

## Publicly Support the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty

On Jan. 31, 2020, the Trump administration announced a new policy that allows the U.S. military to develop, produce, and acquire landmines, and deploy them anywhere in the world. Despite a campaign commitment to “promptly roll back this deeply misguided decision,” the Biden administration has yet to reverse this policy.

Landmines are especially grievous weapons as they are unable to distinguish between civilians and soldiers, children and adults. They disproportionately maim and kill civilians, especially children. Mines are hard to safely destroy or remove, and they continue to inflict human suffering long after conflicts end.

Because of the clear harm these weapons pose, 164 countries have joined the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, committing themselves to not develop, produce, acquire, use, retain, stockpile, or transfer anti-personnel landmines. Although the United States was among the first to call for such a treaty, it still has not joined the accord.

Congress must push President Biden to live up to his commitment to ban the use of these immoral and indiscriminate weapons by joining the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.

### **To support the United States joining the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty, members of Congress should:**

- » Urge President Biden to immediately ban the U.S. military from developing, producing, using, or stockpiling antipersonnel landmines anywhere in the world through executive action.
- » Make a public statement in support of the U.S. joining the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty.
- » Support U.S. global leadership in humanitarian mine action, which clears contaminated land and allows refugee and IDP resettlement, agriculture and economic development to begin.

### **Publicly support the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty**

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