

Dear Friends

Today we survivors of landmines in Cambodia are crying again. For 30 years many of us have worked to ban landmines because of the horrible impact they had on our country. Some of us lost arms and eyes and legs. Some of our children were killed. Most of us could not farm our land without fear. One of us had his leg blown off going to school. Nearly all of us lived in fear from the deadly legacy of landmines laid in our country.

We were so happy when 122 countries agreed to a treaty banning these cruel weapons in 1997. Right now, 166 countries are States Parties. But we hear announcements and rumour that Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland and Finland are planning to withdraw from our treaty – a treaty won by civil society and governments working together to make the world a safe, just place for all its people.

Therefore, we beg, please remain faithful to our treaty. We know that some countries are afraid that war will start and they will be invaded. We know they want to defend their borders. We understand this.

But think of the consequences of using landmines as a weapon. Long after the crisis is over the landmines lie in wait to kill and injure your own people, your own children. Do you really want this to be the legacy of the governments of 2025?

We leave it to the military experts to explain the very limited military utility of landmines. It seems to us they belong to an old era, and we repeat the same old mistakes of the past. They become a time bomb waiting to kill the future and happiness of your own people.

We beg you to reconsider and:

- Remain committed members of the legal and moral community of States Parties banning any use of this weapon.
- Uphold the principles of international humanitarian law which puts the good of all people first.
- Listen to the voice of survivors. We know our history. We remember our suffering.

Please, please, please, do not withdraw from our treaty to ban landmines, clear mines, and help victims.

From your friends from Cambodia who have experienced great kindness from your assistance in the past. Do not destroy our trust.

Tun Channareth

Landmine Survivors
and Colleagues

Cambodia Campaign to Ban Landmines & Cluster Munitions