

Emergency Humanitarian Demining in Some Villages in the Municipality of Samaniego - Department of Nariño

In Colombia, the accident rate caused by anti-personnel mines affects the civilian population gravely. The community of Samaniego is proposing an emergency humanitarian demining program in order to relieve the crisis generated by anti-personnel mines within its territory and facilitate implementation of development programs in its rural areas.

In order to develop such initiative, a commission was created, made up of the following people: Monsignor Arturo Correa, Bishop of the Diocese of Ipiales; Harold Montúfar Andrade and James Ibarra on behalf of the Municipality of Samaniego; Mehmet Balci, Program Director, Geneva Call; Clemencia Toro and Claudio Tapio, community representatives; Jairo Rosero and Rita Escobar on behalf of the social organizations of Nariño and Alvaro Jiménez, Guarantor of the *Casa de Paz*.

The National Liberation Army (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional, ELN*) listened to the community's proposal and agreed to develop it as well as the terms of the emergency plan through the facilitation of the Municipality of Samaniego and Geneva Call.

The community of Samaniego, by means of the promoter commission, together with the Municipality of Samaniego and Geneva Call present, in the framework of the IV Round of conversations between the National Government and the ELN, a proposal of Emergency Humanitarian Demining in Samaniego - Department of Nariño.

1. The components of the proposal

Given the growth of the accident rate caused by mines and how this has affected the community during this year, the emphasis of this proposal is to carry out emergency humanitarian demining in some villages in the Municipality of Samaniego through a plan with the following components:

- a. To educate the population in order to reduce the risk of accidents.
- b. Integral assistance to civilian victims through the municipal, departmental and national institutions own mechanisms.
- c. Impact assessment to delimit and mark dangerous areas, creating emergency passages that are safe for the inhabitants.
- d. Humanitarian demining of areas identified as a priority by the communities.
- e. Sustainability of the process through the design and implementation of a development plan in such areas.

2. Considerations regarding the humanitarian demining proposal

1. Geneva Call has been carrying out, since 2003, official negotiations with the ELN on demining and has promptly informed the government of Colombia thereof.
2. The ELN has shown its disposition to carry out mine clearance operations regarding mines laid by this organization in the areas where it is present.

3. In the occasion of the fourth round of negotiations in La Havana, between the government and the ELN, the community and authorities of Samaniego have built a proposal to clear the mines.
4. The mine clearance operations contained in the proposal built up by the communities of Samaniego can be developed, and Geneva Call expresses its will to cooperate in order for them to be implemented successfully.
5. The humanitarian demining proposed by the community of Samaniego facilitates the implementation of development actions presented by the community and its authorities.
6. In order to reach the best development of such proposal, it is necessary for the Commission, the Municipality and Geneva Call to take together with the authorities all necessary steps to render such development possible.

La Havana, Cuba 19th October 2006

On behalf of the ELN

ANTONIO GARCIA
Head of Delegation, ELN

On behalf of the Humanitarian Demining Promoter Comisión

MEHMET BALCI
Geneva Call

MARIA EUGENIA ROSERO
Indigenous Enclave of El Sande

CLAUDIO TAPIA B.
Community Delegate

CLEMENCIA TORO T.
Community Delegate

JAIRO ROSERO
Social Organizations

RITHA ESCOBAR TELAG
Social Organizations

HAROLD W. MONTUFAR A.
Local Peace Agreement Delegate

JAMES F. IBARRA O.
Municipality of Samaniego Delegate