Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor (LCM) provides research for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition. The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) formed in 1992 to rid the world of the scourge of the anti-personnel landmine. The ICBL is a network of over 1,300 non-governmental organizations in 70 countries, and received the Nobel Peace Award in 1997. The Cluster Munition Coalition is an international civil society campaign working to eradicate cluster munitions, prevent further casualties from these weapons and put an end for all time to the suffering they cause.

Landmine Monitor documents the implementation of the 1997 Ottawa Conventin, or the Mine Ban Treaty. Cluster Munition Monitor documents the implementation of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions. Both Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor assess the efforts of the international community to resolve the crisis caused by these weapons.

As of 1 November 2011, 157 countries, 80% of the world’s governments, have ratified or acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty and 111 countries have signed or ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Myanmar/Burma is not one of them. In 2010 it was the only country in the world whose armed forces regularly use the anti-personnel landmine.

The Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor report on Myanmar/Burma is one of the country reports contained within the Landmine Monitor Report 2011 and Cluster Munition Monitor Report 2011. Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor is not a technical treaty verifications system or a formal inspection regime. It is an effort by ordinary people to hold their governments accountable to non-use of the anti-personnel landmine. It is meant to compliment the reporting requirements of countries which have ratified the treaty, and to make transparent the state of the landmine crisis and government policies or practices in non-signatory states.

Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor aims to promote and facilitate discussion within human societies in order to reach the goal of a landmine free world. Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor works in good faith to provide factual information about the issue it is monitoring in order to benefit the world as a whole. It is critical, but constructive in its documentation and analysis.

Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor Myanmar/Burma researcher for 2011 was Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan. We are grateful to all the organizations and individuals who provide information for this report each year, and acknowledge their contribution within the report.

Cover photo of Pataw, who lost both hands and was blinded while handling a mine in Karen State in 2002 | Photo courtesy of Giovanni Diffidenti

Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor Myanmar/Burma
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Mine Ban Treaty status
Not a State Party

Pro-mine ban UNGA voting record
Abstained on Resolution 65/48 in December 2010, as in previous years

Participation in Mine Ban Treaty meetings
Did not attend the Tenth Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in November 2010.

Key developments
Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma’s Nobel Peace laureate, called for a halt in mine use by all combatants in the country.

Mine Ban Policy
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar\(^1\) has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. On 30 March 2011, the State Peace and Development Council, a military junta which has ruled the country since 1988, dissolved and handed over power to a new government dominated by the military-sponsored Union Solidarity Development Party.\(^2\) Myanmar was one of 17 countries that abstained from voting on UN General Assembly Resolution 65/48 on 8 December 2010, which called for universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty. It has abstained on similar annual resolutions since 1997.

Myanmar did not attend the Tenth Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in November 2010. It has not attended an annual Meeting of States Parties or an intersessional Standing Committee meeting since 2003, though it did take part in the Bangkok Workshop on Achieving a Mine-Free South East Asia in April 2009.\(^3\)

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\(^1\) Formerly Union of Myanmar. The military junta ruling the country changed the name from Burma to Myanmar. Many ethnic groups in the country, and a number of states, still refer to the country as Burma. Internal state and division names are given in their common form, or with the ruling USDP designation in parentheses, for example, Karenni (Kayah) state. Since 2009, Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor has used township names according to the UN’s Myanmar Information Management Unit (MIMU). See www.themimu.info.

\(^2\) The Union Solidarity Development Party was previously a mass mobilization vehicle of the military regime, with junta leader Than Shwe as its patron. The Union Solidarity Development Party was placed in power through a controversial Constitution and electoral process which sidelined the opposition National League for Democracy from participation. The National League for Democracy was elected by a wide majority of the people of the country in 1990 but never allowed by the military to form a government.

\(^3\) At the workshop, Myanmar said, “Myanmar believes that the indiscriminate use of antipersonnel mines created the deaths and injuries to the innocent civilians in the affected areas. Transfers and exports of antipersonnel mines contribute to their proliferation and increase chances of an indiscriminate use consequently. Therefore, Myanmar maintains that a step-by-step approach would be most appropriate way to deal with the issue. We also believe that the
In March 2011, the Chairman of the National Democratic Force (NDF) informed the ICBL that his party’s policy was supportive of the mine ban, and that the NDF would raise the issue in Parliament. In February 2011 a former Commander in Chief of the Army stated to the ICBL that “Mines must be banned according to both humanitarianism and religion in a civilized world,” while Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi called on all combatants to “cease the way of mines” and all groups to “start to ban landmines in their operations without waiting for their opponent to start to do it.”

In September 2010, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (UN Special Rapporteur) urged the ruling authorities in Myanmar to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty, and requested that the Government of Myanmar work with the United Nations country team and humanitarian partners to develop a framework to improve the situation, starting with the granting of permission to local humanitarian agencies to carry out mine risk education, provide victim assistance and improve the mapping of mine-affected areas.

In June 2010 the ICBL submitted a stakeholder document to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Myanmar to the Human Rights Commission summarizing reporting over the past 10 years of the Monitor on the use of forced labor for mine clearance/detonation and recommended that authorities in Myanmar “order an immediate halt to the use of antipersonnel mines by the armed forces and proxies under its control; order an immediate halt to the use of forced labour by the armed forces and proxies under its control, particularly for the purposes of mine clearance and portering in mined areas; and accede to

transfer and exports of anti-personnel mines should be addressed together with the total ban on use of anti-personnel mines…. To establish mine control scheme in the remote and delicate areas, peace is the most essential element for us.” Statement by Kyaw Swe Tint, Director, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangkok Workshop on Achieving a Mine-Free South-East Asia, 3 April 2009.

ICBL meeting with Dr. Than Nyein, Chairman, National Democratic Force and other central committee members of the NDF. Yangon. 2 March 2011. The National Democratic Force obtained some seats in Myanmar’s new parliament, elected in October 2010.

Former Commander in Chief, General Thura Tin Oo, 27 February 2011, Rangoon. Full statement on video, audio and transcript available at www.burma.icbl.org

Aung San Suu Kyi, 28 February 2011, Rangoon. Full statement on video, audio and transcript available at www.burma.icbl.org

the Mine Ban Treaty.” During the UPR process, Canada recommended that Myanmar accede to the Mine Ban Treaty. In the outcome document the authorities indicated that this recommendation would be examined by Myanmar, which would provide its responses on the recommendation in due course. The Human Rights Council also emphasized that its Special Rapporteur also urged Myanmar to ratify the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and repeated concerns of the Special Rapporteur that previously-laid mines remain largely in place and that civilian casualties continue to constitute the majority of reported mine victims, particularly along border zones where displaced people have returned. The Halt Mine Use in Burma/Myanmar campaign, which was launched by the ICBL in 2003, distributed 15,00 copies of the Burmese-language translation of the Myanmar chapter of Landmine & Cluster Munition Monitor Report 2010. The Monitor cooperated with the United Nations Myanmar Information Management Unit in Yangon to produce an updated map of townships with identified landmine contamination. In April 2011, the focal campaign, Halt Mine Use in Burma/Myanmar, launched a website on the country. During an an ICBL mission to Yangon in February and March 2011, General Thura Tin Oo, previously the Commander in Chief of the Tatmadaw, said that the Army should forego the use of antipersonnel mines: “I strongly recommend that landmines must be banned by the Tat Ma Daw, as well as those fighting against them. The good example to be followed is that of our neighboring countries, Thailand and Bangladesh [who joined the

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12 In English at www.burma.icbl.org, and in Burmese www.myanmar.icbl.org
The Australian Embassy held a diplomatic briefing on the findings of the Landmine Monitor report on Myanmar/Burma in Yangon for staff from embassies of states that have joined the Mine Ban Treaty on 3 March 2011. The Canadian Embassy held a diplomatic briefing on the findings of the Landmine Monitor report on Myanmar/Burma in Bangkok for a similar audience on 17 March 2011.

Myanmar is not party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons.

**Government use, production, stockpiling, and transfer**

Units of Myanmar’s Army (Tatmadaw) have laid mines in numerous parts of the country every year since the Monitor began reporting in 1999.

In February 2010, Tatmadaw Light Infantry Battalions (LIB) 363 and 367 allegedly laid mines in Kheh Der village tract, Kyaukkyi township, Nyaunglebin district; militia forces accompanying returning villagers subsequently discovered 11 mines.\(^1\) In March 2010, villagers in Htantabin township blamed Tatmadaw LIB 427 for laying mines that injured two villagers and an animal.\(^2\) Also in March, a former Tatmadaw soldier from LIB 102 in Karen state noted that he had been given a mine to use while in the military, and that before he deserted in March 2010 he witnessed other soldiers being ordered to lay mines near his unit’s camp in Khaw Daw Koh area, Tantabin township, Bago Division.\(^3\) In April 2010, villagers in the Ma No Roh area, Tenasserim division stated that Tatmadaw LIB 561 planted mines near their village.\(^4\)

In October 2010, the Tatmadaw laid mines around four bridges between Thaton and Bilin townships. The mined area was marked with a “Caution Mines” sign at each bridge. The Tatmadaw stated that the mines were laid to prevent the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) from using the bridges.\(^5\) In December 2010 in Bilin township of Thaton district, Border

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\(^4\) Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by the KHRG, 12 April 2011.


\(^6\) Source requested anonymity, Yangon, 2 March 2011.
Guard Force Battalion 1016, led by Par Ke Re, and Tatmadaw IB 3, led by Major Zaw Lwin Moe, placed mines in Kyaw Blaw Khi Blo and Htee Nyar Khar Blo. These mines subsequently injured villagers and killed cattle.\textsuperscript{19} Another Tatmadaw unit is alleged by the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) to have laid mines for the first time in many years in Chin state. The FBR claims that Battalion 232 laid new mines in the vicinity of Nygeletwa, Pomnyamwa, Aumthiwa, Mariwa, Setalumwa, and Putuwa villages in Paletwa township of Chin state.\textsuperscript{20} On 25 December 2010, Tatmadaw soldiers placed mines on trails and village land, in Mone township. A rebel soldier was sent to remove the mines, and found four M-14 mines before being injured by a fifth mine.\textsuperscript{21}

Myanmar Defense Products Industries (Ka Pa Sa), a state enterprise at Ngyaung Chay Dauk in western Pegu (Bago) division, produces fragmentation and blast antipersonnel mines, including a non-detectable variety.\textsuperscript{22} Authorities in Myanmar have not provided any information on the types and quantities of stockpiled antipersonnel mines. Landmine Monitor has previously reported that, in addition to domestic production, Myanmar has obtained and used antipersonnel mines of Chinese, Indian, Italian, Soviet, and American manufacture, as well as some mines whose origin has not been unidentified.\textsuperscript{23} Myanmar is not known to have exported antipersonnel mines.\textsuperscript{24}

\textbf{Non-state armed groups}

Many ethnic rebel organizations exist in Myanmar. At least 17 non-state armed groups (NSAGs) have used antipersonnel mines since 1999. However, some of these groups have ceased to exist or no longer use mines. Some armed groups have unilaterally renounced the use of antipersonnel mines by

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{19} Source requested anonymity, Bangkok, 15 March 2011.
\item \textsuperscript{20} FBR, “18-year-old Arakan Woman Raped by Burma Army Captain Chin State, Burma,” 3 May 2010.
\item \textsuperscript{21} FBR, “Landmines, Victims and Flooding from Burma Army Dam Project Displaces Multiple Communities Nyaunglebin District, Karen State, Burma,” 17 January 2011, www.freeburmarangers.org.
\item \textsuperscript{22} Myanmar produces the MM1, which is modeled on the Chinese Type-59 stake-mounted fragmentation mine; the MM2, which is similar to the Chinese Type-58 blast mine; a Claymore-type directional fragmentation mine; and a copy of the US M14 plastic mine.
\item \textsuperscript{23} See Landmine Monitor Report 2004, p. 938. The mines include: Chinese Types-58, -59, -69, -72A; Soviet POMZ-2, POMZ-2M, PMN, PMD-6; US M14, M16A1, M18; and Indian/British LTM-73, LTM-76.
\item \textsuperscript{24} In 1999 Myanmar's representative to the UN stated that the country was supportive of banning exports of antipersonnel mines, however no formal moratorium or export ban has been proclaimed. See Landmine Monitor Report 2000, p. 469.
\end{itemize}
signing the Deed of Commitment administered by the Swiss NGO Geneva Call.\textsuperscript{25}

**Non-state armed group - Use**

Conflict—especially mine warfare—between two Karen rebel groups, the KNLA and the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), has increased since mid-2009. The Kachin Independence Organization/Army (KIO/KIA) was accused by the Junta of laying antipersonnel mines resulting in civilian casualties.\textsuperscript{26}

The KIA dispatched representatives to offer compensation to the victims’ families while claiming they had marked the area. In October 2010 the KIO released a statement that warned the public of more mines in the area. The KIO stated that they had planted more mines as a result of increased tensions with the junta over the KIO’s refusal to bring its troops under Burmese Army command.\textsuperscript{27} On 21 May 2011, state media reported the seizure of 30 craft produced antipersonnel mines in the possession of a member of the KIA in Myitkyina Township.\textsuperscript{28} State media also reported the recovery of mines during the surrender of members of the Shan State Army and the Karen National Liberation Army.\textsuperscript{29}

In September 2010, the KNLA informed local inhabitants that they have planted mines beside the road between Phapun township and Kamamaung sub-township in Karen State.\textsuperscript{30}

\textsuperscript{25} The Chin National Front/Chin National Army renounced use in July 2006. The Arakan Rohingya National Organization and the National United Party of Arakan, both now militarily defunct, renounced use in October 2003. The Lahu Democratic Front (LDF), Palaung State Liberation Army, and PPLO/Pa’O Peoples Liberation Army (PPLA) renounced use in April 2007. In a June 2010 report, Geneva Call noted that LDF and the PPLA had disbanded. However, in both cases they appear to have started use of mines or merged with other groups which did. See Geneva Call, “NSA Signatories,” www.genevacall.org.


\textsuperscript{28} MNA, “KIA militiaman arrested with explosives in Myitkyina”, *New Light of Myanmar*, 24 May 2011, p2.

\textsuperscript{29} MNA, “Armed groups return to legal fold understanding genuine goodwill of Government”, *New Light of Myanmar*, 21 March 2011, p10; and MNA, “Altogether 38 armed group members return to legal fold”, *New Light of Myanmar*, 1 May 2011, p16.

\textsuperscript{30} Source requested anonymity. Yangon. 1 March 2011.
DKBA soldiers who defected to the KNU in 2010 stated to the KHRG that the DKBA uses mines, but fewer than at previous times. They claimed that they receive few mines from the Tatmadaw and mostly manufactured their own, both pressure and trip wire activated types, but were able to purchase some US mines in Thailand. None of the defectors said they marked their mined areas, but they were instructed to issue verbal warnings to nearby villages. In August and September 2010 KHRG interviewed three DKBA child soldiers, one who had been ordered to lay mines near his camp and another who had been ordered to clear a mine. The third was aware of mine use by his unit but did not lay mines. In June 2010 the DKBA planted about 150 landmines around their camps in the villages of Me Lan and Me Lakaung in Bilin Township of Mon State. Also in January 2010 villagers in Waw Muh village tract, Dweh Loh Township, Papun District stated that they were prohibited from going to some of their agricultural fields due to mines laid by the DKBA. Also in January 2010, villagers from Meh Nyoo, Meh Gkoo, Meh Mweh, and Meh Gklaw village tracts in Bu Tho Township stated that soldiers from DKBA battalion 666 placed landmines in areas near the villages and gave verbal warnings of dangerous areas. Villagers in Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dweh Loh Township, Papun District allege that on 26 March 2010 DKBA Battalion 333 laid mines to prevent attacks by the KNLA in the area, leading to the loss of several cattle. In April 2010 in Lu Thaw Township, Papun District, a Gher Der village guard stepped on a mine laid by the KNLA because he could not remember where it had been laid. On the same day another person from the same village stepped on a mine he alleged had been recently planted by the Tatmadaw on the road. Villagers in Meh Mweh village tract, Dweh Loh Township, Papun District state that on 9 April

31 Five different DKBA soldiers were interviewed, plus three child soldiers one 14 and two 15. Each gave differing accounts as to policies and sources of mines and patterns of use. Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by Karen Human Rights Group, 12 April 2011.


33 "Southwestern Papun District: Transitions to DKBA control along the Bilin, River," August 18th 2010

http://www.khrg.org/khrg2010/khrg10f5.html


35 Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by Karen Human Rights Group, 12 April 2011.

36 Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by Karen Human Rights Group, 12 April 2011.
a DKBA unit came to the area and planted some mines.\(^{37}\) In May 2010 Gk'Law Lu village, Dta Greh Township, Pa'an District was reportedly burned by the DKBA to remove people from the area. Villagers were warned by the DKBA not to return to the area as it had been mined.\(^{38}\) In May 2010 a villager in Wah Muh village tract, Dweh Loh Township, Papun District stated that while being escorted by a DKBA soldier, he stepped on a landmine laid by another DKBA unit and that the areas were unmarked.\(^{39}\) In mid-December, a rebel group of DKBA planted mines near a Tatmadaw military camp resulting in deaths and injuries at Gk'Neh Lay village, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District.\(^{40}\) On 5\(^{th}\) December DKBA warned villagers from Waw Lay village, Kawkareik Township, Dooplaya District that they should only move by the roads, not the small paths, as these had been mined against the Tatmadaw.\(^{41}\)

On 7 July 2010 villagers at Way Muh village tract, Dweh Loh Township, Papun District stated that a DKBA unit laid some landmines resulting in the death of cattle.\(^{42}\)

Both the KNLA and DKBA are known to issue prohibitions on travel to areas, and this is understood by villagers to mean that the area is mined. If a village is not allied with one of these armed groups, that group may not give them the warnings.\(^{43}\) There have been reports in 2010 of use of antivehicle mines.\(^{44}\)

\(^{37}\) Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by Karen Human Rights Group, 12 April 2011.

\(^{38}\) “DKBA burns village and forces residents to relocate in Pa'an District,” June 4th 2010 http://www.khrg.org/khrg2010/khrg10b9.html

\(^{39}\) Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by Karen Human Rights Group, 12 April 2011.

\(^{40}\) Update No.26 "Villagers at risk from landmines, shelling and portering in Gk'Neh Lay village," December 16th 2010 http://www.khrg.org/khrg2011/khrg11f1_update.html#26

\(^{41}\) Update No.11 "Portering and landmine concerns in Waw Lay village," December 5th 2010http://www.khrg.org/khrg2011/khrg11f1_update.html#11

\(^{42}\) Information provided by a source who requested anonymity.

\(^{43}\) Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by Karen Human Rights Group, 12 April 2011.

\(^{44}\) In March 2010, Myanmar state media alleged that the KNLA were responsible for laying an antivehicle mine which killed two persons and injured 11 in Karen state. “Two dead, 11 injured in Papun mine blast,” New Light of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw), 20 March 2010, also “Two killed three injured in mine blast,” New Light of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw), 13 May 2010 and “One dead, four injured, one vehicle damaged in two mine blasts,” New Light of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw), 26 December 2010.
Landmine Militarization

The prevalence of mine use in some eastern zones of the country results in the spread of military weapons, and thinking, into the civil realm of society. This is reflected in increased reports of use of mines by ordinary citizens and village guard groups. The KHRG has reported increased use of antipersonnel mines by ordinary villagers, ostensibly to prevent the Tatmadaw’s entry into their villages. This practice is especially prevalent in the Kay Bpoo, Nah Yoh Htah, Saw Muh Bplaw and Ler Muh Bplaw and Yeh Muh Bplaw village tracts of northern Lu Thaw Township, Papun District. Villagers in this area have repeatedly stated their need and desire for more access to landmines, according to the KHRG. Villagers state that the KNLA provides them with some information about instructions for the mines’ construction, as well as material for the mines, as well as some completed mines, but this is not enough for their needs. The KHRG attributes use of landmines by villages in this particular area to the fact that they are surrounded on all sides by Tatmadaw military camps, and have no other areas to which they can flee. KHRG notes that in other areas, villagers are more likely to see landmine use by any party as a threat to their well-being.

One villager in Ler Muh Bplaw village tract, Lu Thaw Township, informed the KHRG that the villagers use mines to farm near the front line, close to Tatmadaw camps. “If the SPDC [State Peace and Development Council] soldiers step on a landmine when they come, they will go back after they were hit by the mine, or we can turn back [flee]. We do it for alertness.” When asked how many mines they had laid in that area the villagers replied “over a hundred.” Another villager, from the same village, stepped on a mine laid by the village guards. He stated that “I went back and farmed my hill field at the front line and stepped on a landmine. I was hit by our people's landmine. Not an SPDC Army landmine. I can say that it was an SPDC landmine, because if there were no SPDC Army activities, there'd be no landmines and they wouldn’t hit anyone.”

Non-state armed group -Production, transfer, and stockpiling

The KNLA, DKBA, Karenni Army, and the United Wa State Army have produced blast and fragmentation mines. Some also make Claymore-type directional fragmentation mines, mines with antihandling fuzes, and explosive booby-traps. Armed groups in Myanmar have also acquired mines by

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removing mines laid by others, seizing Myanmar Army stocks, and obtaining mines from the clandestine arms market. Although some former combatants have non-hostility pacts with the ruling authorities, they have not disarmed and some still possess antipersonnel mines. In May 2010, the authorities announced that soldiers of the Shan State Army (SSA) had surrendered and turned in mines and other weapons to the authorities.

Landmine Monitor Report 2009, for the first time, identified the presence of US-made M26 bounding antipersonnel mines in Myanmar, but could not identify the source or the user. In 2010, a confidential source indicated that the KNLA had received many M26 mines from the Royal Thai Army in the past, before Thailand joined the Mine Ban Treaty.

Contamination and Impact

Mines are believed to be concentrated on Myanmar’s borders with Bangladesh and Thailand, but are a particular threat in eastern parts of the country as a result of decades of post-independence struggles for autonomy by ethnic minorities. Some 33 townships in Chin, Kachin, Karen (Kayin), Karenni (Kayah), Mon, Rakhine, and Shan states, as well as in Pegu (Bago) and Tenasserim (Tanintharyi) divisions suffer from some degree of mine contamination, primarily from antipersonnel mines. Karen (Kayin) state and Pegu (Bago) division are suspected to contain the heaviest mine contamination and have the highest number of recorded victims.

No estimate exists of the extent of contamination, but the Monitor identified suspected hazardous areas (SHAs) in the following townships: every township in Karenni (Kayah) state; every township in Karen (Kayin) state; Momauk

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46 About a dozen armed organizations have agreed verbally to cease hostilities with the SPDC. Although frequently referred to as “ceasefire groups,” none have signed a formal ceasefire protocol leading to a negotiated settlement. All maintain their arms, including any stockpile of antipersonnel landmines.

47 “12 armed group members exchange arms for peace” New Light of Myanmar (Nay Pyi Taw), 1 July 2010.


49 Myanmar/Burma is divided up into both states and divisions, which are virtually identical sub-state level administrative districts. States are the “home area” of ethnic groups, and are always named after one; other areas which are not seen as the home area of a specific ethnic group are called divisions. The military junta ruling the country changed the name from Burma to Myanmar. Many ethnic groups within the country and a number of states still prefer to use the name Burma. Internal state and division names are given in their common form, or with the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) designation in parentheses, for example, Karenni (Kayah) state.
township of Kachin state; Thanbyuzayat, Thaton, and Ye townships in Mon state; Kyaukkyi, Shwekyin, and Tantabin townships in Pegu (Bago) division; Maungdaw township in Rakhine state; Hsihseng, Langkho, Mongpan, Mawkmai, Namhsan and Tachileik townships in Shan state; and Bokpyin, Dawei, Tanintharyi, Thayetchaung and Yebyu townships of Tenasserim (Tanintharyi) division. The Monitor has subsequently identified previously unknown SHAs in townships on the Indian border of Chin state.\textsuperscript{50}

Myanmar is also affected by explosive remnants of war (ERW), including mortars, grenades, artillery and ordnance used in World War II, but no information is available on the extent or location of such contamination.\textsuperscript{51} There have been no reports of cluster munition remnants.

**Mine Action Program**

Despite a significant mine threat, Myanmar does not have a functioning national mine action program. In late 2009, the Protection working group of the UN mission in Myanmar, chaired by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), created a mines subgroup.\textsuperscript{52} UNHCR initiated discussions with the government on the issue of mines, reportedly contacting the ministries of Home Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Social Welfare, and the Ministry for the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.\textsuperscript{53} The mine subgroup planned to focus on mine/ERW risk education (RE), identifying gaps in medical and rehabilitation support for survivors and exploring the feasibility of starting humanitarian mine clearance. As of 1 August 2011, the government had not agreed to the

\textsuperscript{50} Survey conducted by the Monitor in February 2009–May 2010. Data sources included casualty information, sightings of mine warnings, and reports of use by NGOs and other organizations, as well as interviews with field staff and armed forces’ personnel. The survey included casualty data from January 2007 through June 2010 and data from other informants from January 2008 through June 2010.


\textsuperscript{52} UNHCR Protection Working Group sub-group on landmines meeting notes, Yangon, 23 February 2010.

establishment of a national mine action program\textsuperscript{54} and no meetings of the sub-working group had yet been convened.\textsuperscript{55}

**Mine clearance in 2010**

Sporadic demining has been reported in recent years by the Tatmadaw, villagers, and ethnic minority organizations.

A child soldier in the Tatmadaw interviewed in 2010 said that all soldiers were trained to handle mines and that he witnessed an enemy mine being removed by a soldier in his unit in Mon State.\textsuperscript{56}

In February 2010, the Free Burma Rangers (FBR)\textsuperscript{57} reported undertaking mine clearance in villages near the border of Kyaukkyi and Hpapun townships, removing a small number of minimum-metal M14 antipersonnel mines on up to eight occasions each year.\textsuperscript{58} The FBR include a course on mine identification and emergency clearance procedures for their relief teams. Mines encountered on their missions have either been removed by FBR personnel, who turn them over to anti-junta militia, or are removed by militia members.\textsuperscript{59}

A Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) defector to the Karen National Union (KNU) who was interviewed by the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG) in July 2010 reported that the DKBA had policy of paying a THB500 (US$16) reward for each mine cleared by its soldiers in order to give villagers access to hillside lands and to assist returns from Thailand.\textsuperscript{60}

In late December 2010, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) sent a soldier to clear mines that had been laid by the Tatmadaw on 25 December.

\textsuperscript{54} The Parliament elected in November 2010 first met in January 2011. The Parliament did not discuss mine action or issue directives to Ministries to pursue mine action programs and no ministry provided information to Parliament on the extent of the mine problem within the country.

\textsuperscript{55} UN Humanitarian Partners Meeting Schedule, January – August 2011, www.themimu.info.

\textsuperscript{56} Information provided to the Monitor on condition of anonymity. Yangon, 2 March 2011.


The soldier cleared four M-14 mines before being injured by a fifth mine.61 Two Karenni Army soldiers were killed on 2 April 2011 when a mine they had removed detonated, also fatally wounding a member of the FBR.62

“Atrocity” or forced labor demining63

The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomas Quintana, cited reports that “civilians are forced by the military to clear brush in suspected mined areas or to serve as porters for the military in areas where there is a mine hazard. According to sources, civilians have been ordered to remove mines without training or protective equipment or to repair fences of mined areas, which have caused serious casualties.”64 After a visit in August 2010, he reported meeting a victim of forced labor mine clearance.65

In early 2010, a Tatmadaw child soldier interviewed by an independent source said he witnessed his unit seize villagers in 2010 and march them in front of the unit in case of mines.66

The FBR has reported the following incidents. On 10 December 2010, a patrol of the Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 299 seized a family near Maw Tu village, Dooplaya District, consisting of two women and four children and forced them to walk in front of the patrol, both in case of attack and because of the risk of mines.67 In March 2011, FBR reported that villagers were forced to drive their vehicles on the road from Hkler Lah to Bu Hsa Hkee ahead of an Army convoy to detonate any mines. The same day, 140 men and women from Klaw Mee Der area were forced to carry food along the road from Pa

63 The term “atrocity demining” is used by the Monitor to describe forced passage of civilians over mined areas or the forced use of civilians to clear mines without appropriate training or equipment. “Atrocity demining” is sometimes referred to in human rights reports as “human mine sweeping.”
66 Information provided to the Monitor by a source requesting anonymity, Yangon, 2 March 2011.
Leh Wah to Klaw Mee Der and act as human minesweepers by Infantry Battalion (IB) 102. Previously, on 11 Feb 2011, five men from Play Hsa Lo were forced to carry loads and act as minesweepers between Play Hsa Lo and Tha Pyin Nuint by IB 102.68

The KHRG said it had received reports of the following incidents in 2010:

- A convict was injured by a mine while forced to porter for the Tatmadaw in January 2010.69
- A villager from Ma Lay Ler village tract, Dweh Loh Township, Papun District, was forced to clear mines in January 2010 by the commander of IB 96 after the unit suffered mine injuries.70
- A villager from Lu Thaw township forced to work as a porter for the Tatmadaw stepped on a mine as he escaped on 9 January. He said he was told by the military that they were afraid to use vehicles on the road because of mines so they used humans.71
- In February 2010, a convict porter with Tatmadaw LIBs 707 and 708 stated that he was forced by the military to clear mines without tools or walk in front of the military column in suspected mined areas near Papun.72
- Villagers from five villages in Meh Gklaw village tract, Bu Tho Township, Papun District, claimed that in March 2010 they were required by Tatmadaw Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 340 to clear brush from a track that had been regularly mined by the KNLA, DKBA and Tatmadaw.73
- Former prisoners who escaped from being used as porters by the Tatmadaw IB 212 in January 2011 stated that they were forced to look for mines ahead of military columns using a stick with prongs that looked like a pitchfork. They stated that all porters in their column were required to do this work.74

In January 2011, the KNU published the testimony of convict porter Aye Min who said he had witnessed three porters step on mines prior to his escape.

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71 Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by KHRG, 12 April 2011.
72 Ibid.
73 Ibid.
74 KHRG, “Three former convict porters confirm serious human rights abuses in the current conflict in Dooplaya District,” Update No. 52, Appendix, 8 February 2011, www.khrg.org
He said the convicts were used as porters by Battalion 208 under command of LIB 22.\textsuperscript{75} In May 2011, the KNU stated that in the first four months of 2011, 1,220 villagers from five districts of Karen state had been seized for use as human mine sweepers or human shields.\textsuperscript{76}

A Buddhist Karen resident of Poe Thweki village in southeast Hpapun township said he was forced by the commander of DKBA units 666 and 999 to lay mines in the frontline with the DKBA soldiers for an unspecified period until he escaped in May 2009.\textsuperscript{77}

**Other Risk Reduction Measures**

RE is inadequate and often non-existent in areas with reported casualties. Very limited activities are carried out in Karen (Kayin) state by the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People, in Karenni (Kayah) state by the Karenni Social Welfare and Development Centre, in Shan state by the Lahu Development Union, and in Chin State by the Chin Peoples Action Committee. Throughout 2010 these groups reportedly made presentations in 130 communities reaching about 6400 people. There are no government-run RE activities, although in 2009 it was reported that “beware mines” signs had been placed by authorities in some parts of the country.\textsuperscript{78}

**Casualties\textsuperscript{79}**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All known casualties by end 2010</th>
<th>2,861 (219 killed; 2,445 injured; 197 unknown) since 1999</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Casualties in 2010</td>
<td>274 (2009: 262)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 casualties by outcome</td>
<td>36 killed; 238 injured (2009: 8 killed; 205 injured; 49 unknown)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 casualties by device type</td>
<td>215 antipersonnel mines; 24 antivehicle mines; 2 ERW; 33 unidentified mines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2010, there were at least 274 new mine/explosive remnants of war (ERW) casualties in Myanmar, based on state and independent media reports and


\textsuperscript{76} “Statement on the Use of Karen Civilians for Forced Labor and as Human Shield by Burma Army,” KNU, 26 May 2011, www.karennationalunion.net.

\textsuperscript{77} Email from FBR, 16 March 2010.

\textsuperscript{78} Interviews during Monitor field mission, Yangon, 2–6 February 2009.

\textsuperscript{79} Unless noted otherwise, Monitor casualty data for 2010 is from media reports published by the New Light of Myanmar between 1 January and 31 December 2010. Information from published and unpublished sources. Unpublished information provided to the Monitor by KHRG, 12 April 2011; email from Cedric Piralla, Head of Office, ICRC Chiang Mai, 1 June 2011; interview at BPHWT, 8 March 2011; and email from FBR, 20 March 2011.
information provided by NGOs and other organizations. Of the 2010 total, 154 casualties were civilians and 21 were military. The civil status for 99 other casualties is not known. At least 10 casualties were children (nine boys; one girl) and 15 casualties were adult women. As in the past, the data contained insufficient details to distinguish trends.

Most mines causing casualties were recorded as antipersonnel mines. However it has been reported by local risk education providers that most mines laid by the state military are factory made, while most mines laid by some non-state armed groups (NSAGs) are victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs). People involved in mine and IED incidents are often not able to distinguish between these types of victim-activated explosive items and the type is not recorded.

Past reporting by the Monitor has indicated that there are a significant number of military casualties recorded, but that such records are not generally available to the public. In January 2011, a child soldier with the Tat Ma Daw (Myanmar Army) Light Infantry Battalion 202, interviewed by the Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG), reported that over 200 soldiers were killed by mines and firearms during local fighting north of Myawaddy in November–December 2010.

The 2010 total represented a similar number of casualties to the 262 which were identified for 2009 through similar reporting sources. However, due to the lack of systematic data collection and varying sources of annual data, reporting does not reflect the full extent of mine/ERW incidents and casualties in the country. The actual number of casualties is known to be much higher. The US Department of State reported that there were up to 600 mine casualties

80 The age and sex of 42 casualties was unknown.


82 Unprecedented levels of information on military casualties were received in 2008 from the State Peace and Development Council; 508 military casualties were identified. Information from this source has not been made available any other year. ICBL, Landmine Monitor Report 2009: Toward a Mine-Free World (Ottawa: Mines Action Canada, October 2009), www.the-monitor.org.


(100 killed; 500 injured) in Myanmar during 2010.\(^8^5\) This estimate is closer to the 721 mine/ERW casualties reported by the Monitor for Myanmar in 2008 (89 killed; 632 injured), when data on military casualties was available.\(^8^6\)

The total number of casualties in Myanmar is unknown. The Monitor has identified 2,861 (219 killed; 2,445 injured; 197 unknown) casualties between 1999 and the end of 2010.

At least two elephants were injured by mines during 2010 and through to September 2011. Elephants injured by mines that were transported to the Friends of the Asian Elephant Foundation in Thailand received care at its hospital. The elephant hospital reported receiving 14 elephants injured by mines since 1997, however many more are believed to have died in the forest or were not transported to the hospital for treatment by their owners. Most elephants injured by mines are those used in the illegal cross-border timber trade.\(^8^7\)

**Victim Assistance**

The total number of mine/ERW survivors in Myanmar is unknown, but at least 2,445 survivors have been identified since 1999.\(^8^8\)

**Assessing victim assistance needs**

No assessment of survivor needs has been carried out in Myanmar. The Ministry of Health does not record injuries due to mines/ERW separate from other traumatic injuries.\(^8^9\)

**Victim assistance coordination**

Myanmar does not have a victim assistance program or strategy. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is responsible for disability issues and facilitates some socio-economic and rehabilitation services.\(^9^0\) No inclusion of survivors in planning victim assistance activities was reported in 2010.

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\(^8^5\) US Department of State, “2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Burma,” Washington, DC, 8 April 2011. This estimate has not been included in the total for 2010.


\(^8^8\) Based on 2,445 injured casualties between 1999 and 2010.


Service accessibility and effectiveness

Assistance to mine/ERW survivors and persons with disabilities in Myanmar continued to be marginal due to many years of neglect of healthcare services by the ruling authorities. However physical rehabilitation, orthopedic surgery, and prosthetics were available to some mine/ERW survivors through rehabilitation centers in 2010, both within Myanmar and in Thailand near the border.91

Victim assistance activities in 201092

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of organization</th>
<th>Type of organization</th>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Changes in quality/coverage of service in 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Prosthetic centers and two orthopedic hospitals</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Defense</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Prosthetics provided through three centers</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Socio-economic and rehabilitation services; vocational training school for adults with disabilities, including mine/ERW survivors</td>
<td>Statistics not publicly available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shwe Min Tha Foundation</td>
<td>Local NGO</td>
<td>Covered incidental medical care costs, transportation to medical centers, and food distribution</td>
<td>Increased marginally, but most survivors who requested assistance did not receive support due to funding constraints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Back Pack</td>
<td>Local NGO</td>
<td>Mobile emergency</td>
<td>Increase in the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

91 Some service providers listed below include community-based organizations: for example, the Karen National Union-linked Karen Handicap Welfare Association; Karenni Health Workers Organization, the social arm of the Karenni People’s National Liberation Front; and the SHC, the social service arm of the Shan State Army-South and Restoration Council of Shan State.

92 Interview with Preeta Law, Deputy Representative, UNHCR, Yangon, 26 February 2011; Karen Department for Health and Welfare update by email, Sarah Murray, Trauma and Child Health Fellow, Global Health Access Program, 2 June 2011; interview with Myat Thu Winn, Director, Shwe Min Tha Foundation, Yangon, 2 March 2011; email from Cedric Piralla, ICRC Chiang Mai, 1 June 2011; interview at BPHWT, Mae Sot, 8 March 2011; email from FBR, 20 March 2011; email from Sanae Hayashi, Programme Coordinator, Myanmar Project, AAR Japan, 14 June 2011; interview with CIDKP, Mae Sot, 12 March 2011.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Worker Teams (BPHWT)</th>
<th>The Free Burma Rangers (FBR)</th>
<th>Karen Health Workers Organization</th>
<th>Karenni Health Workers Organization</th>
<th>Karen Health &amp; Welfare Department</th>
<th>Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People</th>
<th>Association for Aid and Relief Japan (AAR Japan)</th>
<th>UNHCR</th>
<th>ICRC/Myanmar Red Cross</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>medical service in eastern Myanmar</td>
<td>Medical care; trained and supported mobile medical teams</td>
<td>Provided prosthetics in Loikaw, Kayah (Karenni) state</td>
<td>Provided medical first aid assistance and amputative surgeries</td>
<td>Provided medical first aid assistance and amputative surgeries</td>
<td>Prosthetic production at the Kho Kay Prosthetic Clinic, Mutraw, Karen (Kayin) state</td>
<td>Vocational training; community-based rehabilitation; referral system; survivor rights/advocacy</td>
<td>Financial assistance for rehabilitation of war victims</td>
<td>Support to Hpa-an Orthopedic Rehabilitation Centre;prosthetic outreach for remote areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of mine victims assisted</td>
<td>Slight increase in services provided</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
<td>Increased</td>
<td>Increased production of prosthetic limbs</td>
<td>Increased production of prosthetic limbs</td>
<td>Increased number of mine victims in vocational training</td>
<td>New program, only covers Kayin and Mon states and Thannintharyi division</td>
<td>Unchanged</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No changes to the quality of services provided by the government were reported.

The *New Light of Myanmar* published an increasing number of reports of mine casualties within the country in 2010. Some reports mention assistance to new mine/ERW casualties and in some cases their hospitalization, although details of the types of assistance provided were not mentioned. In 2010, continued government restrictions imposed on the ICRC prevented it from carrying out assistance activities for civilians in violence-affected areas along

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93 Based on analysis of the reporting of 73 casualties in the *New Light of Myanmar* between 1 January and 31 December 2010.
the Myanmar-Thailand border.\textsuperscript{94} UNHCR provided MMK100,000 (US$100 at the street exchange rate) one-time financial assistance to mine victims and other conflict-related amputees and families of survivors from February until October 2010. The program was under review in early 2011 and scheduled to recommence during the year.\textsuperscript{95} The number of patients coming to access services at the Hpa-an Orthopedic Rehabilitation Center, located in Myanmar’s most mine-affected area, decreased for the second year in a row. In 2010, the center’s prosthetic output for mine/ERW survivors decreased by almost 20\% from 2009.\textsuperscript{96} The Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP) increased production of prosthetic limbs from its Kho Kay Prosthetic clinic, located in Karen state.\textsuperscript{97}

The government did not provide social protection for private sector workers who became disabled. However veterans with disabilities received benefits on a priority basis and non-military persons with permanent disabilities were also entitled to a benefit payment. There was little state funding for services to assist persons with disabilities. Myanmar had no laws to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities.\textsuperscript{98}

As of 1 October 2011, Myanmar had not signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

\textbf{Services in Thailand}

In Thailand, assistance to mine/ERW survivors from Myanmar was primarily provided at clinics in refugee camps and public district hospitals in the border provinces with Myanmar. Most services continued at similar levels to the previous year. However, fewer conflict-injured patients, including mine/ERW survivors from Myanmar, received treatment at Thai hospitals with ICRC support than in 2009.

\textsuperscript{95} Interview with Preeta Law, UNHCR, Yangon, 26 February 2011.
\textsuperscript{97} From January to December 2010 CIDKPs Kho Kay Prosthetic clinic produced 60 artificial limbs. Outreach teams took casts and delivered and fitted prosthetic limbs for patients who could not reach the clinic.
Victim assistance activities on Thai-Myanmar Border and in Thailand for Myanmar nationals in 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of organization</th>
<th>Type of organization</th>
<th>Type of activity</th>
<th>Changes in quality/coverage of service in 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prosthesis Foundation</td>
<td>National NGO</td>
<td>Free prosthetic devices</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mae Tao Clinic</td>
<td>Local NGO</td>
<td>Prosthetics and rehabilitation services, trauma surgery, and other health services</td>
<td>Increased the number of people who received prostheses from 188 to 235; no new prosthetic technicians trained</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan Health Committee (SHC)</td>
<td>Community-based organization</td>
<td>Prosthetic services in Pang Ma Pha, Wieng Hang, Mae Fa Luang, and Loi Kai Wan; and economic inclusion activities</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care Villa established by the Karen Handicap Welfare Association</td>
<td>Community-based organization</td>
<td>Assistance to 20 blind amputee mine/ERW survivors at Care Villa in Mae La refugee camp</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Path International</td>
<td>International NGO</td>
<td>Grants and capacity-building support to community-based organizations for prosthetics and rehabilitation workshops; socio-economic reintegration and</td>
<td>Ongoing, including round-the-clock nursing for survivors with severe disabilities at Mae La Refugee Camp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>International organization</td>
<td>Covers costs of hospitalization and surgery for war injured people from Myanmar in Thai hospitals; training in treating war-injuries for Thai doctors and medical personnel</td>
<td>Provided assistance to two-thirds fewer mine injured patients in Thai hospitals than in previous years; increased the number of doctors who received war surgery training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handicap International (HI) Burmese Border Project</td>
<td>International NGO</td>
<td>Physiotherapy, prosthetics, and accessibility to buildings; social inclusion activities</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai hospitals</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Providing medical care to mine/ERW survivors from Myanmar and Cambodia</td>
<td>Provided assistance to far fewer mine injured than in previous years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2010, Norway was Myanmar/Burma’s sole international mine action donor, contributing US$36,393 towards advocacy activities carried out by the NGO Geneva Call. In previous years Spain and Denmark made contributions towards risk education and victim assistance activities.

**Summary of contributions: 2006–2010\(^\text{100}\)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>36,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>779,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,020,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>183,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>N/R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,019,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cluster Munitions

The Union of Myanmar\textsuperscript{101} has not acceded to the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In November 2010, a government representative said that the legal affairs department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is reviewing the convention.\textsuperscript{102} Previously, in November 2009, a government official informed a regional conference on cluster munitions that while Myanmar has not yet joined the convention it nonetheless, “criticizes the use of such weapons with indiscriminate area effect and which can cause humanitarian consequences.”\textsuperscript{103}


Use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of Cluster Munitions

In November 2009 Myanmar stated, “We do not use cluster munitions, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, retain or transfer to anyone, directly or indirectly, nor assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under this Convention.”\textsuperscript{104}

\begin{flushleft}
\textsuperscript{101} The military junta ruling the country changed the name from Burma to Myanmar. Many ethnic groups in the country and a number of states still prefer to use the name Burma.
\textsuperscript{102} Interview with Aye Thidar Myo, Assistant Director, International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vientiane, 10 November 2010.
\textsuperscript{104} Ibid.
\end{flushleft}
Until May 2017, there have been no confirmed casualties between January 2007 and January 2017 due to landmines. The map indicates areas where landmines are suspected. However, it is important to note that this map does not indicate how extensive the contamination is.