

# **Song Against Landmines**

**followed by a POETIC ESSAY on the Recent History  
and Future Fate of the Manufacture and Use of Landmines  
in the World**

**—Edward Sanders**

## **Song Against Landmines**

1.

A child ran out to meet her mother  
Her face was lit with joy  
she took a shortcut across the field  
and a landmine took her legs and both her eyes

The trip wire    the child  
the explosion (sound of explosion)  
and a foot flies up toward the sun

o landmines are like little Hitlers  
Lurking in the dirt  
Some people only have a destiny  
to spread around the hurt

2.

Was the mine made in China?  
Did it come from Russia or Singapore?  
Or was it made in the U.S.A.?

(Chant underneath: Landmines never make peace)

Those who design those landmines go to church or mass  
On Saturdays you'll find them at Habitat for Humanity  
But Monday morning they're back designing  
those psychopathic contraptions

Land mines are like little Hitlers  
 Lurking in the dirt  
 Some people only have a destiny  
 to spread around the hurt

## 3.

Most of the nations of the world  
 have banned the building of mines  
 but not the home of the brave and the free

The U.S.A. wants to foist upon the world  
 a new type of landmine  
 triggered by soldiers with computers  
 viewing images from trip wires or drones  
 —but who can say it isn't civilians?

Landmines are like little Hitlers  
 lurking in the dirt  
 Some people only have a destiny  
 to spread around the hurt

## 4.

Only 13 countries still make  
 those child-killing mines:

Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Nepal  
 India, Burma, China, Vietnam,  
 Cuba, Singapore, North and South Korea,  
 and of course the U.S.A.

Stop them, Jesus and Krishna!  
 Stop them, Buddha and Allah!  
 Stop them all the Saints of Glory!

For landmines never make peace  
 Landmines never make peace



# Landmines

## The Malevolence Continues

### A Poetic Essay on the Recent History and Future Fate of the Manufacture and Use of Landmines in the World

Even though the military seems to be taking more and more power and control in the United States, Americans should not be distracted from continuing their righteous demands that the military cease all use & manufacture of evil, child-murdering landmines (including the new generation of landmines using computers & images sent by radio when trip wires are triggered, but in the near future images of minefield intruders sent from drones, satellites or other flying surveillance equipment)

1980s

in Afghanistan

the Soviets dropped

chiliads of chilio-scatters

1000s 'pon 1000s

down upon Afghan villages

of the so-called Greek Parrots

or PFM-1 landmines

They were light weight  
and would blow off the limbs  
& eyes of children

decade 'pon decade

For its mine-batty part,  
the U.S. provided landmines to mujahidin battlers during its  
9-year war to drive the Soviets out of Afghanistan  
as a part of the U.S. covert assistance

According to Human Rights Watch  
([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org) Backgrounder on landmines in Afghanistan):

“Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world”

[During 2000 and 2001 use of mines in Afghanistan and surrounding countries increased. The United Front (formerly the Northern Alliance) for instance, lay down mines inside Afghanistan. In addition Russia vom'd down mines in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan]

Many Countries Made Money on Landmines in Afghanistan:

“At least fifty different types of mines have been identified in Afghanistan of Belgian, Chinese, ex-Czechoslovakian, Iranian, Italian, Pakistani, Singaporean, ex-USSR, United Kingdom, ex-Yugoslavian, and Zimbabwean manufacture.”

—www.hrw.org backgrounder on landmines in Afghanistan

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

1983

saw the advent, shudder shudder, of ADAM  
(Artillery Delivered Antipersonnel Mines)

Military-industrial killopaths  
introduced the ADAM to the U.S. army in Europe

They are fired up to ten miles  
in a 155mm artillery shell

spewing out a bunch of the mines  
when the shell lands and disintegrates

Then each mine ejects seven tripwires

& when a wire is disturbed

the mine jumps up 4-8 feet above the ground

like a death-ghoul in a  
Grade B ghoul movie

and then death-sprays human-and-animal shredding  
death-shrapnel  
for 40 feet around

There are two ADAM projectiles:

the M731 which putatively self-destructs in four hours  
 the M692 which putatively self-destructs in 48 hours

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **The Tow-Truck of Evil**

late 1980s

This was made by one of the most psychopathic  
 of death companies

Honeywell

It's called the GEMSS M128 dispenser  
 which is towed by a truck

and vomits a mine out of a tube  
 every two seconds

for a distance of 30-50 meters

The Tow-Truck of Evil & its dispenser  
 can carry a death-load of 800

M74 "antipersonnel" i.e., human-shredding mines

and also so-called "anti-tank" mines

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **A Favorite Mine of the Special Forces**

1988

This is the M86 PDM  
 (for Pursuit Deterrent Munition)

reportedly a fave of the Special Forces

it weighs just a pound

and the hastening warrior

tosses one down

and out springs seven 20-foot trip wires

It's another leap-up-like-a-grave-ghoul mine

and sprays shrapnel 40 feet around

It's supposed to self destruct after a while

The army bought 15,000 of these

the main contractor was Honeywell's  
Alliant Techsystems

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **Mine-Vom from Blackhawks**

This is called the Volcano system  
wherein mines can be vom-dumped  
from Blackhawk helicopters

5-150 feet above Gaia

for the creation of

a 960 meter long evilness-zone

Another death-gift from Alliant Techsystems

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **The M18A1 Claymore**

Such a pleasant sounding name "the Claymore,"  
like a luxury condo  
on the coast of nepenthe

It can be deployed with tripwires  
or by remote command

and then in a death-spew from Ares

it sends 700 steel balls  
 for a 50-meter scythe-circle

The military, with the rise  
 of the world wide anti-mine movement

has tried to redefine the Claymore  
 as not a mine

Maybe they should call it the  
 Lassie Goes to Washington Friendship  
 Dispersal Module

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **The M-14**

The US military-industrial-surrealist complex  
 has set aside 1,000,000

small, plastic “blast mines”

for possible use in the death-zone between  
 North and South Korea

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **Cluster-Bombs in the First Iraq War 1991**

In the six week bombardment  
 or psychopathy from the sky  
 that began Operation Desert Storm—  
 “known” US cluster bombs totaled  
 47,167 units  
 with 13,167,544 bomblets

In this war  
 30,000 tons of unexploded “ordnance”  
 were scattered on Kuwait & remained  
 when the Gulf War concluded.

Among the most dangerous were cluster bomblets.  
Cheap but deadly little bomblets  
—each of the American BBU 97/B bomblets  
cost around \$60

According to the *Manchester Guardian* (8-8-00)  
more than 1,400 in Kuwait were killed by explosions of  
scatter-mines/bomblets  
after the first Gulf war.

## **The International Campaign to Ban Landmines is Founded**

1991-1992

If ever there was a need for a campaign  
this was it

Individuals and NGOs involved in stopping the horror  
began coordinating

& then in October of '92 groups such as Human Rights Watch,  
Medico International, Mines Advisory Group, Handicap International,  
Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation

formally founded ICBL

to the glory of the time-track

Within a few years ICBL had grown to represent over 1,000 groups  
in over 60 countries

## **The Clinton Era**

There were a few strengths of a sort  
among Bill Clinton's weaknesses

One of them was his belief  
that landmines should be banned

but alas he lacked the will to— or was afraid to—  
buck the grrrr-ing of the military



## The Popular Princess Diana Begins Helping the Campaign

1997

During the final months of her life Princess Diana  
took on the issue of landmines  
and helped increase public awareness of the horror

January 1997

Diana flew to Angola to make a documentary about the land mine problem  
for the Red Cross; Diana visited child victims of land mines in an Angola hospital.  
On the 15th of January; Diana makes a famous walk through an Angolan minefield,  
on behalf of the Halo Trust.

May 22, Diana arrived in Pakistan again

On the same day, British Foreign secretary Robin Cook declared a ban  
on British trade in landmines.

In June, Diana flew to Washington to help launch the American Red Cross  
anti-landmine campaign.

August 7, the Princess flew to Bosnia to continue her landmines campaign.

And then, alas, August 31, in Paris with her friend Dodi Fayed  
both died in an auto accident in the Alma Tunnel

## Human Rights Report

April 1997

Human Rights Watch published a report:

*Exposing the Source*

which presented the names and  
addresses of U.S. sleaze-co's

that help manufacture landmines

(Different companies make different parts, which are then assembled)

# Clinton & Gore Afraid of Joint Chiefs

June of '97

“The campaign’s leaders (against land mines) say Bill Clinton and Al Gore have told them personally that they cannot afford to cross the leaders of the military branches, the Joint Chiefs of Staff.”

—*The New York Times*, 6-17-97

“U.S. is Wary of Ban on Land Mines”

September 17, 1997

In Oslo, Norway

90 nations agreed to a treaty banning landmines.

The U.S. announced that it was going to refuse to sign it.

## A Great Moment

Fall, 1997

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines

(by now a consortium of over 1,000 organizations)

and Jody Williams of Putney, Vt.

won the Nobel Peace Prize

The Norwegian Nobel Committee in its announcement said:

“There are at present probably over one hundred million antipersonnel mines scattered over large areas on several continents”

December 4, 1997

Over 100 nations gathered in Ottawa, Canada

to sign on this day a treaty to ban landmines

Those signing were to destroy stockpiles of landmines within 4 years

The landmine treaty would go into effect March 1, 1999

Bill Clinton wouldn’t sign it

because the military wanted to continue use

of mines in the land between North and South Korea

China wouldn’t sign it either

## Clinton's Presidential Decision Directive 64

June 23, 1998

Clinton caved into the military's persistent hunger  
to utilize landmines

in his Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 64 issued on June 23, 1998,  
setting official United States policy

PDD 64 set the goal of joining the Mine Ban Treaty by 2006  
if the Pentagon had successfully fielded alternatives to antipersonnel mines.

August 31, 1998

The military is more powerful inside U.S. politics  
than many want to admit  
I think that any powerful politician who reads a lot of history  
is probably afraid of what happened in Dealy Plaza

Don't scorn the above sentences.  
What happened to the Gracchi brothers in ancient Rome  
has infected land-reform for over 2,000 years.

On this day the troubled president named W.J. Clinton sent a letter to the  
US Campaign to Ban Landmines

saying development by the US military of

RADAM was "necessary" because  
RADAM would replace the current  
"method of employing two separate munitions  
(the ADAM APL and the RAAM anti-tank mine"

Alliant Techsystems

10-7, 10-8-1998 in Hopkins, Minnesota

pledged to produce antipersonnel landmines  
for the grrrr-ing mine-minded military

and in early October 66 were arrested outside Alliant headquarters  
as part of the anti-landmine campaign

**The Bombing of Yugoslavia by NATO  
(led by the U.S.)  
1999**

NATO and the U.S.A. ignored  
 the advice of Alton Ellis’s great reggae tune, “Set a Better Example”  
 as when in Kosovo  
 the U.S. vomited cluster bombs  
     each containing more than 147 bomblets  
   from the sky  
     which then sprayed out awaiting child-foot.

The unexploded bomblets in effect turn into landmines  
 (the bomblets have a failure rate upon impact  
   of about 1 in ten)

March 1, 1999

    the Mine Ban Treaty came into force  
 with 40 nations  
                             agreeing to a total ban on landmines

—[www.banminesusa.org](http://www.banminesusa.org)

## **Clinton Hands the Mine-Scythe to the Shrub**

Just as President Gerald Ford in 1976 left the decision to deploy, or not deploy,  
 the cruise missile to Jimmy Carter

Bill Clinton not long before he departed office in 2000  
     left the issue of developing a new round of  
     horror-terror landmines  
                             to his successor the Shrub

ai yi yi

### **The Attack by Terrorists September 11, 2001**

Terrorists came into the skies of the United States  
 and wreaked horror  
                             on the innocent.

The United States properly took action  
but unfortunately utilized antipersonnel mines in Afghanistan

### **Gators Dropped on Afghanistan**

2001

The United States quickly declared war on the Taliban gov't  
of Afghanistan

October 10, '01  
the third night of the war  
the United States and United Kingdom  
sent B-52 and B-1 bombers to drop "area munitions," including CBU-89 Gators.  
—the CBU-89 Gator is a mixed-mine system—

It was the first time in ten years the U.S. had used antipersonnel mines

The CBU-89 Gator Mine System is a 1,000-pound cluster munition  
which contains twenty-two antipersonnel mines  
and seventy-two antitank mines.

"The antipersonnel mines are activated by trip wires that will explode  
by the presence of a civilian or combatant. While the mines are equipped  
with self-destruct and self-neutralizing features to make them 'short-lived,'  
nations negotiating the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty rejected U.S. demands that these  
mine systems be exempted from the treaty. The use of self-destructing and  
self-neutralising antipersonnel mine will not prevent new mine victims  
and the clearance task will be just as time-consuming and costly,  
perhaps even more so."

—Human Rights Watch,  
—[www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org) backgrounder on landmines in Afghanistan

### **U.S. Military Determined to Side-Step the Mine Ban Treaty**

Kill-heads in the military have sought to circumvent Section 2 (1) of the  
landmine treaty.

First, here's Section 2 (1):

“ Article 2  
Definitions

I. ‘Anti-personnel mine’ means a mine designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person and that will incapacitate, injure or kill one or more persons. Mines designed to be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a vehicle as opposed to a person, that are equipped with anti-handling devices, are not considered anti-personnel mines as a result of being so equipped.”

You can read the entire treaty at  
[http://www.un.org/Depts/mine/UNDocs/ban\\_trty.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/mine/UNDocs/ban_trty.htm)

The U.S. military and its ever-urging war factories  
came up with the newspeak-sounding  
NSD-A, or  
Non-Self-Destructing Anti-Personnel Landmine Alternatives (NSD-A)

to get around the treaty’s definition of an anti=personnel mine.

This landmine system would feature what they call a “man-in-the-loop”  
who would perform what is described as “munition field overwatch,”

that is, a soldier or kill-technician would  
be receiving radio information from the  
place where the landmine has been placed

and whose sensors have detected an intruder

The kill-technician could then activate  
the landmine to explode

The kill-technician does not have to be  
in line of sight of the victim

Theoretically, with radio repeaters, he could  
be sitting in a basement at the Pentagon

or on Air Force One

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

Though, as we have indicated, W. J. Clinton delayed any decision  
actually to build these man-in-the-loop remotely detonated systems

After the stolen election of 2000  
 an ultrarightwing, bloodshedbatty administration seized control  
 of a great nation

In October of 2002, as the U.S. public was being bamboozled and lied to  
 in order for the Bushies to invade Iraq

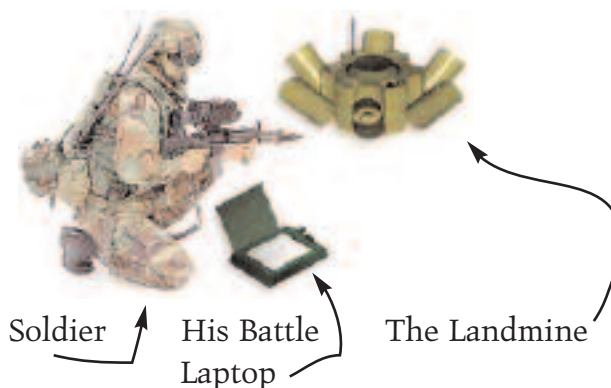
Alliant Techsystems and Textron Systems were given  
 a \$53.8 million contract to develop the “Spider” landmine system

with so-called “off-on-off” ability to turn the emplaced landmines  
 off and on.

It’s a primitive version of the robotic warfare of the future—  
 The literature depicts a soldier outfitted like a high-tech hoplite,  
 kneeling in front of his battlefield laptop  
 whose screen perhaps shows the kill-area  
 where an intruder has triggered a sensor or trip wire

For now, perhaps a radio signal indicated on the screen  
 Not long in the future it could be a satellite-emitted image  
 or image from a drone overhead  
 over the military version of the Internet called  
 the “Tactical Internet”

so that the troop could tell the mine to  
 kill the intruder



A prototype of the Spider child-maiming system was displayed at an arms show  
 in London in '05:

Spider's landmine is a circular platform, approximately 40 cm in diameter and 10 cm tall. There are six launch tubes aiming upwards and outwards from the platform

These launch tubes can spew out different types of ammunition for a distance of about six meters.

Other types of explosives, such as sector mines, may also be attached.

From each Spider, six trip wires, each six meters long, can be shot forth. In its most primitive configuration these trip wires, when agitated by intruder, send a radio signal to the kill-technician. Other kinds of sensors, such as infrared cameras, motion detectors and ground radars may also be employed, and, as we indicated above, in the near future, it's likely they'll want to use satellite cameras, drone cameras, and other police state devices.

February 2004

BBC News had a short piece titled  
"The Bush Administration Plans to Ban Certain  
Landmines after 2010."

The Shrub would permit "smart" landmines with timers such as to automatically defuse landmines "within hours or days."

(the problem, as Human Rights Project has pointed out, that some, maybe many so-called smart landmines fail to deactivate,  
and still kill children)

The gov't will not sign the international treaty against landmines, as Clinton had promised.

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

### **The Nairobi Summit for a Mine Free World**

November 29-December 3, 2004

135 nations sent representatives to Nairobi, Kenya

for a Summit for a Mine Free World

"to examine the humanitarian problems caused by anti-personnel mines and what is being done to address these problems."



The Nairobi summit  
 adopted “Toward a Mine-Free World: the 2004 Nairobi Declaration”

and decided to meet annually until 2009  
 to push for a total ban on use, deployment & manu

The report of the Nairobi Summit had this summation of the problem:

“The Arms Project of Human Rights Watch has compiled a list of nearly 100 companies in 54 countries— both in the developed and developing world— that have manufactured more than 340 models of APMs (anti-personnel mines), or their components, at a production rate of five to ten million mines a year. Conventional APMs cost between \$3 and \$27 to produce, while technologically advanced mines, like scatterables and self-destructing mines, can cost up to 50 times more. Most warring parties, including rebels, paramilitary groups and governments in low-intensity conflicts, prefer to use traditional ‘dumb’ mines because they are cheaper, simpler to use, and easier to manufacture.”

I was horrified to read how there are mines with electronic sensors  
 able to differentiate between humans and animals.

and some mines can i.d. the number of passersby before  
 detonating

They do not know the difference between soldiers and civilians  
 or between adults and children

Whereas the tech to make more robotic and sci-fi-ish mine systems  
 has sprinted upon the killing fields  
 improvements in methods to clear the killing fields  
 after the killing has formally stopped  
 has moved more slowly

July 2005

The United Nations Association  
 initiated an Adopt-a-Minefield campaign

and for a group called Music Clearing Minefields

stars such as Brian Wilson, Elvis Costello, Paul McCartney,  
 Meat Loaf, Celine Dion, et al

donated items to an online auction

—*The New York Times*  
 Tuesday 7-7-05

### **Only Three Countries Used Landmines in 2005**

In 2005

just three nations utilized landmines:

Nepal, Burma, and Russia

—[www.banminesusa.org](http://www.banminesusa.org)

The most victims of landmines in 2005?

Colombia

1,007 killed or maimed

—U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines

[fcnl.org](http://fcnl.org)

March 1, 2006 the Mine Ban Treaty burned seven &

149 countries had joined in the ban on the trade, use and manufacturing of antipersonnel landmines

these 149 included more than 3/4s of the world's population

—[www.banminesusa.org](http://www.banminesusa.org)

### **The Victims Struggle On**

2006

There are around 400,000 landmine victims on Gaia

all trying to live some sort of life of

dignity free of pain & the humiliation of  
 disfigurement

—International Campaign to Ban Landmines, March 2006

[www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org)

### **The Situation in 2006**

According to a global map from the International Campaign to Ban Landmines the following sorry countries

still manufacture child-murderers:

Russia  
 Iran  
 Pakistan  
 Nepal  
 India  
 Burma  
 China  
 the two Koreas  
 Vietnam  
 Singapore  
 Cuba  
 th' U.S.A.

*The vomit vomits in the vomit*

**And what does the United States Military hope to do?  
 (build more and more landmines)**

2006

You can year the ai yi yi's!  
 resounding across the centuries  
 with the baleful news that the U.S. Military

is continuing its money-bulging hunger  
 for depositing computerized, robotic mine systems  
 onto the surface of Gaia

Of course by now, in 2006  
 the question quietly forming on the lips of many  
 is this:

Is the United States becoming such a military-industrial-surveillance state  
 —with silently eroding personal freedoms—  
 Generals giving more and more press conferences  
 Civilian control slipping  
 More and more surveillance  
 Warrantless intrusions  
 More and more U.S. military bases being set up around the world  
 Pressure to institute the military draft  
 Pressure to set aside the Posse Comitatus Act

to the point that  
discussion of banning landmines becomes nearly ludicrous?

We must never give up.

### **Campaign to Divest Stocks in Companies that Manufacture Components of Landmines**

One area for activists is to urge pension funds and other stock-holding entities to remove from their portfolios all stock in companies who make, or whose subsidiaries make, components of landmines, even man-in-the-loop devices.

It's a complicated area. The military-industrial-surrealists claim that the new man-in-the-loop child-maimers circumvent the 1999 landmine treaty.

Human Rights Watch has pointed out that the new man-in-the-loop landmine systems would have a battlefield override mechanism, so that the mines would blow up WITHOUT the man-in-the-loop telling his computer to do it.

September 20, 2005

the Advisory Council on Ethics for the Norwegian Government Petroleum Fund issued the following determination as to divestiture of landmine company stocks owned by the government of Norway:

“The Advisory Council finds that all weapon systems that are designed in such a manner that explosive charges are detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a person, will fall within the definition of an antipersonnel land mine as laid down in Article 2 of the Convention. This means that if the weapons systems in question are going to be equipped with ‘battlefield override’ features, or in other ways designed to circumvent the ‘man-in-the-loop’ feature, they will fall within the scope of the prohibition in the Convention.

Both production and development of antipersonnel mines is covered by the prohibition. The Advisory Council presumes that Spider and IMS [Intelligent Munition System, another, competing mine scheme being developed by the U.S. war machine], so far, have been developed as operator-activated systems. This development thus seems not to have been in violation of the Convention. The key issue is whether it will be decided that these weapons systems are to be modified in such a manner that they will be inconsistent with prohibition against antipersonnel mines.

If a decision is made to equip the weapons systems Spider or IMS with a ‘battlefield override’ feature, or in other ways equip them in such a manner that they fall within the definition of an antipersonnel mine, the Advisory Council is going to recommend exclusion of Textron

Systems.”

You can locate the full 2005 Norwegian study, “Recommendation concerning whether the weapons systems Spider and Intelligent Munition System (IMS) might be contrary to international law,” at:

<http://odin.dep.no/etikkradet/english/documents/099001-990071/dok-bn.html>

And thus continues the international drive  
for civilian control not only of the U.S. military  
and all other militaries  
but also for humane and peaceful control  
of all the companies in the U.S. and all over  
the world who make things like landmines,  
Depleted Uranium explosive devices, portable  
detention systems, torture interrogation manuals  
and the like.

## Some Sources for this Essay and Song

International Campaign to Ban Landmines: [www.icbl.org](http://www.icbl.org)

Human Rights Watch, The Campaign to Ban Landmines: [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)

*Broken Wings, The Legacy of Landmines*, by David Levi Strauss, photos by Bobby Neel Adams, 2001, Greenville County Museum of Art

*Assistance in Mine Clearance, Report of the Secretary-General*,  
September 1994, United Nations publication

<http://www.stoplandmines.org>

Dr. Gino Strada’s appearance on Democracy Now 4-8-05

[globalsecurity.org](http://globalsecurity.org) (mostly pro-landmine, but it’s interesting to study their website)



