

Press Release



International music superstar Juanes joins high level push to ban landmines

Geneva, 25 May 2012 – Juanes, the Colombian multi-Grammy Award winner and anti-landmine activist, is joining a high level push to call on States that have not yet done so, to join the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, also known as the *Ottawa Convention*. This landmark international treaty bans the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and mandates states to provide assistance for landmine survivors. To date 160 States have joined the Convention.

Juanes will join the Convention's Special Envoy, His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Al Hussein of Jordan, in worldwide efforts to promote the landmine ban. Prince Mired, who earlier this week participated in the Convention's annual committee meetings, reminded the international community that "if universal acceptance of the Convention is not raised from time to time and at the highest levels, many States that have not yet joined the movement may dismiss the Convention as unimportant."

"This Convention is vitally important and I am honored to assist in making this point known to world leaders," said Juanes in response to Prince Mired's invitation. "I have seen first-hand the devastation caused by anti-personnel mines in my own country. All States must join the global movement to eradicate these indiscriminate and inhumane weapons."

The call for renewed high level engagement of States that have not joined the Anti-Personnel Mine Convention was first raised during the 2009 *Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World*, in Colombia. There, states and international and non-governmental organizations noted that there is a "dire need" for engagement of States not parties "at the ministerial level or higher" to ensure universal acceptance of the Convention.

Since the 2009 *Cartagena Summit*, His Royal Highness Prince Mired has travelled the globe, meeting face-to-face with leaders in Singapore, Tonga, South Korea, Laos, the United States and other countries to call on them to join the Convention. "I am committed to continue to do what I can, but I am but one person amongst many that should be involved in high level missions," said Prince Mired.

"I am delighted to accept Prince Mired's appeal and to join forces with him and hopefully others in calling for universal acceptance of the Convention," said Juanes. "In Cartagena in 2009, the States Parties to the Convention made a commitment to condemn and discourage in every possible way any production, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines by anyone. We all have a role to play in meeting this commitment."

Juanes, who was named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World, was a featured speaker at the *Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World*. Juanes' dedication as a global activist is evident in both in his lyrics and his philanthropic causes, particularly through his foundation, *Mi Sangre*. The *Fundación Mi Sangre* actively provides assistance and rehabilitation services to landmine survivors throughout Colombia.

AP Mine Ban Convention Implementation Support Unit

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What is the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

The AP Mine Ban Convention was adopted in Oslo in 1997, opened for signature in Ottawa the same year and entered into force on 1 March, 1999. Since that date all states that join are banned to use, produce or transfer landmines, must destroy their stockpiles, and assist landmine survivors.

To date 160 states have joined the Convention, with Somalia, Finland and South Sudan having acceded to the Convention over the past six months. Every state in the Americas except Cuba and the United States is a party to the Convention.

Of the Convention's 160 parties, 155 no longer hold 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 parties have put in place moratoria on production and / or transfers of mines.

Of the 56 States Parties that have reported mined areas, 20 have completed implementation of their mine clearance obligations.

Demining has resulted in millions of square meters of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity.

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For more information, interviews or information regarding the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention or Juanes' involvement in the high level visits, please email: Press@APMineBanConvention.org or contact Laila Rodriguez at +41 (0)22 906 1656. For photos of Juanes at the *2009 Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World*, connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or [Twitter](#). For information on Juanes' Foundation *Mi Sangre* please contact comunicaciones@fundacionmisangre.org.