

Press Release



President of the Convention banning anti-personnel mines “lends a leg” for a mine-free world

Phnom Penh and Geneva, 4 April 2012 – The President of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, H.E. PRAK Sokhonn of Cambodia, is joining thousands around the world in rolling up a pant-leg in solidarity with landmine survivors on the occasion of the United Nations’ international day for landmine action.

“Through the symbolic gesture of rolling up a pant leg or shirt sleeve, women and men around the world today are calling on all States to join the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and expressing the determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel landmines,” said H.E. PRAK Sokhonn.

The “Lend Your Leg” campaign was launched on the 1 March 2012 thirteenth anniversary of the Convention’s entry-into-force. Since that time, ordinary people have joined with celebrities and world leaders to “roll up” on 4 April, the day the United Nations annually marks efforts to end the landmine era. The campaign was inspired by the Colombian organisation *Fundación Arcángeles* and its President Juan Pablo Salazar, whose persistence in 2011 resulted in the “lend your leg” campaign going viral at the national level in Colombia.

“Women, girls, boys and men in Cambodia, Colombia and other mine-affected countries have paid a high price for the use of anti-personnel mines,” said PRAK Sokhonn. “We must redouble our efforts to guarantee the rights of survivors and to continue to strive for a mine-free world.”

In addition to the Convention’s President rolling up his pant leg in Phnom Penh today, the Director of the Convention’s Implementation Support Unit, Kerry BRINKERT, is chairing a panel discussion at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva on the progress and ongoing challenges of the anti-landmines movement.

“The United Nations’ international landmines day emerged from a call for the UN and civil society to concentrate and strengthen their efforts to realise a world free of anti-personnel mines,” said Kerry BRINKERT. “It is fitting that we seize this opportunity to both celebrate the international community’s incredible achievements and recall that much work remains.”

The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, also known as the *Ottawa Convention*, was adopted in Oslo in 1997 and opened for signature in Ottawa the same year. It entered into force on 1 March 1999. To date 159 States are parties to the Convention with 155 of them no longer holding stocks of anti-personnel mines. Over 44.5 million stockpiled mines have been destroyed by the States Parties.

Of the 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines, 34 are now bound by the Convention’s ban on production. Most other States have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity. On 1 January 2012, Guinea Bissau became the 20th State Party to declare that it had complied with its Convention obligations to clear all areas containing anti-personnel mines.

###

For more information, interviews or information regarding the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention please email: Press@APMineBanConvention.org or contact Kerry Brinkert at +41 (0) 22 906 1637. Connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or [Twitter](#).