



Civil Society Participants

Civil society members from around the world have registered for the Convention on Cluster Munitions signing conference.

The following listing provides biographies of:

- 1) CMC Principal Spokespeople
- 2) Advance Outreach Team
- 3) Distinguished Guests
- 4) Cluster Munition Survivors
- 5) Demining Experts
- 6) CMC Steering Committee Members
- 7) Civil Society Advocates

All participants speak English unless noted and other languages are listed below.

To schedule a media interview, please contact Natalie Curtis on +44 7515 575174 or email her at Natalie@stopclustermunitions.org.

1) Principal Spokespeople, Cluster Munition Coalition

Stephen D. Goose, Human Rights Watch (United States) (Co-chair)

Steve Goose is Executive Director of the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch (HRW). One of civil society's most talented disarmament strategists, Goose has played critical roles in pushing forward the boundaries of international humanitarian law to secure the 1997 treaty banning antipersonnel mines, the 1995 protocol banning blinding laser weapons, and the 2003 protocol on explosive remnants of war. Goose is the intellectual architect behind the creation of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines' (ICBL) unprecedented civil society monitoring initiative serving as chief editor (1998-2004) of the annual 1,000-page Landmine Monitor report. Human Rights Watch is a founding member of both the ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and Goose serves on the leadership bodies of both the ICBL and CMC. Goose is frequently quoted in international and U.S. media and has testified before the U.S. Congress and foreign legislatures on many occasions. He has contributed to more than a dozen books and has written for several periodicals including the February 2008 edition of Arms Control Today. He is co-editor of the book *Banning Landmines: Disarmament, Citizen Diplomacy, and Human Security* together with Jody Williams

and Mary Wareham. Born 1954 in Lexington (Kentucky), USA. Goose is accompanied by Ms. Bonnie Docherty, a researcher from the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch. Since authoring HRW's first full field-based 2002 report on cluster munitions use by the United States in Afghanistan, Bonnie Docherty has gone on to publish extensive field research on cluster munitions, the conduct of war and civilian casualties in Lebanon and Israel (2006), Gaza (2006), and Iraq (2003). She is also a lecturer and clinical instructor at Harvard Law School's Human Rights Program. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 8th

Grethe Østern, Norwegian People's Aid (Co-chair)

Grethe Østern is a cluster munitions policy advisor at Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), one of the largest humanitarian demining organizations in the world. She played a crucial role in influencing Norway's decision to launch a process in February 2007 to negotiate a new treaty on cluster munitions. On behalf of NPA, Østern has authored several important publications into cluster munitions including the "Yellow Killers" case study on cluster munitions in Serbia and Montenegro and another study on the M-85 cluster munition dropped by Israel in their millions on Lebanon in 2006. Norwegian People's Aid is a founding member of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and Østern serves on the CMC's Steering Committee. Born 1970 in Horten, Norway. Languages: Norwegian and English.

Richard Moyes, Landmine Action, United Kingdom (Co-chair)

Richard Moyes is Director of Policy and Research at Landmine Action. He has more than 10 years experience working on projects tackling landmines and unexploded ordnance. This includes field programme management and extensive research with affected communities. Since he began working with Landmine Action and the CMC in 2005, Moyes has produced and supervised detailed research on the impact of cluster munitions and the history of the political failings that allowed these problems to continue unabated. Richard's research has largely formed the backbone of the humanitarian case to ban cluster bombs and he has been a key strategist throughout the Oslo process. Landmine Action is a founder organisation of the CMC and serves of the CMC Steering Committee. As well as research and policy work, Landmine Action continues to clear unexploded cluster munition remnants through its field projects. Moyes is joined in Oslo by Landmine Action's Policy and Research Officer Ms. Portia Stratton, board member Ms. Kate Moore, MBE and Ms. Katherine Harrison, who works for the Geneva office of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. Nov. 29th – Dec. 7th

Thomas Nash, Global Cluster Munition Coalition (Co-ordinator)

London-based Thomas Nash joined the international Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) in early 2004, shortly after its establishment in November 2003 and has served as Coordinator throughout the successful campaign to achieve an international treaty banning cluster bombs. He has a background in research and campaigning on cluster munitions and explosive remnants of war. Nash has field research experience in

Kosovo and Lebanon and has written several reports and articles on cluster munitions including Landmine Action's post-conflict investigation *Foreseeable Harm* (October 2006), the first report on cluster munitions in Lebanon after their massive use in the 2006 conflict. Nash previously worked for the New Zealand Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in Ottawa. Born 1979 in Palmerston North, New Zealand. Available Nov. 23rd – Dec. 7th

2) Advance Outreach Team - The 'Ban Bus'

Daniel Barty, Australia

Barty is an Australian journalist with national television and print credentials. He now works for Sky television. In May 2008, he was a core member of the CMC's media team at the negotiations of the Cluster Munition Convention in Dublin, Ireland. Barty is formerly a media officer for Austcare, an Australian humanitarian NGO that serves as contact point for CMC Australia. Available Dec. 2nd – 6th

John Rodsted, Australia

Photographer John Rodsted has documented the humanitarian impacts of landmines, cluster munitions and other unexploded ordnance in some of the most war torn regions on earth. In 2006, he spent weeks in southern Lebanon documenting the civilian impact of cluster munition strikes by Israel. Rodsted's work has been widely exhibited in prestigious venues including the Royal Geographical Society (London), Smithsonian Institute (Washington, DC), Sydney Opera House, and the United Nations (Bangkok, Geneva, Nairobi, New York). As the official photographer of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), Rodsted documented the Ottawa Process leading to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty and subsequent Nobel Peace Prize. Born 1961 in Melbourne, Australia. Available Dec. 2nd – 6th

Mette Sofie Eliseussen, Norway

Mette Sofie Eliseussen is a Norwegian campaigning for her government to establish a treaty in 2008 to ban cluster munitions. She has extensive experience working in development and conflict situations, including Afghanistan where Eliseussen established Save the Children USA's Kabul office in 1995. She was responsible for the safety and security of the development agency's 60 staff when the city became the scene of major fighting between the Northern Alliance and Taliban forces. During this difficult time she designed and implemented several landmine awareness projects for Kabul's youth, including the establishment of 18 mine-free playgrounds throughout the city. Eliseussen also helped establish the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines to ensure that Afghan civil society had a strong voice in the global movement to establish the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. As part of this campaign, she collected and delivered thousands of postcards from Afghan children calling for a total ban on landmines. Eliseussen has worked for social service groups in her native Norway providing therapy, training and leading wilderness awareness programs. She is also a skilled

journalist with experience working for the Norwegian media and publishing houses. Born 1965 in Oslo, Norway. Languages: Farsi, German, Spanish, Norwegian. Available Dec. 2nd – 6th

3) Distinguished Guests

Several distinguished guests are expected at the signing conference including a Nobel Peace Laureate, an ICBL Ambassador, British Lords and a representative of the Diana, Princess of Wales Fund

Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Laureate (United States)

In 1997, Jody Williams became the tenth woman in its almost 100-year history to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She was honored for her role as the founding coordinator (1991-1998) of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), also a recipient of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize. Williams oversaw the growth of the ICBL from two NGOs in 1991 to a global network of 1,300 organizations in 95 countries working to eliminate antipersonnel landmines. Williams served as a chief strategist and spokesperson for the campaign in the crucial "Ottawa Process" period that saw an unprecedented cooperative effort by governments, UN bodies, and the International Committee of the Red Cross result in the achievement of the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Williams now serves as an ICBL ambassador, speaking out against landmines and cluster munitions. In January 2006, Williams established the Nobel Women's Initiative together with five of her sister Nobel Peace laureates Shirin Ebadi of Iran, Wangari Maathai of Kenya, Rigoberta Menchú Tum of Guatemala, and Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Ireland. The Nobel Women's Initiative is committed to working for a democratic world free of physical, economic, cultural, political, religious, sexual and environmental violence and the constant threat of these forms of violence against women - indeed against all of humanity. In early 2007, Williams led a High Level Mission on Darfur, authoring a hard-hitting report to the UN's Human Rights Council calling for an end to the war in Darfur. She is an eloquent and inspirational speaker who has received fifteen honorary degrees. In 2004, Williams was named by Forbes magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world. Born 1950 in Brattleboro, Vermont, United States. Languages: Spanish. Ms. Jody Williams and Ms. Corrigan Macguire are three of six women Nobel Peace Prize Laureates who have come together to form the Nobel Women's Initiative. They are working together as women to use the prestige of the Nobel Prize to spotlight, and amplify the work of women's rights activists, researchers, and organizations worldwide. They hope through these efforts to address the root causes of violence and to strengthen and expand the global movement, thereby advancing nonviolence, peace, justice and equality. Available Dec. 1st – 5th

Margaret Arach Orech, ICBL Ambassador

Margaret Arach Orech is an ambassador for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). In December 1998, she survived an attack by the rebel movement Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda when the bus she was traveling in hit an antivehicle mine. In the immediate aftermath of the attack, Orech was robbed and only just managed to crawl away from the bus before the fuel tank exploded. She had her

leg amputated as a result of the incident.

Since 2000 she has lobbied tirelessly for greater assistance to landmine survivors and people with disabilities, speaking in 15 countries in five continents at over 100 official events. Orech directs the Uganda Landmine Survivors Association, is a commissioner for the Interfaith Action for Peace in Africa coalition, a board member of Uganda's National Council for Disability, and a partner in the Uganda Mine Action Center. A single mother with five children. Orech was born 1956 in Apach, Uganda.

Samantha Rennie, Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund

Samantha Rennie is head of the Partnership Initiative of the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund. The Fund was set up in the aftermath of the Princess's death to carry on her humanitarian work to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people in the UK and around the world. Rennie is responsible for the Fund's strategies in key programme areas, including ERW and the current focus on cluster munitions. Previously, she was director of Handicap International UK. Rennie has a background in community and organisational development, and she has led a range of civil society partnership initiatives including Fair Share (from 1999), Countryside Communities (from 2001) and the Rural Community Development Commission (2004). Languages: French. She will be accompanied by Ms. Effie Blythe, Communications Officer.

4) Survivors of Cluster Munitions

Soraj Ghulam Habib, Afghanistan

In 2002, after the United States aerial bombing campaign in Afghanistan, ten-year-old Soraj Ghulam Habib went for a picnic with his family at a public park near his home. On the way back he saw a yellow can that looked like it might contain food. When he tried to open it, the device exploded killing his cousin and injuring four other members of his family. Habib lost his legs and finger in the explosion. Doctors at the local hospital first refused to treat Habib and suggested he receive a lethal injection as he'd be 'better off dead.' Now aged 17, Habib has restarted his studies and become one of the youngest campaigners within the cluster munitions ban movement. He speaks Dari and some English; he is accompanied by his interpreter, Mr. Suliman Safdar, who is likewise a campaigner and also co-founder of the Afghan Landmine Survivors Organization (ALSO). Language: Dari. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Ardjana Mani, Albania

In 1999, when Ardjana Mani was seven years old, she went to visit relatives living at the Kosovo border. While playing with her cousins she saw a KB-1 submunition, which she thought was a brightly colored toy.” Mani sustained extensive injuries in the subsequent explosion.

Now aged 16, Mani is a high school student in Albania. She is accompanied by Mr. Jonuz Kola, Executive Director of the Victims of Mines and Arms-Kukes Association.

Language: Albanian and English. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Ny Nhar, Cambodia

Ny Nhar works with the Jesuit Services in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. He researches landmine related issues including for the ICBL's annual Landmine Monitor report. Ny began working with the Jesuit Services as a teacher at a vocational training school for people with disabilities. He is an advocate of poverty alleviation, landmine victim assistance and disability rights. Languages: Khmer. Born 1972 in Cambodia. Ny is joined by Jesuit Service Cambodia Director Sister Denise Coghlan, an Australian nun who was instrumental in helping secure the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Mina Zunac, Croatia

Mina Zunac was 20 years old during the 1995 bombing of Zagreb. She was injured by a submunition on the street in the centre of city while on her way to the bank. She sustained extensive injuries to the right side of her body. Now, 34 years old, Mina lives in Zagreb and works as a web administrator for a publishing house. Languages: Croatian and English. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 5th

Berihu Mesele, Ethiopia

Berihu Mesele is a former Ethiopian soldier living in Mekele. During the border conflict an aerial strike hit the Ayder school near his house. Mesele went to help injured schoolchildren and was injured in a second strike that occurred while he was at the school. Mesele lost both his legs in the explosion.

“Before the accident, I had a lot of dreams. After the accident, I lost my dreams. Now, I have another dream: not to see other people facing the same problems I have to face in my daily life, because of cluster bombs,” said Mesele at the Kampala Conference in September 2008.

Mesele works for the Ethiopian government and is the father of two daughters. He speaks Tigrigna and some English. He is accompanied by his interpreter Tesfay Haileselassie, a prosthetic-orthotic technician of the Mekele Orthotic Prosthetic Center.

Aynalem Zenebe, Ethiopia

Aynalem Zenebe was seven years old when a cluster munition strike hit the school she attended in Ayder. She lost her leg in the explosion. Her two older sisters and brother also sustained injuries during the strike.

“I do not want to see other people facing the same problems as I have because of cluster bombs,” said Zenebe at the Kampala Conference in September 2008.

Zenebe, now 18 years old, is a student at a vocational school in Mekele where she lives with her family. She speaks Tigrigna and some English and she is accompanied by her interpreter Tesfay Haileselassie. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Ayat Syleiman Ali, Iraq

In 2003, Ayat Syleiman Ali was eight years old and living in Iraq with her family. One day her brother brought home a cluster bomb that he thought was a toy. The explosion killed Syleiman Ali's four siblings and one cousin. She sustained burns to 65 per cent of her body.

Syleiman Ali is now 13 years-old and attends school in Sweden. She speaks Arabic and Swedish. She is accompanied by her father, Mr. Ismail Syleiman Ali and her interpreter Mrs. Mona Ramenazi. Ramenazi speaks Arabic, Swedish and English.

Languages: Arabic and Swedish. Available from Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Raed Mokaed, Lebanon

Raed Mokaed was living in Nabatieth with his wife and two sons in 1999 when he and his family went to a public park to celebrate his son Ahmad's fifth birthday. Ahmad found a cluster submunition that he thought was a brightly colored bottle. Ahmad was killed in the explosion. Mokaed is an optician and businessman. He speaks Arabic and English.

Languages: Arabic and English. Available Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th

Ta Douangchom, Lao PDR

Ta Douangchom, a farmer living in Southern Lao, was injured by a cluster munition in 2003 while collecting food with his children. He lost both his arms and his right eye in the explosion.

"I hope we will get rid of all bombies to prevent future incidents. I am happy to know that my government will join the Convention," said Ta at the Xiengkhuang regional Conference in Lao PDR in October 2008.

Douangchom, father of seven, speaks Lao and is accompanied by his assistant Mr. Phong Phonpheng and by his interpreter Mr. Santiphone Phonepadith. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Dejan Dikic, Serbia

During the 1999 NATO air campaign, Dejan Dikic experienced a cluster munition strike while at home with his 8-year-old son in Nis, Serbia. A cluster bomblet exploded approximately 50 meters away injuring Dikic's knee. Shrapnel from the explosion destroyed the front of his house. Dikic is now a software engineer teaching business related technology at a secondary school. Born 1966 in Nis, Serbia. Dikić is a software engineer, a teacher and an active member of the Niš Civilian War Victims Association. He has been campaigning since the beginning of the Oslo process. Languages: Serbian and English. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Branislav Kapetanović, Serbia

Branislav Kapetanović served as a deminer in the Yugoslav army from 1995 to 2000. In 2000, he was injured by a BLU 97 submunition during a clearance operation at the Dubinje airport in Sjenica. He lost his four limbs and sustained damage to his hearing.

We have come, a really long way, in this year of the Oslo Process. The treaty has not been watered down in the process, but has in some areas, like victim assistance and clearance, grown stronger and better,” said Kapetanović at the Dublin Conference in May 2008.

Kapetanović is a clearance expert and the Cluster Munition Coalition spokesperson. He has been campaigning since the very beginning of the Oslo process. Kapetanović is accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Marko Aleksić and his interpreter Mrs. Isidora Jovanović.

Languages: Serbian (some English). Available Nov. 26th – Dec. 6th

Dusica Vučković, Serbia

Dusica Vučković’s husband, Sladjan, was injured by a cluster munition in 1999. They have two children together. Her life and the life of her family were changed forever after the accident.

“It is time to stop the killing and maiming of our children and husbands. It is time to stop making victims out of our families,” said Mrs. Vučković at the Wellington Conference in February 2008.

Mrs. Vučković lives in Niš with her family, is a professional in the private sector and has campaigned with her husband since the beginning of the Ban Advocates Project. Mrs. Vučković is accompanied by her husband Sladjan and her interpreter Mrs. Svetlana Bogdanovic, a campaigner herself. Bogdanovic speaks Serbian, English and French. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Sladjan Vučković, Serbia

Sladjan Vučković served as a deminer in the Yugoslav Army for 15 years. In 1999 he was injured during a clearance operation at the Kopaonik National Park. He lost both arms and sustained injuries to his leg and chest and experienced hearing damage.

“With a little good will, tolerance, and understanding, we will clear areas contaminated by cluster munitions, destroy stockpiles, and new (cluster munitions) will never be produced again,” said Vučković at the Belgrade Conference in October 2007.

A father of two, Vučković lives in Niš. He is an expert on clearance. He speaks Serbian and is currently studying English. Vučković is accompanied by his wife Dusica and his interpreter Mrs. Svetlana Bogdanovic, a campaigner herself. Bogdanovic speaks Serbian, English and French. Available Nov. 29th. – Dec. 6th

Umarbek Pulodov, Tajikistan

Umarbek Pulodov was a child during the Tajik civil war. When he was six he experienced a cluster munition strike that killed and injured several members of his family. Pulodov lost an eye in the bombing and sustained injuries to his hand.

“We want to contribute our thoughts and knowledge to the Oslo Process to assure that decision-makers will take into consideration the real needs of cluster munitions survivors, including those of their families and communities,” said Pulodov during the civil society forum at the Belgrade Conference in October 2007.

Pulodov is a university student in Dushanbe. He organized campaigning events in the Rasht district and has campaigned at international level. Languages: Tajik, Russian and English. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Lynn Bradach, United States

Lynn Bradach lost her son, US Marine Travis Bradach-Nall, in Iraq. Travis was killed in 2003 while clearing an American submunition.

“It is now up to me to ask my country, the United States of America, to stand up and be the nation Travis believed he was fighting for. To do all they can to safeguard innocent lives by banning the manufacture, the stockpiling and the use of cluster munitions,” said Bradach during a meeting of the Convention on Conventional Weapons in Geneva in November 2008.

Bradach lives in Portland, Oregon. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Thi Pham Quy, Viet Nam

In 1977, Thi Pham Quy was working in his rice field in Quang Tri province when his hoe hit a cluster submunition. He lost one arm in the explosion and sustained injuries to his chest and legs.

“I come here in the hope that all countries will join the treaty banning cluster munitions, that they will not produce or use these deadly munitions, and that they will assist the affected countries to clear contaminated areas so no one will get killed and injured by cluster munitions in future,” said Pham Quy during a press conference held in the framework of the Dublin Conference in May 2008.

Pham Quy is a farmer and the Chief Officer of the Commune Institute of People with Disability in his hometown. He speaks Vietnamese and will be accompanied by his interpreter Mr. Dinh Ngoc Vu from Project RENEW.

Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

5) Cluster Munition Clearance Experts

Global experts in the clearance of unexploded ordnance, including landmines and cluster Munitions, are participating in the signing Conference:

Brutus Besko, Bosnia & Herzegovina

Brutus Besko works today as senior MDD trainer in Global Training Centre of NPA. Before joining NPA Mine Action Team, Besko had trained sport dogs for several years. During the hard years of war in Sarajevo, Besko was taking part in charity work helping organizations and individuals taking care about their dogs, providing shelters and food for them. First year in NPA Besko worked as mine detection dog handler in demining operations in north of Bosnia, Kupres highlands and Sarajevo area. As he was exceptionally talented, soon he was selected for additional training and transferred to work in the training centre where he works since 2005. Language: English. Available Nov. 28th – Dec. 6th

Mirna Mahmmoud Aashour, Lebanon

Mirna, is a clearance expert with NPA. Aged 22 years, she is not married and lives with her family in Tyre. She is currently studying geography at the Lebanese University in Sidon and will graduate at the end of 2008. Mirna wishes to remain as a clearance expert however. She is a section commander and says it is a “beautiful job. I like it very much” Mirna saw an advertisement for the job posted outside the NPA base in Tyre and decided to apply. She trained together with Lamis and eighteen other women. A total of 12 women were chosen. . She will be accompanied by NPA Lebanon’s Country Director Ms. Wafa El Yassir, Emergency Mine Action Programme Manager Mr. Knut Furunes, and Landmine Action Program Coordinator Mr. Khaled Yamout. She will be accompanied by NPA Lebanon’s Country Director Ms. Wafa El Yassir, Emergency Mine Action Programme Manager Mr. Knut Furunes, and Landmine Action Program Coordinator Mr. Khaled Yamout.

Languages: Arabic and some English. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 5th

Lamis Khalil Zein, Lebanon

Lamis is a clearance expert with NPA. Aged 30 years, she is divorced with two daughters (aged 1½ and 4 years). After studying English literature at the Lebanese University in Sidon, she became an English teacher at a school in Tyre teaching 8-9 year olds. In late 2007, she heard through a neighbor that NPA Lebanon was looking for women to train as cluster munition clearance experts and applied. After one month’s training she started work in January 2008. Before joining NPA she had learned about cluster munitions in the immediate aftermath of the 2006 conflict when a massive risk education campaign was launched at schools and in media across South Lebanon. She receives much better pay as a clearance expert \$1,000 or NOK7,000 per month [1.5 million Lebanese pounds] than when she was a school teacher \$265 or NOK1,870 [400,000 Lebanese pounds].

For Lamis, it is not about the money however. She says, “clearing the area is my benefit, meeting the local people, and getting to know the communities. Enabling them to replant the area, and not be afraid but happy and safe. We are clearing their houses, backyards, and agricultural land.”

Throughout 2008, Lamis has worked in four locations around South Lebanon. Currently [mid November 2008], she is based in Tibnine. In the month after starting clearance in Tibnine, the team has found and destroyed eighteen cluster bomblets of several different types (M42, M46, M85). Previously, Lamis was a Team Leader, but on the day that we visited, Lamis had received an accreditation to become a National Site Supervisor. She is in charge of the eight-woman clearance team at the site. Normally the team is larger, but two members are pregnant. Sukaina Ismail is seven months pregnant with twins. She stopped clearance tasks when she was four months pregnant and now assists the team by providing them with lunch and coffee throughout the day. There is no set rule for when pregnant clearance experts cease work in the field. Some work until they can no longer fit their protective vest, while others decide to stop sooner. She will be accompanied by NPA Lebanon’s Country Director Ms. Wafa El Yassir, Emergency Mine Action Programme Manager Mr. Knut Furunes, and Landmine Action Program Coordinator Mr. Khaled Yamout. The clearance experts use “locators” [not metal detectors] to do sub-surface clearance to a depth of 20 centimeters. The “locator” detects magnetic fields. Languages: Arabic and English (fluent). Available Nov. 30th – Dec 5th

Terje Groth Berntsen, Norway

Terje Groth Berntsen joined the Norwegian Defense forces where he was trained for operations in the Canine Unit. During his career with the Norwegian Defense Forces he was deployed for operations in South Lebanon three times. The first two times (1984-1985; 1989) as dog handler, the last time (1992) as deputy commander of the Dog Platoon. He graduated from instructor in the Department of Dog Training (1985-1990) to head of the Section Training and Education (1991-1993), and followed this up by being Platoon Commander of the enlisted staff at the Dog Training Academy (1993-1994). During his last four years with the Norwegian Defense Forces he served as Military Constable at Akershus Fortress (1994-1998). In 1998 he joined the Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA). He first worked as a project manager for Mine Detection dogs in different countries in South East Europe: in Kosovo (1999-2000); Croatia (2001-2003) and Bosnia Herzegovina (1998-2003). In 2004 he stood at the basis of the formation of NPA’s Global Training Center for Mine Detection Dogs. This center is responsible for all animal detection work (both training and operational deployment) within NPA. He has been head of the centre from the beginning. Under his supervision GTC also started a breeding program. His experience in mine detection makes him a valued adviser and lecturer to several organizations and local authorities. He is an honorary member of the newly founded Belgium Working Dog Club of Bosnia Herzegovina. He is also member of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining advisory board on Remote Explosive Scent Tracing. Terje was born in Oslo 1963.

Languages: Serbian and Norwegian.

Colin King, United Kingdom

Colin King served 14 years in the British Army, mostly in bomb disposal, with operational service in the Falkland Islands, the Persian Gulf, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. He led the first British army team to train Afghan volunteers in mine clearance and bomb disposal. Before becoming an instructor at the British bomb disposal school, he was second-in command of the Army's counter-terrorist search squadron. He worked as a foreign weapons intelligence analyst for the Ministry of Defence before commanding a squadron of Gurkhas in Hong Kong. King now runs a consultancy company that undertakes bomb disposal assessments and war zone training. They have most recently worked for the British and US governments in Iraq, Lebanon and Kosovo. As an editor for Jane's information group, King is responsible for writing their annual reference publication on mine clearance and bomb disposal. Born 1962 in London, UK.

6) CMC Steering Committee Members

The Steering Committee is a voluntary committee of twelve non-governmental organisations (NGOs) based in countries that use, produce and/or are affected by cluster munitions. The Committee is responsible for coordination of the Cluster Munition Coalition. DanChurchAid, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), IPPNW Russia, Landmine Action UK, Landmine Resource Centre Lebanon, Landmine Survivor's Network, Mines Action Canada, Norwegian People's Aid, Pax Christi, and Protection (Egypt).

Stan Brabant, Handicap International Belgium

Stan Brabant heads the policy unit at Handicap International (HI) Belgium, where he has worked since 1994 on mine clearance and mine risk education programs in countries such as Afghanistan and Cambodia. Handicap International is a founding member of both the ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC). Brabant serves on the leadership bodies of both the CMC and the ICBL including on its Landmine Monitor editorial board. In 2006 he was instrumental in steering a domestic cluster munition ban, the first legislation of its kind in the world, through Belgium's House of Representatives. Brabant has overseen the publication of several important HI reports on the human impact of cluster munitions including "Fatal Footprint" (Nov. 2006) and "Circle of Impact" (May 2007).. Mr Brabant will be accompanied by Hildegard Vansintjan, Advocacy Officer and Stéphanie Castanie, Project Officer for the HI Ban Advocates Project. Languages: Dutch, French. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Paul Hannon, Mines Action Canada

Paul Hannon is Executive Director of Mines Action Canada (MAC), the Canadian wing of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). Mines Action Canada is a member of the ICBL and the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and Hannon serves on the leadership bodies of both organizations. In 2005,

Mines Action Canada took over lead responsibility for the ICBL's Landmine Monitor civil society verification initiative. Hannon has 15 years of collective experience in the Canadian development sector working for organisations including AlterNET Communications, the International Development Research Centre, and Oxfam Canada. In 2002, he was awarded the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. Born 1950 in Guelph (Ontario), Canada. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 8th

Eva Veble, Dan Church Aid

Eva Veble is the Head of Mine Action Unit at DanChurchAid (DCA), based in Copenhagen. DCA is an NGO, clearing landmines, cluster munitions and other explosive remnants of war in Albania, Angola, Burundi, DR Congo, Lebanon and Sudan. This field experience was also informing DCA's advocacy work throughout the process on prohibition of cluster munition and brought field realities to the negotiating table. Previously Eva Veble has been Head of Department for International Relations at the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) based in Ljubljana, Slovenia. She graduated in Political Science/International Relations at the Faculty for Social Sciences in University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Ayman Sorour, Protection, Egypt

Ayman Sorour is Executive Director and founder of Protection Against Armaments and Consequences, the only non-governmental organization working directly on Egypt's sixty-year old mine and unexploded ordnance problem. Sorour has been involved with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) since 1999, providing research on Egypt and other countries in the Middle East and North Africa for the ICBL's annual Landmine Monitor report. Protection is a founding member of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and Sorour represents Protection on the leadership bodies of both the ICBL and CMC. Born 1970 in Cairo, Egypt. Languages: Arabic, French. Available Nov. 30th, - Dec. 7th

Marion Libertucci, France

Marion Libertucci is Handicap International France's Advocacy Project Officer. Born 1978 in Saint Germain en Laye, France. Language: French. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 5th

Miriam Struyk, The Netherlands

Miriam Struyk is a policy advisor on human security and disarmament for IKV Pax Christi, a Dutch peace organization working in partnership with local NGOs in more than 25 conflict affected countries, Struyk has worked for IKV Pax Christi since 1996. She helped produce a Dutch documentary 'The Clusterbomb Feeling' that revealed how Dutch pension funds were being invested in the production of antipersonnel mines and cluster munitions. Following a public outcry, the biggest pension funds divested from cluster munition and landmine manufacturers. Pax Christi was instrumental in helping to launch the global Cluster Munition Coalition in November 2003 and is a member of the campaign's steering committee. Struyk has

worked in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and the south Caucasus. Born 1971 in Rotterdam. Languages: Norwegian. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 5th

Mary Wareham, Human Rights Watch

Mary Wareham is a Senior Advisor to Human Rights Watch and Coordinator of the Aotearoa New Zealand Cluster Munition Coalition. Wareham is former Advocacy Director of Oxfam New Zealand. Between 1998 and June 2006, she was senior advocate in the Washington DC-based Arms Division of Human Rights Watch. She coordinated the highly acclaimed Landmine Monitor research initiative run by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). From 1996 to 1997, Wareham worked for the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation in Washington DC, helping to spearhead the movement that secured the 1997 treaty banning antipersonnel mines. In 2004, Wareham established a US-based non-profit organization, Next Step Productions, to produce a feature-length documentary film on landmines entitled Disarm. She is co-editor of the book Banning Landmines: Disarmament, Citizen Diplomacy, and Human Security together with Jody Williams and Steve Goose. Born 1970 in Wellington, New Zealand. Available Nov. 15th – Dec. 8th

Sylvie Brigot, International Campaign to Ban Landmines

Sylvie Brigot is Executive Director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). Whilst studying political science at the Sorbonne University in Paris, she began working on the issue of antipersonnel mines. Brigot then worked for six years with the French NGO Handicap International, a founding member of the ICBL. She helped to galvanize French public and parliamentary support for the landmine ban and coordinated the ICBL's European and Francophone work. In 2001, Brigot joined the ICBL as Government Relations Officer and went on to become Advocacy Director in 2005, and then Executive Director in 2006. Born in Paris, France. Brigot is accompanied by the ICBL's Treaty Implementation Director Ms. Tamar Gabelnick, Campaign Office Ms. Kasia Derlicka, and Humanitarian Affairs Adviser Ms. Susan B. Walker.

Language: French. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 7th

Sebastian Taylor, Landmine Action, UK

Sebastian Taylor is Chief Executive of Landmine Action in the UK, which is a founding member of the CMC. He has worked in Lao PDR and Somalia surveying the risk cluster bombs and landmines present to people living there, developing strategies to clear contaminated land and supporting communities after clearance. As former Director of the International Rescue Committee UK, Taylor worked on programs in conflict-affected DRC, Sierra Leone and Kenya. Taylor has worked extensively with the UN, governments, and Non Government Organisations in China, Lao PDR, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and Brazil. He was formerly part of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Available Nov. 27th – Dec. 5th

Simon Conway, United States

Simon Conway is a former Co-Chair of the CMC and former Director of Landmine Action in the UK. Conway worked for British demining agency the HALO Trust between 1998 and 2004 managing field programmes in Abkhazia, Cambodia, Eritrea, Kosovo, and Sri Lanka. Conway is a former officer in a Scottish regiment of the British Army (the Queen's Own Highlanders). Born 1967 in Sacramento, California. Available Nov. 26th – Dec. 5th

Bonnie Docherty, United States

Bonnie Docherty is a researcher in the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch and a lecturer and clinical instructor at Harvard Law School's Human Rights Program. She has done extensive research and advocacy on cluster munitions, civilian casualties in combat, and U.S. military training. She investigated cluster munition use and/or the conduct of war in Georgia (2008), Lebanon and Israel (2006), Gaza (2006), Iraq (2003), and Afghanistan (2002) as part of separate HRW field missions. Each of these missions led to an HRW report. She also actively participated in negotiations for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, lobbying states and providing legal advice at conferences in Lima, Vienna, Wellington, Dublin, and Oslo. Docherty has done other HRW research missions to Ethiopia and Sudan and advocacy missions to Geneva, Oslo, and Stockholm. At Harvard, she has focused her work on international humanitarian law, freedom of expression, and human rights and the environment. For 2008-2009, she is also a National Security Fellow at Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and her A.B. from Harvard University.

Ken Rutherford, Landmine Survivors Network

Ken Rutherford is an associate political science professor at Missouri State University. On 16 December 1993 whilst working with the International Rescue Committee, Rutherford lost both his legs when his vehicle hit a landmine in southwestern Somalia. Since the incident Rutherford has promoted the landmine ban and raised awareness of the needs of mine survivors, establishing Landmine Survivors Network in 1997. Rutherford has testified before the U.S. Congress and published articles on the landmine issue in numerous academic and policy journals. Born California, USA. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 6th

Robert E. Mtonga, Zambia

Bob Mtonga is program director of the International Council for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in Zambia. He is the Zambia representative of both the Cluster Munition Coalition and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, and provides research for the ICBL's annual Landmine Monitor report. Mtonga was a board member for the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) for eight years. He received his medical degree from the University of Zambia. Born 1965 in Lusaka, Zambia. Languages: French and Portuguese. Available Nov. 29th – Dec. 5th

7) Civil Society Advocates

Civil society representatives are coming to the signing conference from countries from around the world: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, DR Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Japan, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Vanuatu, Vietnam, and Zambia.

Maria Pia Devoto, Argentina

Ms. Maria Pia Devoto is Director of the Asociacion para politicas publicas (the Association of Public Policies), which works on human security, arms control, and community development Devoto is promoting the Oslo Process with parliamentarians, government officers and civil society in Argentina and Uruguay. Born 1970 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Language: Spanish. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Nadira Mallik, Bangladesh

Nadira Mallik has over 30 years of experience with both national and international NGOs working in Bangladesh. Her background is in human development, human rights and democracy, and NGO programming especially with respect to women's development. For the past five years, Mallik has worked on small arms issues as a member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and IANSA's Women Network. Born 1954 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Languages: Bengali, Hindi. Available Dec. 1st – 5th

Iouri Zagoumenov, Belarus

Dr. Iouri Zagoumenov is Director of the Belarus Association of Think Tanks and Coordinator of the Belarus Campaign to Ban Cluster Munitions. He is a political scientist and expert in arms control, peace-building, conflict prevention and educational development.

Languages: Russian. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Alma Taslidžan, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Alma works in Sarajevo as a communications officer for Handicap International. Founded in 1992, the Handicap International programme in Bosnia-Herzegovina has developed from providing emergency assistance to refugees to focusing on long-term mine action and development. Born in Bugojno, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alma is a political science and journalism graduate.

Languages: Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Cristian Wittmann, Brazil

Cristian Wittmann is an international environmental lawyer, who has coordinated the Brazilian Campaign Against Landmines (BCAL) work against cluster munitions since 2007. Since joining the campaign in 2004,

Wittman has represented the organisation at international conferences in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna and elsewhere. Born 1983 in Ijuí, Brasil. Languages: Portuguese, Spanish, French.

Jean-Baptiste Richarider, France

Dr. Jean Baptiste Richardier is the Executive Director of Handicap Internaional, which he founded in 1982 in Cambodian refugee camps. Outraged by the life conditions of landmines victims, he set up simple and efficient solutions to help them become self-reliant. Twenty five years later, Handicap International is an international organisation of 3000 staff, specialising in disability in 60 countries. It has four three focusses: Victim assistance, mine clearance and greater inclusion of people with disabilities in societyt. Handicap International is a founding member of the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) and Nobel-Prize winning International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). Available from 2-3 Dec.
Languages: French, English.

Eva Maria Fischer, Germany

Since 1992 Dr. Eva Maria Fischer has been working in the field of intercultural exchange. She became President of the Intercultural Forum- Munich in 1994. Head of Communications at Handicap International Germany since 1998, she has been responsible for educational work, media contacts, advocacy and political campaigns including the landmine campaign and the campaign against cluster munitions. Language: German. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Thomas Kuechenmeister, Germany

Thomas Kuechenmeister is a political scientist and Director of Action Group Landmine.de (Aktionsbündnis Landmine.de); Action Group Landmine.de is an umbrella of 17 German NGOs and represents CMC-Germany. For more than 10 years he has been responsible for public relations, lobby activities and international campaigning. He is joined in Oslo by the Project Coordinator of Action Group Landmine.de, Jan Schulz. Language: German. Available Dec. 2nd – Dec. 5th

Maria Eugenia Villarreal, Guatemala

Maria Eugenia Villarreal directs the Guatemala branch of the ECPAT (End Child Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation). She has been a member of the ICBL since 1999 providing the Landmine Monitor research updates on Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Villarreal has a doctorate in sociology. Born in Mexico City.

Languages: French and Spanish. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 7th

Binalakshmi Nepram Mentschel, India

Bina Nepram is a founding member of Control Arms Foundation of India, which is a member of the International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA). Nepram is the author of a 2002 report "South Asia's Fractured Frontier" and has written extensively on conflict and small arms proliferation, including its impact on women. Born 1974 in Imphal (Manipur), India. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 5th

Muowffak Alkhafaji, Iraq

A former radar engineer and colonel in the Iraqi army, Muowffah was injured in the first Gulf War. In 2003 he founded the first handicapped society in Iraq, forming a country-wide network of disability organisations. He has been head researcher of Landmine Monitor's Iraq country report since 2005 and a representative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines from 2004. A staunch advocate of the Oslo Process, Muowffah is in Oslo with Ahmed Najem, a Handicap International Ban Advocate.

Language: Arabic. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 7th

Margarita Petrova, Italy

Margarita Petrova is a research fellow at the European University Institute, Florence. She holds a PhD in Political Science from Cornell University, USA and is a co-founder of the Center for Social and Emotional Development, Bulgaria.

Languages: Bulgarian and Italian. Available Dec. 2nd – Dec. 5th

Motoko Mekata, Japan

Motoko Mekata has been a fellow in transnational civil society at the Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (RIETI) since April 2001. She has been a committee member of the Japan Campaign to Ban Landmines (JCBL) since 1997. Dr. Mekata is joined by JCBL Steering Committee member Mr. Toshihiro Shimizu. Language: Japanese. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 5th

Amadou Moussa Maiga, Mali

Amadou Moussa Maiga is a journalist at Radio Liberty Bamako Mali. He is President of the Journalists' Network for Security and Development in Western Africa (RJSDAO). Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Purna Shova Chitrakar, Nepal

Purna began her career in social activism in 1980 leading The Nepal National Teachers' Association. For more than 15 years she has campaigned tirelessly for women's rights, establishing the Women Development Society in 1991. In 1995 she founded the Ban Landmines Campaign Nepal (NCBL), becoming a member of the General Assembly of the ICBL in 1998 and an advisory board member in 2004. Landmine Monitor researcher since 1999, she is also a member of the government convened National Mine Action Steering Committee. Purna is a columnist in a Nepalese magazine and author of two books. Language: Nepalese. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 6th

Yassir Chavarría Gutiérrez, Nicaragua

Yassir Chavarría Gutiérrez is a researcher specialising in disarmament at the Institute of Strategic Studies and Public Policies, Nicaragua. The Institute is a non-partisan think-tank founded with the hope of increasing citizen participation and encouraging good governance.

Language: Spanish. Available Nov. 30th – Dec.5th

Raza Shah Khan, Pakistan

Raza Shah Khan is Executive Director of Sustainable Peace & Development Organization (SPADO), a Pakistani sustainable development organization. He is the South Asia representative of the International Peace Bureau. Khan provides the Pakistan country update for the ICBL's Landmine Monitor report and has conducted research on small arms, as well as on explosive remnants of war. Born 1970 near the Federally Administered Tribal Areas adjoining Afghanistan. Languages: Urdu, Pashto. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 4th

Boubine Toure, Senegal

Boubine Toure is a Senegal-based Cluster Munition Coalition campaigner and representative of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

Language: French. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Abu-bakarr Sheriff, Sierra Leone

Abu-bakarr Sheriff is Programme Officer of the Sierra Leone Action Network on Small Arms and the Cluster Munition Coalition's point of contact in Sierra Leone. Since 2004, he has campaigned on human security including small arms proliferation and explosive remnants of war in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). He has worked as a journalist for the Exclusive Newspaper and with UN Radio in Sierra Leone. Born 1977 in Kerema, Sierra Leone.

Languages: Mende, Krio.

Gugu Dube, South Africa

Gugu Dube is a specialist in the field of International Relations. She is currently a freelance consultant for The Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfer (NISAT) and an intern at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Arms Management Programme (AMP). Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Jordi Armadans, Spain

Jordi Armadans is Director of the Barcelona-based Fundació per la Pau (Foundation for Peace) Political scientist and journalist, Armadans is a specialist on disarmament and security issues. He is also a member of the Council of the International Peace Bureau. Created in 1983, Fundació per la Pau has been at the forefront

of the Spanish peace movement. Armadans is accompanied by Campaign Coordinator Ms Eugeni Barquero, and campaigners Francesc Gusi and Yago Calbet. Available Dec. 2nd – 5th.

Anna Ek, Sweden

Anna Ek is President of The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (SPAS - <http://www.svenskafreds.se/>). SPAS is the world's oldest peace organisation and Scandinavia's largest. Founded in 1883 by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate K P Arnoldson, it is a member of the CMC and last year joined the Swedish network on cluster munitions - <http://www.motklustervapen.se/>.

Languages: Swedish and Spanish. Available Dec. 2nd – 5th

Rolf Lindahl, Sweden

Rolf Lindahl is Policy Officer for The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society.

Language: Swedish. Available Dec. 2nd – 5th

Markus Haake, Switzerland

Markus Haake is Programme Officer at Geneva Call. He studied philosophy and literature in Berlin. Mr Haake previously worked as a member of the German Action Group Landmine.de. Geneva Call is an international organization dedicated to engaging armed non-state actors and internationally non-recognized states to respect and adhere to humanitarian norms. Following Geneva Call's highly successful engagement with these actors for a ban on anti-personnel landmines, the organization is now pressing for the inclusion of these groups in a ban on cluster munitions. Language: German. Available Dec. 1st – 4th

Paul Vermeulen, Switzerland

Geneva-based Paul Vermeulen directs Handicap International Switzerland, the main NGO campaigning against cluster munitions in Switzerland. Vermeulen lobbies Swiss parliamentarians, politicians and officials to take greater action against cluster bombs. Vermeulen and Handicap International were instrumental in securing strong Swiss government support for the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty. <http://www.sousmunitions.ch/>

Born 1953 in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Languages: Dutch, French and German. Available Dec. 1st – 5th

Ghassan Shahrour, Syria

Since 2002 Ghassan has been coordinator of the Arab Network for Research on Landmines & Explosive Remnants of War. A Landmine Monitor researcher since 2000, he has organised regional events on landmine & ERW issues in Damascus, Cairo and UAE. A founding member of the Arab office for the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict and Human Security, Ghassan is also a temporary advisor to the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office of the WHO. He is Coordinator of Al-Yarmouk, a Syrian NGO working to support families and local communities in wartorn areas. He is a prolific writer on health and social issues and a recipient of national and international prizes for work in the humanitarian field. Language: Arabic. Available Dec. 1st – 6th

Bakhtiyor Begmuradov, Tajikistan

Bakhtiyor Begmuradov is Vice-Chairman of Harmony of the World, a Tajik NGO and member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and the Cluster Munition Coalition. Begmuradov is the Tajikistan country researcher for the ICBL's Landmine Monitor report. He has a Masters degree in political science from St. Petersburg University. Languages: Russian, Tajik-Persian, Uzbek. Available Dec. 1st – 5th

Shushira Chonhenchob, Thailand

Shushira Chonhenchob is Disability and Development Manager for Handicap International in Thailand and for the Thailand Campaign to Ban Landmines. Languages: Thai and Lao. Available Dec. 1st – Dec. 5th

Richard Mugisha, Uganda

Mr. Mugisha is the Chairman of the Board of Directors for People with Disabilities- Uganda, a national, nonprofit, peace and disability rights organization based in Kampala. An economist with vast experience in disability issues and the small arms campaign, he has served on various boards including the Federation of Uganda Employers, Uganda Action Network on Small Arms, Eastern Africa Action Network on Small Arms and as CEO of the Uganda Association for people with learning difficulties. In 2006 he was the NGO representative in the Ugandan government's delegation to the UN Review Conference on small arms in New York. Available Nov. 30th – Dec. 6th