

Statement on the Landmine Ban
by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,
for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines,
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“I believe everyone is aware that landmines should not be used in Myanmar, considering the serious effects that they have not only on troops in combat, but also on non-combatant civilians who are tending to their daily survival and livelihood- mothers, fathers and their children.

In order to prevent this the Tat Ma Daw, as well as soldiers in combat- meaning all parties engaged in armed conflict- must make take their decision to cease the way of mines.

Ethnic armed groups, if they carry arms in order to protect their own people and the areas where they live, should not use landmines in their engagement in military operations. Likewise, the Tat Ma Daw should also not be engaged in using landmines if they really want to protect the lives of the ethnic people of the country. Many Tat Ma Daw men have given their lives in battle due to the presence of mines. Many have sacrificed their limbs and suffered damage to other parts of their bodies, and are living without treatment and without psychological support, for much of their life. We should say that the Tat Ma Daw does not have the means necessary for the rehabilitation of its combatants not to mention the civilian population who have been injured by mines.

Myanmar has been included [by the ICBL] as one of the world's most mine affected countries. The banning of the use of destructive weapons, negative effecting non-combat civilians, must be undertaken by the Tat Ma Daw, as well as the other armed groups. The act of using landmines is not in accordance with a soldiers conduct toward the state and its citizens.

Hence I would urge all armed groups to start to ban landmines in their operations, without waiting for their opponent to start to do it. The habit of of planting mines should be uprooted by adhering to one's own responsibility. This action will earn the gratitude of affected civilian populations.

Each side must demonstrate exemplary dutifulness by agreeing to ban landmines. In any country, the military forces must have dignity. A dignified army is one which avoids damaging or negatively affecting its own citizens during any military operations. If landmines continue to be used, and humanitarian sentiments not mobilized, our nation will not be peaceful. The issue of landmines is not an issue separate to itself. It is an issue for the whole nation. By not resolving this issue through human empathy together it will be very difficult to become a peaceful nation. Therefore I urge everyone to uproot the habit of using landmines. Thank you all.”

[This is an unofficial translation by the ICBL and we take all responsibility for any errors contained within. Please refer to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's video speech for quotation, which can be found [HERE](#)]