

## INDONESIA RATIFIES THE OTTAWA TREATY

On February 20, 2007, nearly nine years after Indonesia first signed the 1997 Ottawa Treaty banning landmines, the government has submitted its instrument of ratification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, becoming the 153rd State party to the Convention.

Although Indonesia is not regarded as a mine-affected country, many believe that by signing and ratifying the treaty, the government can set an example for its neighbours. For many years landmines or other unexploded ordnance have caused casualties in more than a dozen nations in the Asia-Pacific region. Most of the victims have been civilians.

The Ottawa Treaty was signed in December 1997 by 122 nations in Ottawa, Canada. It bans the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of all anti-personnel landmines. China, Russia and the United States are among the 40 countries that have not yet signed the treaty. Poland and the Marshall Islands have signed but not yet ratified.

The Convention will enter into force for Indonesia on 1 August 2007.