

**FOR REFERENCE
WORK IN PROGRESS**

**STATEMENTS BY NON-STATE ARMED
ACTORS-NSAs UNDER INTERNATIONAL
HUMANITARIAN LAW-IHL**

- **SOME HISTORICAL PRECEDENTS.**
- **LANDMINE FOCUSED STATEMENTS.**

**COMPILED BY THE NSA DATABASE
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INTRODUCTION

The law of war and international humanitarian law are addressed to, and bind, all parties involved in the conflict, that is, the regular armed forces of the States and the irregular armed groups in opposition to the States.

States sign and legally adopt the conventions and protocols which legally bind them to the standards of international humanitarian law. Non-state forces on the other hand may declare their agreement and desire to comply with them, totally or partially, by agreement with the State or unilaterally. In fact, the law foresees the possibility of 'special agreements' between governments and armed opposition groups on particular aspects and rules of the law, for example regarding prisoners of war, child combatants, and the non-use of particular weapons. In some situations, the armed opposition groups have addressed their declarations to the international community directly and, in some instances, to the International Committee of the Red Cross as the recognised guardian of the law of armed conflict.

What is crucial is to obtain the widest possible serious commitment to minimise suffering and destruction in the course of armed conflict. That is the purpose of the law and the special agreements.

This compilation of statements, declarations and other related documents focuses on the renunciation of landmines by non-state armed groups, although some of the texts also refer to other humanitarian problems associated with armed conflict. Some of these statements are recent, and are being monitored in the context of current conflicts. Others come from past conflicts and are of historical value in various ways. Past and present statements and declarations are valuable mainly on account of their good faith and their impact on standards of human behaviour on the ground.

This compilation aims to be an educational reference tool in the campaign to persuade and pressure non-state armed actors to ban antipersonnel mines and comply with international humanitarian law in general. It was put together by the Non State Actors Database (NSA DBA) hosted by, yet independent from, International Alert (IA) in London, an organisation working impartially for the resolution of conflict around the world, with consultative status with the United Nations.

Originally formed in 1998, the NSA DBA was set-up by the Non State Actors Working Group of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL). The role of the NSA DBA is to provide the Working Group and its country campaigners with information on the identity and activities of non-state armed actors, with a goal to facilitate their understanding of the problem and their campaign strategy.

In January 2000 the NSA DBA became part of Geneva Call, a new organisation created to campaign vis à vis armed opposition and rebel groups aiming to persuade them to ban

antipersonnel mines and comply with international humanitarian law. International Alert continues to host the Database in agreement with Geneva Call.

The document was compiled by Researcher Brian Shaad, with input and supervision from the Directors of Geneva Call working from Manila in The Philippines, Harare in Zimbabwe and Geneva in Switzerland.

Eduardo Marino

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**AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS—ANC
DECLARATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS-ICRC
28 NOVEMBER 1980**

It is the conviction of the African National Congress of South Africa that international rules protecting the dignity of human beings must be upheld at all times. Therefore, and for humanitarian reasons, the African National Congress of South Africa hereby declares that, in the conduct of the struggle against apartheid and racism and for self-determination in South Africa, it intends to respect and be guided by the general principles of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflicts.

Wherever practically possible, the African National Congress of South Africa will endeavour to respect the rules of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the victims of armed conflicts and the 1977 additional Protocol 1 relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts.

O.R. Tambo
President
African National Congress of South Africa

Done in Geneva, Switzerland, on 28 November 1980, in the presence of M. Alexandre Hay, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, on behalf of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress and Umkhonto We Sizwe, the combatants of the national liberation movement of South Africa.



EJERCITO DE LIBERACION NACIONAL—ELN DECLARATION AND CODE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW

15 JULY 1995

(ORIGINAL STATEMENT IN SPANISH)

CÓDIGO DE GUERRA

La Unión Camilista Ejército de Liberación Nacional, como fuerza integrante de la Coordinadora Guerrillera Simón Bolívar, al representar parte de la población colombiana, hace uso del derecho de rebelión en contra de la dependencia extranjera y del dominio oligárquico.

Con tales causas y propósitos desarrolla la presente guerra de liberación, por lo cual organiza sus fuerza militar bajo la autoridad de un mando responsable, regido por una disciplina y ciñéndose a las normas del Derecho Internacional Humanitario, las cuales se recogen en el presente código:

RESPECTO A LA POBLACIÓN CIVIL

- Durante el combate no se tomará a civiles como escudo de protección.*
- Cuando el enemigo lleve civiles como rehenes en sus desplazamientos, se procurará no hacerles daño con nuestros ataques a la fuerza enemiga.*
- Las operaciones militares se desarrollarán en forma selectiva sobre objetivos enemigos, evitando el alcance indiscriminado de sus efectos.*
- Se buscará evitar daños conexos a los bienes e instalaciones civiles y se procura hacer las reparaciones posibles.*
- Se informará a la población civil de las áreas minadas.*
- No se realizarán acciones con el único fin de atemorizar a la población.*
- No se forzará el desplazamiento de población civil de las zonas de combate.*
- No se incorporarán menores de 15 años a la fuerza militar permanente. Se podrán integrar a otras actividades revolucionarias diferentes a la participación en hostilidades.*
- Las personas participantes en los grupos paramilitares y sus bienes dejarán de ser considerados como población y bienes civiles.*
- La Organización hace detenciones políticas con el fin de hacer conocer sus planteamientos, garantizando a los detenidos un trato respetuoso e informando a sus familiares de la situación en que se hallan.*

LIMITACION A LOS MEDIOS Y METODOS DE GUERRA

- *Al desarrollar acciones de sabotaje no se afectarán instalaciones que le sirvan más a la comunidad que al enemigo.*
- *Los sabotajes se realizarán evitando al máximo el daño sobre el medio ambiente.*
- *No se atacarán instalaciones religiosas, bienes culturales ni obras de infraestructura que contengan fuerzas peligrosas, como aguas represadas o material nuclear.*
- *No se usarán gases venenosos ni se envenenarán las aguas.*
- *En zonas de combate se respetarán los vehículos y las instalaciones que contengan el símbolo de la Cruz Roja. Está prohibido a nuestras fuerzas utilizar este símbolo para engañar al enemigo.*
- *Los comandantes de la fuerza evitarán el saqueo y el pillaje; una vez rendida la posición enemiga, organizarán la recuperación de los bienes que requiera la fuerza.*

TRATO DIGNO A LOS PRISIONEROS...

...tenemos grandes deseos de paz, que luchamos por la paz, que luchamos dentro de un contexto de humanización del conflicto, que luchamos dentro del respeto al Derecho Internacional Humanitario, que nos guían grandes sentimientos de tener en cuenta los derechos humanos como un referencial permanente de nuestra vida, por que queremos la elevación en su dignidad de la humanidad y estamos muy preocupados de cómo se puede conseguir precisamente la humanización del conflicto con base a los objetivos, a los ideales revolucionarios que hicieron surgir nuestra lucha.

*Unión Camilista Ejército de Liberación Nacional
15 de julio de 1995*



**FRENTE FARABUNDO MARTI PARA LA
LIBERACION NACIONAL—FMLN
SAN JOSE AGREEMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS
26 JULY 1990**

The Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”),

Bearing in mind that the legal system of El Salvador provides for the recognition of human rights and the duty of the State to respect and guarantee such rights;

Considering also that the State has assumed obligations of this nature under many international conventions to which it is party;

Bearing in mind that the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberación Nacional has the capacity and the will and assumes the commitment to respect the inherent attributes of the human person;

Reiterating the common purpose, expressed in the Geneva Agreement, to guarantee unrestricted respect for human rights in El Salvador;

Further reiterating their willingness, also expressed in the Geneva Agreement, to submit in this matter to verification by the United Nations;

On the understanding that for the purposes of the present political agreement, “human rights” shall mean those recognized by the Salvadorian legal system, including treaties to which El Salvador is a party, and by the declarations and principles on human rights and humanitarian law adopted by the United Nations and the Organization of American States;

Have concluded the following Agreement in pursuance of the initial objectives of the Geneva Agreement:

- I. All necessary steps and measures shall be taken immediately to avoid any act or practice which constitutes an attempt upon the life, integrity, security or freedom of the individual. Similarly, all necessary steps and measures shall be taken to eliminate any practice involving enforced disappearances and abductions. Priority shall be given to the investigation of any cases of this kind which may arise and to the identification and punishment of the persons found guilty.
- II. The full guarantee of the freedom and the integrity of the person requires that certain immediate measures be taken in order to ensure the following:
 - (a) No one may be arrested for the lawful exercise of his political rights;

- (b) An arrest may be made only if ordered by the competent authority in writing and in accordance with the law, and the arrest must be carried out by officers who are properly identified as such;
- (c) Anyone arrested must be informed while the arrest is being made of the reasons for the arrest and must be apprised without delay of the charge or charges against him;
- (d) No one shall be placed under arrest as a means of intimidation. In particular, arrests shall not be made at night, except in the case of individuals caught in *flagrante delicto*;
- (e) No one in custody shall be held incommunicado. Any person who has been arrested shall have the right to be assisted without delay by legal counsel of his own choosing and the right to communicate freely and privately with such counsel;
- (f) No one shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

III. In the course of the present negotiations, appropriate legal procedures and timetables shall be determined for the release of individuals who have been imprisoned for political reasons.

IV. The fullest possible support shall be given to ensuring the effectiveness of the remedies of *amparo* and *habeas corpus*. To this end, the broadest possible publicity shall be given to this Agreement among the public at large and, in particular, among authorities or officers in charge of detention centres. Anyone who hampers the operation of these remedies or provides false information to the judicial authorities shall be punished.

V. The right of all persons to associate freely with others for ideological, religious, political, economic, labour, social, cultural, sporting, or other purposes shall be fully guaranteed. Trade union freedom shall be fully respected.

VI. Freedom of expression and of the press, the right of reply and the activities of the press shall be fully guaranteed.

VII. Displaced persons and returnees shall be provided with the identity documents required by law and shall be guaranteed freedom of movement. They shall also be guaranteed the freedom to carry on their economic activities and to exercise their political and social rights within the framework of the country's institutions.

VIII. All persons shall be guaranteed freedom of movement in the areas involved in conflict, and the necessary steps shall be taken to provide the inhabitants of such areas with the identity documents required by law.

IX. The Parties recognized the necessity of guaranteeing the effective enjoyment of labour rights. This subject will be considered under the agenda item on economic and social problems.

INTERNATIONAL VERIFICATION

X. In accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreements and the agenda for the negotiations which was adopted in Caracas, the Parties hereby agree to the terms of reference for the United Nations human rights verification mission (hereinafter referred to as “the Mission”), as set out below.

XI. The Mission shall devote special attention to the observance of the rights to life, to the integrity and security of the person, to due process of law, to personal liberty, to freedom of expression and to freedom of association.

In this context, a special effort shall be made to clarify any situation which appears to reveal the systematic practice of human rights violations and, in such cases, to recommend appropriate measures for the elimination of the practice to the Party concerned. The foregoing shall be without prejudice to any powers granted to the Mission to consider individual cases.

XII. A director designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be in charge of the Mission. The Director shall work in close co-operation with existing human rights organisations and bodies in El Salvador. He shall also be assisted by expert advisers. In addition, the Mission shall include as many verification personnel as may be necessary.

XIII. The purpose of the Mission shall be to investigate the human rights situation in El Salvador as regards acts committed or situations existing as from the date of its establishment and to take any steps it deems appropriate to promote and defend such rights. Accordingly, it shall perform its functions with a view to promoting respect for human rights and their guarantee in El Salvador and helping to do away with those situations in which such respect and guarantees are not duly observed.

XIV. The Mission’s mandate shall include the following powers:

- (a) To verify the observance of human rights in El Salvador;
- (b) To receive communications from any individual, group of individuals or body in El Salvador, containing reports of human rights violations;
- (c) To visit any place or establishment freely and without prior notice;
- (d) To hold its meetings freely anywhere in the national territory;
- (e) To interview freely and privately any individual, group of individuals or members of bodies or institutions;
- (f) To collect by any means it deems appropriate such information as it considers relevant;
- (g) To make recommendations to the Parties on the basis of any conclusions it has reached with respect to cases or situations it may have been called upon to consider;

- (h) To offer its support to the judicial authorities of El Salvador in order to help improve the judicial procedures for the protection of human rights and increase respect for the rules of due process of law;
- (i) To consult the Attorney-General of the Republic;
- (j) To plan and carry out an educational and informational campaign on human rights and the functions of the Mission itself;
- (k) To use the media to the extent useful for the fulfilment of its mandate;
- (l) To report regularly to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and through him to the General Assembly.

XV. The Parties undertake to give their full support to the Mission. To that end they pledge:

- (a) To grant the Mission whatever facilities it may require for the performance of its functions;
- (b) To ensure the security of the members of the Mission and of such persons as may have provided it with information, testimony or evidence of any kind;
- (c) To provide, as expeditiously as possible, whatever information may be required by the Mission;
- (d) To give their earliest consideration to any recommendations made to them by the Mission;
- (e) Not to hinder the fulfilment of the Mission's mandate.

XVI. Each of the Parties shall appoint a delegate to serve as liaison with the Mission.

XVII. Should the Mission receive communications referring to acts or situations which occurred prior to its establishment, it may transmit them, if it deems appropriate, to the competent authorities.

XVIII. The fact that a case or situation has been considered by the Mission shall not preclude the application thereto of international procedures for the promotion and protection of human rights.

XIX. Subject to any arrangements which must be made prior to its establishment, the Mission shall take up its duties as of the cessation of the armed conflict. The Mission shall be established initially for one year and may be renewed.



**KOSOVA LIBERATION ARMY—UCK/KLA
DRAFT DECLARATION ON LANDMINE RENUNCIATION
DISCUSSED BETWEEN KLA LEADERSHIP AND GENEVA
CALL DELEGATES
JULY-SEPTEMBER 1999**

“Hereby, the general command of the UCK-KLA, in light of the inhumane experience with antipersonnel landmines which have caused horrendous suffering, death and mutilation to countless civilians, including children and combatants themselves, well beyond military necessity, decides to renounce the use of this weapon of warfare.

The UCK-KLA renunciation of antipersonnel mines is total, unconditional and applicable both to peace and war times, both regarding defensive and offensive purposes.

Consequently the UCK-KLA has stopped obtaining, transferring and stockpiling antipersonnel mines. And it will destroy all its antipersonnel mine stocks.

The UCK-KLA calls on all insurgent movements around the world to consider doing the same.

The UCK-KLA welcomes the 1997 international Treaty prohibiting the production, transfer, stockpiling and use of antipersonnel mines and calls on all States and Governments to accede to and respect this Treaty.

The UCK-KLA will continue promoting and co-operating with the de-mining work in Kosovo as a top priority during this post war period of peace and reconstruction.

The UCK-KLA requests the ‘Geneva Call’ international team to translate and disseminate this Declaration around the world.”



**MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT—MILF
INTERNAL REGULATIONS ON USE, STOCKPILING,
PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
21 MARCH 2000**

The MILF use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines are strictly in accordance with Islamic rules and disciplines. The MILF has thus adopted the following internal regulations:

- I. The MILF has strictly prohibited the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel mines even during armed conflict.
- II. The MILF has prohibited the participation of minors, women, and un-authorized members or civilians in the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines.
- III. The MILF has prohibited the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines near population centers, places of worship, schools, business establishments, residential areas, farms and farm-to-market roads, and even areas inhabited by working animals.
- IV. There shall be no use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines without order or clearance from MILF commander on the ground during actual combat when the enemy attacks MILF camps.
- V. There shall be no use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines outside MILF camps, except when needed for the defense of MILF camps and upon clearance from the Chief of Staff of Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF).
- VI. The use of anti-personnel mines during actual combat shall be strictly monitored with the use of location maps, and visible marks shall be placed on the ground indicating it as a 'Mines Areas—Keep Out'.

Ghadzali JAAFAR
Vice Chairman for Political Affairs
MILF Central Committee



**MOZAMBIQUE NATIONAL RESISTANCE—
RENAMO
JOINT DECLARATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
MOZAMBIQUE ON THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
16 JULY 1992**

On 16 July 1992, the delegation of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, headed by Armando Emílio Guebuza, Minister of Transport and Communications, and the delegation of Renamo, headed by Raul Manuel Domingos, Chief of the Organisation Department, in the presence of mediators, of observers and of representatives of international organisations, agreed to adopt the following Declaration:

Considering that, for the population, the consequences of the armed conflict have been seriously aggravated by the worst drought in 50 years in the country and region,

Determined to mobilise every resource to alleviate starvation and prevent deaths in Mozambique,

While pursuing efforts to reach a total peace agreement in Mozambique as soon as possible,

Reaffirming the principles of humanitarian assistance contained in resolution 46/182 of the United Nations General Assembly,

Reaffirming the understanding reached in December 1990 between the Government, Renamo and the International Committee of the Red Cross on the principles of free movement of populations and assistance for all Mozambicans wherever they might be,

I. The Government and Renamo solemnly agree and undertake to observe the following guiding principles for humanitarian assistance:

- (a) Assistance shall go to all affected Mozambicans, freely and without discrimination;
- (b) Freedom of movement and respect shall be guaranteed for persons and means which, under the flag of the United Nations or of ICRC, are engaged in humanitarian actions and are not accompanied by military escorts;
- (c) The freedom and neutrality of humanitarian assistance shall be recognised and respected;
- (d) Access shall be permitted to the entire affected population, using all means of transport;
- (e) The use of all means for the rapid, expeditious distribution of humanitarian assistance shall be permitted and facilitated;

- (f) Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed for all personnel who, under United Nations/ICRC auspices, are responsible for identifying populations in need, priority areas, means of transport and access routes and for supervising the distribution of assistance;
- (g) Persons shall be allowed freedom of movement to enable them to have full access to humanitarian assistance.
- II. In order to provide relief in situations of extreme urgency, which already exist in the country, the parties agree to:
- (a) Immediately permit and facilitate air traffic to all points in the country, for transporting humanitarian assistance and whatever personnel is considered necessary and viable;
- (b) To the same end, to permit and facilitate the immediate use and rehabilitation, where necessary, of other access routes to affected populations, including routes coming from neighbouring countries, as agreed to by the parties and communicated by the committee referred to in paragraph V of this Declaration.
- III. In addition, the Government and Renamo will continue their negotiations with a view to reaching, as soon as possible, an agreement on the opening of roads and the removal of all obstacles which might prevent the distribution of humanitarian assistance.
- IV. The Government and Renamo undertake not to derive military advantages from humanitarian assistance operations carried out under this Declaration.
- V. Both parties agree that the co-ordination and supervision of all humanitarian assistance operations carried out under this Declaration shall be the responsibility of a committee presided over by the United Nations. This committee shall be made up of the mediators, the observers to the Rome negotiations and the ICRC. The mediators will also have the task of verifying respect for this declaration and for bringing any complaints or protests to the negotiating table.
- The committee will report to the parties, in due course, on the operational details.
- VI. Both parties agree to participate and co-operate with the international community in Mozambique in formulating action plans, with a view to implementing such plans in accordance with this Declaration. The committee will co-ordinate such activities. To that end, Renamo will appoint its representative in the framework of and in accordance with the procedures of the COMIVE, who shall have the status provided for therein.
- VII. Both parties undertake to comply strictly with the terms of this Declaration and agree that any violation substantiated by the committee may be communicated to the international community.
- VIII. This Declaration shall be disseminated as widely as possible in Mozambique.



**REBOLUSYONARYONG PARTIDO NG
MANGGAGAWA PILIPINAS—RPM-P
DECLARATION OF THE RPM-P/RPA-ABB AGAINST THE
USE AND PRODUCTION OF LANDMINES
21 MARCH 2000**

Full human development should be the essence of social progress and must be the end-result of a social conflict or war. This is the greatest desire of all revolutionaries. In our revolutionary struggle towards socialism, we tread the precarious and hostile road, the only road, leading to a world without oppression, suppression and dehumanisation of the working class. With this aim, we are drawn in conflict with the ruling oppressive class who possesses all the implements of counter-revolution. And yet we strive, we fight, we sacrifice until victory.

For more than three generations now, the Philippines has been the arena of bloody armed conflict between the Maoist CPP-NPA-NDF waging a protracted war and the government waging anti-insurgency war. After our split with the CPP, the RPM-P looked back on the long history of armed conflict and saw that the sacrifices of human lives—foot soldiers and civilians—and the damage to properties were regrettable, if not condemnable. These were the errors that needed to be corrected as we institute a new orientation of our revolutionary struggle.

In pursuing the revolutionary struggle towards socialism, the RPM-P/RPA-ABB believes that it is the surge of revolutionary movement for and according to the masses of the working class and all the oppressed peoples that will be decisive while armed struggle and other forms of struggle are complementary, supporting forms.

We believe, therefore, that the destruction of lives and properties, as a consequence of armed conflict, is an anti-thesis to our desire for a better world. We believe that while we are fighting to achieve full human development and social progress, we must respect the lives of the people and of nature—uphold and promote human rights, and protect the environment.

The use of anti-personnel mines, as a weapon for destruction, has been extremely prejudicial to the lives and safety of civilians. This is a weapon commonly utilised in battle fields both by revolutionary or rebel forces and of reactionary forces to weaken, maim or destroy each other. It is a fact that anti-personnel mines have been killing civilians, destroying properties, destroying the environment and inflicting damage to innocent civilians more than it has served its military purpose.

The Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa—Pilipinas and the Revolutionary Proletarian Army—Alex Boncayao Brigade declares its opposition and rejection of the use and production of anti-personnel mines. We give our full support to the world wide campaign against the use and we call for the immediate stoppage of production.

Our adherence to the humanisation of conflict in practice means we strive to avoid by all means the loss of lives and destruction of properties in the course of our armed struggle.

RPM-P/RPA-ABB believes in the necessity and correctness of humanising the struggle between the revolutionary forces and reactionary forces. Fighting for genuine peace, social justice, political liberty, and a safe and clean environment are all in the service of the human race. Destroying the world and sacrificing innocent lives with the use of anti-personnel mines does not serve this purpose.

STOP THE USE AND PRODUCTION OF LANDMINES.

ONWARDS WITH REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE.

For the RPM-P Central Committee,

Andres NAVA
Chairperson

For the RPA-ABB National Operational Command,

Carapali LUALHATI
Commanding Officer



**SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S
ORGANISATION—SWAPO
DECLARATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS-ICRC
15 JULY 1981**

It is the conviction of SWAPO that fundamental rules protecting the dignity of all human beings must be upheld at all times. Therefore, and purely for humanitarian reasons, SWAPO declares hereby that in the conduct of the struggle for self determination, it intends to respect and be guided by the rules of the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of the victims of armed conflicts and the 1977 additional Protocol relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I).

As soon as possible SWAPO will consider addressing the Swiss Federal Council, as the government of the depository State, a declaration according to article 96 paragraph 3 of the 1977 Protocol I.

Such a declaration would be considered as a preliminary step to becoming a party to these instruments.

Sam NUJOMA
President of SWAPO



**SUDAN PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY—SPLM
RESOLUTION ON THE PROBLEM POSED BY
PROLIFERATION OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES IN
LIBERATED PARTS OF NEW SUDAN
01 NOVEMBER 1996**

The Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement and the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLM/SPLA),

Deeply concerned over the tragic consequences of indiscriminate use of Anti-personnel mines in particular and the presence of unexploded sub-munitions from cluster bombs and unexploded ordnance.

Particularly alarmed at the significant increase in the number of mines and sub-munition victims among the civilian population.

Having considered voluntarily the 1980 United Nations Convention on the prohibitions or restriction of the use of certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious, (Doc. CM/1884 (LX II) Annex 1).

Considering resolution CM/Res. 1526 (LX) on respect for International Humanitarian Law and Support for Humanitarian Action in Armed Conflicts.

The SPLM/A commits itself to unilateral demining efforts in the areas under its control, and hereby commissions the Operation Save Innocent Lives—Sudan (OSIL—SUDAN) as an indigenous voluntary organisation to demine the liberated areas of New Sudan and to help put an end to this scourge.

SPLM/A appeals to the international community to support OSIL—SUDAN in this humanitarian endeavour.

CDR Salva Khr MAYARDIT
Deputy Chairman, NLC/NEC (SPLM)
and SPLA Chief of General Staff



**TALIBAN OF AFGHANISTAN
STATEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF
AFGHANISTAN ON THE PROBLEM OF LANDMINES
06 OCTOBER 1998**

As Allah Almighty has made Human beings his representatives on Earth, both his life and death are regarded with much respect in Islam. God Almighty teaches us in the holy Quran: ‘Whosoever killeth a human being for other than man-slaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he saved the life of all mankind (Verse 32, Surah Almaidah, The Holy Quran).

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) says, ‘The summit of Faith is Kalma-e-Toheed and the foundation is clearing the path from peril and modesty is part of the belief.

In addition to various social and economical problems in Afghanistan, the presence of landmines in large numbers is also considered one of the main problems of Afghanistan. Landmines have caused death and maiming of thousands of innocent Afghans including women and children during the last several years of war. Even now everyday about ten innocent Afghans fall victim to the blind terrorism of anti-personnel landmines. Landmines are also considered a major threat to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and repatriation of the refugees and displaced persons to their homes. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) believes that, unless a total ban is imposed on the production, trade, stockpiling, and use of landmines, this tragedy will continue not only in Afghanistan but in the whole world.

The IEA in consideration of its Islamic and humanitarian feelings and in consideration of the antagonistic effects of the landmines, strongly condemns the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines, and considers it an un-Islamic and anti-human act.

While strongly supporting the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines (ACBL) and the Ottawa landmine ban treaty, the IEA invites the attention of the Muslim Ummah and the international community to the following points:

1. At the international level, the IEA calls for a total ban on the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines, and is ready to actively co-operate in this regard.
2. At national level, the IEA announces a total ban on the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines, and makes a commitment to the suffering people of Afghanistan and the international community that the IEA would never make any use of any type of landmines.
3. The IEA asks all the opposition groups to avoid the use, trade and stockpiling of landmines and do not cause more harm to the bereaved and suffering people of Afghanistan.
4. Those who use landmines in personal, political or any other differences in Afghanistan would be punished in accordance with the Islamic law.

5. The IEA thanks all those countries that have signed the Ottawa treaty, and urges all those countries that have not yet signed this treaty to immediately stop production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines in respect of the Ottawa international treaty.
6. The IEA ask the whole international community and neighbouring countries to stop export of landmines to Afghanistan immediately and thereby do not increase the sufferings and hardships of the Afghan people. The IEA strongly condemns the exporters of landmines to Afghanistan and considers such acts violations of international law.
7. As Afghanistan is a war torn and worst off country, the IEA requests the international community to provide further financial and technical assistance to mine action operations in Afghanistan to enhance these efforts in order to get rid of the landmines and release the people of Afghanistan from dangers and worries of landmines as soon as possible.
8. The IEA requests the international community to provide generous assistance to the hundreds of thousands of mine victims in Afghanistan in order to enable them to start their normal social and economic life and play their part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Finally, the IEA once again calls on the international community in general and the neighbouring countries in particular to support a total ban on the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines in order to end this human tragedy in the world as soon as possible. In addition, the IEA requests the international community to provide generous assistance to mine action activities and other rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan to enable people to stand on their own two feet and resume their normal and peaceful life.

Sign and seal of:

The servant of Islam

Amir Almonineen (Mujahid) Mulla Mohammad Omer Akhund

06 October 1998



APPENDIX
STATEMENTS FROM CAMPAIGN GROUPS

**THE NGO FORUM ON CAMBODIA and
CAMBODIA CAMPAIGN TO BAN
LANDMINES**

APPEAL BY THE INTERNATIONAL LANDMINES
CONFERENCE TO THE KHMER ROUGE TO STOP
THE USE OF LANDMINES

THAI CAMPAIGN TO BAN LANDMINES

ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE
REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT OF
THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR
DESTRUCTION

ANNEX

PROPOSED

«DEED OF COMMITMENT UNDER GENEVA CALL FOR ADHERANCE TO A TOTAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND FOR COOPERATION IN MINE ACTION»

WE, the undersigned rebel movement or armed group («Non-State Actor »), through our duly authorized representative(s),

Recognizing the global scourge of anti-personnel mines which indiscriminately and inhumanely kill and maim combatants and civilians, especially poor people, women and children, even after the armed conflict is over;

Realizing that the limited military utility of anti-personnel mines is far outweighed by their appalling humanitarian, socio-economic and environmental consequences, including on post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction;

Rejecting the notion that revolutionary ends or just causes justify inhumane means and methods of warfare;

Reaffirming our desire to protect the civilian population from military attack and unnecessary suffering, and to respect their rights to life, to human dignity, and to develop;

Resolved to play our role not only as actors in internal armed conflicts but also actors in the practice and development of legal and normative standards for such conflicts, starting with a contribution to the overall humanitarian effort to solve the global landmine problem for the sake of its victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, hereby commit ourselves:

1. TO ADHERE to a total ban on anti-personnel mines and other humanitarian norms. By anti-personnel mines we refer to those which effectively explode by the presence, proximity or contact of a person, including other victim-activated explosive devices and anti-vehicle mines with the same effect, whether with or without anti-handling devices. By total ban, we refer to a prohibition on the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention and transfer of such mines. This commitment complements or supercedes, as the case may be, any existing unilateral declaration of ours on anti-personnel mines.
2. TO COOPERATE IN AND UNDERTAKE stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, mine awareness and various forms of mine action, especially where these programs are being implemented by independent international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

3. TO ALLOW AND COOPERATE in the monitoring and verification by Geneva Call and other independent international organizations and non-government organizations of our commitment to a total ban on anti-personnel mines. Such monitoring and verification are understood to include periodic visits and inspections at the theatre of armed conflict. Our commitment carries with it the obligation to provide the necessary information in the spirit of transparency and accountability.
4. TO ISSUE the necessary orders and directives to our commanders and fighters for the implementation and enforcement of our commitment to a total ban on anti-personnel mines, including measures for dissemination and training, as well as disciplinary sanctions.
5. TO TREAT this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment to humanitarian norms, particularly of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field practice as well as the development of humanitarian norms.

DONE, this _____ day of _____ 2000 in Geneva,

ORGANIZATION: _____

Representative(s)

Printed Name

Position

Signature

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Contact Details:

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____ Website: _____