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## **2000/1 Landmine Update**

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The Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines was signed in Ottawa in 1997, and entered into force in 1999. Over 100 states have signed this agreement, however, major powers, such as the US, Russia, China and India, have not, due to national security concerns.i[1]

Is particularly acute in the Middle East, responses to the landmine ban initiative has been mixed. Jordan, Sudan, Tunisia, and Qatar are State Parties, and Algeria has signed but not ratified.ii[2] In 2000, following ratification, Jordan destroyed hundreds of landmines on its territory.iii[3]

The small number of signatories in the region is, to a major degree, a reflection of the continuing conflict and instability that characterizes the Middle East. A number of key states continue to have reservations, and view mines as important components in defending territory against attack. Nevertheless, the Ottawa initiative has increased regional awareness of the problem—leading a number of states, including Iraniv[4] and Israelv[5], to impose a moratorium on the sale of APMs.

### ***Second Meeting of State Parties (SMSP)***

The Second Meeting of State Parties, hosted by the International Coalition to Ban Landmines, took place in Geneva in September 2000. Middle Eastern participation was limited, reflecting the limited extent of ratification. Indeed, participants included only: Jordan; Qatar; Tunisia; Algeria; Iraq; Israel;Libya; Morocco; Oman; Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.vi[6]

Mr. Amnon Efrat, who represents the Israeli government at the Conference on Disarmament and related organizations in Geneva, attended as an observer, and issued a formal statement, noting that:

“Although Israel is not a party to the Ottawa agreement, it shares...the humanitarian values and goals of this Convention, and it is participating accordingly in the international programs of mine-awareness and rehabilitation of victims. Israel...cannot commit itself at present to a total ban on the use of APL’s, due to national security considerations.” vii[7]

Among the NGOs that received funds to send participants to the conference, a number of Palestinians, as well as individuals from Lebanon, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and Jordan were represented. The Palestinians tended to focus on anti-Israeli political propaganda, rather than the substance of the issues and efforts to develop a basis for cooperation in mine education, clearing, and rehabilitation of victims. Palestinian activists, funded by groups such as Defense for Children International, distributed hostile anti-Israeli literature, including press releases, and screened films condemning Israeli policy in which the landmine issue was only a subtext.

### ***Third Meeting of State Parties***

The Third Meeting of State Parties was held on September 18, 2001. Middle Eastern participation was sparse, reflecting the limited extent of ratification. Participants included only: Jordan, Qatar, Yemen, Algeria, Kuwait and Syria.viii[8] Israel was unable to send a representative, as the conference was held during a national holiday.

## ***Middle East Landmine Developments and Events***

### ***Egypt***

In February 2000 Egypt suspended mine clearance operations, citing lack of funding. Also in February, UNMAS conducted an assessment mission in Egypt, during which Egypt informed the UN that it did not produce or export antipersonnel mines. In April 2000, Egypt formed a national committee for mine clearance. ix[9]

The negative Egyptian attitude to the landmine convention was expressed in the Arab Regional Conference on Landmines that was held during April in Cairo under the auspices of the National Middle East Studies Center. During the conference, the Egyptians worked to ensure that the conference recommendations did not mention the Mine Ban Treaty, but included an endorsement of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) as the appropriate forum to discuss the landmine issue. Members of the ICBL (International Coalition to Ban Land Mines) who were in attendance expressed concern that the views of the pro-treaty Arab countries and regional NGOs were not reflected in the concluding statement. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry claimed that the government had not participated in organizing the conference, but this claim lacked credibility. x[10]

On the final day of the conference, the ICBL stated that it:

“Deplored the manipulation of the Final Declaration of the regional conference on landmines and called on Egypt and all non-signatory countries to follow the true path to the ban on antipersonnel mines by joining the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty...The ICBL wishes to disassociate itself from this conference and its recommendations which included approval of the continued use of antipersonnel mines and which called for negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament.” xi[11]

### ***Iraq***

In mid-2000, the UN stated its concern over freshly laid mines that had been discovered in (previously) cleared minefields in Northern Iraq. However, the UN did not identify the mine user, thought to be the PKK Kurdish terrorist organization. xii[12]

### ***Israel***

On August 24, 2000, the Israeli government ratified the amended Protocol 2 (and 4) of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). xiii[13] Protocol 2 of the CCW details the prohibitions and limitations of AP and AT ground (laid) mines, as well as mines dispersed by air and artillery units. Prior to ratification, Israel implemented the provisions of the amended Protocol 2 on a de-facto basis, particularly in the area of mandatory marking and fencing of landmines. xiv[14] In March 1995, Israel acceded to the CCW by ratifying both Protocol 1 (non-detectable fragments) and Protocol 2 (on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices). xv[15] In addition, Israel endorsed the new Protocol 4 on blinding laser weapons.

Israel has been active in responding to the humanitarian problems caused by APL's, and offers assistance to mine-affected countries in the following areas: mine surveys; mine awareness activities; transfer of mine clearance equipment; cooperation in medical and social rehabilitation; and contributions to the Database of Technological Information. xvi[16] Israel has also provided funding to the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance, and has held and hosted an international workshop on the rehabilitation of mine victims. xvii[17] In addition, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs operates a joint landmine assistance program with Canada in Guatemala. xviii[18]

The veracity of reports regarding Israeli policies have been the source of conflict involving Israel and the ICBL. xix[19] In its 2001 report, Landmine Monitor published a number of unsubstantiated claims of Israeli landmine use in the Palestinian Authority areas. These allegations included a report (which Landmine Monitor noted it could not verify) from the

Palestinian National Security Information Center, which alleged that since December 2000, the IDF had planted antipersonnel landmines in areas within "Zone A" in the Gaza Strip, as well as in close proximity to Israeli settlements and military sites. In response, Meir Itzhaki, of the Israeli Arms Control Division, Regional Security and Arms Control Department, Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated in a July 31 letter to Landmine Monitor, that the allegation "is completely untrue and unfounded and is nothing more than propaganda."<sup>xx[20]</sup>

In addition, Landmine Monitor published claims from the Palestinian group known as Al-Haq<sup>xxi[21]</sup> that Israeli forces had planted landmines<sup>xxii[22]</sup> in proximity to an IDF outpost near the village of al-Khader<sup>xxiii[23]</sup>, which allegedly exploded next to a house on April 30th when set off by a dog.<sup>xxiv[24]</sup> The affected homeowner alleged that Israeli forces did not fence or mark the area, and claimed that his family (as well as local villagers) was not permitted to put up a protective fence or warning signs.<sup>xxv[25]</sup> However, according to Meir Itzhaki, "Minefields laid by the IDF are, as a matter of routine, fenced and warning signs in Hebrew, Arabic, and English are placed" Itzhaki also noted that "Israel has decided to become party to the Amended Mines Protocol II despite the unique circumstances prevailing in the Middle East...Israel fulfills its obligations to the fullest extent, and strongly rejects allegations to the contrary."<sup>xxvi[26]</sup> Instead, the explosion might have been caused by bombs prepared by Palestinian groups that pre-detonated or were left for later use.

Landmine Monitor also reported an allegation from a Palestinian Authority Security Forces officer who claimed that civilians attempting to remove a blockade in the northern West Bank had discovered antipersonnel mines buried in the blockade.<sup>xxvii[27]</sup> In response to a letter from the General Director of the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel on the issue, and IDF lawyer stated that the matter had been referred to central command officers responsible for the area. In addition, the IDF lawyer noted that the minefield near Abu Daif had been planted by the Jordanian army during the 1967 war, and though the minefield had been previously cleared, the landmines discovered in the area originated from the Jordanian minefield.<sup>xxviii[28]</sup>

Palestinian allegations of Israeli landmine use have also been cited in the Boston Globe. After publishing these allegations, the Boston Globe issued a formal retraction, noting "an editorial July 10 implied that, in the current Middle East conflict, Israel is place mines in areas where Palestinians live. This claim is not substantiated."<sup>xxix[29]</sup>

### **Lebanon**

Southern Lebanon has been a source of terror and frequent cross-border attacks for decades, and in its efforts to prevent infiltration and attacks, the Israeli military has made use of landmines.<sup>xxx[30]</sup> In May 2000, Israel unilaterally implemented UN resolution 425 by withdrawing all of its forces from Lebanon and ending support for the South Lebanese Army. Following the redeployment along the international border, Israel gave the UN detailed maps delineating the Israeli planted minefields in south Lebanon, enabling UNIFIL forces to remove them.<sup>xxxi[31]</sup> Swedish mine-clearing teams in Lebanon (working after the withdrawal) have reported that these maps are accurate, and that they have "full cooperation" from the Israel Defense Force liaison.<sup>xxxii[32]</sup> By November 14th, the UN reported that it had cleared 1,520 mines.<sup>xxxiii[33]</sup>

After IDF officials provided UNIFIL with all available maps and documentation of IDF minefields, as well as the suspected location of bombs and booby-traps planted by Hizballah<sup>xxxiv[34]</sup> and other militias, the IDF pledged to continue cooperation with the UN on this issue.<sup>xxv[35]</sup> U.N. Spokesperson, Timur Goksel confirmed the cooperation received from the IDF. "We hope the information will answer many of our questions and facilitate demining activities by members of our Ukrainian contingent, which are aimed primarily at preventing innocent civilians from being killed or injured."<sup>xxxvi[36]</sup>

Lebanon's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mahmoud Hammoud, however, denied that Israel had provided the UN with any such maps. According to Hammoud, "[Israel] refrains from providing the United Nations with the maps identifying the location of these mines in compliance with international laws and covenants."<sup>xxxvii[37]</sup>

In response to Hammoud's claims, Israel issued a statement in Geneva at the Human Rights Commission on April 24. "Less than a week after the withdrawal, on 1 June 2000, Israeli Defense Force liaison to the United Nations Forces met with Lt. Col. Mishio of the [UNIFIL] for the purpose of handing over files containing information and maps of mines and clusters laid by IDF. Additional assistance was offered should UNIFIL require it."xxxviii[38] The Lebanese Mission in Geneva subsequently rejected the Israeli declaration.xxxix[39]

### ***Lebanese Position On The Convention On The Prohibition On The Use, Stockpiling, Production And Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines***

Lebanon has made Israeli compliance with the landmine Convention a prerequisite for its own adherence. According to Mahmoud Hammoud, "Lebanon is ready to adhere to this convention whenever Israel is adhering."xi[40] Nevertheless, a Lebanese Foreign Ministry official told Landmine Monitor: "No one believes that antipersonnel mines are vital to the defense or security of the state. They were abrasively used during the Lebanese war with no control."xli[41]

### ***Demining And Related Activities In South Lebanon***

ICBL/Landmine Monitor researchers and campaigners met in Beirut during January. Activities included an advocacy session, preparation for the 2001 Landmine Monitor Report, and a public showcasing of the work of Lebanese mine action organizations.xlii[42] In May, the Lebanese Government, in conjunction with Italy and the UN, convened a workshop entitled "International High Level Workshop to Demine Lebanon Starting From the South." During the workshop, the National Demining Office of the Lebanese Army unveiled a five-year strategic demining plan.xliii[43]

On May 21, the United Arab Emirate's Ambassador to Lebanon, Mohamed Omran, pledged \$50 million dollars to redevelop South Lebanon. The pledge included funding for mine clearance.xliv[44] On April 19, a UAE military team traveled to South Lebanon to conduct a field assessment mission for the above-mentioned de-mining project.xlv[45] In June, The UN noted that a Memorandum of Understanding between Lebanon and the UAE "is being prepared to facilitate effective implementation of mine-action activities in the south utilizing the UAE \$50 million contribution."xlvi[46]

Refusal of the Lebanese government (which is under the influence of Damascus, as reflected by the presence of 35,000 troops in Lebanon), to open any channels of communication with Israel, a coordinated demining program remains blocked. Indeed, the conflict and violent attacks have continued, and on October 7 2000, Hizballah sent forces across the border and three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped.

The continuation of the conflict via Hizballah and other terrorist groups operating in Lebanon, and backed by Damascus and Iran, have exacerbated the dangers posed by mines in the area. In addition, press reports originating in Lebanon regarding Israeli policy on the use of mines and APWs, including a number citing unnamed United Nations personnel, have been found unsubstantiated, and designed primarily to isolate Israel politically. xlvii[47]

### ***Syria***

Syria remains outside of the landmine convention framework, does not participate actively in the activities of the Landmine Convention framework, and continues to deploy landmines (In July 2000, an Israeli military officer expressed concern regarding Syrian mine planting activities in close proximity to the border with Israel.xlviii[48]) However, in March 2001, the Yarmouk/Syrian Campaign on Landmines held a video screening and presentation about Landmine Monitor for Syrian NGOs.xlix[49] The impact, if any, on government policy is yet to be determined.

### ***Yemen***

Yemen began the destruction of 10,000 antipersonnel land mines in February 2000 as part of its commitment to the Mine Ban Treaty<sup>[50]</sup>, and in March 2001, a Mine Awareness Material Workshop was held in Aden.<sup>li[51]</sup>

### **Jordan**

In March, Canada and Norway fielded a joint mine action delegation, and discussed the needs of the Jordanian Mine Action Program with the Engineering Corps as well as other officials.<sup>lii[52]</sup> On April 1, the German Ambassador to Jordan presented mine clearance equipment worth approximately \$60,000 to the Royal Jordanian Corps of Engineers, at the Engineers Corps School in Zarqa. The equipment included mine detectors, first aid kits, and protective mine clearance suits.

<sup>liii[53]</sup>

### **Palestinian Authority Autonomous Areas**

The Palestinians have made use of landmines in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the war with Israel since September 2001. According to an Israeli press report, "security sources in Israel have learned that the PA has increased its mine-laying and fortification work in its outposts facing IDF position[s]." In addition, members of various Palestinian militia groups extract explosives from landmines (placed in 1967) for the manufacture of other explosive devices and have attempted to improvise anti-vehicle mines from bombs and grenades meant for use against IDF tanks.<sup>liv[54]</sup> In May, the Israeli Navy intercepted a Lebanese ship bound for Gaza (see small arms section for additional details) that contained 70 anti-tank mines.<sup>lv[55]</sup>

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<sup>i[1]</sup> Russia and the U.S. have reservations about the Ottawa Convention in terms of both substance and process. The U.S. has stated that without landmines it cannot adequately protect and defend its troops stationed in Korea. However, the U.S. has declared that it will sign the Convention in 2006 if an effective alternative to landmines can be found by then. (Aluf Benn, "Israel joins int'l convention limiting landmines," *Ha'aretz*, 4 October 2000.) The Russian military still perceives antipersonnel mines as a necessary weapon, as is evidenced by extensive use in Dagestan and Chechnya, [Human Right Watch: Landmine Monitor Report 2000](#).

<sup>ii[2]</sup> In 1998, Jordan and Qatar completed the ratification process.

<sup>iii[3]</sup> *Amman Jordan Television Channel 1* (in English), 1900 GMT 12 September 2000, (as cited on) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icblmedia/message/412>.

<sup>iv[4]</sup> Statement by Dr. M. H. Adeli, Iranian Ambassador to Canada, at the Signing Conference for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Transfer, and Stockpiling of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction, Ottawa, 2-4 December, *Disarmament Diplomacy*, no. 21, December 1997, p. 29.

<sup>v[5]</sup> Statement by Israeli Ambassador David Sultan at the Signing Conference for the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Transfer, and Stockpiling of Anti-personnel Mines and their Destruction, *Ibid*, pp. 33-4.

<sup>vi[6]</sup> It should be noted that, aside from Israel, the only MENA country to issue an official statement was Tunisia. However, the Tunisian statement is unavailable for citation, Second Meeting Of The States Parties To The Convention On The Prohibition Of The Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines And On Their Destruction, September 2000, [http://www.gichd.ch/sc/smsp\\_doc/smsp\\_list\\_of\\_participants.htm](http://www.gichd.ch/sc/smsp_doc/smsp_list_of_participants.htm).

<sup>vii[7]</sup> Statement by Mr. Amnon Efrat, Second Annual Meeting of the State Parties to the Ottawa Convention, Geneva, 11-15 September 2000.

<sup>viii[8]</sup> "Organization And Work Of The Third Meeting," *ICBL*, [www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org).

<sup>ix[9]</sup> "Landmine Monitor Report 2000: Egypt," *International Campaign to Ban Landmines*, <http://www.hrw.org/hrw/reports/2000/landmines>.

<sup>x[10]</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>xi[11]</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>xii[12]</sup> "Landmine Monitor Report 2000: Iraq," *International Campaign to Ban Landmines*, <http://www.hrw.org/hrw/reports/2000/landmines>.

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<sup>xiii</sup>[13] Israel Ratifies Two Protocols of the Convention On Conventional Weapons,” (Communicated by the [Israeli] Foreign Ministry Spokesman) Jerusalem, 24 August 2000.

<sup>xiv</sup>[14] From an Israel Defense Forces General Staff Order concerning "Laying and Removal of Mines" (The State Comptroller's Report No. 50 A, for the Year 1999, "Mine Laying in the Israel Defense Forces, (Hebrew) Israel Government Printing Office, Jerusalem)

<sup>xv</sup>[15] From the State Comptroller's Report No. 50 A, for the Year 1999, "Mine Laying in the Israel Defense Forces," (Hebrew) Israel government printing office, Jerusalem.

<sup>xvi</sup>[16] Since 1996, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been engaged in mine clearance and mine awareness operations in Angola. In addition, a comprehensive Israeli NGO, [Aid Without Borders](#), conducts mine awareness programs in Angola under the auspices of UNICEF. Aid Without Borders has been active in Kosovo as well, where it taught mine awareness to children in conjunction with MAG, a British mine awareness organization, Statement of the Israel Delegation, Ottawa Forum for MineAction, December 1997, document 1.12.97/17119; Both independently, and through UNICEF. Statement by H.E. Mr. Eytan Bentsur, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, 4 September 1997; Interview with Erez T. Yanuv, Founder of Aid Without Borders, Jerusalem, 1 June 2000.

<sup>xvii</sup>[17] Statement by the Israeli delegation at the 1999 Maputu Conference. See also:

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Landmine/vtf.htm>.

<sup>xviii</sup>[18] The governments of Canada and Israel are discussing the establishment of joint rehabilitation center for landmine victims. See detailed report in "Israeli Landmine Policy," Aharon Etengoff and Gerald Steinberg, unpublished monograph, July 2000, <http://faculty.biu.ac.il/~steing/arms/minepolicy.htm>.

<sup>xix</sup>[19] Gerald M. Steinberg and Aharon Etengoff, "2000 Middle East Arms Control and Proliferation Report," (Ramat Gan: BESA Center for Strategic Studies, Bar Ilan University, 2001), [http://faculty.biu.ac.il/~steing/conflict/armspapers/2000\\_Middle\\_East\\_Report.htm](http://faculty.biu.ac.il/~steing/conflict/armspapers/2000_Middle_East_Report.htm).

<sup>xx</sup>[20] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing interview with Younis Al-Katry, General Director of National Security Information Center, 21 December 2000; Hisham Salem, "The Landmine Issue in the Occupied Territories," National Security Information Center, 2000. The Palestinian National Security Information Center is affiliated with the Palestinian Authority and is part of the President Security Advisor Office in Gaza.

<sup>xxi</sup>[21] During the Second Meeting of State Parties, Al-Haq was one of the Palestinian groups most active in the distribution of virulent anti-Israel propaganda.

<sup>xxii</sup>[22] In addition, Al-Haq alleged that on July 9, an Israeli officer told the family residing next to the outpost that new mines were going to be planted approximately five meters from the house. "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing Al-Haq, "Landmines Planted Around Israeli Military Outpost in the Occupied Territories," Press Release #110, 4 July 2001; affidavit of owner, given to Al-Haq, supplied to Landmine Monitor/Human Rights Watch.

<sup>xxiii</sup>[23] According to Al Haq, the owner of a house 15 meters from the Israeli position, claimed that Israeli soldiers built a fence around the tower, and laid twenty mines outside the fence. "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing Al-Haq, "Landmines Planted Around Israeli Military Outpost in the Occupied Territories," Press Release #110, 4 July 2001; affidavit of owner, given to Al-Haq, supplied to Landmine Monitor/Human Rights Watch.

<sup>xxiv</sup>[24] According to Al-Haq, another explosion occurred on 10 May and a third on 30 June 2001. "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing Al-Haq, "Landmines Planted Around Israeli Military Outpost in the Occupied Territories," Press Release #110, 4 July 2001; affidavit of owner, given to Al-Haq, supplied to Landmine Monitor/Human Rights Watch.

<sup>xxv</sup>[25] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing telephone communications between Al-Haq and Landmine Monitor/Human Rights Watch, 9 July 2001 and 10 July 2001.

<sup>xxvi</sup>[26] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*.

<sup>xxvii</sup>[27] *Ibid.*, citing Letter to DCI/Palestine from Major Issa Kreis, Operations Division of the Palestinian National Security Forces, 22 November 2000.

<sup>xxviii</sup>[28] *Ibid.*, citing letter from Captain Sharon Affeck, Senior advising officer, for the IDF judge advocate general in response to the General Director of the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, provided to Defense of Children International -Israel Section by PCATI (original in Hebrew), 14 December 2000.

<sup>xxix</sup>[29] Aharon Etengoff and Gerald Steinberg, *Journal Of Mine Action*, "Israeli Landmine Policy And Related Regional Activity," vol. 5., no. 3, Fall, 2001.

<sup>xxx</sup>[30] In addition to mines planted by Israeli forces in South Lebanon to protect Israeli

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installations, non-state actors, such as the Hizbollah (supplied and supported by Syria and Iran), and the SLA (supported and supplied by Israel) are suspected of having using mines in the area.

<sup>xxxii</sup>[31] Israel Transfers S. Lebanon Security Zone Minefield Maps To UNIFIL," (Communicated by the Defense Minister's Media Adviser), Jerusalem, 31 May 2000.

<sup>xxxiii</sup>[32] Private communication from Swedish diplomat at the SMSP, Geneva September 2000.

<sup>xxxiii</sup>[33] *Amman Jordan Times*, 3 December 2000, (as cited on) <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icblmedia/message/447>.

<sup>xxxiv</sup>[34] Hizballah claims it ordered a halt to the use of antipersonnel mines following the Israeli withdrawal. In addition, Hizballah stated is has removed more than 1,000 antipersonnel mines in the three days following the withdrawal and placed their stockpiled mines in one location in the South. "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing television interview with Sheikh Naim Kasseem, vice president of Hezbollah, *Tele Liban*, 6 June 2000.

<sup>xxxv</sup>[35] As is noted, information regarding landmines in south Lebanon was initially given to UNIFIL shortly after the IDF withdrew from south Lebanon in May 2000. However, UNIFIL had asked for clarification in certain areas as part of its ongoing demining efforts, in cooperation with the Lebanese army. David Rudge, "IDF Gives UNIFIL Maps Of Lebanon Minefield," *Jerusalem Post*, 12 December 2001.

<sup>xxxvi</sup>[36] David Rudge, "IDF Gives UNIFIL Maps Of Lebanon Minefield," *Jerusalem Post*, 12 December 2001.

<sup>xxxvii</sup>[37] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing letter of the Lebanese Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Hammoud to H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs: No 11/C.M. Beirut, 22 January 2001.

<sup>xxxviii</sup>[38] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing note Verbale dated 5 April 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN Office in Geneva addressed to the Secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2001/154), 11 April 2001.

<sup>xxxix</sup>[39] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing interview with Johnny Ibrahim, First Secretary, Lebanese Permanent Mission to the UN, Geneva, 10 May 2001.

<sup>xl</sup>[40] Subsequent to the Israeli withdrawal, several governments have reportedly urged Lebanon to join the Mine Ban Treaty and have linked their contributions to mine action to Lebanon's position. "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, [www.icbl.org/lm](http://www.icbl.org/lm).

<sup>xli</sup>[41] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing interview with official at Documentary Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Beirut, 4 January 2001.

<sup>xlii</sup>[42] Liz Bernstein, "ICBL Update # 4," *ICBL*, December-March, 2001.

<sup>xliii</sup>[43] Liz Bernstein, "ICBL Update #5," *ICBL*, April-August, 2001.

<sup>xliv</sup>[44] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing UN Department of Public Information, "International workshop urges rapid demining in Lebanon," 21 May 2001.

<sup>xlv</sup>[45] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing articles published in *Al Hayat* and *Al Sharq Al Awsat* (Lebanese newspapers), 20 April 2000.

<sup>xlvi</sup>[46] "Landmine Monitor Report 2001," *ICBL*, citing "UNMAS Monthly Update," Number 5, June 2001.

<sup>xlvii</sup>[47] Reports published by the AFP (Agence France Presse) have been particularly unreliable in this regard, as demonstrated by Caryn Farber, "False Witness: Toys aren't us," *AJAC Review* (Melbourne, Australia), 25 July - 7 August 1997.

<sup>xlviii</sup>[48] IDF concerned why Syria built 3 empty villages on border," *Ha'aretz* (Hebrew edition), 3 July 2000.

<sup>xlix</sup>[49] Liz Bernstein, "ICBL Update # 4," *ICBL*, December-March 2001.

[50] Liz Bernstein, "ICBL Landmines Update—May 2000," <http://www.icbl.org/>.