

Press Release



PRESIDENT OF CONVENTION BANNING ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT NEW USE OF MINES BY ISRAEL

Geneva, 6 September 2011 – The President of the international treaty banning anti-personnel mines is deeply concerned about reports of new mine use by the Israel Defence Forces.

Gazmend Turdiu, who presides over the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or Ottawa Convention, reiterated for the second time this year his call for ceasing the use of anti-personnel mines: “Enhancing existing minefields as Israel has done, run counter to the norms that are accepted by the majority of States”.

Israel has not acceded the Ottawa Convention, which sees that States accept that they shall never, under any circumstances, use anti-personnel mines.

New deployments of anti-personnel mines by Israel were openly acknowledged on 10 August by the Israeli Defence Force journal *BaMachaneh*, which described the emplacements of mines along the Syrian border. Later, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate the International Campaign to Ban Landmines brought it to the international community’s attention.

Gazmend Turdiu recalled the commitments made by 156 States during the landmark 2009 *Cartagena Summit on a Mine-Free World*: “In Cartagena, States accepted that they will condemn and continue to discourage in every possible way any production, transfer and use of anti-personnel mines by any actors.”

“The insidious, indiscriminate nature of anti-personnel mines means they must be eradicated. It is our responsibility to make our concern about this objectionable behaviour widely known.”

Gazmend Turdiu’s comments came during a visit to Geneva for consultations to prepare for the Convention’s Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties (11MSP) to take place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, from 27 November to 2 December, 2011.

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 in 1999. To date 156 States are parties to the Convention, 152 of them no longer hold stocks. Almost 44 million mines have been destroyed by the States Parties. 34 of 50 States that at one time manufactured anti-personnel mines 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. Demining has resulted in millions of square metres of once dangerous land being released for normal human activity.

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For interviews or more information regarding any aspect of the Convention kindly email: ISU@APMineBanConvention.org or contact Laila Rodriguez at +41 (0) 22 906 1656. Connect with the Convention through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) or [Twitter](#).