

International Campaign to Ban Landmines
8th Meeting of States Parties
Speech Ms. Song Kosal
17, November 2007

Your Royal Highnesses
Excellencies
Friend of peace, friend that want a planet that is good for everyone

ASALAMO ALIKUM WA RAHMATO ALLAH
WA BARA KATO PEACE! GOD BLESSES YOU.

We celebrate 10 years since our Mine Ban Treaty was signed in Ottawa. Congratulation to all of us, because here we are in Jordan, still working to make our Mine Ban Treaty a reality in the poorest countries.

In Oslo, in September, I thanked the Mine Ban Community for thinking about small people like me who lost our legs or arms and eyes. Once again I thank you with all of my heart.

In 2007 we are not in Ottawa or Oslo, but in Jordan a very different place with a very wonderful history. This land of Jordan is very special place in history and religion. Last night, as we drove a long, we saw special places of Moses. As we arrived we heard the prayer call of Islam. This morning we visited the Baptism site of Jesus, the guide at the Jordan River, Baptism site this morning told us of the words of the king of Jordan we look after this Baptism site as a heritage of humanity.
What beautiful words! Heritage for Humanity.

I think our Mine Ban Treaty is something that we have made into a heritage for humanity. It represents a commitment to Peace
a commitment to Justice
a commitment to human rights
and especially a commitment to Compassion. All this thinks together.

I get sad inside when I hear people talking about SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE and they say RIGHTS not CHARITY. It seems they think charity, love is bad. NO!!
CHARITY means LOVING KINDNESS.
CHARITY means FORGETTING about OURSELVES in order to help the other.
CHARITY is beautiful!
CHARITY, METTA KARUNA (in BUDDHISM)
RAHMAN in ISLAM is the greatest virtue of all religions.

It is truly the Heritage that these GREAT WORLD VIEWS give to humanity. So I say RIGHTS YES and CHARITY (LOVINGKINDNESS) YES too.

We need rights and charity, we see this very clearly in many of the people TUN CHANNARETH meets each day. He will tell you of people who have lost eyes and two legs and need to support five children.

Let their need evoke compassion in your hearts and the hearts of government, to experience compassion makes you and me a richer human being!

In Ottawa after the Mine Ban Treaty of 1997 one newspaper wrote “A NEW DAWN OF LOVING KINDNESS” we still have the paper at home.

To complete the work of the Mine Ban Treaty we need this new dawn to rise everyday. And we need the same energy, commitment courage and compassion to make a new treaty banning CLUSTER MUNITIONS.

In Vienna 1995, Geneva 1996 the CCW failed to achieve a Mine Ban “lost in Vienna” we wrote and I cried.

In Geneva, last week the CCW meeting came up with a wishy washy mandate that will not make a heritage for humanity any time soon.

So everyone I call on you to support the Oslo Process, and give us a strong treaty against CLUSTERS by December 2008.

Go to Vienna on December 5, this year be the makers of a new heritage for humanity.

Thank you for all you have done in the past!

Make it happen with a new treaty in 2008!

Happy Conference!!