

THE HALO TRUST STATEMENT / INTERVENTION ON LAND RELEASE 5TH  
JUNE 2008

The HALO Trust would like to give a clearance operators perspective regarding the subject of Land Release which we broadly support.

Land Release formalises basic mineclearance skills. It summarises what any cost effective and professional clearance capacity should have been conducting for many, many years.

Please note that discreditation of Suspect Hazardous Areas through survey and manipulation of databases does not remove a single mine impacting on communities. The Land Release “concept” is not a cheap alternative to correctly targeted mineclearance. Mineclearance clears mines, there are no quick fix alternatives.

Some of the States Parties requesting extensions may have been significantly closer to Mine Ban Treaty compliance had the basic principles of Land Release been applied by operators and national clearance capacities to date.

With donor funds for mineclearance becoming more scarce The HALO Trust would urge that resources be allocated only to organizations that have displayed efficiency and competence.

The HALO Trust

(Matthew Hovell and Christian Richmond)