

## OTTAWA TREATY Universalisation in South Asia

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### *Pakistan fact sheet*

#### **Pakistan's landmine policy and the Ottawa Treaty**

The Pakistan Government maintains that the use of landmines is a part of its national defence strategy and opposes a ban on APMs until viable alternatives are developed. At the same time, Pakistan claims to recognise the negative socio-economic impact of landmines and has consistently expressed supported for the eventual elimination of APMs.

#### **Production, stockpiling and transfer of APMs**

- Pakistan still continues to produce anti-personnel mines in state owned ordnance factories.
- Similar to India, Pakistan produces two low metal content mines (the P2Mk2 and P4Mk2) which are extremely difficult to detect with conventional mine detection equipment, making clearance operations very slow and extremely dangerous.
- There is no official information on the size of Pakistan's stockpile. However, it has been estimated that Pakistan holds at least six million anti-personnel mines in its national arsenal - making it the fifth largest stockpile in the world.
- Pakistan has been a major exporter of anti-personnel mines and Pakistani mines can be found in mine affected countries including Afghanistan, Eritrea and Sri Lanka. In 1997, Pakistan declared a complete moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines and has stated that it has not exported since 1992.

#### **Recent use of anti-personnel mines**

- Landmines and improvised explosive devises continue to be used internally in tribal conflicts and against government law enforcement agencies.
- During the escalation of tensions with India between December 2001 and June 2002, the Pakistani forces engaged in a large scale mine laying operation along the eastern border with India.

## **The extent of the landmine problem and casualties**

- In 2003 the Pakistani government reported the persistence of the landmine problem in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas near the border with Afghanistan.
- At the same time, they also reported that 99% of the mines laid on the border with India between December 2001 and June 2002 have been cleared; and the minefields that remain are properly fenced and clearly marked to ensure safety of the local population.
- There are no verified figures of mine casualties in Pakistan but there may have been as many as 5,000 across the tribal areas to date. Long distances and bad road and weather conditions mean that many mine victims die before reaching a hospital.
- In 2003 there were at least 138 new landmine and unexploded ordnance casualties (48 people killed and 90 injured) and casualties continue to be reported today in Pakistan.

## **CALL FOR ACTION**

**If you are concerned about Pakistan not being a member of the Ottawa Treaty, why not send a letter to the Pakistan Ambassador to the UK stating your concern?**