



18 October 2012

To: The Director and staff of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

Members of the ICBL Governance Board and Advisory Committee

ICBL member organizations and their staff and volunteers

Dear friends,

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit congratulates the International Campaign to Ban Landmines on 20 years of ground-breaking efforts to make the world a more humane place.

The establishment of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) in 1992 was vital in drawing attention to the incredible suffering that resulted from the use of anti-personnel mines. Moreover, the persistence of your campaigning and the global reach of your advocacy, the undisputed knowledge of ICBL member organizations and their staff, and the fundamental role played by those of you who are landmine survivors, highlighted the inadequacy of the international legal framework governing anti-personnel mines that existed in the 1990s and achieved what many had thought impossible – a legally-binding ban on anti-personnel mines and stringent measures to address the suffering already caused by this weapon.

Many of you have expressed to us that, while the adoption of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in 1997 was a tremendous achievement, real victory rests in seeing that the aims of the Convention would be achieved. The ICBL should therefore take great satisfaction in the fact that your advocacy has resulted in it now being generally understood that the use of anti-personnel mines is an unacceptable behaviour, that your work on the ground has demonstrated it is indeed possible and in a relatively short period of time for States to complete the task of freeing all mined areas from their deadly bondage, and that as survivors, or in your efforts in support of survivors, you have made it abundantly clear that all individuals must be able to exercise their rights and be able to participate on an equal basis with others in society.

The world owes you a debt of gratitude for the difference the ICBL has made in the lives of countless girls, women, boys and men around the globe. Our generation and those that will follow must also be thankful that the ICBL, its member organizations and its tireless staff and volunteers have blazed

Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

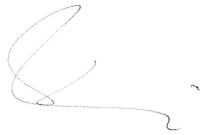
a trail of activism that has become the model to address other pressing humanitarian, disarmament, development and human rights concerns. Many of you have gone on to play important roles in enhancing the rights of persons with disabilities, in achieving a ban on cluster munitions, in calling for a robust arms trade treaty, in demanding an end to violence against women and in lending your time, energy, expertise and resources in support of so many other just causes.

It has been a privilege for the staff of the ISU to have worked so closely with the ICBL and to have gotten to know many of you so well. We appreciate that the cause of ending the suffering caused by anti-personnel mines could not have achieved what it has without you. We equally hope that the ICBL and its member organizations appreciate that our collective work is not done and that your continued engagement and interest is essential. We hope that 20 years of making a difference is only the beginning for the ICBL and that you remain indefatigable as you begin your third decade.

Yours sincerely,



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