister must play a key role in the accession of Nepal to the Treaty. The delegation comprised of 18 survivors.

OMAN

Disable People International, Moaffak Alkhafaji, maffak62@yahoo.com

On 26 May, a conference on the rights of persons with disabilities in Arab took place in Muscat. The conference was organized by the Secretariat of the Department of Development and Social Policy with the Technical Secretariat of the Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers, in collaboration with the

Ministry of Social Development in the Sultanate of Oman. Participants included representatives from 19 Arab countries and Arab and regional organizations.

The opening session included the launch of Prosthetics automated system for persons with disabilities presented by Dr. Kawthar Alkhavih Director of Information Technology at the Ministry of Social Development in Oman. The Conference also touched upon the following topics: the need for a monitor database for persons with disabilities in the Arab region; For a guiding Arab Law for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; for a review of the laws and legislation in the light of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; for appropriate indicators to measure the impact of policies, plans and programs on the situation of persons with disabilities in the Arab countries; for the development of an approach to the issue of disability and prospects and challenges; and the challenges and difficulties facing the provision of services to persons with disabilities and their family.

The chair of DPI Arab Region Mr. Mowaffak al-Khafaji, suggested a proposal to urge the Arab states to sign and ratify the optional Protocol of the CRPD, which was approved and listed within the proposed recommendations of the seminar.

PAKISTAN

Sustainable Peace & Development Organization, Raza Shah Khan, raza@spado.org.pk

On April 4, the Pakistani campaign held a one hour radio program and also gave interviews to the Voice of America.

The organization also issued a press release highlighting the need to raise people's awareness of mines in conflict affected areas of Pakistan, and encouraging the government to attend the Third Review Conference of the MBT in Maputo and accede to the Treaty.

PALESTINE

Disabled Without Borders Organization, Mohammed Barakat, barakatdw@gmail.com

In May, the Palestinian campaign sent a letter to the Prime Minister and another one to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, urging them to accede to the MBT soon and to attend the Third Review Conference in Maputo.

PERU

Instituto de Seguridad y Derechos Humanos, Ana Maria Watson, isdh.directora@gmail.com

The Peruvian campaign sent a letter to the Embassy of the United States to urge the United States to join the Mine Ban Treaty. The campaign received a response from the Embassy, reiterating the United States commitment to complete the review of their landmine policy as soon as possible. The letter also mentioned that the United States hoped to attend the Third Review Conference in Maputo next June and that they will continue to show leadership in the eradication of landmines.

The Peruvian campaign also wrote to the Ambassador responsible for multilateral and international affairs to request a meeting to discuss about the Completion Challenge. The campaign plans to encourage Latin American countries to participate in the Third Review Conference of the MBT in June 2014.

PHILIPPINES

Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines, Alfredo Ferrariz Lubang, fredlubang@gmail.com

On April 4, a Public Destruction Ceremony of Landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices was organised by the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines (PCBL) and the Fondation Suisse de Deminage (FSD) in cooperation with the 10th Infantry Division of the Philippine Army. This public destruction of recently discovered stockpiles aimed at raising the level of awareness on the issue of landmines and the IEDs.

SENEGAL

Association Sénégalaise des Victimes de Mines, Mamady Gassama, gassamamamady@yahoo.fr

In Senegal, the campaign is planning to carry out a series of activities, such as raising awareness of mines among people living in affected villages; bringing together leaders of most affected villages and brief them about the mine action systems (i.e. who is responsible) and encouraging them to raise their voice and ask the government to prioritize clearance in those villages; arranging a meeting of village leaders with CNAMS (mine action center); and doing some follow up including media work. The campaign continues to be in contact with the CNAMS Victim Assistance Focal Point to push for improved services to victims. The Senegalese campaign also organised a press conference and a march on March 1, and shared a memorandum on the situation of mine clearance in Casamance with the Governor of Ziguinchor.

SERBIA

Assistance Advocacy Access – Serbia, Jelena Vicentic, jelena@ppps.org.rs

In the last few months, Assistance Advocacy Access – Serbia (AAAS) has provided support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to establish a working group on victim assistance. The campaign subsequently called on the relevant state institutions to delegate a member to the working group.

In March, AAAS has, as in previous years, conducted mine risk education sessions in elementary schools in affected communities.

SOMALIA

Somalia Coalition to Ban Landmines, Dahir A. Abdulle, somalia_socbal@yahoo.com

On March 1 on the occasion of 15th anniversary entry into force of mine ban treaty, Somalia Coalition to Ban Landmines (SOCBAL) held an event in Mogadishu. Participants were mainly from the Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA), and also included two members of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS Somalia), two members of Hamar News Journal and one member of

Radio Ergo. The theme of the event was “Somalia Commit to Complete to Clear All Mined Areas by 2022”.

SOCBAL made a presentation on the completion challenge focusing on the work that needs to be done and how important it is to do so in the lead up to the third Review Conference in Maputo and beyond. SOCBAL also presented the time line of the landmine ban movement from the beginning up to now. Mohamed Ahmed from SEMA emphasised their intention to take a step forward in implementing the MBT obligations in collaboration with other stakeholders of the mine action community and with the Somalia government /relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social affairs. During the March 1 event, SOCBAL also screened “a Lao Ban Advocate Film”.

On 6 May 2014, SOCBAL had a meeting with Honourable Ibrahim Issac Yarow, the deputy minister of the Ministry of National Security to discuss more about MBT issues in Somalia. As part of their advocacy work, SOCBAL encouraged the minister to participate in the upcoming Third Review Conference in Maputo and present a clear plan towards the completion of Somalia’s commitments under the MBT within ten years of the Review Conference. The deputy minister said that they are ready to participate in Maputo Conference. The meeting was facilitated by Mohamed Abdilahi Egal – Deputy Director of Somali Explosive Management Authority (SEMA). SOCBAL will follow-up with the Minister of National Security in August and further discuss the implementation of all obligations under the MBT.

As a result of two years of advocacy by SOCBAL for the rights of mine victims, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) convened a Victim Assistance and Disability Working Group in Mogadishu on May 22nd. It was the first ever needs assessment meeting to map out a plan on possible support to the people living with disabilities in Somalia.

SUDAN

JASMAR, Sami Ibrahim, sami_om19@hotmail.com

JASMAR and Muslim Aid (MA) initiated a new partnership on Community Based Health Care Development Program (CBHCDP) through a European Commission fund. The overall goal of this project is to improve the general health and well-being of the most vulnerable populations, with a shared responsibility for health care and health issues between the local authorities and community members. An inception workshop was conducted on the 3rd of March 2014 with the participation of over 71 people representing institutions such as Kassala Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC), UN Agencies, regional organizations, civil society organizations, community leaders, Kassala media and the General Union of Sudanese Students. As a result of the workshop, a steering committee was formed which will be responsible for technical support, follow-up, monitoring and evaluation. Through a Mine Risk Education MRE partnership with UNOPS/UNMAS in Blue Nile state, three teams have been trained to refresh their skills and two teams have been deployed to Blue Nile state.

JASMAR participated in the national celebrations of the International Mine Action Day organized on 19th April 2014 by the National Mine Action Centre (NMAC). The event consisted of both a Mine

Action exhibition, and a party in the evening which was attended by the Vice President, State Minister of Defense, NMAC Director, UNMAS Country Program, UN Agencies, INGOs, NNGOs and Community resource persons interested in Mine Action and the public

JASMAR's campaign and advocacy efforts in Sudan paid off with the development in April of three Mine Risk Education teams which have been deployed in Blue Nile and South Kordofan state. During April 2014, the three teams have reached 7,482 beneficiaries representing 50% of the target.

SYRIA

Arab Network for Research on Landmine and Explosive Remnants of War, Ghassan Shahrour, anrolm@gmail.com

To mark March 1, the Syrian campaign contacted a wide range of media in Arab countries in order to highlight a number of issues, such as the recent use of landmines in Syria, Yemen and South Sudan; universalization of the Treaty; the Third Review Conference and the opportunity for states to commit to complete their remaining obligations and for states not party to commit to joining the Treaty. The Syria based campaign also emphasized to the media the many achievements of the MBT in terms of enhancing the role of civil society on disarmament issues, stigmatizing this indiscriminate weapon, clearing contaminated land and assisting landmine survivors.

Ghassan Shahrour of the Syrian campaign wrote an article on this occasion which was circulated and published in Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and others.

THAILAND

Jesuit Refugee Service Asia Pacific, Chompoo Sermsiri Ingavanija, sermsiri@jrs.or.th

On 21 May 2014, Mr. Suppacheep Didthad, President of Disabilities Thailand Association and Chairperson of Thai Disabled Foundation and team paid a courtesy call upon Rt. Brig. Gen. Jadallah Al Masarweh, Director-General of The Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers and his delegation at the Thai Disabled Foundation and the Thai Wheel Factory in Pakkret, Nonthaburi, Thailand. On this occasion, both sides discussed about the future cooperation between Thailand and Jordan.

TURKEY

The Initiative for a Mine- Free Turkey, Muteber Ögreten, muteber2001@yahoo.com

As part of the anniversary of the entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty and to mark the 10th anniversary of the ratification of Turkey to the Mine Ban Treaty, the campaign visited the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) and met with the political groups and the TGNA Commission for Human Rights. They expressed their ideas on the Ottawa Convention process for Turkey and submitted a report on how the existing challenges can be overcome. The Head of the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights suggested that joint work on the Mine Risk Education poster, started in 2007, could resume. The meeting at the TGNA was attended by a number of organizations and individuals, such as the Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey, the Human Rights Foundation and many more.

On March 1, the Turkish campaign also issued a press release and disseminated the messages by putting up posters on Billboards in Diyarbakir. On March 2 a concert was organised by the Diyarbakır Assembly of the Disabled People in coordination with Initiative for a Mine-Free Turkey to support the campaign.

UNITED STATES

US Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mary Wareham, wareham@hrw.org

On 19 Feb the US campaign in partnership with Implementation Support Unit of the MBT organised an event in Washington DC on the United States and the Mine Ban Treaty. There were addresses by Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams, HRH Prince Mired Raad Al Hussein of Jordan, Ambassador Amélia Matos Sumbana of Mozambique, on behalf of the president of the Mine Ban Treaty's the Third Review Conference and Senator Patrick Leahy. Read more about the event at www.uscbl.org. On February 28th PSALM students gathered to recognize the 15th Anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty. They also sent out a challenge for the USA to commit to the Mine Ban treaty by June 2014! On February 19th, senior PSALM students attended USCBL's Symposium on the USA and the Mine Ban Treaty at the Carnegie Endowment for Peace in Washington, D.C. Read more about PSALM students at www.wvcbl.org/

On March 28th, PSALM (Proud Students Against Landmines and Cluster Bombs) and the West Virginia Campaign to Ban Landmines and Cluster Bombs joined the global community in a lead up to the UN International Landmine Awareness Day on April 4th, 2014 and hosted a Lend Your Leg solidarity day at school. Four hundred members of the school community and families were invited to join and roll up one pant leg and symbolically "stand" in solidarity with the victims and survivors of landmines and cluster munitions. PSALM students collected donations for landmine clearance.

Ahead of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, April 4, the USCBL issued a press release (available at:

http://www.uscbl.org/fileadmin/content/images/Press_Releases/USCBL_PR_2Apr2014.pdf).

Human Rights Watch sent a letter to President Obama that addresses some of the concerns raised in the course of the review (available at: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/03/28/letter-president-barack-obama-1997-mine-ban-treaty>), and published an article in Policy Review entitled *US should 'stand up and be counted' on landmine ban* (available at: <http://www.hrw.org/node/124491>).

On the first week of April, MAG America had a photo exhibit on display in the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building (see: <http://www.magamerica.org/surviving-the-peace-photography-exhibit>).

In New York, UNMAS has organized several events: <http://bit.ly/1gWGxoK>. The HALO Trust had an event in San Francisco on 3 April: <http://www.worldaffairs.org/events/event/1253>.

And the US Department of State held a mine action briefing in New York for diplomatic missions on 8 April.

Senator Leahy has been continuing his efforts to urge the US to join the MBT. An example of such efforts can be seen here: <http://youtu.be/psLRBnE3KUs>.

PSALM students hosted an awareness event where they designed and displayed artwork for the Maputo Summit in Mozambique with messages for the universalization of the treaty, completion of the challenges and the need for the United States to join the Mine Ban treaty this June. PSALM graduating seniors were recognized with the 2014 SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT Award for dedication to peace and justice. City mayor, the Honorable Jennifer Selin attended, handing out the awards. West Virginia television covered the event.

VIETNAM

Association for Empowerment for Person with Disability, Thanh Hong Nguyen,
thanhhongdh@gmail.com

To celebrate the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, AEPD organized a meeting in cooperation with Loc Ninh Disable People Organization. 50 people participated, including representatives of the local authorities and of local organizations, persons with disabilities and their family. The objective of the meeting was to support the DPOs in capacity building and awareness raising on mine action and other related issues.

Based on the discussions during the meeting, the DPOs board of directors will finalize the DPOs short-term strategic plan. AEPD emphasized the benefits that the adherence of Vietnam to the MBT would bring to mine awareness in the country.

During the meeting, a representative of the local authorities promised that available resources would be mobilized to support the persons with disability in their livelihood, health care and social inclusion, and that they would raise awareness on disability in their community and relevant agencies and departments, so that people can understand the great capacity of persons with disability.

WESTERN SAHARA

Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines, Boibat Cheikh AbdelHay Mostafa, scabam01@yahoo.es

The Sahrawi campaign jointly with SCBL, SMACO, AOV and ASAVIM organised an event to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The Minister of Defense, the Minister of Culture, the Sahrawi Red Crescent Minister and the Minister of Social Welfare attended the event. The campaign later proceeded to the launch of the SCBL office in the presence of the guests of honour, the special representative of the UN secretary General in Western Sahara, Mr. Wolfgang Meisborfweber, and MINIRSO Manager, MR. Omar Bashir. The event participants then went to the mine victims' office where a photo exhibition of mines victims in Western Sahara was displayed. The national TV and radio channel covered the event.

YEMEN

Yemen Mine Awareness Association, Aisha Saeed, aisha.saeed45@yahoo.com

In Yemen, the campaign will continue to follow-up on the recently reported use of mines in the country, as well as advocate for the inclusion of the CRPD in the national legislation and for Victim

Assistance to extend to all victims, not just to those who are registered as it is currently the case. On March 1, the Yemeni campaign marked the 15th anniversary of the Mine Ban Treaty entry into force.

The Yemen Mine Awareness Association (YMAA) held a TV seminar and Radio programme on the occasion of the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action to raise awareness about the plight of mines affected communities in Yemen. Several articles were published in local and national newspapers calling for all to raise awareness about the dangers of mines and UXOs.

As part of these activities, YMAA highlighted the importance for Yemen to comply with the MBT, to complete its obligations and to work for a Yemen free of landmines.

On May 12, the Yemen Mine Awareness Association, in cooperation with YEMAC Aden branch and the Ministry of Social affairs, held an advocacy workshop to raise awareness on the importance of the CRPD and its inclusion in national legislations. Copies of the CRPD were distributed and discussed. YMAA presented the 2013 landmine monitor report major findings, while YEMAC presented the range of Victim Assistance activities carried out throughout 2013 and the beginning of 2014. The workshop was attended by 35 participants from disability NGOs and other civil society organizations as well as and government ministries, in particular MoE, MOSAL and Local authority in Aden.

Campaigners in El Salvador, Eritrea, Nigeria and Zimbabwe have been undertaking various advocacy efforts on mine clearance, victim assistance, stockpile destruction and universalisation of the MBT as well as on getting their respective country to participate in the Maputo Conference at the highest possible level.