

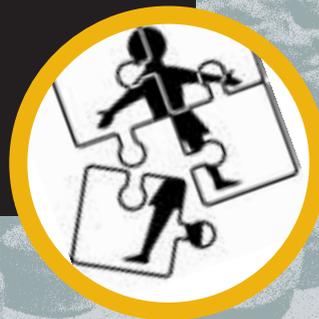
annual report 2003

Geneva CALL

APPEL de Genève

LLAMAMIENTO

de Ginebra



Contents

- 1** Message from the President
- 3** Geneva Call's mission
- 6** Highlights of 2003
- 7** Opening doors toward true Universalisation of the the AP Mine Ban norm
- 8** Indonesia/Aceh: ASNLF/GAM
- 8** Burundi: CNDD-FDD and the FNL
- 9** Colombia: ELN
- 10** Greater Horn of Africa
- 11** India/Nagaland: NSCN
- 12** Myanmar/Burma: ARNO/NUPA
- 12** Nepal: CPN-M
- 13** Sri Lanka: LTTE
- 13** Implementation of the DoC actualising the mine ban and verifying compliance
- 14** Iraqi Kurdistan: KDB and PUK
- 14** Somalia
- 15** South Sudan: SPLM/A
- 16** Networking, Advocacy, Education and Outreach
- 19** Our vision for the year ahead
- 20** Deed of Commitment
- 22** Balance sheet
- 23** Statement of incomes and expenditures
- 25** 2003 donors.
Board, directors, staff and volunteers

Abbreviations and Acronyms

5MSP	Fifth Meeting of States Parties
AP	Antipersonnel Mine
ARNO	Arakan Rohingya National Organisation
ASNLF	Aceh Sumatra National Liberation Front
CCCM	Colombian Campaign Against Landmines
CIRID	Centre Indépendant de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue
CNDD-FDD	Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (National Council for the Defense of Democracy/Defense Forces of Democracy)
CPN-M	Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist
DFAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (Canada)
ELN	Ejército de Liberación Nacional (National Liberation Army)
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
FARC	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia)
GAM	Free Aceh Movement
GHAMAN	Greater Horn of Africa Mine Action Network
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
GoSL	Government of Sri Lanka
HI	Handicap International
IACC-MA	Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action
ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IRPF/SLCBL	Inter-Religious Peace Foundation/Sri Lankan Campaign To Ban Landmines
ISC	Intersessional Standing Committee
KCAL	Kenya Coalition Against Landmines
KDP	Kurdistan Democratic Party
LA	Landmine Action
LMr	Landmine Monitor
LTTE	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MBT	1997 antipersonnel Mine Ban Treaty
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NSA	armed Non-State Actors
NSAWG	NSA Working Group
NSCN	National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Nagaland)
NUPA	National Unity Party of Arakan
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
Palipehutu-FNL	Parti pour la Libération du Peuple Hutu-Forces Nationales de Libération
PD IV	Political Division IV (Switzerland)
PUK	Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
SPLA	Sudan People's Liberation Army
SPLM/A	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army
SPM	Somali Patriotic Movement
SRRCcil	Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
USC/SNA	Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance

Message from the President



When Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* was launched in March 2000, we saw it as a straightforward response to a straightforward problem - since armed Non-State Actors (NSAs) are part of the antipersonnel (AP) mine problem, they must be part of the solution. Just as the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) committed states to ban AP mines, the *Deed of Commitment* would give NSAs an opportunity to do the same. Today, after four years of experience working with the *Deed of Commitment*, we know that the instrument we launched constitutes an important complement to the MBT and that, like the MBT, its strength is in the humanitarian principles that underlie it.

Since the very beginning of Geneva Call, the idea of persuading NSAs to support the mine ban norm has been controversial. We have worked tirelessly to convince those concerned that our mandate is humanitarian and that impartiality is one of our key working principles. Today, there is greater recognition that full universalisation of the MBT requires NSA engagement. With increasing regularity, the *Deed of Commitment* is referred to as an innovative and viable mechanism for including NSAs in the fight against landmines and against other violations of humanitarian law. Such positive feedback from states, NSAs, partners, NGOs and international organisations, confirms the value and the relevance of our work.

While there are other ways for NSAs to express their adherence to the mine ban, such as unilateral declarations which could be a first step, the *Deed of Commitment* remains the only tool that provides NSAs with support for the implementation of their obligations and includes an accountability mechanism. It has also the advantage of being internationally recognised and reflecting the highest international standards of adherence to the mine ban norm. In 2003, Geneva Call successfully engaged, with the collaboration of local NGOs and campaigns, groups from Burma, northeast India, Burundi and the Philippines. Each one of their signatures signaled an important advance for the global campaign against landmines.

2003 was also a year for confronting new challenges. In Colombia, the National Liberation Army (Ejército de Liberación Nacional, ELN) said it is not prepared to renounce the use of AP mines, though it has agreed to look at ways to reduce the number of mine victims. In Southern Sudan the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) pointed out the challenge of effecting full compliance by its rank and file, as well as the practical difficulties involved in disseminating the new policy toward landmines across vast and remote areas under its authority.

Should we break off negotiations with these groups? These are difficult and sensitive questions, as for Geneva Call there is no doubt that use of AP mines is unacceptable and that all use must be condemned. In this case, some would contend that the appropriate response is to ignore these issues, break the engagement and end the dialogue. But how can we tell the mine affected population that until there is a total and effective mine ban, we will only consider their predicament from the safety of the shores of Lake Geneva? Facing this new challenge we have chosen a different approach, one that gives primacy to the humanitarian imperative and reaffirms the absolute necessity of a total ban through ongoing dialogue and step by step measures if necessary.

For the coming year, encouraging new groups to sign the *Deed of Commitment* will continue to be a central part of our work, however, the key priority will be to strengthen the achievements already made by improving implementation and monitoring compliance among our signatories.

In this effort we are not alone. The work we do would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors who continue to have faith in our efforts. We are grateful to the many public and private donors who support us. In closing, I would also like to give special thanks to our partners and colleagues in the field, particularly the national campaigns of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), and all the staff of Geneva Call, for their dedication and commitment.



Elisabeth Reusse-Decrey
April 2004

Geneva Call's mission

Most armed conflicts today are intra-state and involve one or more armed NSAs fighting government forces or each other. As parties to these conflicts, NSAs are directly concerned by the landmine problem. Many of them produce, stockpile and use AP mines. Between 2001 and 2003, NSAs are reported to have used AP mines in at least 27 countries (see map p.4-5). People living in mined areas under NSA control, as in southern Sudan and Colombia, often face serious problems associated with mines and are left without proper humanitarian assistance. NSAs influence the mine policies of the states in which they operate - some governments cite NSA mine use as reason for not joining the MBT; others claim they are not in a position to fulfill their obligations as States Parties because they do not fully control the national territory. The cooperation of NSAs is essential to address the landmine problem. Universalisation of the mine ban norm and its humanitarian goals, codified in the MBT, requires that we involve all who use, or have the potential to use, AP mines. Because they are part of the landmine problem, NSAs must also be part of the solution.

Geneva Call is an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to engaging NSAs in a total ban on AP mines and facilitating humanitarian mine action in areas under their control. Geneva Call provides an innovative mechanism, complementary to the MBT, by which NSAs can adhere to the mine ban norm through their signature of the *“Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action.”* The Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva is the custodian for the signed Deeds. Through their signature of the *Deed of Commitment*, NSAs agree:

- To a total prohibition on the use, production, acquisition, transfer and stockpiling of AP mines and other victim-activated explosive devices, under any circumstances.
- To undertake, to cooperate in, or to facilitate, programmes to destroy stockpiles, to clear contaminated areas, to provide assistance to victims and to promote awareness programmes.
- To allow and to cooperate in the monitoring and verification of their commitments by Geneva Call.
- To issue the necessary orders to commanders and to the rank and file for the implementation and enforcement of their commitments.
- To treat their commitment as one step or part of a broader commitment in principle to the ideal of humanitarian norms.

Throughout the engagement process, and under Article 6 of the *Deed of Commitment*, NSAs come to understand that their signature does not in any way change their existing legal status. The *Deed of Commitment* complements the MBT by providing a parallel process to engage NSAs. Its aim is to hold NSAs accountable for compliance with an AP mine ban and it provides a stepping-stone toward other humanitarian norms.

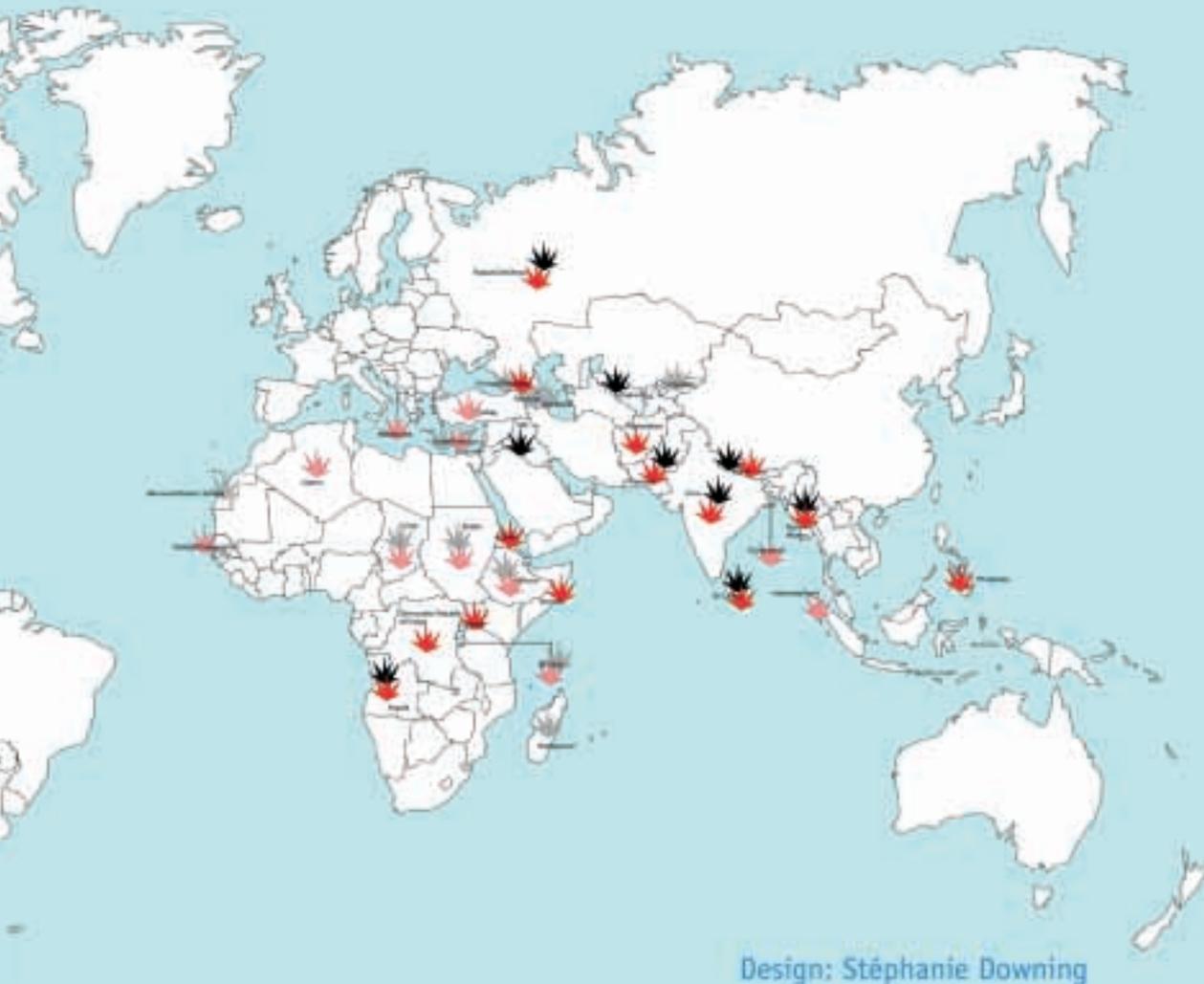
By December 2003, 25 NSAs signed the *Deed of Commitment* in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, while others have issued public statements against the use of landmines and support mine action in areas under their control.

“We reaffirm that progress to free the world from anti-personnel mines will be enhanced if non-State actors embrace the international norm established by this Convention. We urge all non-State actors to cease and renounce the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines according to the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, and to allow mine action to take place. We welcome the efforts of non-governmental organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations in engaging non-State actors on a ban on anti-personnel mines and express our appreciation for the work of these organizations as well as our desire that individual States parties that are in a position to do so facilitate this work.”

**Declaration of the Fifth Meeting of States Parties “Bangkok Declaration,”
as adopted at its last plenary meeting, Bangkok, Thailand, 19 September 2003.**



of Antipersonnel Mines 2001-2003



This information was compiled from a variety of sources, primarily the annual Landmine Monitor reports, country campaigns and various media reports.

Highlights of 2003

- Armed groups in Burma, Burundi, northeast India and the Philippines signed the *Deed of Commitment*.
- In follow-up to the signing of the *Deed of Commitment*, the SPLM/A and Geneva Call organised the first mine ban education workshop in southern Sudan.
- Geneva Call met with representatives of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and other stakeholders in Sri Lanka's mine crisis during a mission to the Vanni region.
- Somali signatory factions, through the co-chair of the Somalia Reconciliation and Restoration Council (SRRC), outlined a "comprehensive package" for mine action in Somalia at the intersessional Standing Committee (ISC) meetings in Geneva.
- Geneva Call and local partners organised workshops with experts to develop strategies for NSA engagements in the Greater Horn of Africa region.
- The NSA Working Group (NSAWG) of the ICBL and Geneva Call organised the "Looking Back, Looking Forward" workshop in Bangkok, prior to the Fifth Meeting of States Parties (5MSP).
- Geneva Call launched the exhibition "Engaging armed non-state actors in the antipersonnel mine ban" in Bangkok.



Photo Credit: UN/DP Photo

- States Parties to the MBT reiterated support for NSA engagements and the European Union (EU) urged NSAs to sign the *Deed of Commitment*.
- The *Deed of Commitment* was included in the UN "Mine Action Guidelines for Ceasefire and Peace Agreements" as a mechanism for NSA engagements, endorsed by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action (IACG-MA).

"In the revised [UN] strategy, the advocacy goal has been strengthened to include a focus on all instruments and commitments that address the landmine and unexploded ordnance problem...we have emphasized the role of non-state actors as a significant area of involvement for the United Nations, recognizing that the mine problem cannot be solved if we do not include non-state actors as part of the solution."

Notes for UN Intervention During General Exchange of Views, presented by Martin Barber, Director, United Nations Mine Action Service, Fifth Meeting of States Parties, Bangkok, Thailand, 15-19 September 2003.

Opening doors

toward true universalisation of the AP mine ban norm

In some situations, where NSAs and the state have foresworn use of AP mines, the activities of one can reinforce or guide the activities of the other. In other situations, the commitments made by NSAs to ban AP mines precede any actions taken by the state. In either situation, the engagement of NSAs in the mine ban norm supports efforts to universalise this norm.

After signing the *Deed of Commitment*, Burundi's National Council for the Defense of Democracy/Defense Forces of Democracy (Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie-Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie, CNDD-FDD) began to plan the destruction of its stockpiles, while appealing to another rebel group to ban the use of

landmines and urging the government to respect and quickly implement its obligations under the MBT.

Dialogue with the ELN in Colombia over the last year indicates that there is potential for mine action to evolve further in areas the group controls. Geneva Call's discussions with the ELN are encouraged and facilitated by the Colombian government, local NGOs, national and international agencies, and the communities affected. The ELN will not commit to a ban at this time but, as a first step, it has agreed to warn civilians when mines are used and to allow mine action programmes in one area under its influence.

Recent commitments made by armed groups in Burma may be seen as the first in support of the prohibition of AP mine use in the country. The first signatory group in India, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Nagaland) (NSCN), is actively engaging other NSAs in discussion of the mine ban norm and the *Deed of Commitment*.



Indonesia/Aceh:

ASNLF/GAM

In March, Geneva Call had its first meeting with the Aceh Sumatra National Liberation Front/Free Aceh Movement (ASNLF/GAM) political leaders in Stockholm, Sweden. Initial contact with ASNLF/GAM was established in July 2002 through a GAM military spokesman.

GAM, the military wing of the ASNLF, denied allegations of use of AP mines or improvised explosive devices (IED) and says it has never used AP mines. When presented with reports of the allegations, ASNLF/GAM officials invited Geneva Call to Aceh to investigate. "We are fighting a guerilla war in villages, around villages and on the roadsides, if we use antipersonnel mines we are committing suicide," one official said. "Our soldiers have family in the villages. If we use mines, we kill our own wives and children. It is unthinkable for us to use them." Following the Government of Indonesia's declared state of military emergency in May, all visits to the area were stopped and international observers withdrawn. Geneva Call has been unable to visit Aceh.

At the request of ASNLF/GAM, a second meeting was held in July while political leaders were in Geneva. Officials continued to deny allegations of use and said that while signature of the *Deed of Commitment* was a consideration, it was not possible to sign at the time because the political situation and the state of emergency prohibited independent assessment and verification missions and

further consultation with its military commanders. Geneva Call continues to encourage the ASNLF/GAM to publicly declare its policy of non-use of AP mines and seeks continued discussion with its political and military leaders on any aspect of the issue.

Burundi:

CNDD-FDD and the FNL

On 15 December, following lengthy negotiations with Geneva Call and its local partner the Centre Indépendant de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue (CIRID), the CNDD-FDD signed the Deed of Commitment. The signing ceremony took place in Geneva and was attended by Burundi's Ambassador to Switzerland. While the CNDD-FDD commitment was made after it signed a power-sharing agreement with the transitional government of Burundi, it is nonetheless significant because the CNDD-FDD maintains control over its own troops. General Secretary Hussein Radjabu admitted past mine use and said the CNDD-FDD was ready to take a leading role in the mine ban and to cooperate with mine action organisations, starting with information sharing regarding mined areas. "The commitment we are making today reflects our will to renounce the use of AP mines and to take all measures to respect and ensure respect for the MBT, by which we will be bound as soon as our fighters integrate with the new Burundi National Defence Forces," he said. On their return to Bujumbura, the CNDD-FDD organised a press conference announcing its

commitment and to urge the government to implement the MBT, which it ratified in October. Plans for stockpile destruction with the assistance of the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action are underway. Geneva Call also met several times with a smaller Burundese rebel group, Parti pour la Libération du Peuple Hutu-Forces Nationales de Libération (Palipehutu-FNL), which is still fighting the government. Meetings involved senior political and military officials Augustin Ntawogeza, the movement's commissioner for external relations, and Ibrahim Ntakirutimana, the FNL chief of staff. In November, the Palipehutu-FNL stated its intent to sign the *Deed of Commitment* after consultation with its constituency.

Photo credit: G. d'Onge 2003



Hussein Radjabu, General Secretary of the CNDD-FDD, Elisabeth Reusse-Decrey, President of Geneva Call and Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the GICHD.

Beginning in 2003, the official signing of the Deeds of Commitment have taken place in the "Salle de l'Alabama" in Geneva, courtesy of the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva. This is the same historic room where the First Geneva Convention was signed in 1864.

In November, Geneva Call conducted a field mission to Bujumbura, primarily to pursue engagement work with the CNDD-FDD and Palipehutu-FNL, but also to consolidate relations with other stakeholders in the country concerned with the landmine issue. Geneva Call met with officials of the government, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General of the UN for Burundi, the Joint Ceasefire Commission, UNICEF, OCHA, ICRC, HI-Belgium, MSF-Belgium, Landmine Monitor (LM) and local NGOs.

Colombia: ELN

Geneva Call conducted two missions to Colombia in collaboration with the Colombian Campaign Against Landmines (CCCM), to explore an engagement with the ELN. In May, at the invitation of the government, Geneva Call and CCCM met with Colombian Vice-President Francisco Santos, the Colombian Armed Forces, Antipersonnel Mine Observatory, the office of the High Commissioner for Peace, UN agencies, the ICRC, Colombian NGOs and indigenous groups. Geneva Call and CCCM met with ELN spokespersons Felipe Torres and Francisco Galán, both imprisoned at the Itaguí prison in Medellín. At the invitation of the ELN, a meeting with Ramiro Vargas, ELN Central Command, was organised in Cuba.

A second mission in October involved additional meetings with ELN representatives and a trip to Micoahumado in the South Bolivar where the ELN is influential. The mission met with members of

the community and held separate meetings with army representatives in the region. The initiative to engage the ELN in the mine ban is facilitated by the government. In addition to its work with the ELN, Geneva Call is exploring through other channels an approach to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia, FARC) and has been contacted, indirectly, by the paramilitaries.

Based on these two missions, numerous meetings and discussions, Geneva Call and CCCM have developed a two-year programme of advocacy and engagement in Colombia supported by the European Commission. The programme builds on the experiences of local communities arranging humanitarian agreements with Colombian NSAs and includes components of mine action. The aim of the pilot mine action project is to provide civilians in communities directly affected by mines with the resources necessary for them to proceed with marking and mine risk education and to bring into these communities organisations specialised in assisting landmine survivors and community development.



Prosthesis manufactured in Colombia by indigenous people in areas affected by the civil war

Photo credit: Geneva Call 2003

Greater Horn of Africa

In collaboration with the Kenya Coalition Against Landmines (KCAL) and the Greater Horn of Africa Mine Action Network (GHAMAN), Geneva Call organised two workshops to inform and develop strategies for NSA engagements in the Greater Horn region. The workshops, held in Nairobi, Kenya in February and September, brought together selected experts and representatives of organisations working in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda.

Participants were selected based on their knowledge of conflicts in the region. These included Landmine Monitor researchers, national campaigns of the ICBL, UNICEF, UNMAS, NGOs working in mine action, disarmament and conflict resolution, academics and conflict analysts. The workshops explored in detail regional conflict dynamics, the characteristics of NSAs and the extent of their involvement in the landmine problem. Workshop findings contributed to Geneva Call's overall analysis of NSAs operating in the region.

A framework for engagements was developed based on discussions and an informal network of regional contacts was established. There was general agreement among participants that NSAs should be engaged individually, by country, rather than as a group. After incorporating various recommendations made during the workshops, Geneva Call initiated engagements with NSAs in Burundi and began to explore ways to engage the self-proclaimed Republic of Somaliland and Ethiopian NSAs.

Photo credit: Geneva Call 2003



Greater Horn of Africa Workshop participants

India/Nagaland: NSCN

The NSCN signed the *Deed of Commitment* 17 October 2003 and began promoting the ban with other armed groups in northeast India. The signature was the result of close collaboration with the Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines. “We see in the Deed [of Commitment] the general cause of humanity and we are glad to honour it,” said NSCN General Secretary Thuingaleng Muivah at the time of signature. “The slaughtering of innocent people by using antipersonnel mines is a crime against humanity and we are totally against this.”

Although the NSCN does not use AP mines, it is one of the largest, oldest and most influential armed group operating in India. The NSCN, acting on its commitment to promote the mine ban

norm, has initiated discussions with other less accessible armed groups, some of whom are reported to use AP and IEDs. Several have expressed an interest in following the Naga lead. Working with the Indian Campaign to Ban Landmines, the NSCN will facilitate meetings between Geneva Call and these groups to discuss the AP mine ban.

Photo credit: P. Bongard, Geneva Call 2003



NSCN General Secretary Thuingaleng Muivah signing Geneva Call's Deed of Commitment

Myanmar/Burma: ARNO/NUPA

Myanmar/Burma was one of the few countries in 2003 where both the government and NSAs actively used mines. The two main ethnic groups from Arakan State signed the *Deed of Commitment* in 2003. The signatures of the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO) and the National Unity Party of Arakan (NUPA) followed four years of engagement work by local/regional partners with support from Geneva Call. The presidents of each group said the suffering caused by landmines compelled them to sign, in spite of continued use of mines by forces under the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Both ARNO and NUPA began planning destruction of their respective stockpiles and evaluating how best to implement mine risk education in affected communities.

With more than 30 armed groups operating in Myanmar/Burma, many of whom use or are themselves affected by AP mines, the engagement was welcomed as a major step forward and one likely to encourage other NSAs in the area to take similar action.



Photo credit: Geneva Call 2003

Stockpile of a Burmese NSA

Nepal: CPN-M

Geneva Call was invited to participate in the NSAWG mission to Nepal, 8-15 June, organised by the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines. As part of the delegation, Geneva Call met with representatives of the Communist Party of Nepal – Maoist (CPN-M) as well as members of the government, Nepalese political parties, and officials of the Royal Army and police. At the time, a ceasefire between the government and the CPN-M had been in place since January 2003. The delegation called for the inclusion of language forbidding the use of mines in the Code of Conduct guiding the ceasefire agreement.

The Nepal Campaign and Geneva Call secured a meeting with senior Maoist leader Khrishna Bahadur Mahara who said he would discuss with the Maoist leadership a long-term commitment to a total ban on AP mine use through the Geneva Call *Deed of Commitment*.

Mission in Nepal, 12th June 2003

From right: Purna Showa Chitrakar
coordinator of the Nepal Campaign
to Ban landmines, Krishna Bahadur
Mahara Maoist leader,
Sol Santos Geneva Call's
regional director for Asia and Rafique
Al Islam, NVI Bangladesh



Photo credit: Nepal Mission
2003

Following the collapse of the ceasefire in August, Nepal experienced increased levels of violence. Both parties have increased mine use. The Government of Nepal has declared direct contact with the Maoists an illegal activity. Geneva Call and the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines continue to explore ways to advance the mine ban in Nepal.

Sri Lanka: LTTE

Throughout 2003, Geneva Call partnered with the Inter-Religious Peace Foundation/Sri Lankan Campaign To Ban Landmines (IRPF/SLCBL) and Landmine Action (LA) in a cross-conflict advocacy project. Directed toward the LTTE and the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL), the project aims to secure commitments from both parties to ban AP mine use, through signature of the *Deed of Commitment* by the LTTE and accession to the MBT by the GoSL. The LTTE has said it would give serious consideration to the *Deed of Commitment*, but would need to see significant progress in the peace talks before committing to a total AP mine ban. Highlights of the project include:

- A number of meetings throughout the year in Europe and in Sri Lanka with the LTTE, government and Sri Lankan Army representatives and local and international organisations involved in mine action and advocacy in Sri Lanka.
- A mission by Geneva Call to Sri Lanka in August to meet with LTTE representatives and mine action organisations and to initiate discussion of a workshop in the Vanni region for LTTE military and political wings.

One of the key issues in the peace process has been the rehabilitation, reconstruction and normalisation of life in the north and east and the resettlement of internally displaced people. There seems little doubt the engagement of both the LTTE and the GoSL in the mine ban are prerequi-

sites for continued international support of mine action in Sri Lanka. Some stakeholders are of the view that increased dialogue on the AP mine issue might further peace efforts.

Implementation of the Deed of Commitment

actualising the mine ban and verifying compliance

Some of Geneva Call's most important work involves finding ways to ensure NSA's willingness and capacity to comply with their commitments. Geneva Call provides support for implementation through organisation of workshops to help signatories disseminate their mine ban policies, facilitation of mine action planning and technical assistance, and promotes mine action in areas where NSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment*.

Geneva Call recognises the commitments made by NSAs will take time to implement and that monitoring and verification could, in some cases, be difficult. While such commitments are considered significant steps toward full universalisation of the AP mine ban norm, Geneva Call believes that the ultimate indicator of progress is not the number of signatories. Real success is gauged by the implementation of an effective ban and humanitarian mine action programmes by signatory in NSA controlled areas.

Geneva Call monitors compliance by requesting that signatories report on measures they have put in place to implement the *Deed of Commitment* and through information provided by independent local and international organisations working in the field. In cases of alleged non-compliance, onsite verification missions by Geneva Call may be undertaken.

"In this workshop, you will appraise yourselves and understand the commitments of your movement [the SPLM/A] toward international actions against the use of landmines and come up with recommendations which will make it possible for the [SPLM/A] to address the treaty obligations it has signed [under the Geneva Call Deed of Commitment], and discuss with international partners, so as to come up with best ways to save the lives of our innocent people from landmines."

Dr. John Garang, SPLM/A Chairman and Commander-in-Chief speaking to SPLA foot soldiers and commanders, Mine Ban Education workshop, Kapoeta County, southern Sudan, 29/09/2003

Iraqi Kurdistan: KDP and PUK

The Iraqi Kurdistan regional governments, led by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), signed the

Deed of Commitment in August 2002. In the period leading up to the war in early 2003, Geneva Call urged both signatories to respect their commitments and refrain from using mines during the conflict. In addition, a press statement released 24 March called on all parties in the conflict to respect the international norm established by the MBT. There was no evidence to indicate that either signatory used AP mines. The PUK and the KDP are now represented in the Iraqi Governing Council. Geneva Call is urging both groups, led by Massoud Barzani (KDP) and Jalal Talabani (PUK) to ensure the future government carries their commitments to a total ban on AP mines forward through its accession to the MBT.

Somalia

As part of its effort to promote mine action in areas controlled by NSAs who commit to ban AP mines through the *Deed of Commitment*, Geneva Call arranged for Somali faction leader Hussen Mohamed Farah Aideed to address the ISC meetings in May. Together with 14 other Somali faction leaders, Aideed, chair of the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) and a co-chair of the SRRRC, signed the *Deed of Commitment* in November 2002.

At the ISC meetings, Aideed outlined a "comprehensive package" for mine action including the formation of an indigenous clearance capacity, comprised of members of all Somali factions involved in the current peace negotiations, mapping and marking of minefields and, with foreign assistance, the

immediate clearance and destruction of mines. Abdiraschid Nur Xidig, Secretary General of the Somali Patriotic Movement (SPM), travelled with Aideed to Geneva.

Despite progress in discussions with signatory factions on implementation and assistance for mine action, an assessment mission to their respective areas continues to be delayed due largely to security concerns.

South Sudan: SPLM/A

When signing the *Deed of Commitment*, the SPLM/A identified the need for a major education campaign to strengthen compliance by the rank and file with its mine ban policy. The SPLM/A leadership requested Geneva Call's assistance in this endeavour. In September 2003, the SPLM/A and Geneva Call organised a workshop to promote greater understanding of the obligations under the *Deed of Commitment* and to develop recommendations for implementation. SPLM/A Chairman John Garang attended and stressed to field commanders and foot soldiers present the significance of the mine ban and of the *Deed of Commitment* in terms of Sudan's recovery from 20 years of civil war and the current peace talks. Other participants included local civil authorities, representatives of women's groups, youth organisations, church associations, international mine action NGOs, the ICRC, IGAD and UN agencies working in Sudan. In all, more than one hundred people participated in the two and one-half day workshop held in Kapoeta County, southern Sudan.

Some of the recommendations that emerged from the workshop include organising similar workshops for each region controlled by the SPLM/A, developing legislation and sanctions for adoption by the National Liberation Council, improve information sharing and increased transparency by the SPLM/A, particularly with regard to the locations of emplaced mines and stockpiles. Other recommendations involve identification of focal points for mine action and data collection, incorporating information about the ban and other areas of international humanitarian law (IHL) in SPLA military manuals and teachings, development of guidelines for stockpile destruction and creation of a local campaign for community-based groups and NGOs to help raise awareness of the ban and monitor its implementation.

Workshop participants qualified the scope of the ban in the recommendations stating, "*This means*



Photo credit: Geneva Call 2003

Workshop in south Sudan:

Cdr. Edward Lino, SPLM/A Director for External Security, Dr. Riek Machar, former SPDF Chairman, Lare Okungu, Geneva Call's Regional Director for Africa, Mereso Agina, KCAL Coordinator, Dr. John Garang, SPLM/A Chairman and Commander-in-Chief, Elisabeth Reusse-Decrey, Geneva Call's President and Cdr. Malik Agar Ayrie, SPLM/A Governor of Southern Blue Nile and Funj Region.

that no victim activated explosive devices are used or produced or transferred. It means that no antipersonnel mines are kept for use and it should be recognised that only antipersonnel mines rendered inoperable are to be used for training in mine clearance or other activities. While the SPLM/A and the people of South Sudan are no longer using antipersonnel mines, it does not mean that they can give these mines to others to use. All antipersonnel mines and victim activated improvised explosive devices are to be destroyed.”

Recommendations from the workshop can be found at www.genevacall.org.

Networking, Advocacy, Education and Outreach

Geneva Call attaches great importance to its efforts to inform states, the international community and the general public of the reasons and methods for engaging NSAs in the AP mine ban. Activities to promote discussion and to secure support for NSA engagements occur on many levels and in various fora. These involve civil society organisations, the general public, members of the military, government officials, academics, UN agencies, international and regional bodies and the media. Activities such as these enable Geneva Call to share its experiences, to learn from the experiences of others and to expand its network of contacts. Geneva Call experienced an increased level of interest in its work and support for engagements.

- **A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**, organised by Geneva Call with the NSAWG during the February ISC meetings, **provided states an opportunity to express their views on the engagement of NSAs in the mine ban**. Several states acknowledged the relevance of the engagement process and, in some cases, stated their willingness to facilitate it. The delegate from the Philippines said that while his government viewed enforcement of domestic and international law as the responsibility of the state, there were “practical benefits” to securing NSA support for these. Underscoring the need for governments to cooperate in verification efforts he said his own government would

“The parties to the accord should commit themselves to immediately stopping the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of mines, especially antipersonnel mines. For governments, this commitment should involve ratification of, or accession to the Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention, attached at annex three. For Non State Actors, this could involve signing the “Deed of Commitment” deposited with the Government of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, attached at annex four.”

United Nations Mine Action Guidelines for Ceasefire and Peace Agreements, Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Mine Action, 2003.

provide better support for future Geneva Call missions to verify compliance by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). An earlier effort by Geneva Call to provide independent, third party evaluation of reports alleging MILF use was compromised by access restrictions placed on foreign mission members by the Department of Defense of the Philippines. The Colombian representative acknowledged engagement with the ELN and said the government was in favour of a process of engagement that is complementary and parallel to the MBT. Noting efforts to engage NSAs in the ban are based on humanitarian needs, a member of the Italian delegation said successful engagements would require all stakeholders in the process to be apolitical and impartial. The representative of Turkey spoke against any attempt to engage the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which is designated as a “terrorist organisation.” Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), stressed that under the Geneva Conventions engagement of NSAs does not confer legal status or undermine the authority of the state(s) where NSAs operate. (February, Geneva.)

• **THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT’S (EP) WORKING GROUP ON NSAS**, created in 2002 as a result of Geneva Call’s advocacy efforts, **invited Geneva Call and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to its first meeting of 2003**. Both organisations gave presentations on their activities and appealed for support of mine action work in NSA-controlled areas. The Working Group commended Geneva Call’s efforts to engage NSAs in the AP mine ban and said the *Deed of Commitment* could serve as

an example for securing NSA adherence to other international humanitarian norms. Working Group members urged Geneva Call to become more active in other networks where the issue of NSAs is of concern. The Chair of the Working Group, Bob van den Bos, expressed an interest to take part in Geneva Call’s fieldwork, particularly during the engagement process and implementation of the *Deed of Commitment*. (March, Brussels.)

• Geneva Call was invited to make a **presentation of its work to the “ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE GUERRA”** of Colombia (March, Geneva.)

• Geneva Call’s first **NEWSLETTER** was launched in July. “NSA News” is published twice yearly and circulated widely to NGOs, the media, and international organisations whose activities may be impacted by armed groups.

• **Geneva Call was invited to participate in the “INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW IN CURRENT CONFLICTS” SEMINAR** co-sponsored by the ICRC, the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research and the Harvard Law School Human Rights Program. (July, Cambridge, Massachusetts.)

• **THE ICRC invited Geneva Call to share its experience working with NSAs at the ANNUAL BRUGES COLLOQUIUM**. The topic **“IMPROVING COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW”** attracted participants from governments, NGOs, intergovernmental bodies and academic institutions. It was the last in a series of regional expert seminars organised in

preparation for the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The *Deed of Commitment* was cited as a model for holding NSAs accountable for compliance with IHL. (September, Bruges.)

- **THE NSAWG and Geneva Call organised the “LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD” workshop to identify and evaluate lessons learned from NSA engagements in the mine ban norm.** The workshop took place in Bangkok, prior to the 5MSP in September. Ban advocates, field practitioners, representatives of the ICRC and GICHD, national campaigners and government representatives joined the one-day workshop to discuss approaches and instruments for engagement, the opportunities and constraints of engagements undertaken as part of peace processes or in parallel to them, implementation and monitoring, and other aspects of the NSA issue. Later in the week, at the ICBL General Meeting, the NSAWG recognised the *Deed of Commitment* as a “major tool” for engaging NSAs in the mine ban norm. (September, Bangkok.)

- At the annual Meeting of States Parties to the MBT, Geneva Call met with representatives of states where NSAs are active, donors and field practitioners. **STATES PARTIES REITERATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR NSA ENGAGEMENTS** in the AP mine ban and the EU encouraged NSAs to sign the *Deed of Commitment*. The representative of the EU said, “[T]he continued use of anti-personnel landmines by non-state actors continues to be a cause for grave concern. The European Union expresses the hope that all non-state actors will

cease the use of anti-personnel landmines and will sign the *Deed of Commitment* for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-personnel Mines and for Cooperation in Mine Action, as provided for by Geneva Call.” (September, Bangkok.)

- During the 5MSP, **GENEVA CALL LAUNCHED ITS EXHIBITION** “Engaging armed non-state actors in the antipersonnel mine ban.” The exhibition, comprised of 13 interchangeable panels, presents the considerations, challenges and rewards of engaging NSAs in the mine ban norm. The exhibition was well received at the 5MSP and will be featured at various events and activities in Europe over the next year. (September, Bangkok.)

- **Geneva Call participated in the fourth plenary meeting of the CIVIL SOCIETY PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR PEACE, focusing on the political aspects of the conflict in Colombia, human rights and social policies.** Among the issues discussed was adherence of Colombian NSAs to the mine ban norm through the Geneva Call *Deed of Commitment*. (October, Bogotá.)

- **Geneva Call was invited to present its work to the conference “CURBING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY NON-STATE ARMED GROUPS” organised by the Armed Groups Project, University of British Columbia.** Academics, government representatives, human rights practitioners, the ICRC and UN agencies attended. Participants discussed NSA characteristics, engagement mechanisms, legal instruments, incentives and constraints in engagements and the strengths and weaknesses of various tools to seek compliance.

There was no participation by NSAs. Geneva Call outlined its programme for engagements and the *Deed of Commitment*. (November, Vancouver.)

- **Geneva Call was invited to a meeting exploring THE ROLE OF EXILED OR DIASPORA COMMUNITIES in the transformation of conflict.** The discussions focused on Singhalese-Tamil, Kurdish-Turkish and Israeli-Arab conflicts. Geneva Call raised the issue of mines and shared its experiences with NSA engagements in some of these countries, explaining how work with NSAs contributes to confidence building and can facilitate dialogue between the parties to the conflict not only on mines but on other issues relevant to the conflict. The conference was organised by the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy, Hamburg, the Institute for Development and Peace, Duisburg, and the Berghof Center for Constructive Conflict Management. (November, Berlin.)

- **THE ICBL ARAB NETWORK OF RESEARCHERS ON LANDMINES AND EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR** invited Geneva Call to “The Risks of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War” workshop organised in cooperation with the Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services. Geneva Call advocated for engagements of NSAs in the mine ban norm and met with local NGOs to explore strategies. In its final declaration the conference noted the importance of NSA engagement in the mine ban norm. (December, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.)

- **Geneva Call organised a meeting with EP members in Brussels to update them of Geneva Call's activities and to discuss a NEW EP RESOLUTION**

on the issue of NSAs and an oral question to members soliciting support for NSA engagements in the mine ban. Parliamentarians supportive of the work of Geneva Call discussed the ways in which they can more actively support its activities. (December, Brussels.)

Our visions for the year ahead

Geneva Call will continue to work with national campaigns, international and local partners and NSAs to initiate new engagements and to follow through on current ones. The diverse natures of NSAs, armed conflicts and country situations require that we look at new and various strategies to advance engagements, maintain dialogues and strive for compliance. With this in mind, Geneva Call has planned for 2004 a meeting of women combatants in non-state armed groups to explore their role in conflict, the promotion of IHL in general and the mine ban specifically. A meeting of signatories to the *Deed of Commitment*, where participants can review the challenges of implementing their obligations, will take place in November 2004. Encouraged by others, Geneva Call will explore the possibility of expanding the *Deed of Commitment* to engage current signatories in other areas of IHL and human rights, for example, child soldiers and torture.

There is much to do and we are fortunate to be able to count on talented and dedicated partners and staff, a committed and effective Board, a hardworking and helpful group of volunteers, and generous financial supporters.

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;

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

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;

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;

“Let us continue to demand that all States cease to use, produce or transfer anti-personnel mines. Likewise the use of such weapons by non-state actors cannot be tolerated by the international community. Let me in this connection commend the Geneva Call.”

Statement by Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga, President of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, Bangkok, Thailand 15-19 September 2003.

“Geneva Call is doing what states cannot do, and if it did not exist it would have to be invented.”

Angelo Persiani, Deputy Permanent Representative, Italian Mission to the United Nations, Geneva, February 2003.

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.

Under Article 1 of the *Deed of Commitment*,

anti-personnel (AP) mines are defined as 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. This includes commercially manufactured AP mines, victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs), anti-vehicle mines that can be triggered by the weight of a person.

Geneva Call BALANCE SHEET

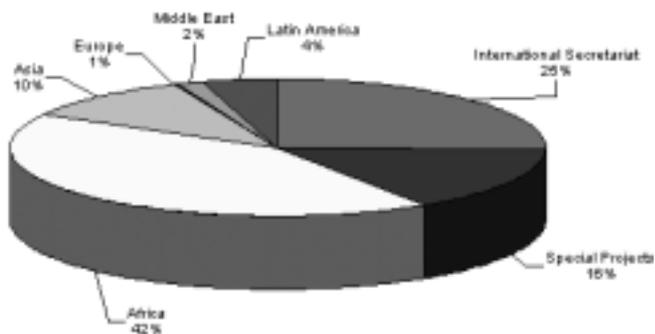
AT 31 DECEMBER 2003
YEAR 2003

Currency : CHF

Geneva, 20 April 2004

ASSETS		
CASH		267 314,61
Cash funds	4 717,39	
Postal checking account	39 272,24	
Bank UBS account	223 324,98	
OTHER ASSETS		141 485,77
Recoverable withholding tax	254,03	
Other assets	6 116,74	
Grants to be received	135 115,00	
TOTAL ASSETS		408 800,38
LIABILITIES		
CREDITORS		385 281,29
Creditors	30 000,00	
Other liabilities	186 205,70	
Grants paid in advance	169 075,59	
RESULTS		23 519,09
Balance carried forward	15 537,45	
Income surplus	7 981,64	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		408 800,38

Expenditure by project



Geneva Call
STATEMENT OF
INCOMES AND
EXPENDITURES

AT 31 DECEMBER 2003
YEAR 2003

Currency : CHF

Geneva, 20 April 2004

INCOME		990 516,63
Grants from Switzerland	387 500,00	
Grants from European Commission	228 175,00	
Grants from Republic & Canton of Geneva	158 700,00	
Grants from United Nations - UNMAS (Italy)	106 635,05	
Grants from United Nations - UNMAS (UK)	53 134,83	
Grants from City of Geneva	30 000,00	
Grants for Exhibition	20 000,00	
Grants from Canada	6 171,75	
Other grants	200,00	
EXPENDITURE		983 166,52
International Secretariat	248 335,86	
Exhibition	27 173,14	
NSA Database	14 887,55	
Handbook	2 792,11	
Government workshop	889,55	
Public advocacy	107 504,41	
Project Africa & Asia	517 501,51	
Project Europe & South America	64 082,39	
RESULTS BEFORE CREDITORS' INTERESTS AND OTHERS' INCOMES		7 350,11
CREDITORS' INTEREST AND OTHERS' INCOMES		631,53
Creditors' interest	341,90	
Others' income	289,63	
INCOME SURPLUS		7 981,64

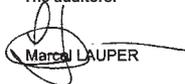
REPORT

Of the auditor of the account
for the attention to the General Meeting of the
GENEVA CALL - GENEVA

As auditors of your company we have examined the books of account and the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003 in accordance with the provisions of the law. Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

The auditors:


Marcel LAUPER

Geneva, April 30, 2004

Enclosure: Balance sheet and income and expenditures account.

The Geneva Call has succeeded in balancing its accounts for the past financial year, which is a particular source of satisfaction for us.

Nonetheless, we must remain extremely vigilant, since donors' current policy consists of exclusively financing projects. General operating costs are not, or only rarely, covered. For an organisation such as Geneva Call, this situation leaves us vulnerable, since we are working in an entirely new and unpredictable domain requiring a large amount of research and analysis that are not funded by donations. This year, we were fortunately able to rely on the support of many volunteer workers who aid us in our activities. We wish to take this opportunity to convey to them our heart-felt gratitude; the value of their contribution may safely be estimated at a total value of CHF 100,000. We also wish to thank the municipal authorities of Lancy/Geneva which covers most of the rent for our offices.

Finally, we warmly thank our donors. In addition to their vital financial assistance, they have demonstrated their confidence in the challenge we have set ourselves: that of achieving a universal ban on the use of AP mines, which binds the whole range of actors involved.

2003 Donors

City of Geneva
City of Lancy / Geneva
European Commission
Government of Canada (DFAIT)
Government of Italy
Government of Switzerland (PD IV and SDC)
Government of United Kingdom
Karl Popper Foundation, Switzerland
Loterie Romande, Switzerland
Olttramare Foundation, Switzerland
Republic and Canton of Geneva

For their support for our exhibition:

Clinique des Grangettes
Crédit Suisse
Geneva Airport – Cointrin

For logistical and administrative support:

United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)

Board

- **Elisabeth Reusse-Decrey**
Geneva Call President; former President of the Parliament of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, former co-chair of the ICBL NSA Working Group, coordinator of the Swiss Campaign to Ban Landmines
- **Eric Sottas**
Geneva Call Vice-President; Director of the World Organisation against Torture
- **Andrew Clapham**
Professor of Public International Law at the Graduate Institute of International Studies
- **Pierre Hazan**
Reporter for Le Temps and Libération
- **Tom McCarthy**
Former Senior Advisor, Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights

Staff

- **Mehmet Balci**, Regional Director - Middle East, the EU and Latin America
- **Lare Okungo**, Regional Director - Africa
- **Soliman Santos**, Regional Director - Asia (to October)
- **Pascal Bongard**, Programme Coordinator
- **Katherine Kramer**, Programme Officer & Database Manager
- **Celina Tuttle**, Advocacy and Communications Officer
- **Manuel Ayap**, Programme Assistant
- **Belinda Adhiambo**, Programme Assistant

Volunteers

- **Christine Atieno**, Programme Assistant
- **Alexandra Boivin**, Intern
- **David Bongard**, Consultant
- **Philippe Chalverat**, Information Technology
- **Simone Droz**, Intern
- **Anne-Sophie Dufetre**, Intern
- **Matteo Guidotti**, Consultant
- **Caroline Guinard**, Database
- **Britta Hajek**, Database
- **Jen Hambleton**, Database
- **Alexis Heeb**, Database
- **Carmen Iezzi**, Database
- **Agnieszka Kiraly**, Database
- **Seymour Lavine**, Database
- **Edward Maeder**, Database
- **Antoinette Masur**, Accountant
- **Fanja Rasolomana**, Consultant
- **Colette Samoya**, Database



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APPEL de Genève
LLAMAMIENTO de Ginebra



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