

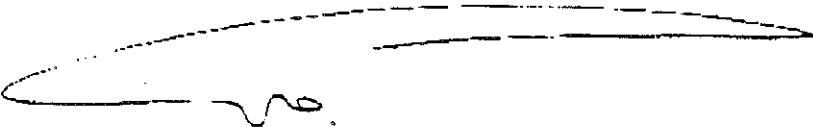
January 26, 2000

His Excellency Kofi Annan
Secretary-General of the United Nations

In response to the suffering and casualties caused to many thousands of innocent and defenseless civilians and especially children, the people of Iraqi Kurdistan support the call for a world-wide ban on the use of anti-personnel landmines.

In doing so we appeal the international community, the United Nations, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations to assist us in the removal of this serious man-made problem. Since 1991 alone this terrible legacy of conflict has claimed more than 3,000 lives and left over 6,000 maimed and injured. Today it continues to claim lives while also obstructing our reconstruction and development efforts and inhibiting the safe return of displaced persons to the region.

In making this appeal we emphasize the importance of the international humanitarian principles and obligations enshrined within the 'Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction' and commit ourselves to every effort to ensure that they are realized within the context of our own responsibilities and within the limits of our own resources.



Jalal Talabani
Secretary General of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan