

**SPEECH IN CARTAGENA 2nd REVIEW CONFERENCE
ON 30th Nov. 09 (COLOMBIA)**

Good Morning Everybody/Buenos Dias,

It is wonderful to see you again here in beautiful Cartagena! Together many of us have walked a long road which included Oslo, Ottawa, Nairobi Review Conference in 2004 and now Cartagena in 2009!

Let me say what the mine ban has meant for me. After I stood on an explosive remnant of war it was very difficult for me, a very small girl without a leg to go to school. Why? We had war and mines in the ground. In our family there were many children and we were very very poor. I was the one who could stay home and mind them while my parents earned food for the family. So I remained in Grade One for many years!

When I went on my first campaign visit in 1995 to Vienna I spoke at the UN and asked the world to ban landmines that made life cruel for children.

Working for the mine ban treaty has changed my life! Now I am starting my final year at the university and I will not stop campaigning until all the survivors have a chance for education and a better life.

That is at a personal level. *Now meet Tun Channareth injured 1982* In my country we have also seen some changes. This year the national plan of action has been approved and also the national disability law passed. These are good steps in the right direction and an outcome of the commitment they made in Nairobi Review Conference.

However in all mine affected countries a lot more remains to be done to make sure that all survivors have access to affordable health care and education, to basic rights to housing, food and water as well as to ways of earning their living. In many countries survivors still need to participate in making policies that affect their lives.

Please meet my friends:

~~Tun Chhannareth injured in 1982.~~

- Prasana was injured in 1990,
- ~~Margaret injured in 1998~~
- Channeang was injured in 2005.
- Maria was injured this year 2009

You see we still have work to do! Casualties have not stopped yet and the future of our peers is in your hands.

Add a spice of hope and justice and compassion to all our lives as together we work to adopt and implement this victim assistance action plan of Cartagena.