



NEW ZEALAND
CAMPAIGN AGAINST LANDMINES

CALM newsletter

Part of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
Winner of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize

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Encouraging movements on cluster munitions By CALM Convenor, Deborah Morris-Travers

World leaders are slowly waking up to the reality that cluster munitions are causing horror to civilian populations around the world.

In recent weeks the Belgian parliament has started considering a new law banning cluster munitions. Members of the Italian senate have proposed a similar ban, and the German parliament has debated a motion calling for a moratorium on the use of cluster munitions.

In another interesting development, KBC and ING banks have cut their links with companies manufacturing cluster bombs, under pressure from non-governmental organisations. A 2004 report by the NGO Network Vlaanderen revealed that the five largest Belgian banks - Axa, Dexia, ING, KBC and Fortis - had between them invested some 1.5 million euros in 11 firms manufacturing controversial weapons, including cluster bombs. A statement from Human Rights Watch and Handicap International, said these bombs have "caused disproportionate civilian suffering in times of war and conflict" and "endanger civilians long after conflict".

ING will no longer finance or directly invest in companies making or selling cluster bombs. KBC said it will not lend to or buy shares in such companies, nor will the bank include them in customers' investment packages. Fortis and Dexia are expected to announce similar changes.

Here in New Zealand, CALM recently met with the Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committee to urge the committee to support the call for an immediate stop to all use of cluster bombs and for concrete steps towards the development of new international humanitarian law placing prohibitions on the use of cluster bombs.

Please join CALM and help to spread its campaign message through these newsletters. These cost about \$10 per person per year to prepare and despatch so donations to the CALM Treasurer, PO Box 17 195, Wellington would be appreciated.

The Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC), has also agreed to develop policy recommendations on cluster munitions. Those recommendations will be presented to the government in due course.

And on 20 April, CALM Convenor Deborah Morris-Travers and Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) coordinator Thomas Nash met with the Minister for Disarmament to brief her on the impact of cluster munitions and to encourage the government to pursue new international humanitarian law on cluster munitions. The Dominion Post reported in Thomas's work with the CMC.

The campaign to address the looming crisis caused by clusters has also been bolstered by the release of a Human Rights Watch report titled, "Worldwide Production and Export of Cluster Munitions." The report identifies the countries known to produce and export cluster munitions. For more information on the report, visit: <http://hrw.org/backgrounder/arms/cluster0405/>

These developments are an encouraging sign that progress is being made on this important campaign. However, the work has just begun. CALM will continue working to promote widespread understanding of the harms caused by clusters and the urgent need for international law to address their indiscriminate and disproportionate impacts on civilians. If you would like to help, please email: CALMDeborah@yahoo.com

DISARM film update By Mary Wareham

Disarm was been accepted into its first film festival: the Wine Country Film Fest scheduled for 28 July-28 August in Napa and Sonoma valleys, California. I entered Disarm into this festival because "Born into Brothels" won their documentary prize last year. The organizers told me they thought Disarm was "really incredible" and they were "thrilled" to be able to include it this year. I'm now seeing if it would be possible for Jody Williams, whose interview is a constant thread throughout the film, to come to the festival and accept their annual "humanitarian of the year" award, which has been awarded in the past to the Dalai Lama and other Nobel laureates.

It is not certain if the world premiere will be Wine Country, but it is great to get accepted! We're waiting to hear back on our entry into a number of festivals including Dubrovnik, Galway/Ireland, Los Angeles/IFP, Melbourne, Munich, New Zealand, Seattle, Silverdocs, St. Petersburg, and Zanzibar. Our applications to HotDocs/Toronto and Thessaloniki were rejected because we applied too late and we received rejections from Boston and Malibu. Our 16-page Distribution Plan prioritises dissemination of the film according

to festivals (apply throughout 2005), advocacy opportunities (starting second half 2005), DVD distribution and broadcast opportunities. We've also identified a number of goals as far as advocacy is concerned, starting with getting the film into festivals and on television in hold-out governments that continue to refuse to join the ban. Other priorities include mine-affected countries where we filmed as well as mine action donor governments.

Other recent activities include a weekend in March spent doing a "paper edit" of the film together with Brian Liu and Chris Collins to get the film's length down from 67 minutes to 53 minutes or TV-length. My campaign colleagues have translated Disarm into Arabic and Spanish and we are checking these translations now, while translation into Burmese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Thai continues. We are working to get the final sound mix done prior to the first festival screening. Nearly all of the necessary music rights have been collected with the expert assistance of Foley Lardner, our pro-bono legal advisor.

Donation to CALM

New Zealand CALM has recently received a donation of \$1,000 from a Japanese supporter living in New Zealand. CALM committee members will discuss the best use of the funds at the next committee meeting in late May. The donor wishes to remain anonymous but we convey our thanks for such a wonderful contribution.

Charges against Bangladesh landmine campaigner dropped!

Many people in the New Zealand Campaign Against Landmines and the International Campaign were outraged when our colleague Rafique al Islam was imprisoned last year. CALM advocated for Rafique to Amnesty International and the New Zealand Government.

Finally, the Bangladesh court has dropped the charges. On 19 April 2005, the Bangladesh district court handling the case of Rafique Al Islam dismissed the charges filed against him for lack of evidence. The court failed to prove Rafique's involvement in a case of ammunition and explosives smuggling in August 2004.

Fred Lubang of Non-Violence International South East Asia said, "It is a victory of the nonviolence work, the peace movement, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines community and of the people who believe on the work for peace", Rafique described the decision. Last year, there was an outpour of global calls and support from the whole ICBL community and the peace movement in general for the release of Rafique while he was detained for weeks during the initial stages of the trial.

Once again, we thank everyone for your tireless support in various ways in this particular struggle proving that there is indeed strength in solidarity. Thank you!
The struggle for peace continues!"

Advocating to Australia

By David Zwartz, Deputy Convenor of CALM

CALM was invited to attend a meeting at MFAT on 19 April with Hon Bruce Billson, Australia's Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Trade, and also Australia's Special Representative on Landmines.

I was pleased to represent CALM, and report as follows: Mr Billson is fully informed on and has been directly involved in landmine issues. He was at the Nairobi MSP and (in relation to action with Non State Actors) has visited Jaffna - Tamil territory - in Sri Lanka.

Mr Billson spoke about concerns that countries seeking to achieve UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have mainstreamed their landmine action efforts as part of other development goals, and he said "nervousness has been conveyed to him that this will diminish mine action support." He also mentioned floating his own idea of a "Friends of Ottawa" stream of nations that are supportive of treaty aims but don't sign up to the full requirements of the treaty because of difficulties such as regular treaty reporting or the huge cost of mine stock disposal.

I spoke about maintaining action on universalisation of the MBT among Pacific nations. Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and Vanuatu have signed but not ratified the Treaty. Australia has had bilateral talks with Vanuatu. Both Mr Billson and the New Zealand MFAT representatives said that the new Vanuatu administration needed time to settle down. Mr Billson sounded interested when I said Australia had given A\$35,000 towards a Round Table meeting in Nadi in 1997, and asked if it had helped. I said it had, and asked might they do the same again? Mr Billson referred to the Pacific Forum regional security meeting being held in NZ in June. The programme has already been drawn up but I asked MFAT whether something on landmines can still be included.

I also suggested that both Australia and NZ might put more effort into landmine action in Sri Lanka because of Commonwealth (and cricket!) links and substantial Sri Lankan communities in both countries. Mr Billson spoke about talking to Geneva Call in Nairobi about their work in Sri Lanka. He and MFAT agreed more can be done and is probably worth doing.

On funding, Mr Billson said that following the expiry in December 2005 of Australia's A\$100 million commitment to mine action, there will probably be a renewed commitment of around A\$10-11 million a year.

Landmine Monitor 2005: Report on Editorial Team Meetings

By Jackie Hansen, Landmine Monitor Project Manager

The Landmine Monitor Editorial Team held two recent meetings to make plans for the 2005 Landmine Monitor Annual Report. The Editorial Board and Thematic Coordination Team met in Ottawa, Canada from 7-9 February and the Editorial Board, Thematic Coordination Team and Research Specialists convened in Brussels, Belgium from 4-5 April.

Landmine Monitor has been re-structured and streamlined in the post-2004 period to emphasise the thematic aspects of our research, with the goal of increasing quality, consistency and efficiency in our reporting.

Mines Action Canada is the new lead agency responsible for Landmine Monitor and has hired Jackie Hansen as Project Manager, replacing Mary Wareham of Human Rights Watch.

The Landmine Monitor Editorial Board is comprised of Handicap International (Stan Brabant), Human Rights Watch (Steve Goose), Mines Action Canada (Paul Hannon and Jackie Hansen) and Norwegian People's Aid (Sara Sekkenes).

Landmine Monitor continues to monitor every country in the world, but the 2005 annual report will feature updates from a priority list of 91 countries, selected due to their treaty status and/ or landmine problem.

The Editorial Board has created a "Watch List" of some 16 countries to be closely monitored and, if necessary, included as a country update in the 2005 report.

Members of the Thematic Editorial Team and Research Specialists will undertake a series of field missions to mine-affected countries over the next two months to provide more in-depth reporting on countries of particular concern. Research missions are scheduled for Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iraq, Libya, Mozambique, Namibia, Peru, Rwanda, Sudan and Yemen.

The Annual Report goes to print on 30 September and will be released globally on 23 November. Information about release locations will be shared in the coming months.

NZ CALM thanks Geraldine Canham-Harvey for taking the role of lead researcher for Landmine Monitor

The World's Largest Lesson

English-To-Go.com is again hosting the World's Largest Lesson on May 26. The World's Largest Lesson teaches about the dangers of landmines, and the need for landmine clearance.

CALM are invited to participate by:

1. Telling members about what we are doing in your newsletters and on your website. (Anyone can register to take part in the lesson by going to can go to this page <http://www.english-to-go.com/wll> to register for the lesson).
2. Linking to the lesson attempt: <http://www.english-to-go.com/wll>

English-To-Go.com will list CALM on the World's Largest Lesson pages (<http://www.english-to-go.com/wll>).

There have been three World's Largest Lessons in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Hundreds of thousands of students of all ages in more than 200 countries have participated.

The lesson itself is an attempt to get as many teachers and students from around the globe to take an English-To-Go.com Instant Lesson on the topic of Landmines over a particular time.

This year's World's Largest Lesson will be held on May 26. The lesson will focus on these points:

- what a landmine is
- where landmines are found
- how landmines slow postwar recovery.

It would be great if you could tell your friends and colleagues about our World's Largest Lesson.

Fair Trade Fortnight 2005!

7th - 21st May

Hundreds of consumers in Aotearoa have been helping producers and workers in the Third World to earn a dignified and sustainable livelihood by choosing Fair Trade. Sales of Fairtrade certified coffee have soared over the last few months as shoppers opt for products which guarantee a better deal for the coffee farmers.

Find out more and show your support at some of the great events that are happening around the country during Fair Trade Fortnight 2005.

Biggest Morning Tea!

Help us to set the record for New Zealand's Biggest Morning Tea ever on Saturday 14th May! Trade Aid shops will shout you Fairtrade tea and coffee between 10am and 12noon or visit one of the other cafes or shops around the country who are taking part in the Biggest Morning Tea. Or hold a Fairtrade coffee morning of your own with your friends or work colleagues. If you are interested in organizing a Fairtrade coffee morning as part of the Biggest Morning Tea, email pennie.stringer@tradeaid.org.nz

Speaker Tour

Come and meet Guillermo Vargas Leiton, a coffee farmer from Costa Rica, and find out what Fair Trade means for him and his community. Guillermo will be speaking at the following public venues together with speakers from Oxfam and Trade Aid:

Sunday 15th May, 7.30pm - Church of Christ, St Andrews St, Dunedin

Monday 16th May, 1.00pm - Otago University, Dunedin

Monday 16th May, 6.00pm - Te Whakarukahau Li Otautahi, Christchurch

Tuesday 17th May, 1.00pm - Victoria University, Wellington

Wednesday 18th May, 5.30pm - The Beehive, Wellington (RSVPs by 11th May are essential - please email fairtrade@oxfam.org.nz if you would like to attend)

Thursday 19th May, 7.30pm - Parnell Anglican Cathedral, Auckland

Friday 20th May, 10.00am - Auckland University, Auckland

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