


# GENEVA CALL APPEL DE GENÈVE



## ANNUAL REPORT 2011





*“I urge all Member States to refrain from adopting national legislation, policies or other measures that have the effect of inhibiting humanitarian actors in their efforts to engage non-State armed groups for humanitarian purposes, including to undertake activities aimed at promoting respect for international humanitarian law.”*

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, June 2012

# What armed non-State actors say

*“Since we have been in conflict, this is the first time we have been offered the opportunity to sign a formal commitment, thanks to Geneva Call. This is why we want to respect it and make sure that it is respected.”*

*“The signature of the **Deed of Commitment** was clearly a military disadvantage for us. But the end does not justify the means. Before going to war, you have to decide on the rules.”*

*“The training we received from Geneva Call is ... a crucial opportunity to strengthen our daily practice and ensure it is in line with humanitarian standards ... that they may be implemented on the ground...”*

*“This is the first time that someone has come to talk to us about improving our behaviour rather than just to get us to lay down our arms and negotiate for peace.”*

*“Maybe on your next trips to the Bangsamoro homeland, you will feel the difference when you are free to go around without fear of mines and UXO. We will be trying our level best to transform our homeland into an area free of AP mines and all other mines that are destructive to humanity and the environment.”*

# What others say

## **on engagement with armed non-State actors**

*“... we need to see enhanced compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law ... we need to more consistently and effectively engage non-State armed groups in order to improve their compliance with the law. Member States need to recognize and accept the fundamental necessity of this engagement...”*

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the Security Council, 9 November 2011

## **on Geneva Call**

*“[Geneva Call] has led a normative shift in state thinking while securing concrete commitments from 41 different armed groups...”*

Global Journal, January 2012

*“... Switzerland supports the work of Geneva Call and supports its action as being complementary to the engagement of States. I am convinced that this partnership is an efficient means to create synergies and to increase concrete impact in the field. ... The organisation has developed a unique comparative advantage thanks to its broad experience, efficiency, effectiveness and constant learning ...”*

Ambassador Claude Wild, Head of Human Security Division, Swiss Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 27 April 2012

## **on Geneva Call engaging armed non-State actors on the AP mine ban**

*“... It is our common responsibility to protect and promote the norm established by the Mine Ban Convention. We must all react strongly to acts that threaten this norm in order to uphold the stigmatisation of anti-personnel mines. We must emphasise that the use of a weapon that causes unacceptable harm to civilians does not belong in modern warfare. And we must actively support efforts by organisations such as Geneva Call who work specifically with norm-building among armed non-State groups so that these groups commit to not using anti-personnel mines...”*

Statement by the Kingdom of Norway to the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the AP Mine, Ban Convention, 24 June 2011

## **on working with Geneva Call in Colombia**

*“We have participated in the construction of the proposals; these are ours and we coordinate with Geneva Call, which provides support. Now more people know what you can and cannot pick up, but the conflict continues.”*

Representative of the Awá people

*“It is difficult that an indigenous person understands the white man/woman (cuya bai), but [Geneva Call's Mine Risk Education] project has been a space for understanding and learning. For example, now we are more cautious where we suspect or know that there are mines.”*

Representative of the Siona people



# Foreword

Every year, as President I am asked to highlight Geneva Call's successes and to describe some of the challenges faced. My first words this year will be to thank all the staff, here and abroad, for their dedication and enthusiasm. Despite financial constraints and sometimes political difficulties, they never get discouraged and keep working towards our objective: the protection of civilians in armed conflict. They deserve my admiration and gratitude. So, why not this year give them the opportunity to express their motivations and feelings in this report. They have the floor...

*It is very moving to see that now ANSAs are coming to us, that they see our value-added and respond positively in view of the impact we have had on their own policies and practices.*

*The new **Deed of Commitment on the Prohibition of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict and towards the Elimination of Gender Discrimination** is a very important step, for Geneva Call and for those whose lives are affected by abuse and discriminatory practices. The issue of sexual violence in armed conflict is widely discussed, but rarely addressed with ANSAs with a view to solving the problem.*

*Geneva Call is not promoting abstract norms, but rather the values and vital concerns brought to us by communities who are living, surrounded by weapons, in the midst of conflict.*

*I have great admiration for our local partners and other grassroots initiatives who work day in day out in such difficult conditions. I am very glad that we can contribute to their efforts.*

*Geneva Call's mission and vision provides me with an unending source of energy to achieve greater and greater impact. In this environment, I never get tired of looking for new ideas and new plans to improve our work in helping people.*

*Working at Geneva Call is like threading a needle while standing on your head in a rollercoaster, suspended to a tractor which is driving up-hill, yet always convinced of heading in the right direction!*

*With Geneva Call, I have learned that it is important not to underestimate the challenges but also the potential for creative solutions.*

*It has been enormously satisfying for me to be involved in bringing together former enemies - Government armed forces and former rebels - to pave the way for increased cooperation in mine clearance, bring resolution to humanitarian problems and help to build the peace.*

*It is clear that armed non-State actors can change, indeed they want to change their behaviours and protect civilians. Geneva Call helps to show them how and gives a framework. But you have to be able to communicate in order to achieve this change.*

Finally, I would like to thank all of those individuals and organizations that have contributed to making Geneva Call's vision a reality, the donors who trust us and have helped to expand Geneva Call's mission to more countries and to cover more subjects of vital importance. Geneva Call has greatly expanded its reach, and seeks to respond to increasing demands on its expertise by States, communities and by armed non-State actors themselves. In parallel therefore, the organization also needs to continue to develop its funding base, and looks forward to working with existing and new donors to help support the work ahead.



Elisabeth Decrey Warner  
President of Geneva Call

## What is an armed non-State actor ?

For its operational purposes, Geneva Call uses the term “armed non-State actors” (ANSAs) to refer to organized armed entities that are primarily motivated by political goals, operate outside effective State control, and lack the legal capacity to become party to relevant international treaties. This includes armed groups, *de facto* governing authorities, national liberation movements, and non- or partially internationally recognized States.

# Geneva Call’s Mission

Geneva Call is a neutral and impartial humanitarian non-governmental organization that engages with ANSAs to promote their respect for international humanitarian norms in armed conflicts and other situations of violence, in particular regarding the protection of civilians. Geneva Call gives ANSAs the opportunity to adhere to and respect the norms of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).

To achieve this, Geneva Call seeks a formal undertaking by ANSAs, inviting them to sign and comply with a *Deed of Commitment* to respect these norms. Signatory ANSAs agree that Geneva Call will monitor and verify their compliance.

Geneva Call is currently focusing its efforts on banning the use of anti-personnel (AP) mines; protecting children from the effects of armed conflict; prohibiting sexual violence in armed conflict, and working towards the elimination of gender discrimination. Geneva Call also responds to ANSA requests to help build their knowledge of and capacities to implement IHL and IHRL. Geneva Call conducts on-going conflict analysis and ANSA profiling; engages in dialogue and maintains long-term relationships with ANSAs; carries out advocacy, and provides training and capacity building to support its objectives. Geneva Call may also provide other assistance and services within communities where ANSAs operate, where this contributes to confidence-building and indirect engagement with ANSAs on key messages.

Geneva Call’s work is complementary to that of other stakeholders, with whom it seeks to co-ordinate. Where relevant, Geneva Call collaborates with such organizations, and with local community organizations.

Pursuant to common article 3 to the Geneva Conventions, Geneva Call’s work does not affect the legal status of the parties to armed conflict.



# Geneva Call and ANSA engagement

Geneva Call engages with ANSAs on three main thematic areas: the prohibition of AP mines, the prohibition of conflict-related sexual violence and towards an end to gender discrimination, and the protection of children in armed conflict. Geneva Call's main instrument of direct engagement with ANSAs is the *Deed of Commitment*. Despite the often delicate context and many constraints, Geneva Call has continued to conduct its work in a variety of conflict settings, thanks to its principles of transparency, neutrality and independence, and the confidence that it has succeeded in building with all stakeholders.

Geneva Call carefully considers the various possible negative impacts its actions may have on beneficiary populations and partners, and on conflict situations. This includes efforts to implement 'do-no-harm' and other principles of conflict-sensitivity.

## **Transparency**

Transparency is a core working principle of the organization. Geneva Call informs stakeholders, including the Governments concerned, of its engagement efforts with ANSAs. This principle is particularly important in countries where the Government might be reticent with regard to any form of contact with ANSAs.

## **Neutrality**

As a guiding principle, Geneva Call maintains a position of complete neutrality with regards to all parties to armed conflict. Geneva Call does not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.

## **Where direct engagement is not possible**

In cases where Geneva Call is not able to engage directly with ANSAs, it may be possible to open and sustain indirect dialogue, or other forms of involvement, for example through local, community-based and faith-based organizations.





# Geneva Call and the Deeds of Commitment



Geneva Call encourages ANSAs to be active participants in processes towards increased protection of civilians. Geneva Call's innovative methodology to achieve this is the *Deed of Commitment*, which serves as a unique entry point towards engagement with ANSAs. The *Deed of Commitment* provides ANSAs with a standard, universal and recognizable mechanism by which they formally pledge to respect humanitarian norms and are held accountable for their commitments. Importantly this process gives ANSAs the opportunity for self-appropriation or ownership of norms. The *Deed of Commitment* is countersigned by the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, which acts as its custodian. After a signature, Geneva Call supports and monitors the implementation of the signed *Deeds*.

Currently, Geneva Call is implementing two *Deeds of Commitment*.

1. By signing the *Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action*, ANSAs express their adherence to the norms of the AP Mine Ban Convention and agree to:

- prohibit under any circumstance the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of AP mines;
- undertake and cooperate in stockpile destruction; mine clearance; victim assistance; mine awareness; and various other forms of mine action in areas under their control.

2. The *Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict* became available for signature at the end of 2010.

ANSAs agree among other things to:

- prohibit the use of children in hostilities, and ensure that children are not recruited into, or forcibly associated with, armed forces;
- release or disassociate children in safety and security;
- provide children with the aid and care they require, in cooperation with specialized child protection agencies, in areas where signatories exercise authority.

In both cases, ANSAs agree to:

- allow and cooperate in the monitoring and verification of their commitment, notably by providing information and compliance reports as well as allowing field visits and inspections; and
- consider their commitment as a first step towards a wider acceptance of humanitarian norms.

At the date of publication, 42 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. Some 12 ANSAs have indicated interest in or are already engaged in dialogue with Geneva Call on the *Deed of Commitment for the Protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict* and the first signatures are anticipated in 2012.

A third *Deed of Commitment* will be available on sexual violence in armed conflict and gender discrimination in mid-2012. Dialogue with a dozen ANSAs on this matter is already ongoing. The complete texts of the *Deeds of Commitment* can be found starting on page 36.



# AP mines and other explosive devices

AP mines are low-cost; easy to manufacture, and have been a weapon of choice for many ANSAs around the world. In fact, far more ANSAs than States employ these weapons today. In 2011, AP mines were used by ANSAs in Afghanistan, Colombia, Burma/Myanmar and Pakistan, all of which are countries where Geneva Call is working or preparing to open up programmes. There are allegations of AP mine use by ANSAs in another five countries: Algeria, Mali, Peru, South Sudan and Thailand.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, many ANSAs operating today have effective control over territories strewn with AP mines. Communities in these areas often receive little or no mine action assistance, be it mine risk education, marking or clearance of dangerous areas, or victim assistance.

At the time of writing, 42 ANSAs had committed to banning AP mines through signing Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment*. Geneva Call's on-going monitoring work ensures that signatory ANSAs are not using AP mines, and are destroying their stocks, undertaking mine action activities and/or facilitating access by specialized organizations. A number of very positive examples are given in this report under the regional sections. Indeed, Geneva Call works hard to enable mine action and engages on this matter with many ANSAs, regularly consulting with mine action organizations. It continued to work closely with Danish Demining Group (DDG), DCA Mine



Action, Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), Handicap International (HI), Landmine Action, and Mines Advisory Group (MAG) during the year on a variety of issues.

Even if ANSAs do not become signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* straight away, Geneva Call has encouraged unilateral pledges to prohibit or limit the use of AP mines or the inclusion of the issue in ceasefire agreements.

Geneva Call has begun to advocate at the international level the need to better protect civilians from the impact of explosive weapons in general, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in particular. Over the last few years, Geneva Call has seen increasing threats to civilians from the availability and use of other ordnance and weaponry, whether commercially manufactured or improvised, in areas controlled by

ANSAs. This also pertains to weapons stockpiles, abandoned and unexploded ordnance, ammunition management, and the use of weapons in violation of IHL.

Some ANSAs are known to use anti-vehicle (AV) mines. Though not a central focus of the organization, Geneva Call has had cause to engage with ANSAs on the issue of use of AV mines and a number of ANSAs are considering banning these weapons or taking measures to ensure the protection of civilians when they are used.

The issue of landmines is Geneva Call's original and traditional area of work and, as such, has become integrated into operations across most countries where the organization is present. Geneva Call is gradually incorporating its other areas of focus into its regional and country activities as well.

## Improvised Explosive Devices

IEDs are defined as AP mines by Geneva Call – thus banned under the *Deed of Commitment* - when they are victim-activated anti-personnel devices. In April, at the invitation of the Coordinator of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) Amended Protocol II on IEDs and the CCW Protocol V on General Preventative Measures, Geneva Call made a presentation on *IEDs and ERW preventative measures for the protection of civilians during armed conflict*. 35 High Contracting Parties to the CCW attended this side-meeting. Of particular concern to Geneva Call is the high civilian casualty rate resulting from IEDs especially when used in violation of IHL. Geneva Call recommended that:

- *Guidelines and best practices be developed on ERW and IEDs applicable to all parties to conflict;*
- *Support and humanitarian space be available for the engagement of ANSAs by specialized organizations; and,*
- *Support be provided for mine action during conflict, including in ANSA-controlled or -influenced areas*

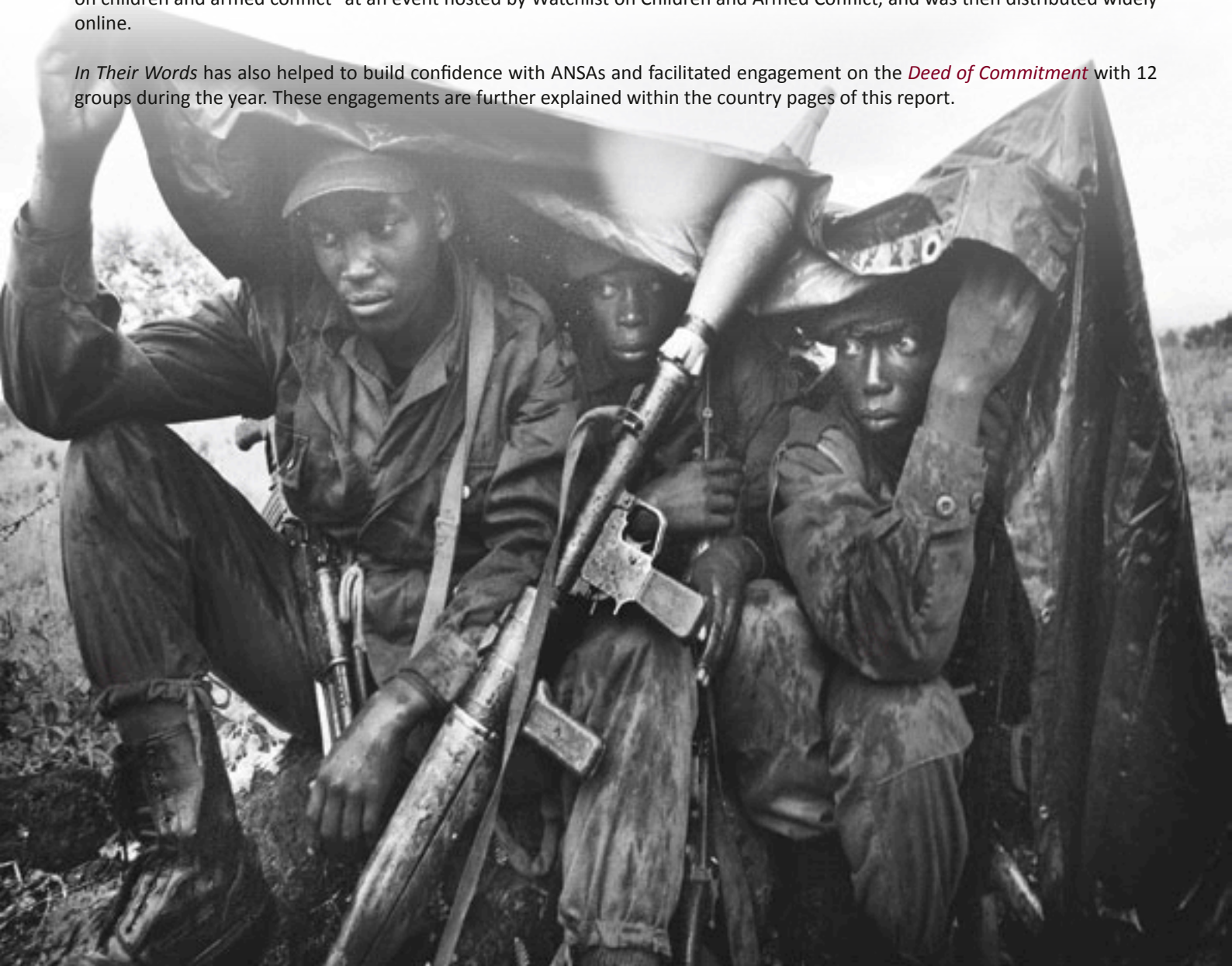
# The protection of children from the effects of armed conflict

Towards the end of 2010, the *Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for the protection of Children from the Effects of Armed Conflict* was launched. In 2011, the first ANSA engagements on this pressing issue began, notably with ANSAs operating in Burma / Myanmar, and those operating in various Kurdish regions. Several ANSAs are expected to be ready to sign this *Deed of Commitment* during 2012.

Geneva Call has limited its initial activities towards ANSAs to a small number of countries or regions in order to concentrate its efforts and learn from realities on the ground once the *Deed* has been presented and challenges clearly discussed. In this first full year of engagement with ANSAs, progress has been made towards signature of the *Deed of Commitment* and thereafter implementation of the obligations contained therein. Presenting the *Deed* to ANSAs involves confidence-building, dialogue, explanation and understanding of international standards in regards to child protection in armed conflict, as well as a firm understanding of the ANSAs and conflict dynamics.

Right at the end of 2010, Geneva Call published *In Their Words: Perspectives of Armed non-State Actors from the Effects of Armed Conflict*. *In Their Words* has filled a major knowledge gap by presenting the perspectives of ANSAs on child protection in armed conflict to a broad audience of international and local actors. The publication was launched in New York to the Group of Friends on children and armed conflict<sup>2</sup> at an event hosted by Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, and was then distributed widely online.

*In Their Words* has also helped to build confidence with ANSAs and facilitated engagement on the *Deed of Commitment* with 12 groups during the year. These engagements are further explained within the country pages of this report.



Geneva Call sees its role, the *Deed of Commitment* and its approach to dialogue as complementary to the UN Security Council's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM). There is clearly a need for an approach to the question of child protection in armed conflict that includes ANSAs as part of the solution to the problem, and enables ANSAs to perceive themselves as able to take on effective protection roles. Geneva Call's approach engages also those ANSAs which are not listed in the MRM.

Geneva Call has advocated throughout the year a vision that is inclusive, constructive, and adaptable to the realities faced by ANSAs—without compromising on minimum standards of protection. In collaboration with the International Peace Institute (IPI) in New York, Geneva Call organized a roundtable to discuss these issues in October. *Protection of Children in Armed Conflict: Complementary Approaches to Engaging Non-State Armed Groups*, was an opportunity for panellists from UNICEF, Geneva Call, and local partner Human Rights Education Institute of Burma to present and discuss their respective comparative advantages in ANSA engagement. The keynote speaker at the event was Dr Jean Zermatten, President of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. A publication will be produced with IPI in early 2012 to further this discussion.

Child protection services are often severely lacking in areas controlled or influenced by ANSAs. The potential for gaps in these areas is an added concern for Geneva Call. It is important to remember that civilians in areas controlled or influenced by ANSAs have the same rights to assistance and security as civilians in State-controlled territory. Geneva Call believes it is a non-political humanitarian imperative to seek to protect children whatever the circumstances; and will work with specialized assistance agencies towards this end. Of particular focus beyond basic needs is the right to education.

Geneva Call participated this year in the global-level Child Protection Working Group's on-going initiative to develop a set of Minimum Standards of Child Protection in Humanitarian Response. This process will continue into 2012. The initiative is filling a critical gap and will strengthen the protection of children in emergencies.



### Did you know ?

In three country situations where it has not been possible for the UN to have contact or dialogue with ANSAs listed through the MRM process\*, Geneva Call has been in dialogue with six listed ANSAs.

\*2012 Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (A/66/782-S/2012/261)

## What do ANSAs ask about the protection of children in armed conflict ?

In our context, how can we keep children away from a conflict environment? They are living in it !

Is a child's association with the political wing of our group a violation of the *Deed of Commitment* ?

Do States also commit to the *Deed of Commitment* ?

Even if we take measures to secure children in general, how can we evacuate children if we come under surprise attack ?

Why can States recruit children from 16 years of age whereas for armed non-State actors the age is set at 18 ?



# Sexual violence in armed conflict and gender discrimination

Sexual violence continues to be widespread in many armed conflicts today. Sexual violence is understood as attacks on a person and his or her dignity, and includes any act of violence, physical or psychosocial, carried out through sexual means or by targeting sexuality, including rape, trafficking, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage or sexual torture. Sexual violence exists in times of peace but is often exacerbated during armed conflict. Furthermore, the extent of victimization stretches well beyond the armed conflict itself. Experts point to the long-term impact on society, and importantly on the ability of the society to emerge undamaged from the experience, where sexual violence in armed conflict is an attack against communities, not just against individuals.

Perpetrators of sexual violence are predominantly armed males, but women and boys also commit or encourage such acts. While it is recognized that the vast majority of victims are women and girls, it is clear that sexual violence is perpetrated against men and boys as well.

All armed actors, including ANSAs, must understand the impact of sexual violence. Importantly, ANSAs must respect their legal obligations, including all relevant humanitarian norms that prohibit sexual violence.

Geneva Call focuses on prevention and accountability, by engaging directly with perpetrators or potential perpetrators within the ANSAs themselves. After fostering a relationship with the ANSAs, Geneva Call follows up in a sustainable manner and over time, with a view to producing measurable changes in

behaviour resulting in enhanced prevention and more systematic sanctions of violations.

Furthermore, through its engagement, Geneva Call seeks to encourage ANSAs to eliminate gender discrimination from their processes, policies and practices. Geneva Call encourages greater meaningful participation and representation of women in decision-making processes, including peace negotiations, pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Some ANSAs do include women in leadership positions or consult women in decision-making. However, women tend to be under-represented in decision-making and peace negotiation processes at all levels.

In 2011, Geneva Call began drafting the *Deed of Commitment on the prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and towards the elimination of gender discrimination*, and has finalized consultations with ANSAs, experts, academics and practitioners. The final stage, in early 2012, will seek the perspectives and comments of selected ANSA stakeholders before the *Deed* is launched.

Meanwhile, Geneva Call has already worked on engaging ANSAs, directly or indirectly, on the topic of sexual violence in armed conflict and is in dialogue with ANSAs operating in Burma/Myanmar, Lebanon, the Philippines and Turkey on this issue. Following a workshop with 23 participants from eight ANSAs on the issue in December 2010, Geneva Call published *Improving the Protection of Women and Girls during Armed Conflict* in March. This had been the first time such a meeting of ANSA representatives had taken place to discuss sexual violence in armed conflict and to seek concrete,

practical solutions. Follow-up by Geneva Call is continuing and several of the ANSAs have reported improvements in their internal policies and procedures. For example, one ANSA from the Philippines has said that, following the workshop, revised standards have been incorporated into the training syllabus for its cadres.

A training and resource kit is being prepared to provide information and education to ANSAs on the theme of sexual violence and relevant international norms. The kit is designed specifically for ANSAs, with a view to their eventual signature of the *Deed of Commitment*, and other commitments including compliance monitoring, reporting and verification.

During 2011, Geneva Call commissioned desk- and field-based research from the Gender School of the University of Bogotá in Colombia on the role of ANSAs, including guerrilla and paramilitary groups, in committing sexual violence in the context of the armed conflict in Colombia. This research will be published in 2012.

In Lebanon, Geneva Call has continued to support its local partner Nashet Association, which provides social and psychological support to young at-risk Palestinian girls in Ain Al-Hilweh refugee camp, where Geneva Call is working with many of the ANSAs present. In 2012, Geneva Call will continue to work with its partner with a view to replicating the *Palestinian Girls' Club* in at least one other camp, and moving towards complete hand-over to Nashet Association.

Geneva Call was also invited to present its experience at an international seminar on *Women and armed conflict, women*

*and migration, responses and challenges for International Humanitarian Law.* The seminar was held in Dakar, Senegal, in March, hosted by the Alliance pour la Migration, le Leadership et le Développement.

Geneva Call would like to thank the following organizations for their valuable input in the drafting process of the Deed of Commitment: ICRC, OHCHR, UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, UNOCHA; and several individuals who contributed in their personal capacity: Françoise Duroch (Médecins sans Frontières), Jocelyn Kelly (Harvard Humanitarian Initiative), Laurence de Barros-Duchêne (psychologist), Marco

Sassòli (University of Geneva) and Sandesh Sivakumaran (University of Nottingham).

Geneva Call also thanks the members of several ANSAs who provided their input and comments

### **ANSA participants in *Improving the Protection of Women and Girls during Armed Conflict* expressed in their own words what should be included under the term gender-based violence in armed conflict:**

- *gender-based violence in armed conflict as a tool for hatred and retaliation ...*
- *the use of force and power against women and men to provoke demoralization and powerlessness ...*
- *the use of rape/sexual violence to humiliate and diminish human dignity ...*
- *acts that particularly target women and children, who are the most vulnerable ...*
- *acts that do not recognize and respect a person's religious/cultural practices in the context of the war on terror ...*
- *acts that disregard a person's modesty through discrimination and suspicion.*

From *Improving the Protection of Women and Girls during Armed Conflict* on [www.genevacall.org](http://www.genevacall.org)





# Humanitarian space

## The protection of humanitarian space

Humanitarian norms are violated by State and armed non-State actors in many of today's armed conflicts. At the same time, the humanitarian space for dialogue and for action is shrinking, and the notion that engagement and dialogue with ANSAs may be considered a proscribed activity could seriously limit humanitarian activities aimed at the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

While there is no commonly accepted definition of humanitarian space, for Geneva Call, the protection of civilians is essential, and the humanitarian space in which to achieve this must be defended.

The protection of humanitarian space means that it should remain possible, independent of political considerations, for concerned humanitarian actors to contact and engage ANSAs. It is essential to allow dialogue even with groups labelled as terrorists, in order that these groups accept and comply with humanitarian norms, notably with regards to access to civilians at risk. It is also the space to safely implement humanitarian activities on the ground, and deliver humanitarian aid and services free from the risk of attack.

## The dissemination of humanitarian norms amongst ANSAs and civil society

As part of an on-going effort to structure and systematize knowledge, and standardize its delivery of information, education and training in its core areas, Geneva Call has begun to work with adult education specialists to create a set of modular tools to support training of ANSAs and civil society organizations. These tools are based for the most part on the *Deeds of Commitment*, are specifically designed for ANSAs, and seek to address their real and practical concerns when implementing international standards in the contexts in which they operate.

In partnership with the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD), and with funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO), these training tools cover questions of sexual violence in armed conflict and gender discrimination; the protection of children in armed conflict; the Law of Armed Conflict, and obligations under international law regarding landmines and ERW. The training modules also integrate the question of humanitarian space, safe access and facilitation for humanitarian purposes.

The tools will be finalized and piloted in spring 2012, modules will be translated into relevant languages, and training will begin with ANSAs, and with civil society and local media.



# Sharing Geneva Call's expertise

In 2011, Geneva Call contributed its practical experience working with ANSAs on issues of compliance with international standards to a number of professional and expert meetings on IHL.

Geneva Call participated, for example, in the annual Senior Officers' Security and Law Conference hosted by Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in July. Geneva Call's ANSA engagement methodology was presented to 30 senior military officers from around the world, many of whom are engaged in armed conflict with ANSAs.

In December, as part of a two-day course on arms control, Geneva Call presented its work and experience to the Centre des Hautes Etudes Militaires, a training centre of the French Ministry of Defence. 30 senior French officers attended, along with representatives from Brazil, Germany, Italy, the UAE and the UK.

Together with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (ADH), Geneva Call presented the findings of a research project on Standards of Proof in International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Fact-Finding employed by Commissions of Inquiry.

The presentation took place at the 1 December Human Rights Day Conference in Geneva on the theme: The UN Human Rights Council: Commissions of Inquiry. This research, to be published in 2012, is a follow-up to Geneva Call's 2009 mission to the Philippines to verify allegations that the MILF had violated the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines.

While the mission did not establish conclusive evidence of a violation, it did recognize the need for further dissemination of the obligations under the *Deed* to all members. The mission

also recognized the need to further define the standards of proof required in international fact-finding. The report itself will be published in early 2012 and made available on Geneva Call's website.

Geneva Call contributed to the training of humanitarian professionals. In March and April, Geneva Call was invited to provide training on *Improving Compliance by armed non-State Actors: Legal framework and strategies* to some 50 national and international participants for the Danish and Finnish Red Cross during their workshops on international humanitarian law for humanitarian professionals in Copenhagen and Helsinki.

And in December, Geneva Call ran a complex practical simulation on IHL and ANSA engagement for a *Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP)* thematic workshop. The exercise gave 20 humanitarian professionals the



opportunity to put theory into practice and face some of the challenges that engagement with ANSAs can present.

### Geneva Call's legal expertise

Geneva Call is asked more and more by *Deed of Commitment* signatories and non-signatories alike to provide assistance in understanding and implementing humanitarian norms. Article 5 of the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines and Article 10 of the *Deed of Commitment* on the protection of children require signatories "to treat

*this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms, particularly of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field practice as well as to the further development of humanitarian norms for armed conflict."*

Towards this end, Geneva Call led workshops during the year on IHL/IHRL with a number of ANSAs to introduce international standards, help prepare the ground for policy development, and compare international standards to the

ANSAs' own standards and practices. These activities are described within the relevant country sections of this report.

# ANSAs and the displacement of civilians in armed conflict

Geneva Call is increasingly working on a broader range of humanitarian norms, many of which relate, or are relevant to issues around the displacement of civilians in armed conflict. ANSAs may cause forced displacement, forcible return or the prevention of return, or indeed assist in return, and thus affect the entire displacement cycle. Under IHL, ANSAs have clear obligations towards displaced persons, as stipulated in the Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols, the Rome Statute, the Kampala Convention, as well as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Humanitarian actors are confronted with a diversity of ANSAs, ranging from non- or partially internationally recognized States, to armed insurgents and militias, to powerful criminal gangs. Their structures and motivations differ considerably which can have an important bearing on how their behaviour might be influenced, how the situation of displaced populations is affected, how and when ANSAs can help and give protection, and how humanitarian assistance is delivered effectively and without risk for aid providers.

Together with key partners, Geneva Call has co-organized several events in 2011 (see also page 28) to explore the nexus between ANSAs and displacement. Geneva Call will research these areas further in 2012 and improve its understanding of the relationship between ANSAs and displaced populations in order to provide better engagement strategies for the benefit and protection of displaced people.



# Activities in Africa

- Geneva Call brought together ex-rebel commanders and combatants in Niger to share information on mined areas with the national authorities and to agree to better cooperation in mine action.
- In compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*, several thousand AP mines were destroyed in Somalia and in Western Sahara.
- In Senegal, Geneva Call acts as go-between for Government and Casamance rebels to facilitate safe mine clearance.
- South Sudan joined the AP Mine Ban Convention in 2011. Before becoming the new Government, the SPLM/A had signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2001.
- Geneva Call and local partners advocated banning AP mines across local communities in Senegal, Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

## Senegal

The conflict in the Casamance region of Senegal between the Senegalese army and the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC) has seen an increase in intensity over the past few years. Fighting continues in the north of Casamance, and the MFDC captured several Senegalese soldiers in December 2011. Mine accidents have also continued to occur during the year in northern areas of the region.

The MFDC is split into two main armed factions, one under the command of Salif Sadio, operating primarily in the north of Casamance, and the Kassolol faction, led by César Atoute Badiate, in the south. Geneva Call has been engaging the MFDC since 2006 on banning AP mines, but neither of the MFDC factions has yet been willing to give up the use of the weapon. However, thanks to the work of Geneva Call and local partners, the Kassolol faction has become increasingly sensitive to the impact of AP mines on civilians, and Geneva Call is seeking to make step-by-step progress to improve the situation.

In recent years, AP mines have also killed or maimed civilians in border areas with the Gambia and Guinea Bissau. Geneva Call has implemented an innovative solution to reach the MFDC through indirect advocacy, notably through the refugee communities from Casamance living in areas close to MFDC camps and who have links with its combatants. Together with its Senegalese partner, l'Association pour la promotion rurale de l'arrondissement de Nyassia – Solidarité, Développement et Paix (APRAN-SDP), Geneva Call held community advocacy sessions on the AP mine ban in both countries in 2011. National authorities of the Gambia and Guinea Bissau, the Centre National Antimines au Sénégal (CNAMS) and local grassroots non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also attended. In all, Geneva Call and APRAN-SDP held eleven such sessions over a three-year period, reaching a total of 900 community and refugee leaders. A number of them have transmitted messages

learned at the sessions to MFDC combatants, adding impact to Geneva Call's direct advocacy towards the rebel group. In 2011, the CNAMS organized six additional sessions in Casamance, partnering with the same local NGOs that work with Geneva Call. These NGOs are part of the Senegalese Campaign to Ban Landmines, whose President was invited by Geneva Call to participate in the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the APMBC. This was an opportunity to present the Senegalese experience and the community advocacy sessions with other practitioners at a Geneva Call side-event in collaboration with the Director of the CNAMS.

Another of Geneva Call's key goals in Casamance is to help ensure that humanitarian demining moves forward despite the absence of a definitive peace agreement between MFDC and the Government. During the year, Geneva Call and APRAN-SDP sought to ensure the Senegalese Government and the Kassolol faction of the MFDC could discuss cooperation on demining. However the parties have not yet been able to meet to discuss these issues due to disagreement on where to hold this discussion. Geneva Call is continuing to work towards such a meeting and a humanitarian accord on the matter between the two parties. It should be noted that since 2008, this MFDC faction has allowed the gradual implementation of humanitarian demining but not in areas close to its camps.

Until a deal is made with the Government, a more pragmatic approach to communication has therefore been established so that, when demining activities are planned, Geneva Call keeps MFDC informed and requests relevant information on mines located in the area targeted for clearance. This go-between function ensures that the Kassolol faction of the MFDC does not oppose demining, and avoids security incidents as have occurred in the past in which deminers were killed.

Following a military coup in 2010, free and transparent elections were held in 2011 resulting in the formation of a democratically elected civilian Government. The ceasefire agreed in 2009 between the Government and the rebel Mouvement des Nigériens pour la Justice (MNJ) and its splinter fronts continues to hold. However the situation in the north of the country remains volatile as there is no peace agreement that sets out how Disarmament, Demobilization and Reinsertion (DDR) of former combatants will be conducted. The recent conflict in Libya has increased levels of insecurity in the region and led to opportunities for new armed groups to mobilize and arm themselves, notably in neighbouring Mali.

Geneva Call's main activity in Niger in 2011 has been to broker better cooperation between the Government and ex-rebel fronts in order to clear the landmines that were laid during the 2007-2009 conflict. In October, Geneva Call organized a 2-day technical workshop in Agadez bringing together senior former rebel commanders, high-level representatives of the Commission Nationale de Collecte et de Contrôle des Armes Illicites (National Commission for the Control and Collection of Illegal Weapons - CNCCAI) and of the armed forces, Government representatives and the international organizations

active in mine action in Niger: the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and HI. Prior to the workshop, Geneva Call sent a landmines expert seconded from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) to assess technical needs, notably in information management, and advise the CNCCAI on international mine action standards (IMAS). This assessment also brought to light the existence of a forgotten AP minefield dating back to the French colonial period. These mines will need to be destroyed to comply with Niger's obligations under the APMBBC.

During the Agadez workshop, participants contributed information on mined areas and discussed ways to improve cooperation in mine clearance. Former rebels agreed to identify the areas that they had mined, and the army agreed to provide maps. The CNCCAI announced it would train and integrate 100 to 200 former rebels into its mine clearance programme following a proposal made by Geneva Call based on the example of a similar successful process in Chad. The workshop also recommended that a joint committee be set up to conduct field surveys and to collect any mines that may remain in the hands of private individuals, including some ex-combatants who had not returned some AV mines following the end of the fighting in 2009.

This workshop was an opportunity for ex-rebel commanders and combatants to share information on mined areas with the national authorities and to agree to better cooperation. The meeting was the result of a lengthy process of engagement and dialogue by Geneva Call and a good example of how important it is to involve all actors in a conflict in seeking resolution to humanitarian problems and in consolidating peace.

In 2012 Geneva Call plans to continue to monitor the situation and the level of cooperation between the former enemies in exchanging information on mined areas and in carrying out the actual clearance.





# Somalia

Somalia has been without an effective national Government since 1991. Continued conflict has led to the division of the country into three distinct regions: the self-declared Republic of Somaliland, the semi-autonomous state of Puntland and South and Central Somalia, where the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and its allies are opposed to the Al Shabaab militant Islamist group. In 2011, armed conflict intensified, killing, wounding and displacing thousands of civilians. Child recruitment and use in hostilities is also reportedly widespread, particularly in areas controlled by Al Shabaab. In August, Al Shabaab withdrew from Mogadishu after fierce fighting with the TFG and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces.

The Puntland authorities and several clan-based faction leaders, now part of or allied with the TFG, are signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning

AP mines. During the year, Geneva Call monitored their compliance, in particular in the Gedo region where fighting continued between signatory factions and Al Shabaab. No reports of violations were found. In Puntland, in compliance with the *Deed of Commitment*, a further 382 stockpiled AP mines were destroyed in early 2011 by the local mine action centre, with technical assistance from MAG.

In Somaliland, legislation prohibiting AP mines was passed by the Parliament in 2009, at the initiative of Geneva Call. A recent monitoring visit showed, however, that work needs to be stepped up in order to comply with all the requirements of the legislation, in particular the deadline for AP mine stockpiles to be destroyed by 2013. Geneva Call is advocating that the provision of a full inventory of remaining mines be made a priority by the Government.

Geneva Call also began dialogue with the Somaliland authorities on international standards regarding the recruitment of children into armed forces. During 2012, Geneva Call plans to follow up the development and implementation of a Child Protection Act with the Somaliland authorities.

Though sporadic fighting still occurs between Somaliland and Puntland, there is no formal training of the armed forces on their obligations under IHL. Geneva Call will seek to provide such training during 2012, using tools developed specifically for this purpose.

In addition, Geneva Call has assessed the opportunities to engage with other ANSAs operating in South and Central Somalia, notably Al Shabaab, and will seek to begin dialogue during 2012.

# Sudan

In July 2011, a peace agreement was signed between the Government of Sudan and the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM) operating in Darfur. However, the other main rebel groups, notably the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) factions, refused to sign and joined forces with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) to create the Sudan Revolutionary Front (SRF) in a bid to topple the Government in Khartoum. South Sudan became independent in July 2011.

Fighting has since broken out between the SRF and the Sudanese Armed Forces along the border between the two

countries resulting in significant casualties and large population displacements.

Geneva Call is maintaining the engagement that it initiated with JEM in 2010. During meetings with Geneva Call, the JEM leadership confirmed its willingness to sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. Signing is expected to take place in early 2012.<sup>3</sup> One of the challenges will be to monitor compliance with the *Deed* in JEM controlled areas where humanitarian access is difficult.

Dialogue with JEM has also taken place on the question of child protection. Several ANSAs operating in Sudan, including JEM,

are 'listed' as recruiting and using children by the UN Secretary-General's annual report on children and armed conflict. In 2010, JEM signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN on this issue, however implementation has been problematic since then.

Geneva Call has kept the Government of Sudan informed of its engagement efforts with JEM, and met regularly with relevant international and Sudanese organizations active in humanitarian mine action and child protection. Geneva Call will also initiate engagement in 2012 with other ANSA members of the SRF, on banning AP mines and other humanitarian issues.

# South Sudan

The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in 2001. Following the proclamation of independence of the Republic of South Sudan in 2011, the SPLM/A became the ruling party. Geneva Call encouraged the new Government of South Sudan to join the AP Mine Ban Convention in keeping with the humanitarian spirit that motivated the signing of the *Deed* in

2001. In November, South Sudan became the 158<sup>th</sup> State Party to the AP Mine Ban Convention.

Certain armed opposition groups active in remote areas of South Sudan have reportedly used AP mines and recruited children in 2011. Geneva Call will continue to keep this situation under review in 2012, and consider opportunities for potential engagement.

# Democratic Republic of Congo

The east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has seen extreme violence since the 1990s. Violations of IHL are widespread, and target civilian populations in the main, particularly women and children. Based on cases known to the United Nations and NGOs, an estimated 200,000 people have been victims of sexual violence since 1996. In addition, thousands of children have been recruited by all parties to

the conflict, and participate directly in fighting or in logistical support roles, or are used as sex slaves. Allegations have also been made of AP mine use by the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR).

Both foreign and Congolese ANSAs operating in the east of DRC are reportedly committing abuses against civilians. Desk research and analysis of

the various ANSAs operating in DRC was carried out in 2011 by Geneva Call in preparation for a field assessment of the situation in eastern DRC in early 2012. Geneva Call will establish the prospects for successful engagement of ANSAs, and whether there is a value added and complementary role for Geneva Call to play.

# Western Sahara

The conflict over Western Sahara broke out in 1975 between Morocco, Mauritania and the Sahrawi independence movement, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front). Mauritania pulled out of the territory in 1978 but fighting continued until 1991, when the UN brokered a ceasefire agreement. Since then, however, the final status of Western Sahara remains unresolved.

As a result of the conflict, Western Sahara is heavily contaminated by landmines, and explosive remnants of war. In 2005, the Polisario Front signed Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. As such, Geneva Call continues to monitor compliance, in partnership with the local Sahrawi Campaign to Ban Landmines. In 2011, the Polisario Front, with technical assistance from

Landmine Action, destroyed a further 1,504 AP mines in compliance with its obligation under the *Deed*, bringing the total stockpiled AP mines destroyed to 10,146. The Polisario Front has continued to make further efforts to comply with the *Deed* and to facilitate humanitarian mine action activities, including mine risk education and clearance, in areas under its control.

Though a ceasefire is in place, there has been no agreement to clear the buffer zone.<sup>4</sup> AP mines have caused more than 2,500 accidents in Western Sahara, to civilians and to military personnel. Of the 25 casualties known to Landmine Monitor in 2010, 19 were injured or killed in Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara and six in Polisario-controlled Western Sahara.

In addition to landmine-related work, Geneva Call collaborated with the Sanremo International Institute of Humanitarian Law to provide, in Geneva, a five-day training course on IHL for senior military officers of the Polisario Front, including the inspector of armed forces and the head of the military academy. Following the success of this initial course, a subsequent training of trainers is planned in 2012 at the Polisario's military academy.



# Activities in Asia

- The Karenni Army (KA) and the New Mon State Party (NMSP) both improved the protection of civilians by changing their standards in mine use.
- Several ANSAs have expressed an interest in signing the *Deed of Commitment on the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*.
- Geneva Call has begun planning activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- Follow-up to Geneva Call's workshop on sexual violence in late 2010 showed encouraging results and changes to ANSA policies.

## Burma | Myanmar

The Government newspaper, the New Light of Myanmar, recently wrote that 2011 would be the end of 'authoritarianism' in the country.<sup>5</sup> By the end of 2011 major changes had certainly begun in the country that could shape a new future, though fighting still continued in some areas.

By spring 2012, most ANSAs had agreed to ceasefires or were at least engaged in talks with the Government. While very encouraging, these processes are at an early stage and set-backs and reversals are unfortunately still a possibility. For the time being therefore, Geneva Call is continuing its engagement with ANSAs and monitoring the situation as it changes.

During 2011, Geneva Call engaged with nine ANSAs (NMSP, KNU, KNPP, PSLF, CNF, LDU, PNLO, SSA-S, KIO) and provided information, feedback and education on their obligations with regards to the use of AP mines under IHL, the protection of children during armed conflict, and the prohibition of sexual violence. The engagements aimed to review ANSAs' policies, practices and internal regulations, and to discuss practical measures to improve the protection of civilians in armed conflict. As part of this process, Geneva Call conducted three workshops with individual ANSAs and one workshop with four ANSA members

of the umbrella organization United Nationalities Federal Council, which led to the drafting of a code of conduct reflecting groups' obligations under IHL.

In partnership with Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB), Geneva Call launched an engagement of seven ANSAs on the *Deed of Commitment on the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*. Early in 2012 two target ANSAs indicated a desire to sign this instrument, and Geneva Call is working closely with these organizations to ensure that they are in a position to meet the obligations.

To support this process, Geneva Call conducted a mapping of child protection actors in the region to whom ANSAs can turn once they are ready to sign the *Deed*. Indeed the signature of the *Deed* starts a process that includes, where relevant, the demobilization and dis-association of children. This needs to be conducted in safety and with a view to the best interests of the child. This could also include support to education by such child protection actors in areas under the control or influence of ANSAs.

As part of its mission to monitor the *Deeds of Commitment*, Geneva Call works with local community-based organizations (CBOs) which provide valuable field support, ensure feedback to Geneva

Call on violations or potential violations of norms, crucial field-level needs assessments and assist in the delivery of messages on international humanitarian norms. Geneva Call also provides these CBOs with information and training. Two workshops on humanitarian mine action were conducted for Karen and Karenni CBOs in partnership with the Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People and the Karenni Social Welfare Development Committee respectively, in collaboration with DanChurchAid (DCA), and with the valuable input of a resource person from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).



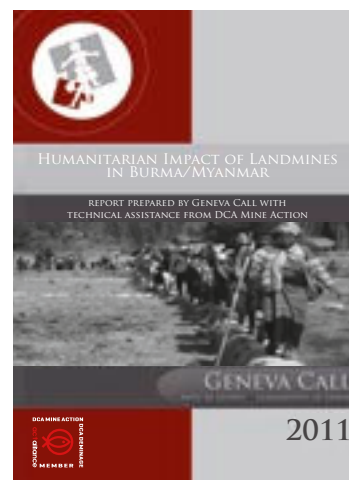
During one workshop, the Karenni Army (KA) acknowledged the negative impact of AP mines and presented a new draft policy, developed through consultations with Geneva Call, to limit its use of AP mines by applying international humanitarian standards. The Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) also attended one of these workshops. It recognized the negative effects of AP mines on the civilian population, but remains reluctant to take further measures that would reduce this impact, citing military considerations. The group provided Geneva Call with a copy of its principles regarding AP mine use. The NMSP also adopted its new mine use policy during the year, which conforms to basic international standards.

Several ANSAs from Burma/Myanmar had participated in Geneva Call's workshop on gender-based violence in armed conflict held in late 2010. As a result, Geneva Call was invited to provide training on the issue to members of the political and military wing of the Karen National Union (KNU) in September 2011. Geneva Call introduced international standards prohibiting sexual violence in armed conflict, discussed definitions and

the legal framework, and recommended active preventive measures that could be taken. The sessions included in-depth sessions with participants to consider how to incorporate international standards into the ANSA's own policies and codes of conduct. KNU participants themselves decided to review their internal rules as a result of the workshop. Geneva Call will support this process during 2012. The Chin National Front (CNF) has also requested training support for political and military representatives on the question of prohibiting sexual violence : this will be provided in 2012.

In January 2011, Geneva Call published the report *Humanitarian Impact of Landmines in Burma/Myanmar*, together with its partner DCA. The report was promoted in early 2011 in Chiang Mai and Bangkok, in Geneva at the United Nations, in London at the House of Commons, and in Brussels at the European Commission. Geneva Call hopes that the report will contribute to increased understanding of the impact of mines in Burma/Myanmar, and to raising the profile of the urgent need for mine action in areas controlled by or under the influence of ANSAs. The report has been one of Geneva Call's

most well-received documents with 10,000 hits on the website in 2011.



Follow up evaluation with stakeholders suggests that another result of the report has been enhanced coordination and sharing of data in the field. This is an important step to ensure better information for planning for future mine action in the country.



# Afghanistan

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) reported 3,021 civilian deaths in 2011, an 8% increase on 2010 which itself was a 25% increase on 2009. The vast majority of these deaths were attributed to the use of IEDs by ANSAs. There has also been significant recruitment and use of children as young as five in the armed conflict, including in suicide attacks.

Afghanistan's Taliban has made a number of statements on these matters. The Taliban's Code of Conduct for cadres insists they take all possible care to protect 'the common people' or face punishment. In 1998, following efforts by the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines, Mullah Omar, head of the Taliban,

banned AP mines, citing the high casualty rate and horrible suffering caused among the civilian population.

In September 2011, the Taliban denied any recruitment of children into its ranks and the use of children in suicide missions, which had been reported in a press release by Human Rights Watch (HRW) on 31 August 2011. The Taliban's southern Afghanistan spokesman, Qari Yousaf Ahmadi, stated that the Taliban had never attacked medical teams as long as their visits were coordinated.<sup>7</sup> Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said insurgents had been instructed to let polio vaccinations take place, provided aid workers do not use Government facilities.<sup>8</sup>

Such statements suggest that there is some receptivity within the Taliban to enhancing protection of civilians in the conflict.

During 2011, encouraged by a number of stakeholders in Afghanistan who see a complementary role for Geneva Call to play, and facilitated by the UN Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (UNMACCA), Geneva Call conducted a field assessment to the country. Geneva Call is now seeking dedicated funding to launch a project based on feasible ways to engage Afghanistan's ANSAs on the protection of civilians, initially on AP mines and the protection of children within the armed conflict.

# India

Three ANSAs operating in India are signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines: the Kuki National Organization, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim and the Zomi Reunification Organization. There are numerous ANSAs in conflict with the Government or with each other in several states across the country. There have been serious reports of violations of IHL, however due to difficulties with access to the country in 2011, Geneva Call was not able to engage directly with ANSAs.

Monitoring of compliance by signatories of the *Deed* has thus been carried out remotely and by requesting self-reporting

on progress. Two ANSAs reported during the year on their compliance with the *Deed*, and Geneva Call's own monitoring has shown no cases of non-compliance in 2011, though AP mines and victim-activated IEDs appear to have been used by non-signatory ANSAs in several states in central India. Dialogue continues notwithstanding, and Geneva Call hopes it will be possible to engage further with groups operating in other parts of the country on their obligations under IHL, where there have been reported increases in the use of AP mines and IEDs by ANSAs, and on the use of children in armed conflict.

Three Indian ANSAs participated in Geneva Call's workshop on gender-based violence in armed conflict held in late 2010 and were to return to their ANSAs with proposals and recommendations for improvements in their policies and procedures to address the problem of sexual violence, at least from the ANSA point of view. All three have reported progress in following up on the recommendations made and have begun disseminating the knowledge gained during the workshop to their respective members. Geneva Call will continue to monitor progress in 2012, and to seek opportunities to provide further support where required.

# Pakistan

Landmines, unexploded ordnance and IEDs are posing an increasing threat to the civilian population in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtun Khwa Province, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), and Baluchistan. Seeking to address this issue from a humanitarian perspective, Geneva Call and Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) entered into a partnership to explore the impact these devices are having on the civilian population and possible solutions to the problem.

The research will continue in 2012 and result in concrete recommendations on ways forward that can be taken by local and international actors, and the potential for Geneva Call to conduct activities.





# Philippines

Talks are ongoing between one of the main ANSAs, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)/Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF), and the Government of the Philippines. Government talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)/New People's Army (NPA)/Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) reached an impasse in 2011. Several other ANSAs, including the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement (BIFM), which split from the MILF in 2010, continue to operate as do a number of other smaller armed groups. Geneva Call is carefully monitoring these actors as they are changing the conflict landscape.

Monitoring of compliance with the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines has been maintained with all signatory groups.<sup>6</sup> Geneva Call continued to follow

up the recommendations of its 2009 Verification Mission into allegations of AP mine use by the MILF. In September, as recommended by the Verification Mission, the MILF passed a resolution to incorporate its obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines into its Code of Conduct, and issued 'General Order no. 3' to this effect (see below).

Geneva Call will now work with the MILF to ensure that this new order is disseminated within its ranks.

Geneva Call has been in regular communication to follow up with ANSA members that attended Geneva Call's 2010 workshop on improving the protection of women and girls in armed conflict and to prepare for 2012 activities.

In November, Geneva Call met in Europe with the NDFP/NPA to formally engage on the issue of sexual violence in armed conflict and to assess how the issue was being addressed in the ANSA's internal policies. The ANSA has asked to continue dialogue on the matter and agreed to comment on the relevant *Deed of Commitment* that Geneva Call will finalize in 2012.

The MILF has also contributed to Geneva Call's work on the protection of children in armed conflict, providing valuable input on their perspectives on the issue (see below). The MILF is in the process of implementing an action plan with UNICEF in this respect.

***'NOW THEREFORE, after extensive deliberation on the issue at hand and duly seconded, the body hereby unanimously resolved, as it hereby resolves, to undertake action that would integrate into the Code of Conduct of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) the MILF's adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Co-operation in Mine Action pursuant to the Deed of Commitment it signed under Geneva Call'***

Resolution adopted by the General Staff of the BIAF-MILF incorporating into the Code of Conduct of the BIAF the adherence of the MILF to the *Deed of Commitment under Geneva Call for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Co-operation in Mine Action*.

***"... It shall be prohibited to all BIAF members to own, possess, keep, use, manufacture, stockpile, utilize, victim activated Anti-Personnel (AP) Mines and other victim activated explosives anywhere and at all times."***

General Order No. 3, part of the Code of Conduct of the BIAF

***"... in respect of recruitment for regular membership in the BIAF preference shall be given to those who possess Islamic values and morality, good morale, physical and mental fitness, and maturity for those above 18 years of age at the time of induction. The same applies to training for military activities. ... The Code of Conduct likewise prohibits the admission of children into the BIAF."***

General Order No. 2, part of the Code of Conduct of the BIAF





# Activities in Colombia | Iran - Iraq - Turkey Lebanon | South Caucasus

- Geneva Call has maintained indirect dialogue with ANSAs in Colombia; and reached out to 4,500 conflict-affected indigenous people through a culturally specific Mine Risk Education (MRE) project.
- Geneva Call is working directly with ANSAs in the Kurdistan region on the protection of children in armed conflict.
- 49 young girls received psychological and educational support in Ain al-Hilweh, the most violent of Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps, and the community was sensitized to the protection of girls and women. Through training provision, Geneva Call is engaging with ANSAs in the camps.
- Geneva Call has commissioned research to better understand the dynamics of conflict-related violence against women and girls perpetrated by ANSAs in Colombia.

## Colombia

The Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC-EP - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army), the Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN - National Liberation Army), and other groups continue to use AP mines, mostly improvised mines. Though casualty numbers by year appear to be declining, there were more than 500 landmine and ERW casualties in 2010, for the most part civilians.

ANSAs in Colombia are known to recruit and use children in combat, and according to the 2011 report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict these included the ELN, the FARC and paramilitary groups such as the Águilas Negras, Rastrojos, Paisas and Urabeños. Sexual violence is also a serious concern. The new paramilitary/post-demobilization groups and both guerrilla groups have committed acts of sexual violence. In 2011 Geneva Call worked with the Gender School of the University of Bogotá to map these practices in order to better target specific interventions in 2012.

Geneva Call engaged indirectly with the FARC and the ELN during the year notably on the question of landmine use and recruitment of children. Neither ANSA is willing to sign the *Deeds of Commitment*,

and little change in their behaviour towards civilians was noted in 2011. Nevertheless it is an important measure of continued progress for Geneva Call that not only is it possible to maintain communication and dialogue, but Geneva Call's work has been allowed to continue without obstruction by the ANSAs. Geneva Call's indirect engagement with ELN was maintained through email, letter and telephone. Geneva Call is also permitted by the Government to meet the spokesperson of the ELN in high-security prison. Communication with the FARC took place through other channels including grassroots organization Colombianos y Colombianas por la Paz.

The year also saw improvements in developing other channels for indirect engagement with the ANSAs. For example, in August, Geneva Call was invited to highlight the issue of civilian protection in the conflict during a national peace event in Barrancabermeja. The event was welcomed by the ELN and the FARC, and afforded Geneva Call new indirect channels to ANSA units operating in the Northeast of the country. In September, Geneva Call made an assessment of the opportunities to develop its activity in the conflict-affected border regions of the Northeast, specifically Arauca and Norte de Santander. The improved knowledge and understanding of ANSAs' policies and

practices gained from the assessment lays the groundwork for programme development in 2012.

Geneva Call works with and through indigenous populations, civil society, media and social communicators, to build knowledge and capacity and to provide these audiences with the tools they need to protect themselves in regards to landmine use, child recruitment and sexual violence in the armed conflict. 2011 saw preparations made for in-depth training sessions on these themes, to be held in the departments of Cauca, Nariño, Putumayo, and in Bogotá in 2012. The volatile conflict situation and the approach of some ANSAs to the population's efforts to protect itself can expose communities, civil society partners and field staff to risks at the local level. It is Geneva Call practice to assess and manage these risks together with partners and project staff, and to fully involve the local communities in the process.

Towards the end of the year, Geneva Call started to prepare to move its Cauca office to Bogotá, in order to manage future operations at both ends of the country, and to strengthen its administrative and coordination capacity.



### **Successful conclusion of the first phase of an innovative MRE project**

Landmines affect the survival, identity, culture and lifestyle of the indigenous peoples in Colombia. Through a particularly culturally specific approach Geneva Call created a sustainable and effective Mine Risk Education (MRE) project, fostering ownership amongst the indigenous organizations taking part. This innovative MRE project was initiated in mid-2010, reaching out directly to at-risk indigenous peoples in Cauca, Nariño and Putumayo. The first phase of the project was completed in August 2011, and the indigenous organizations have continued providing MRE on their own since then. The project has reached 4,560 people in affected areas across the three departments.

A first evaluation, conducted soon after project end, has shown that a high level of ownership has developed within the indigenous organizations. There is some evidence that at-risk communities are adopting safer behaviours than previously, for example not walking at night (when ANSAs lay mines), and not foraging in camps deserted by ANSAs. Further project impact will be considered by a forthcoming Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices survey.

In November, Geneva Call and the indigenous organizations that took part presented the project and lessons learned at a meeting in Bogotá. The project lessons were met with keen interest by an audience of mine action NGOs and organizations working with the indigenous peoples, and notably the Presidential Program for Mine Action (PAICMA). The lessons learned are available in summary in Spanish and English at <http://www.genevacall.org/Evaluations/Evaluations.htm>. The full evaluation report is available in Spanish only.



# Iran | Iraq | Turkey

There are seven ANSAs operating from the mountainous region of northern Iraq, of which Kongra GEL/HPG/PKK and the Iranian ANSA, Party for Freedom and Life in Kurdistan (PJAK), are active.

The Kurdistan People's Congress (Kongra-Gel/People's Defence Forces/HPG), often known as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), has been in armed struggle against the Government of Turkey and its armed forces for the past 30 years. This conflict intensified during the second half of the year, and security concerns delayed the programming of some of Geneva Call's activities. The PJAK continues operations and launches occasional attacks against Iranian Government targets. Several other ANSAs in opposition to the Islamic Republic of Iran have suspended military operations under a unilateral cessation of hostilities. In addition to this on-going conflict environment, the political and military crisis in Syria has also affected the region. Geneva Call will maintain a close watch on the situation in Iraq following the withdrawal of US forces from the country at the end of 2011.

All seven ANSAs in the region are signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. Geneva Call's obligation to monitor compliance with the *Deed* is carried out through direct and voluntary reporting, discussions in the field, and the systematic checking of Kurdish and Turkish media and official Government statements. Geneva Call continued to monitor compliance throughout 2011 by Kongra-Gel/People's Defence Forces/HPG, the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI); the Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iran (KDPI); the Komalah-Kurdistan's Organization of the Communist Party of Iran; the Komala Party of Kurdistan; the Komala Party-Iranian Kurdistan, and the PJAK. Though most of these ANSAs have temporarily suspended their armed operations in Iran, nevertheless they are continuing military training.

## Engagement on child protection

Geneva Call started dialogue with the PKK in 2010 on the issue of child protection, and met with high-level representatives in Europe and in Kurdish areas during 2011 to formally present and exchange views on the *Deed of Commitment on the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*.

In May, Geneva Call brought together 20 members of the PDKI, the Komala Party of Kurdistan, Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan, Komalah – The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party – Iran to discuss their legal obligations towards children, and the *Deed of Commitment* and its annotation which had been translated into Kurdish. Geneva Call also presented the *Deed* to PJAK later in the year as this ANSA had been unable to attend the May meeting. Through these meetings, discussions and workshops during the year, Geneva Call provided a significant amount of information, education and training on the legal obligations of the ANSAs to protect children in armed conflict. Geneva Call hopes that this engagement will result in several of the groups considerably modifying their codes of conduct and military rules to provide greater protection to children, and agreeing to sign the *Deed of Commitment* during 2012.

## Dialogue on gender issues

Geneva Call took a more indirect approach on the issue of gender during 2011, and chose to focus its initial contact with the women's movement. The organization held a focus group discussion and bilateral meetings in Europe. The focus group discussion brought together women from the Kurdish women's movements in Europe and identified next steps for dialogue with these movements both in Europe and in northern Iraq. A follow-up meeting in northern Iraq is planned for 2012. These discussions will contribute to the development and finalization by Geneva Call of the *Deed of Commitment on the prohibition of sexual violence and towards the elimination of gender discrimination*.

In 2011, Geneva Call also engaged more directly with the PKK and its armed wing on humanitarian norms in general. Key points of IHL were translated into Turkish to convey appropriate messages to the ANSA membership and indirectly influence implementation and thus behaviour in armed conflict. It may be useful to note that Geneva Call's engagements take place through the ANSA's direct and indirect representatives in Europe and in Iraq.<sup>9</sup>

## Mine Action in northern Iraq

In 2002, the two main political movements of the region, the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. In 2006 they joined together to form the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) within the Republic of Iraq, which acceded to the APMBC in 2007.

During 2011, Geneva Call worked with concerned parties, notably the ANSAs and the mine action authorities of the KRG, seeking to create the necessary space to allow humanitarian mine action to take place in restricted areas of the region. The communities living in these areas are heavily impacted by landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), and have received little assistance due to the conflict situation. With the approval of the national mine action authorities and the ANSAs operating in the affected zones, Geneva Call hopes to move this question forward in 2012 in partnership with local mine action organizations.



# Lebanon

The multi-party al-Kifah al-Musallah is the internal security force that polices the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Of these camps, the worst affected by significant levels of armed violence is Ain al-Hilweh which houses over 66,000 refugees in an area of 2 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2010, Geneva Call provided a first round of information sessions addressing the legal obligations of al-Kifah al-Musallah in a pragmatic way, sensitive to the difficult and complex operating environment in which it works. Geneva Call's objective in providing this training is that improved knowledge and understanding of its obligations will help to ensure that the ANSA provides better protection to civilians in situations of armed violence. Following this initial project, al-Kifah al-Musallah asked Geneva Call for further training on its obligations in the use of force and firearms in security operations. During 2011, Geneva Call gave four training sessions based on this complex

situation and tailored to these needs in two of the camps : Ain al-Hilweh and Beddawi. Key commanders took part, and told Geneva Call afterwards that the course had provided them with new insights into their own responsibilities regarding the use of force and how it impacts on civilians.

A unique project was launched in late 2010 by Geneva Call and its local partner Nashet Association: The *Palestinian Girls' Club*. Since then, and through 2011 and beyond, the *Girls' Club* has provided a safe and accepted space for girls aged between 7 and 15 from the most vulnerable families from within the refugee population, where they can find safety, warmth, educational, social and psychological support. At the end of 2010, the project was providing for 37 girls though the original plan was to support just 25. Due to the extraordinary need for such services, and the demand

from parents, 12 more girls aged from 7 to 9 years old have been accepted into the programme. The team has measured greater interaction between the children and an improvement in their attitudes and behaviours. The project is also sensitizing the girls on the subject of children's and women's rights. It is gently raising awareness on these matters amongst their families, and by involving the families it helps to increase knowledge and understanding of girls' and women's rights within the wider community.

This type of project may appear to be outside Geneva Call's central focus, however it is affording the organization a degree of confidence amongst ANSAs in the camp, which leads to continued and developing engagement for the longer term. Enabling such projects indeed helps Geneva Call, albeit indirectly, to achieve its core mission.

During the year, Geneva Call has also maintained dialogue with other ANSAs operating in the camps in Lebanon. Geneva Call enjoys good partnerships with local actors pursuing a shared vision of ANSA compliance with and ownership of international humanitarian norms. Currently Geneva Call is seeking more direct engagement with some of the ANSAs on the question of protection of civilians:

***“In meeting with Geneva Call, Chakib Al-Aina, Head of Political Relations, stressed the important role Islamic Jihad plays in maintaining security in the camp ... He concluded that the movement would consider Geneva Call's [project of a workshop on humanitarian norms] and maintain contact with the forces in the camp in order to coordinate points of view ... and that Islamic Jihad continued to welcome the prospect of a workshop [to be given by Geneva Call] in line with its humanitarian principles and concepts.”***

Chakib Al-Aina, Head of Political Relations, 6 February 2012 Edited from Al Quds News



# South Caucasus

Geneva Call continued its engagement with the *de facto* authorities of Abkhazia on the AP mine ban, and the question of child recruitment. Meetings were also held during the year with delegates of Abkhazia to the Geneva International Discussions on Georgia. Geneva Call is also maintaining dialogue with civil society partners and interlocutors in South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh.

Geneva Call's survey on the *Socio-economic needs of war survivors and other persons with disabilities in South Caucasus* was finalized and published in 2011. The report facilitated fundraising for a project to assist landmine survivors conducted by a specialized local NGO. The project will provide physical rehabilitation for landmine victims and contribute to capacity building in rehabilitation for the implementing NGO. While it is not Geneva Call's main area of focus, facilitation of this kind of humanitarian assistance has helped build confidence with the *de facto* authorities

in the region, and establish relationships for the longer term.

In preparation for future activities, Geneva Call also completed an analysis of policies related to child recruitment and military conscription in Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia. Policies and practice were reviewed against the standards of international law in regards to child protection in armed conflict.

Throughout the year, Geneva Call monitored the political and military situation in the South Caucasus region and in Moldova, including Transnistria/Pridniestrovie. Geneva Call also completed an analysis of the policies and practices of the *de facto* military forces regarding the recruitment of children, child rights, and issues of gender. The study also evaluated how they took into account international humanitarian and human rights standards applicable in armed conflict.

The funding priorities of donors differ from Geneva Call's operational priorities in the Caucasus, and so activities in this region have sadly been suspended for 2012. This move hits hard in that the landmine and ERW situation remains of great concern across the Caucasus.

Geneva Call's focus is of course the compliance of *de facto* authorities with international humanitarian norms to bring about improved protection of civilians, and Geneva Call wishes therefore to see the fullest implementation of international standards. This naturally includes support to victims of armed violence through its partners in the field. In addition, serious issues of trafficking of women in the region mean that legislation by the *de facto* authorities is urgently needed. Without clear legislation, implementation is moot.





# 42 signatories to the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines (at June 2012)

## AFRICA

### Burundi

- Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (CNDD-FDD)

### Somalia

- Banadiri
- Hiran Patriotic Alliance/Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council (HPA/SRRC)
- Jowhar Administration
- Juba Valley Alliance (JVA)
- Puntland State of Somalia
- Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA)/SRRC (faction of Col. Hassan Mohamed Nur "Shatigudud")
- Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) (faction of Sheikh Adan "Madobe")
- Somali African Muki Organization (SAMO)/SRRC/Nakuru
- Somali National Front (SNF)/SRRC
- Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM)/SRRC (faction of General Aden Abdullahi Nur "Gabyow")
- Southern Somali National Movement (SSNM)/BIREM
- Southern Somali National Movement (SSNM)/SNA/SRRC
- Transitional National Government (TNG)
- United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA)/SRRC
- USC/North Mogadishu/SRRC
- USC/SNA/SRRC/Nakuru
- USC/Somali Salvation Army (SSA)

### Sudan

- Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)
- Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A)  
SPLM/A signed the *Deed of Commitment* in 2001 before the country divided into Sudan and South-Sudan.

### Western Sahara

- Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro (Polisario Front)

## ASIA

### Burma/Myanmar

- Arakan Rohingya National Organisation/Rohingya National Army (ARNO/RNA)
- Chin National Front/Army (CNF/CNA)
- Lahu Democratic Front (LDF)
- National Unity Party of Arakan/Arakan Army (NUPA/AA)
- Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF)
- Pa'O Peoples' Liberation Organisation/Pa'O Peoples' Liberation Army (PPLO/PPLA)

### India

- Kuki National Organisation (KNO)
- National Socialist Council of Nagalim – Isac/Muivah faction (NSCN-IM)

- Zomi Re-unification Organisation (ZRO)

## Philippines

- Moro Islamic Liberation Front / Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (MILF/BIAF)
- Revolutionary Workers' Party of Mindanao / Revolutionary People's Army (RPM-M/RPA)
- Revolutionary Workers' Party of the Philippines/ Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPM-P/RPA-ABB)

## EUROPE

### Turkey

- Kurdistan People's Congress/People's Defence Forces, also known as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (Kongra-Gel/HPG/ PKK)

## MIDDLE EAST

### Iranian Kurdistan / Iran

- Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (PDKI)
- Komala Party of Kurdistan
- Komala Party of Iranian Kurdistan
- Komalah - The Kurdistan Organization of the Communist Party of Iran
- Kurdistan Democratic Party - Iran (KDPI)
- Party for Freedom and Life in Kurdistan (PJAK)

### Iraqi Kurdistan / Iraq

- Kurdistan Regional Government - Erbil
- Kurdistan Regional Government - Sulaimanya



# Communication and Public Advocacy

Recognized for its innovative and unique approach to engagement with ANSAs, Geneva Call is increasingly invited to attend and speak at conferences and workshops, and share its experience and expertise with policy makers, key decision-makers, academic and research institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, Governments and foundations. Geneva Call is also frequently requested to write articles and contribute to research projects and reports. These contributions are listed here. Further information, papers and other documentation are available at [www.genevacall.org](http://www.genevacall.org)

## Research and Publications

- **Humanitarian Impact of Landmines in Burma/Myanmar**, January 2011
- **Improving the Protection of Women and Girls in Armed Conflict. Asia Regional Workshop Report**, March 2011
- **La population Casamançaise se mobilise contre les mines - Rapport des séances de plaidoyer communautaire pour l'interdiction des mines antipersonnel, Casamance – Sénégal**. Community advocacy sessions on banning AP mines, March 2011
- **Armed non-State actors and the protection of internally displaced people**. June 2011 (co-produced with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and Norwegian Refugee Council)

## Articles

- **Engaging armed non-State actors in mechanisms for protection**. In *Armed non-State actors and displacement*, Forced Migration Review, Issue 37, University of Oxford and Refugee Studies Centre, March 2011

## Roundtables

- **Armed Non-State Actors and Forced Displacement**. Geneva, June 2011  
In collaboration with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, and with the participation of UNHCR, UNOCHA and Danish Refugee Council, Geneva Call held a panel discussion to examine the implications of engaging ANSAs on the topic of forced displacement. The event took place on the margins of the UNHCR Annual Consultations with NGOs and addressed challenges of engaging ANSAs on displacement issues (see also page 12).
- **Protection of Children in Armed Conflict: Complementary Approaches to Engaging Non-State Armed Groups**. New York, October 2011  
This roundtable took place at the IPI in New York. 41 participants, mostly representing international child protection actors and diplomatic missions, discussed the comparative advantages of different approaches to ANSAs on the issue of child protection and the different types of organizations (IO, INGO, NGO) making these approaches. HREIB, Geneva Call's partner organization in Burma/Myanmar, contributed a field perspective to the discussion. The event was very useful in raising for discussion in New York the important topic of complementarity and the limitations of the MRM process. Several actors, the President of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and IPI, all expressed interest in pursuing this discussion further.



# Statements



- **ICBL statement (with Geneva Call) on the engagement of Non-State Armed Groups to the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.** Phnom Penh, December 2011



## Other Events, Workshops and Seminars

- **Humanitarian Impact of Landmines in Burma/Myanmar.** Presentation, with DCA, of the joint publication: Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand, January 2011; All-Party Parliamentary Group on Burma, UK Parliament, February 2011; European Parliament and European Commission, Brussels February 2011
- **Armed non-State actors and the protection of internally displaced people.** Conference organized by Geneva Call and Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva, March 2011
- **Geneva Call's experience engaging armed non-State actors on sexual violence.** Presentation at the international colloquium on *Femmes et conflits armés, femmes et migrations, quelles réponses et quels défis pour le droit international humanitaire*, organized by l'Alliance pour la Migration, le Leadership et le Développement (AMLD) and the Institut International de Droit Humanitaire, Dakar, March 2011
- **Non-State Conflict Management: Opportunities and Limits of NGOs Engaging Non-State Armed Groups.** Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, and the University of Osnabrück, Berlin, March 2010
- **Improving Compliance by armed non-State Actors: Legal framework and strategies.** Danish/Finnish Red Cross workshops on IHL for humanitarian professionals, Copenhagen, March; Helsinki, April 2011
- **The work of Geneva Call.** Presentation to the Command and Staff operations course of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, June 2011
- **Improving IHL Compliance by Armed Non-State Actors: Legal Framework and Strategies.** Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) Annual Senior Officers' Security and Law Conference, Geneva, July 2011
- **Humanitarian Engagement of Armed Non-State Actors.** Presentation to *Law in Humanitarian Emergencies*, ISPI (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale), Milan, September 2011
- **Mine Action in Casamance, Senegal.** Side-event at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Convention, Phnom Penh, November 2011
- **Boosting the implementation of the EU guidelines on International Humanitarian Law.** 13th Annual EU NGO forum on Human Rights, reviewing the EU Guidelines for Engagement, Brussels, December 2011
- **Presentation of a simulation exercise.** Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection (PHAP) thematic workshop on engagement of non-State Actors, Geneva, December 2011
- **Geneva Call's experience engaging armed non-State actors.** Centre des Hautes Etudes Militaires, Paris, December 2011
- **Fact-finding missions and Commissions of Inquiry: questions of authority, mandate, standard of proof, witness protection, archives, reporting, budget and follow-up.** Panellist at Academic Platform Switzerland UN/Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Human Rights Day Conference: The UN Human Rights Council: Commissions of Inquiry, Geneva, December 2011



# Monitoring and evaluation

In line with recommendations from previous evaluations, Geneva Call has begun to adapt its planning, monitoring and evaluation processes, seeking to establish a Theory of Change approach and to develop tools to better measure and evaluate change in behaviour.

Geneva Call is operating in situations of armed conflict and other situations of armed violence, where circumstances change and actors shift positions frequently. Geneva Call therefore needs to build an intervention logic that mitigates risk when changes happen yet still defines the positive impact the programme is having.

This initiative is based on a need to continually assess, re-plan, re-position, re-think activities due to change: changes in conflict situations; the degree of openness of ANSAs, and the situations and circumstances that they operate in; changes throughout the lifetime of a project and beyond, and through the lifetime of the engagement with the ANSA. As advocacy and behaviour change take time, this approach also responds to the need to adapt to institutional donor requirements, to show results mapped over time and to contribute to internal knowledge and learning.

Geneva Call is also seeking to express its impact and achievements in a way that is more accessible and understandable to non-specialists, considering that to change behaviours of ANSAs is a long-term process taking place in a world where there is often a high expectation of rapid impact. Given that change may not result from one action but from a series or a critical mass of actions, and other external contributory factors, it is not a simple task to attribute behaviour change to any one factor, or to any one actor in the process. Monitoring impact and results is also limited by insufficient access, meaning a lack of data, and the difficulty in verifying milestones over time.

## Operational challenges

Several ANSAs engaged in 2011 stated that they would not, or could not, sign the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. There are a variety of reasons, generally political or military, why some ANSAs and some *de facto* states may be reluctant to sign Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment*. In each case, Geneva Call considered response strategies and entered into a step-by-step process so that incremental improvements could be made in terms of the application of humanitarian norms and the protection of civilians in conflict. Faced with these challenges, Geneva Call implemented other methodologies during the year including: further sensitization of ANSAs to IHL and IHRL, and to the impact of landmines; indirect approaches including capacity building amongst the civil society close to or constituency of certain ANSAs, or which may have an impact on ANSAs; and other confidence-building measures.

Interestingly, many of the ANSAs who would not commit to a landmine ban are however willing to engage with Geneva Call on the *Deed of Commitment on the protection of children from the effects of armed conflict*. However unlike with landmines, there are other advocacy actors involved, so Geneva Call has adopted a policy of strategic complementarity, focusing engagement with ANSAs where its added value is strong relative to other actors. This approach ensures that efforts are not duplicated and Geneva Call's limited resources are optimized.

In a number of cases in 2011, access remained problematic for Geneva Call, whether to the ANSAs themselves, to areas under their control, or to the countries where they operate. This made it difficult to monitor compliance and to provide appropriate direct verification in case of allegations of violation of the *Deeds of Commitment*. It also meant that, for non-signatories and new or emerging ANSAs, engagement or the initiation of new engagements proved to be sensitive or difficult to achieve directly. In such cases of restricted access, engagement and monitoring may be undertaken indirectly through third party sources, NGOs and civil society organizations, newspapers and online media.





# GENEVA CALL IS GRATEFUL TO ALL ITS DONORS AND SUPPORTERS, AND EXTENDS ITS SINCERE THANKS TO –

Governments of Australia (AusAID), Belgium, Denmark, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway and the Embassy of Norway in Thailand, Spain, Sweden (SIDA), Switzerland (Human Security Division and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation/COSUDE); the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid department (ECHO) via FSD; the City of Geneva, the City of Lancy, DanChurchAid, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, Foundation for the Future via Permanent Peace Movement - Lebanon, Loterie Romande, the Republic & Canton of Geneva, les Services Industriels de Genève, and the United Nations.

Governments of Niger, the Philippines and Senegal, and others for their continued support and facilitation of Geneva Call's work on the ground.

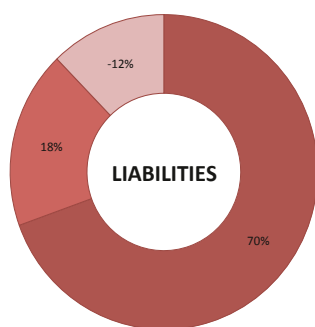
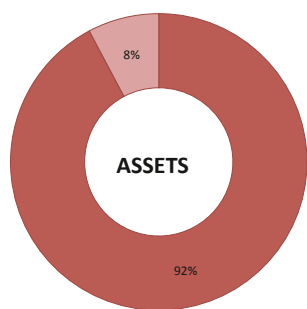
Geneva Call would also like to sincerely thank Ms. France Majoie Le Lous for her support and «*promesse tenue*», Mr. Christian Rey, Atelier Roger Pfund, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP).



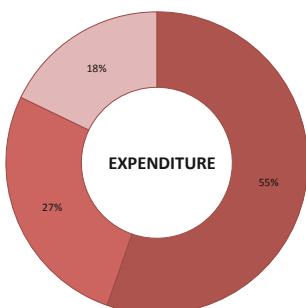
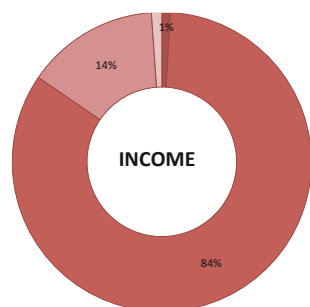
# Financial results

Over the past year, Geneva Call has sought to ensure the optimal and proper use of public funds within the context of economic recession and a downturn in grants awarded. Geneva Call is reviewing its fundraising strategy to adapt to this context.

Geneva Call's full audited 2011 accounts are available at [www.genevacall.org](http://www.genevacall.org)

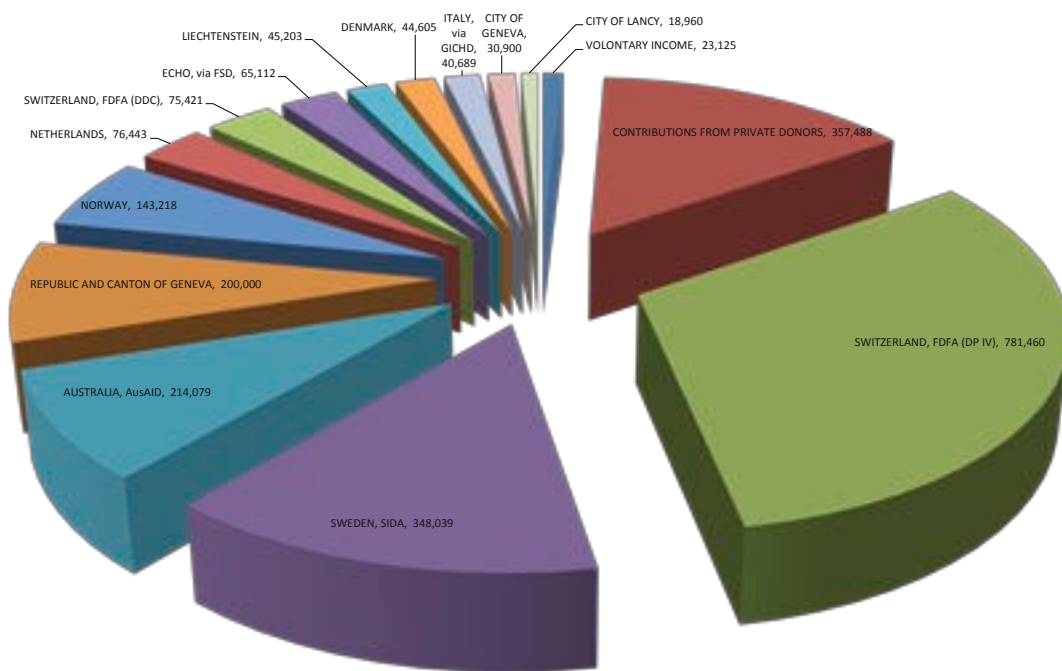


| BALANCE SHEET                  |                            | Notes | 2011           | 2010           |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>          |                            |       |                |                |
|                                | CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT     | 5     | 348,814        | 144,745        |
|                                | OTHER CURRENT ASSETS       | 6     | 7,266          | 24,492         |
|                                | RECEIVABLES                | 7     | 3,818          | 29,257         |
|                                | GRANTS RECEIVABLE          | 8     | 64,626         | 255,082        |
|                                | ACCRUED ASSETS             | 9     | 10,274         | 38,358         |
| <b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>      |                            |       |                |                |
|                                | FINANCIAL ASSETS           | 10    | 36,594         | 36,533         |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>            |                            |       | <b>471,392</b> | <b>528,466</b> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>     |                            |       |                |                |
|                                | ACCOUNTS PAYABLE           | 12    | 106,765        | 56,082         |
|                                | GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE | 13    | 322,060        | 256,116        |
|                                | ACCRUALS LIABILITIES       | 14    | 4,992          | 41,949         |
| <b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |                            |       |                |                |
|                                | LOANS                      |       | -              | -              |
|                                | PROVISIONS                 | 15    | 114,000        | 174,000        |
| <b>CAPITAL</b>                 |                            |       |                |                |
|                                | RESULT                     |       | -76,744        | -92,835        |
|                                | DEFERRED RESULT            |       | -49,681        | 43,155         |
|                                | CAPITAL                    |       | 50,000         | 50,000         |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>       |                            |       | <b>471,392</b> | <b>528,466</b> |



| STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS                 |  |    | 2011             | 2010             |
|---|--|----|------------------|------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                           |  |    |                  |                  |
|   | GENERAL DONATIONS                      | 16 | 2,492,518        | 2,533,324        |
|   | CONTRIBUTION FROM INSTITUTIONAL DONORS |    | 23,125           | 22,420           |
|   | CONTRIBUTION FROM PRIVATE DONORS       |    | 2,084,129        | 2,409,467        |
|   | OTHER OPERATIONAL INCOME               |    | 357,488          | 46,561           |
|   |  |    | 27,777           | 54,875           |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                     |  |    |                  |                  |
|   | PROGRAMMES                             | 17 | 2,614,633        | 2,671,671        |
|   | DIRECT PROGRAMME SUPPORT               |    | 1,447,123        | 1,268,991        |
|   |  |    | 700,474          | 815,147          |
| <b>OPERATIONAL EXPENDITURES</b>         |  |    | <b>2,147,597</b> | <b>2,084,138</b> |
|   | COMMUNICATION & MANAGEMENT             | 18 | 390,128          | 523,909          |
|   | INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT              | 19 | 76,908           | 63,624           |
| <b>RESULT FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>  |  |    | <b>-122,115</b>  | <b>-138,347</b>  |
|   | REALISED FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSS         |    | -14,629          | -45,268          |
|   | INTEREST INCOME                        |    | -                | ,780             |
|   | ALLOCATION OF RESERVE                  |    | 60,000           | 90,000           |
| <b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR</b> |  |    | <b>-76,744</b>   | <b>-92,835</b>   |

| <b>CASH FLOW STATEMENT</b>                               | <u>2011</u>    | <u>2010</u>     |
|--|----------------|-----------------|
| NET SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR                       | -76,744        | -92,835         |
| DEPRECIATION   | -              | -               |
| PROVISIONS   | -60,000        | -90,000         |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN OTHER CURRENT ASSETS              | 17,226         | -24,492         |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN RECEIVABLES                       | 25,439         | 8,429           |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN GRANTS RECEIVABLE                 | 190,456        | -45,698         |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCRUED ASSETS                    | 28,084         | -33,371         |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCOUNTS PAYABLE                  | 50,683         | -17,466         |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN GRANT CONTRACTS                   | 65,944         | 123,163         |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN ACCRUED LIABILITIES               | -36,957        | 25,109          |
| <b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>               | <b>204,130</b> | <b>-147,160</b> |
| FINANCIAL INVESTMENT                                     | -61            | 510             |
| <b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES</b>              | <b>-61</b>     | <b>510</b>      |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN LOAN                              | -              | -               |
| INCREASE / DECREASE IN EQUITY                            | -              | -               |
| <b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>               | <b>-</b>       | <b>-</b>        |
| <b>INCREASE / DECREASE IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENT</b> | <b>204,069</b> | <b>-146,650</b> |
| CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT, BEGINNING OF YEAR                | 144,745        | 291,396         |
| CASH & CASH EQUIVALENT, END OF YEAR                      | 348,814        | 144,745         |
| <b>INCREASE / DECREASE IN CASH &amp; CASH EQUIVALENT</b> | <b>204,069</b> | <b>-146,650</b> |



MAIN DONORS



## **DEED OF COMMITMENT UNDER GENEVA CALL FOR ADHERENCE TO A TOTAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND FOR COOPERATION IN MINE ACTION**

WE, the (NAME OF THE NON-STATE ACTOR), through our duly authorized representative(s),

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

*Realising* 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 of a nature to cause unnecessary suffering;

*Reaffirming* our determination to protect the civilian population from the effects or dangers of military actions, and to respect their rights to life, to human dignity, and to development;

*Resolved* to play our role not only as actors in armed conflicts but also as participants 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;

*Accepting* that international humanitarian law and human rights apply to and oblige all parties to armed conflicts;

*Acknowledging* the norm of a total ban on anti-personnel mines established by the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, which is an important step toward the total eradication of landmines;

NOW, THEREFORE, hereby solemnly commit ourselves to the following terms:

1. TO ADHERE to a total ban on anti-personnel mines. By anti-personnel mines, we refer to those devices 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 complete prohibition on all use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, and transfer of such mines, under any circumstances. This includes an undertaking on the destruction of all such mines.
2. TO COOPERATE IN AND UNDERTAKE stockpile destruction, mine clearance, victim assistance, mine awareness, and various other forms of mine action, especially where these programs are being implemented by independent international and national organisations.
3. TO ALLOW AND COOPERATE in the monitoring and verification of our commitment to a total ban on anti-personnel mines by Geneva Call and other independent international and national organisations associated for this purpose with Geneva Call. Such monitoring and verification include visits and inspections in all areas where anti-personnel mines may be present, and the provision of the necessary information and reports, as may be required for such purposes 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 under the foregoing paragraphs, including measures for information dissemination and training, as well as disciplinary sanctions in case of non-compliance.

5. TO TREAT this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms, particularly of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field practice as well as to the further development of humanitarian norms for armed conflicts.
6. This *Deed of Commitment* shall not affect our legal status, pursuant to the relevant clause in common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.
7. We understand that Geneva Call may publicize our compliance or non-compliance with this *Deed of Commitment*.
8. We see the desirability of attracting the adherence of other armed groups to this *Deed of Commitment* and will do our part to promote it.
9. This *Deed of Commitment* complements or supercedes, as the case may be, any existing unilateral declaration of ours on anti-personnel mines.
10. This *Deed of Commitment* shall take effect immediately upon its signing and receipt by the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva which receives it as the custodian of such *deeds* and similar unilateral declarations.



## DEED OF COMMITMENT UNDER GENEVA CALL FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM THE EFFECTS OF ARMED CONFLICT

WE, (name of signatory), through our duly authorized representative(s),

*Concerned* with the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on the physical and mental development of children and the long-term consequences this has for human security, durable peace, and development;

*Affirming* our determination to protect the civilian population, in particular children, from the effects or dangers of military actions, and to respect their right to life, to human dignity, to education and to development, with the best interest of the child as a primary consideration;

*Recognizing* that children associated with armed forces are at particular risk of exposure to attacks by opposing forces;

*Taking due account* of the varying standards within international law instruments providing special protection for children affected by armed conflict, in particular the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, and *determined* to clarify our responsibilities on the recruitment and use in hostilities of persons under 18 years of age;

*Mindful* that the Statute of the International Criminal Court criminalizes the act of conscripting or enlisting children under the age of 15 years into armed forces or groups or using them to participate actively in hostilities;

*Rejecting* the notion that any cause, for whatever reason, may justify unlawful treatment of children in armed conflict;

*Accepting* that international humanitarian norms apply to and oblige all parties to armed conflict;

*Stressing* that the present Commitment protects all children, both girls and boys;

*And understanding that for the purposes of this Deed of Commitment:*

“children” are defined as persons under the age of 18, and where there is doubt as to whether a person has reached the age of 18, (s)/he will be treated as a child;

HEREBY solemnly commit ourselves to the following terms:

1. TO ADHERE to a total ban on the use of children in hostilities.
2. TO ENSURE that children are not recruited into our armed forces, whether voluntarily or non-voluntarily. Children will not be allowed to join or remain in our armed forces.
3. TO NEVER COMPEL children to associate with, or remain associated with, our armed forces. By associate, we mean any type of direct or supporting activity whether combat related or otherwise. In the event that children have been compelled to do so, they will be released at the earliest possible opportunity in accordance with Article 6 of this *Deed of Commitment*.
4. TO ENSURE that children do not accompany our armed forces during our military operations and to take all feasible measures so that children in areas where we exercise control are not present during military operations.
5. TO TREAT humanely children who are detained or imprisoned for reasons related to the armed conflict, in accordance with their age and gender specific needs, recognizing that deprivation of liberty may be used only as a



measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time. The death penalty will not be pronounced or executed on a person for any offense committed while a child.

6. The release or disassociation of children from our armed forces must be done in safety and security, and whenever possible, in cooperation with specialized child protection actors.
7. TO FURTHER ENDEAVOUR TO PROVIDE children in areas where we exercise authority with the aid and care they require, in cooperation with humanitarian or development organizations where appropriate. Towards these ends, and among other things, we will:
  - i) take concrete measures towards ensuring that children have access to adequate food, health care (including psycho-social support), education, and where possible, leisure and cultural activities;
  - ii) protect children against sexual and other forms of violence;
  - iii) facilitate the provision of impartial humanitarian assistance to children in need;
  - iv) facilitate efforts by impartial humanitarian organizations to reunite children with their families;
  - v) avoid using for military purposes schools or premises primarily used by children.
8. TO ISSUE the necessary orders and directives to our political and military organs, commanders and fighters for the implementation and enforcement of our commitment, including measures for information dissemination and training. Commanders and superiors are responsible for their subordinates. In case of non-compliance, we will take all necessary measures to cease violations immediately, initiate appropriate investigations and impose sanctions in accordance with international standards.
9. TO ALLOW AND COOPERATE in the monitoring and verification of our present commitment by Geneva Call and other independent international and national organizations associated for this purpose with Geneva Call. Such monitoring and verification include visits and inspections in all areas where we operate, and the provision of the necessary information and reports, as may be required for such purposes in the spirit of transparency and accountability.
10. TO TREAT this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms, particularly of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field practice as well as to the further development of humanitarian norms for armed conflict.
11. This *Deed of Commitment* shall not affect our legal status, pursuant to the relevant clause in common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.
12. We understand that Geneva Call may publicize our compliance or non-compliance with this *Deed of Commitment*.
13. We see the desirability of attracting the adherence of other such armed actors to this Deed of Commitment and will do our part to promote it.
14. This *Deed of Commitment* complements, or supersedes, as the case may be, any existing unilateral declaration of ours on children and armed conflict.
15. Any reservation to this *Deed of Commitment* must be consistent with its object and purpose, international humanitarian law, and the minimum obligations of State parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. It must be expressed in writing upon signature and will be periodically reviewed towards attaining the highest possible respect for the rights of children. Geneva Call will be the final arbiter on the permissibility of any reservation.
16. This *Deed of Commitment* shall take effect immediately upon its signing and receipt by the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva which receives it as the custodian of such deeds.

# DEED OF COMMITMENT UNDER GENEVA CALL FOR THE PROHIBITION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Adopted by the Board of Geneva Call in June 2012

WE, (name of signatory), through our duly authorized representative(s),

*Concerned* with the life-long physical, psychological and social impact that sexual violence has on victims, their families and communities, especially in situations of armed conflict, and the threat that it presents to human security and sustainable peace;

*Affirming* our determination to protect the civilian population and other persons no longer taking part in hostilities from the effects or dangers of military operations, and to respect their fundamental rights;

*Confirming* our obligation to treat all persons taking no active part in hostilities humanely and without adverse distinction;

*Mindful* that women, men, girls and boys can be perpetrators as well as victims of sexual violence, and recognizing that women and girls are particularly targeted and face additional risks;

*Taking due account* that international law prohibits all forms of sexual violence, and recognizing that acts of sexual violence may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide;

*Resolved* to play a role in ending impunity for sexual violence;

*Recognizing* that international law requires respect for the principles of equality and non-discrimination;

*Bearing in mind* that policies and practices that discriminate on the grounds of gender, in particular those against women and girls, are conducive to other forms of violence;

*Acknowledging* the importance of participation and involvement of both women and men in decision-making processes at all levels;

*Reiterating* that international humanitarian norms apply to and oblige all parties to armed conflict;

HEREBY solemnly commit ourselves to the following terms:

1. TO ADHERE to an absolute prohibition of sexual violence against any person, whether civilian, member of State armed forces or member of an armed non-State actor.
2. TO TAKE all feasible measures towards effectively preventing and responding to acts of sexual violence committed by any person, in areas where we exercise authority.
3. TO ENSURE that persons deprived of their liberty are protected from sexual violence.
4. TO FURTHER ENDEAVOUR to provide victims of sexual violence with the assistance and support they require in order to address the impact of such violence. Towards this end, and among other things, we will encourage and facilitate:
  - i) access to services, including medical, psychological, social and legal services, in cooperation with humanitarian and development organizations where appropriate;

- ii) rehabilitation programmes and actions that facilitate social reintegration of victims;
- iii) the provision of reparations to victims.

Confidentiality of the victim(s) of sexual violence will be ensured, to the extent possible and at every stage, including in the process of reporting, making investigations, taking disciplinary measures and providing assistance to victims.

5. TO FURTHER ENDEAVOUR, in addition to our obligation to treat all persons taking no active part in hostilities humanely and without adverse distinction, to eliminate any act or practice of discrimination between men and women in our policies and processes. Towards this end, we will take concrete measures to ensure, among other things, equal protection before the law, equal enjoyment of rights and remedies, equal access to health care and services and equal access to education.
6. TO FURTHER ENDEAVOUR to ensure increased participation and involvement of women in our decision-making processes at all levels.
7. TO ISSUE the necessary orders and directives to our political and military organs, commanders and fighters for the implementation and enforcement of our commitment embodied in the present Deed, including measures for information dissemination and training. Commanders and superiors are responsible for their subordinates. In case of non-compliance, we will take all necessary measures for the immediate cessation of violations, initiate appropriate and swift investigations and impose sanctions that reflect the severity of the violation, in accordance with international standards, with a view to preventing their recurrence.
8. TO ALLOW AND COOPERATE in the monitoring and verification of our present commitment by Geneva Call and/or other independent international and national organizations associated for this purpose with Geneva Call. Such monitoring and verification include visits and inspections in all areas where we operate, the right to interview our members, possible victims and their family members without witnesses, and the provision of the necessary information and reports, as may be required for such purposes in the spirit of transparency and accountability.
9. TO TREAT this commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms, particularly of international humanitarian law and human rights, and to contribute to their respect in field practice as well as to the further development of humanitarian norms for armed conflict.
10. This *Deed of Commitment* shall not affect our legal status, pursuant to the relevant clause in common article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.
11. We understand that Geneva Call may publicize our compliance or non-compliance with this *Deed of Commitment*.
12. We see the desirability of attracting the adherence of other armed actors to this *Deed of Commitment* and will do our part to promote it.
13. This *Deed of Commitment* complements, or supersedes, as the case may be, any existing unilateral declaration of ours on the prohibition of sexual violence and on the elimination of gender discrimination.
14. This *Deed of Commitment* shall take effect immediately upon its signing and receipt by the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva which receives it as the custodian of such *Deeds*.



# Partners and Staff List

## Local Partners

### Africa

- Nova Scotia – Gambia Association, Gambia
- Saint Joseph Family Farm Centre, Gambia
- Association pour la Promotion Rurale de l'Arrondissement Nyassia – Solidarité, Développement, Paix (APRAN- SPD), Senegal
- Association Sénégalaise des Victimes de Mines (ASVM), Senegal
- Campagne Sénégalaise contre les Mines, Senegal
- Institute for Practical Research and Training (IPRT), Somalia/Somaliland
- Saharawi Campaign to Ban Landmines (SCBL), Western Sahara

### Asia

- Committee for Internally Displaced Karen People (CIDKP)
- Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament and Environmental Protection (IIPDEP)
- Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB)
- Karenni Social Welfare Development Center (KSWDC)
- United NGO Mission of Manipur (UNMM)

### South Caucasus

- Association “Inva-Sodeystvie” (AIS), Abkhazia

### Colombia

- Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Pueblo Siona (ACIPS)
- Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas Norte Cauca (ACIN)
- Cabildo Mayor Awa de Ricaurte (CAMAWARI)
- Compromiso Humano
- Escuela de Estudios de Género de la Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Bogotá)
- Escuela de Derecho Propio de los Pastos Laureano Inampué Cuatin
- Organización Zonal Indígena del Putumayo (OZIP)
- Unidad Indígena del Pueblo Awa (UNIPA)

### Middle-East

- Nashet Association, Lebanon
- Institute of Political and Moral Guidance for Palestinian National Security Forces, Lebanon
- Permanent Peace Movement, Lebanon

## International Organizations, INGOs and NGOs

- Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- Child Soldiers Initiative
- DanChurchAid (DCA) / DCA Mine Action
- Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)
- Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)
- International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Landmine Action
- Mines Advisory Group (MAG)
- Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
- Permanent Peace Movement
- Swiss Foundation for Mine Action / Fondation Suisse de Déminage (FSD)
- Swisspeace / KOFF
- UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict

## Institutes, Research Centres, Universities

- Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (ADH)
- Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
- Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
- Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva (IHEID)
- Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
- International Peace Institute (IPI), New York
- Sanremo International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL)
- Small Arms Survey (SAS)

# Regular Staff

- **Adrian Goodliffe**, Programme Officer, Africa
- **Alessio di Sanzio**, Communications & Events Officer
- **Ann-Kristin Sjöberg**, Senior Programme Officer, Latin America
- **Armelle Seby**, Programme Officer, Latin America
- **Armin Köhli**, Programme Officer, Middle East
- **Aurélie Lamazière**, Gender Issues Coordinator
- **Chris Rush**, Senior Programme Officer, Asia
- **Elisabeth Decrey Warner**, President
- **Jonathan Somer**, CANSA Coordinator & Legal Adviser
- **Judith Binzegger**, Assistant to the President
- **Karima Jambulatova**, Programme Officer, Caucasus
- **Katherine Kramer**, Programme Director, Asia, Landmines & Other Explosive Devices Coordinator
- **Latifa Benmou**, Housekeeping
- **Maud Bonnet**, Training Programme Coordinator
- **Mehmet Balci**, Programme Director, Caucasus, Middle East & Latin America
- **Nuray Acik**, Programme Assistant, Middle East & Latin America
- **Pascal Bongard**, Programme Director, Africa & Policy Advisor
- **Reno Meyer**, Programme Officer, Asia
- **Sami Ben Ayed**, Head of Finance and Administration
- **Thomas Payot**, Bookkeeper
- **Tim Carstairs**, Head of Communications and External Relations

The equivalent full-time staff level in 2011 was 16.69 as some staff work part-time. Two staff mentioned above left the organization during the year at the end of their contracts. Geneva Call thanks them for their commitment and support.

# Consultants and Local Staff

Eric Filippino, Helder da Silva Carvalho, Jason Miller

The staff of Geneva Call's local partner in Colombia, Compromiso Humano : Alejandra Miller Restrepo, Alvaro Cabrera, Carlos Alberto Guarín, Carlos Alberto Rincón, Jahison Insuasty, Julián Espinosa, Maria Teresa Calvache Henao, Yolvi Lena Padilla.

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# Board

- **Prof. Marco Sassòli**, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva
- **Priscilla Hayner**, Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors, Independent Consultant; Senior Advisor, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
- **Bertrand Reich**, Secretary of the Board of Directors, Lawyer, Member of the Geneva Bar Association
- **Prof. Vera Gowlland-Debbas**, Emeritus Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
- **Elisabeth Decrey Warner**, President of Geneva Call, Former President of the Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva
- **Tom McCarthy**, Former Senior Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Eric Sottas**, Director of the World Organization against Torture
- **Ruth-Gaby Vermot**, Former Member of the Swiss Parliament and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

**Micheline Calmy-Rey**, former President of the Swiss Confederation, joined the Board in January 2012.

# Acronyms

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| ADH        | Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights  |
| ANSA       | Armed non-State Actor  |
| AP         | Anti-personnel mine  |
| APMBC      | Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention   |
| APRAN-SDP  | L'Association pour la promotion rurale de l'arrondissement de Nyassia – Solidarité, Développement et Paix                            |
| AV         | Anti-vehicle mine  |
| BIAF       | Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces  |
| CBO        | Community-based organization   |
| CCW        | Convention on Conventional Weapons   |
| CNAMIS     | Centre National Antimines du Sénégal   |
| CNCCAI     | Commission Nationale pour la Collecte et le Contrôle des Armes Illicites   |
| CNF        | Chin National Front  |
| CPP        | Communist Party of the Philippines   |
| DCA        | DanChurchAid   |
| DDG        | Danish Demining Group  |
| DDR        | Disarmament, Demobilization & Reintegration  |
| DRC        | Democratic Republic of Congo   |
| ECHO       | Humanitarian aid of the European Commission  |
| ECOWAS     | Economic Community of West African States  |
| ELN        | Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN - National Liberation Army)   |
| ERW        | Explosive Remnants of War  |
| FARC       | Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia - Ejército del Pueblo (FARC-EP - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia - People's Army) |
| FDLR       | Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda   |
| FSD        | Swiss Foundation for Mine Action / Fondation suisse de déminage  |
| GICHD      | Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining  |
| HI         | Handicap International   |
| HPG        | People's Defence Forces  |
| HREIB      | Human Rights Education Institute of Burma  |
| HRW        | Human Rights Watch   |
| ICBL       | International Campaign to Ban Landmines  |
| ICRC       | International Committee of the Red Cross   |
| IED        | Improvised Explosive Device  |
| IHL        | International Humanitarian Law   |
| IHRL       | International Human Rights Law   |
| IMAS       | International Mine Action Standards  |
| IPI        | International Peace Institute  |
| JEM        | Justice and Equality Movement  |
| KA         | Karenni Army   |
| KDPI       | Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iran  |
| KIO        | Kachin Independence Organization   |
| KNLA       | Karen National Liberation Army   |
| KNU        | Karen National Union   |
| KNPP       | Karenni National Progressive Party   |
| KONGRA-GEL | Kurdistan People's Congress/People's Defence Forces (HPG)  |
| KRG        | Kurdistan Regional Government  |
| KSWDC      | Karenni Social Welfare Development Committee   |
| LDU        | Lahu Democratic Union  |
| MAG        | Mines Advisory Group   |
| MFDC       | Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance  |
| MACC       | Mine Action Coordination Centre  |
| MILF       | Moro Islamic Liberation Front  |
| MINURSO    | UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara  |
| MNJ        | Mouvement des Nigériens pour la Justice  |
| MNLA       | Mon National Liberation Army   |



|          |  |
|----------|--|
| MRE      | Mine Risk Education  |
| MRM      | Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism   |
| NDFP/NPA | National Democratic Front of the Philippines / New People's Army   |
| NGO      | Non-governmental organization  |
| NMSP     | New Mon State Party  |
| NPA      | New Peoples' Army  |
| PAICMA   | The Presidential Program for Mine Action (Programa Presidencial para la Acción Integral contra Minas Antipersonal) |
| PDKI     | Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan  |
| PHAP     | Professionals in Humanitarian Assistance and Protection  |
| PJAK     | Party for Freedom and Life in Kurdistan  |
| PKK      | Kurdistan Workers' Party   |
| PNLO     | Pa'O National Liberation Organisation  |
| PSLF     | Palaung State Liberation Front   |
| SLM/A    | Sudan Liberation Movement/Army   |
| SMAC     | Somaliland Mine Action Centre  |
| SNF      | Somali National Front  |
| SPADO    | Sustainable Peace and Development Organization   |
| SPLM/A   | Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army  |
| SPLM-N   | Sudan People's Liberation Movement - North   |
| SRF      | Sudan Revolutionary Front  |
| SRSG     | Special Representative of the UN Secretary General   |
| SSA-S    | Shan State Army - South  |
| TFG      | Transitional Federal Government  |
| UN       | United Nations   |
| UNAMA    | United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan   |
| UNDP     | United Nations Development Programme   |
| UNICEF   | United Nations Children's Fund   |
| UNMACCA  | UN Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan  |
| UNMM     | United NGO Manipur Mission   |
| UNSC     | United Nations Security Council  |
| UNOCHA   | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs   |
| UNOWA    | UN Office in West Africa   |



# How you can support Geneva Call

If you would like to support Geneva Call, please use the following bank details -

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Geneva Call has launched an initiative called **Actions Humanitaires**, literally a play on words as in French, actions means both stocks and shares, and action ! The designer of banknotes for many countries, Roger Pfund, created Geneva Call's **Action Humanitaire**, and the Atelier Roger Pfund helped to produce them. Individuals and corporations can now purchase a share in Geneva Call's humanitarian work, and help towards the protection of civilians in armed conflict. This share plays a role in saving human lives, the lives of women, men, children, innocent victims of wars and conflicts. It is a fair and solid investment in human beings, with a guaranteed humanitarian return.

**Actions Humanitaires** can be ordered for 1,000 CHF per share on [www.genevacall.org](http://www.genevacall.org)

Geneva Call and its staff would like to thank all donors for helping to save lives in the midst of conflict.



# Footnotes and References

1. *Landmine Monitor 2011*. Mine Action Canada: Canada, October 2011. p. 1, 12-13
2. The Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict is an informal network of over 35 States which advocates on this thematic issue towards the United Nations Security Council.
3. JEM signed the *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines in April 2012.
4. As a result of the conflict, Western Sahara is divided by a 2000 kilometre long earthen 'berm', built by the Moroccan army during the 1980s and fortified with millions of landmines.
5. "Burma says authoritarian era 'finished'" in Democratic Voice of Burma, 4th January 2012. <http://www.dvb.no/news/burma-says-authoritarian-era-finished/19449>, accessed 31st January 2012.
6. The *Deed of Commitment* signatories are the MILF, the Revolutionary Workers Party of Mindanao, the Revolutionary Workers Party of the Philippines/ Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayo Brigade (led by Nilo de la Cruz), and the Revolutionary Workers Party of the Philippines/ Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Bocayo Brigade (led by Carapali Lualhati).
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9. Geneva Call does not operate on Turkish territory.

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