Humanitarian relief organisations in favour of a German export-stop of mines

German Initiative demand a comprehensive prohibition / DM 60 Mio. flows into the development of weapons

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BERLIN, December 2nd. 17 German humanitarian relief organisations urge the German government to impose a prohibition of exports on anti-tank mines as well as anti-vehicle mines. With such a step the red-green coalition would underline their will towards a total ban of landmines, Thomas Gebauer emphasises in Berlin at Thursday. He is one of the founder of the German Initiative to Ban Landmines. The Convention of Ottawa which was signed two years ago and prohibits anti-personnel mines was designated by Gebauer as a important step. "But the prohibition is not sufficiently".

Almost every day we have to deplore victims caused by landmines.

The German Initiative, which associates among other UNICEF, Bread for the World, medico international, Misereor, urge the German government to expand the German legislation for the prohibition of mines to mines like AT-2 (Producer: Dynamit Nobel) and MUSPA (producer: Rheinmetall/Daimler-Benz Aerospace/Thompson-Das-Wirksysteme).

Stockpiles of the German Federal Armed Forces

According to the information of Gebauer 1,2 Mio. mines of the type AT-2 are stocked by the German Federal Armed Forces. The AT-2 is already prohibited under the national legislation of Italy .... The German defence department plans the export of AT-2 mines to Greece. Moreover the German Federal Armed Forces dispose of 88.000 scatterable mines MUSPA. In contrast to the US department of defence the Germans judge these mines not to be an anti-personnel mine.

The Common Conference Church and Development declares that the renunciation of procurement and development of mine systems would make funds available for the victims of those explosives. Executive director Jürgen Hambrink designated the funds of DM 18 Mio. for humanitarian mine clearance in 1999 as to low. In contrast to this DM 60 Mio. flew from the German budget in the procurement and development of landmine related technologies according to the Landmine Monitor Report Germany. According to it moreover DM 300 Mio. have been planned to be spent for the development of the new area-defence-mine COBRA ... [Already 50 Mio. of this development budget have been spent until fiscal year 1998]. This mine of the company Rheinmetall is fitted with seismic and acoustic sensors which can not [reliable] discriminate between military and civil vehicles. In contrast to this the company Daimler-Benz finished the development [production] of the contested mine PARM-1 after public pressure.

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