

# Press Release



## **Special envoy of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention congratulates Peru's President on demining progress and commitment to a mine-free world**

*Lima and Geneva 25 July 2014* – The Special envoy of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention – or Ottawa Convention, Prince Mired Raad Al Hussein of Jordan has commended the President of Peru, H.E. Ollanta Humala and the pertinent Peruvian authorities for its commitment to the humanitarian aims of the Convention which Peru joined in 1998.

“I applaud the efforts Peru is undertaking to guarantee the rights of landmine survivors and the progress it has made in clearing landmines according to its international obligations,” said Prince Mired who is visiting Peru thanks to a European Union Council Decision seeking to advance the humanitarian aims of the Convention.

“Peru’s commitment to a mine-free world is commendable. Peru with support of the European Union has undertaken a review of its demining plan and a revision of its National Plan for Persons with Disabilities. The latter will benefit all Peruvians living with a disability including landmine survivors,” said Prince Mired.

### **Landmine clearance in Peru**

Peru has made good progress in mine clearance including the removal of thousands of landmines along its border with Ecuador. “I am pleased to learn that only 437,654 square metres of contaminated land remains, which puts Peru on track to complete implementation of its mine-clearance obligation by its 1 March 2017 deadline.”

Peru’s original deadline for demining had been set for 2009, however due in part to the remote and challenging location of the mined areas Peru requested an extended deadline.

Prince Mired, who served as the Convention’s President at the time when Peru presented its request for the extension, recognises Peru’s challenges. “I appreciate that Peru, through exchanges of information with Ecuador, has learned that the contaminated area is in fact greater than Peru’s original estimates. I commend Peru for strengthening cross-border cooperation which has no doubt been instrumental in facilitating demining operations in both Peru and Ecuador,” said Prince Mired who also visited the Peruvian Mine Action Center and the Ministry of Defence.

### **Landmine survivors in Peru**

Peru is one of 28 States Parties to the Convention that has reported responsibility for a large number of landmine survivors, reporting that 339 individuals have been killed or injured by landmines while 284 have survived a landmine explosion – most of who are now living with disabilities.

“I commend Peru for acting on observations made by the UN’s Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities that more needed to be done to involve persons with disabilities in matters that concern them,” said Prince Mired, who also visited the President of Peru’s National Council for the Integration of People with Disabilities.

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“By taking decisive steps to involve persons with disabilities in national planning, Peru is complying with political commitments made by the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention to ensure the inclusion and full and active participation of landmine victims and their representative organisations,” said Prince Mired.

Last month the President of CONADIS and a representative of CONTRAMINAS participated in high-level panels on disability and landmine clearance at an international landmine conference in Mozambique. Their participation was sponsored by the European Union.

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