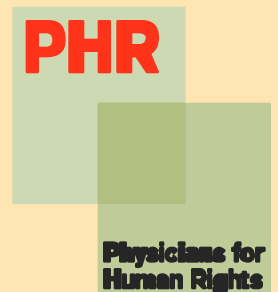


Antipersonnel Landmines: The Ban and Ten Years Beyond

Susannah Sirkin

Physicians for Human Rights

APHA 2007



Current data

- Landmines in ground – still 80 million
- Casualties – 15-20K annually
 - 40+ per day
 - 2 per hour
- Highest casualties today: Colombia, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Iraq
- In 2004-2005, 50% + w/ new mine injuries in non-conflict areas.

Why these weapons so abhorrent?

- Indiscriminate
- Last long after war ends
- Egregious injury
- Disruption of agriculture
- People no longer able to work/provide for children













Cambodia



- Most victims are civilians
- 50% of victims die
- Children, farmers, livestock
- Land uninhabitable
- Burden on health systems
- Remain after fighting ceases.....

Egregious injury



50% mortality rate

Blast injuries

Bacteria driven into
tissue and bone

Frequent damage to
genitals, arms, face
and chest

Amputation frequent

- Blinding in one or both eyes common
- Conductive deafness, especially for children

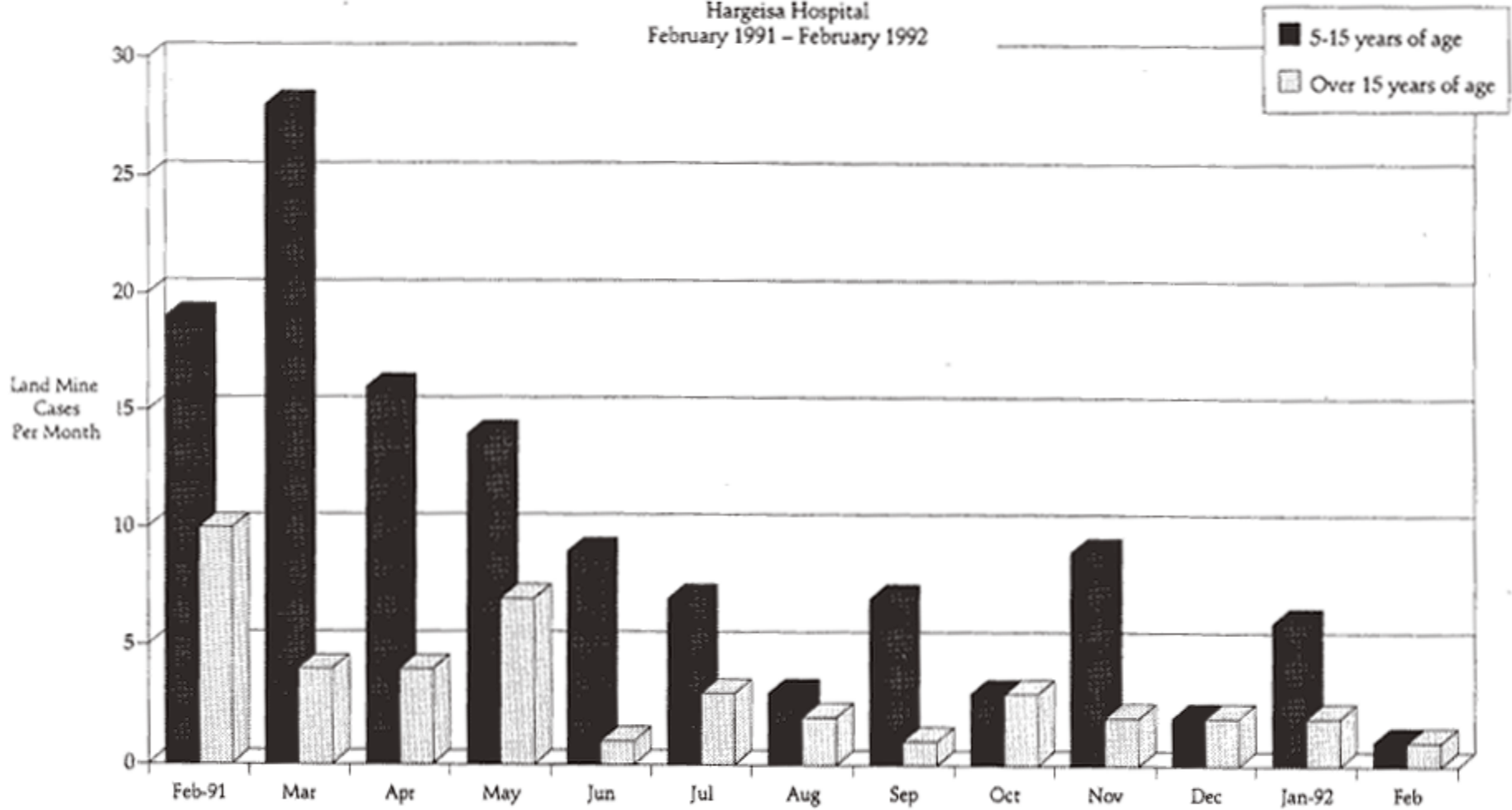


Somalia



Graph 1

Land Mine Injured Patients
Hargeisa Hospital
February 1991 - February 1992



Data collected by PHR at Hargeisa Hospital suggests that land mine injuries, especially of children between 5 and 15 years of age, increased in early 1991, a period when thousands of Somali refugees spontaneously left camps in Ethiopia and returned to northern Somalia.

PHR Issues a Call to Ban Mines

The international community “should consider an unconditional ban on the manufacture, possession, transfer, sale and use of land mines and other devices that detonate on contact in all international and internal conflicts. While such a law might not entirely eliminate the use of mines, it would stigmatize them in much the same way that chemical weapons are now vilified.”

Landmines in Cambodia: The Coward's War

PHR / Asia Watch (Sept. 1991)

ICBL



John Roddick

United States **TO BAN**
CAMPAIGN
LANDMINES

N O U S E

N O P R O D U C T I O N

N O S T O C K P I L I N G

N O T R A N S F E R

- 1000s of NGOs
- Working w/ governments
- Mobilized to launch new treaty to ban **use, production, stockpiling and transfer**
- Signed in 1997;
- In force today

10th anniversary will be observed in Ottawa in December

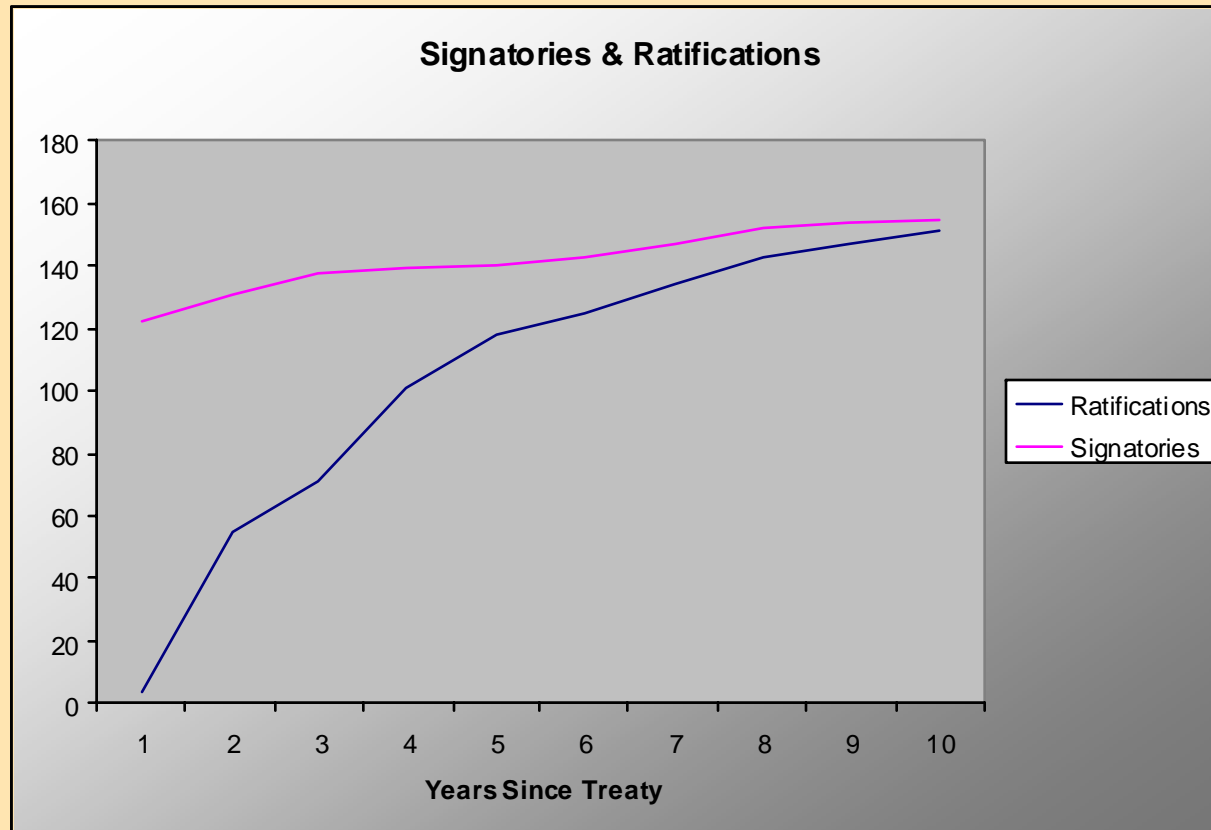


Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy signs land-mine treaty on behalf of Canada as (left to right), Jody Williams; Cornello Sommaruge, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Prime Minister Jean Chrétien applaud.

Oslo 1997 – Nobel Ceremony



Support of the Treaty in 10 Years



2001 campaigners rally US fails to join; Supports “smart mines” (Russia, China also non-signatories)



“The global trade in landmines has virtually halted.” *Kofi Annan-April 2006*



40 million stockpiled mines destroyed;
Tens of thousands of km sq. cleared



\$100s of millions for rehabilitation
in 50+ countries





400,000 survivors require care and rehabilitation



Physical and emotional wounds



ICBL Working Group on Victim Assistance: Guidelines

- Provide training in emergency first aid
- Ensure facilities meet minimum standards
- Develop community-based peer support
- Train local workers; local program design
- Promote rights of people with disabilities
- Train data collectors on sensitivity to trauma survivors

Current role of ICBL

- Landmine Monitor
- States Parties Review
- Guidelines on awareness and victim assistance
- NGEs
- Pressure for more governments to join treaty
- Expansion of concern

Cluster munitions

- June 2007 expanded mandate of USCBL
- Call for ban on clusters
- Mimic landmines in
 - Indiscriminate
 - Unacceptable harm

Health Professionals



- “First witnesses”
- “Repairing what is often irreparable”
- Uniquely effective in alerting policy makers
- Need support for legislative freeze on production of ap mines and “victim activated” weapons

