

Media Advisory - 2 October 2009

REGIONAL MEETING ON LANDMINE BAN TREATY Governments and Campaigners from South-Eastern Europe and Caucasus Expected to Attend



WHAT

The Tirana Workshop on Achieving a Mine-Free South Eastern Europe

WHEN

7-9 October 2009

Members of the press are welcome to attend the entire meeting.

- **Field visit** to victim assistance facilities at Kukes Regional Hospital, with presentations on mine clearance and victim assistance by Albanian Mine Action Executive: 7 October, 7:00-18:00
- **High-level opening** with representatives from the Government of Albania and European Union: 8 October, 9:00-10:45

WHERE

Tirana International Hotel, Skanderberg Square 8, Tirana, Albania

WHO

- Government representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Turkey, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are expected to attend;
- Donor countries, United Nations, international organizations involved in mine action;
- Civil society campaigners and landmine survivors from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Kosovo, Serbia and more.

ABOUT

Turkey and Greece are in violation of the Mine Ban Treaty since 2008 for missing their antipersonnel landmine stockpile destruction deadline. Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia remain outside the Mine Ban Treaty.

The workshop will focus on clearance of mined areas, victim assistance, cooperation in the region, as well as challenges for joining the treaty.

ICBL CONTACT

Ms Anila Alibali, Illyricum Fund

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INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Mr. Ramiz Becirovic (Bosnian, English)

Advocacy Coordinator for Landmine Survivors Initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Becirovic has extensive knowledge of the challenges faced by landmine survivors and other people with disabilities in the region.

Mr. Anthony Connell (English)

Mr. Connell has been involved in landmine and unexploded ordnance clearance operations since 2000 working in Iraq, Albania and Sudan. He currently manages DanChurchAid's Humanitarian Mine Action Programme in Albania that has been clearing mines and cluster munitions since 2002.

Ms. Tamar Gabelnick (English, French)

Treaty Implementation Director for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, Ms. Gabelnick has in-depth knowledge of the status of the Mine Ban Treaty implementation in South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, including political and financial challenges associated with mine clearance, victim assistance, and other treaty obligations.

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