

Human Rights 1

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This text is about *antipersonnel landmines* (explosives put in the ground for the purpose of injuring or killing people) and the *campaign to ban* their use. There are some words in this text that you won't see very often when you are reading but are important for this text. These words are in **bold** in the text. Look at the questions below about these vocabulary items and try to answer them. You should use a dictionary if you are unsure of the answers.

A: Pre-reading Vocabulary

1. **to accede to sth** (v) & **accession** (n)

'As of 25 September 2002, 145 countries had signed (**acceded to**) the treaty, of which 129 have ratified. The most recent **accession** was Afghanistan.'

Does accession mean you (a) **join/become part of something** or you (b) **leave something**?

2. **to announce sth** (v)

'More than a dozen governments, among them Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia, had **announced** their intention to join.'

Does announce mean that you (a) **refuse to do something** or you (b) **make something commonly known**?

3. **compliance** (n)

'The UN wants the **compliance** of all countries over the issue of banning landmines.'

Does the UN (a) **want all countries to agree to this issue** or does the UN (b) **want all countries to use landmines**?

4. **deployment** (n)

'India and Pakistan have been laying landmines along their disputed border in Kashmir. The ICBL says it is possibly the largest **deployment** of mines in decades.'

Is deployment (a) **bringing military force into action** or (b) **the number of people who don't have a job**?

5. **to formalize sth** (v)

'These organizations came together in October 1992 to **formalize** the ICBL.'

Does formalize mean to (a) **write an important document** or to (b) **make something official**?

6. **humanitarian** (adj)

'It also proposes increased international resources for **humanitarian** mine clearance and mine victim assistance programs.'

Does humanitarian mean (a) **benefiting human health and safety** or (b) **causing the death of many humans**?

7. **stockpile** (n) and **stockpiling** (n)

'The Campaign calls for an international ban on the use, production, **stockpiling** and transfer of antipersonnel landmines.'

Is a stockpile (a) **a large amount of goods/weapons/materials that are stored until needed** or is it (b) **a large collection of cars and boats**?

B: Scanning for information

How are you going to answer these questions?



These are scanning questions – to answer these questions in the time available, you will have to look at the text very quickly! Remember; you are looking for **names, dates or numbers**.

- Allow yourself only ***ninety (90) seconds*** to answer these questions.

1. **Who** is the *Landmine Monitor Report's* global coordinator?

2. In **what month** of 1992 was the ICBL formalized?

3. By 25 September 2002, **how many** countries had signed or acceded to the treaty?

The Right to life, liberty and security of person

Case Study: Campaign To Ban Landmines

- Antipersonnel landmines kill thousands of people each year. Most are civilians. Many are children.
- Long after wars in different areas of the world have ended, the use of land mines continue to deny the right to life and liberty of large numbers of civilians.
- The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (*ICBL*), launched in 1991, brings together over 1,400 groups in over 90 countries who work locally, nationally, regionally and internationally to ban antipersonnel landmines.
- The broad range of these groups is noticeable. They specialize in human rights, women's and children's rights, peace, disability, ex-combatants, medical expertise, humanitarian mine action, development, arms control, religion and the environment.

Context

During 2002, India and Pakistan have been laying *landmines*¹ along their disputed border in Kashmir, according to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (*ICBL*). The *ICBL* says it is possibly the largest **deployment** of mines in decades. Mary Wareham, the Landmine Monitor Report's global coordinator, recently said: "Mine-laying in India and Pakistan is startling because of the length of the border and the length of the minefields and their *proximity to* ² villages and farming land."

Numerous *civilians*³ and soldiers have died as a result of the landmines laid on both sides of the *Line of Control*⁴ in the disputed region of Kashmir. After declaring ceasefires (stopping fighting) in 2002, both Angola and Sri Lanka have stopped using landmines. However the *ICBL* has reported that the government of Russia and to a lesser extent Georgia continue to use the device.

Campaign History

In 1991, several non-governmental organizations and individuals began to discuss the need to coordinate initiatives and a ban on antipersonnel landmines. These organizations came together in October 1992 to **formalize** the *ICBL*. The Campaign calls for an international ban on the use, production, **stockpiling** and transfer of antipersonnel landmines. It also proposes increased international resources for **humanitarian** mine clearance and mine victim assistance programs.

¹ *Antipersonnel landmines* are explosives put in the ground for the purpose of injuring or killing people.

² *Proximity to* = closeness to

³ A *civilian* is a person who is not part of the military (army/navy/air force)

⁴ The *line of control* is the border between the two enemy countries.

International Response

Governments around the world responded to the campaign by negotiating the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, **Stockpiling**, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction. The Mine Ban Treaty (*MBT*) prohibits, in all circumstances, any use of antipersonnel landmines. It also requires that **stockpiles** be destroyed within four years of the treaty's coming into force (beginning), and that mines already in the ground be destroyed within ten years.

Signatories⁵

The treaty came into force on 1 March 1999. As of 25 September 2002, 145 countries had signed or **acceded** to the treaty, of which 129 have ratified. The most recent **accession** was Afghanistan. The ICBL said more than a dozen⁶ governments, among them Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia, had **announced** their intention to join. In contrast, the United States, Russia and China are among 50 countries that so far have refused to sign the treaty. The US is believed to have a stockpile of 11.2 million landmines. In 1997, the ICBL and its coordinator, Jody Williams, received the Nobel Peace Prize.

Plan of Action

Today, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines network represents over 1,100 groups in over 60 countries, who work locally, nationally, regionally, and internationally to ban antipersonnel landmines.

Its goals as outlined in its 2004 Plan of Action are:

- Universalisation of the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT)
- **Compliance** with the treaty provisions
- Increased resource commitments from government and international financial institutions for mine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance, and for stockpile destruction, and
- Firm establishment of the norms outlined in the treaty as an international standard of behavior by all.

Adapted from www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/features/ihavearighttofour_b/casestudy_art03.shtml

⁵ A *signatory* is a person who signs a document. In this example, countries are signatories.

⁶ A *dozen* = 12

C: Comprehension Questions



How are you going to answer these questions?

Most of these questions ask you to answer in your own words. You may find the answers in specific sentences in the text. Sometimes however, you may have to read a whole paragraph. Use the **bold headings** in the text to help you find the relevant parts of the text.

- ✓ **These questions test your ability to analyze and understand the information that you have read.**
- ✓ **For the first question you must choose the correct answer from *A, B, C* or *D*. For the other questions you must answer in your own words.**

1. Which of the following statements about landmines is *not true*?

- A) Most of the people killed by landmines are not military personnel. ____
- B) Landmines continue to kill people even after war has ended. ____
- C) The ICBL tries to kill people in 90 different countries. ____
- D) The members of the ICBL represent many different parts of society. ____

2. In terms of the global context of landmine use, how does the deployment of landmines in Kashmir compare with other examples in recent history? _____

3. Since the beginning of the campaign in 1991 what three things has the ICBL called for? _____

4. Which countries have refused to sign (*become signatories*) the treaty, and what reason do you think the U.S has for not signing? _____

Answer Key

A: Pre-reading vocabulary

1. join/become part of something
2. make something commonly known
3. want all countries to agree to this issue
4. bringing military force into action
5. make something official
6. benefiting human health and safety
7. a large amount of goods/weapons/materials that are stored until needed

B: Scanning

1. Mary Wareham
2. October
3. 145

C: Comprehension

1. A, B and D are correct. C is incorrect.
2. The text says that the deployment of landmines in Kashmir is possibly the biggest deployment in decades.
3. 1- an international ban on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel landmines. 2- increased international resources for humanitarian mine clearance. 3- mine victim assistance programs.
4. United States, Russia and China are among 50 countries that so far have refused to sign the treaty. The US has probably not signed because the country is believed to have a stockpile of 11.2 million landmines.

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