

TALIBAN OF AFGHANISTAN
STATEMENT OF THE ISLAMIC EMIRATE OF
AFGHANISTAN ON THE PROBLEM OF LANDMINES
06 OCTOBER 1998

As Allah Almighty has made Human beings his representatives on Earth, both his life and death are regarded with much respect in Islam. God Almighty teaches us in the holy Quran: 'Whosoever killeth a human being for other than man-slaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he saved the life of all mankind (Verse 32, Surah Almaidah, The Holy Quran).

Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) says, 'The summit of Faith is Kalma-e-Toheed and the foundation is clearing the path from peril and modesty is part of the belief.

In addition to various social and economical problems in Afghanistan, the presence of landmines in large numbers is also considered one of the main problems of Afghanistan. Landmines have caused death and maiming of thousands of innocent Afghans including women and children during the last several years of war. Even now everyday about ten innocent Afghans fall victim to the blind terrorism of anti-personnel landmines. Landmines are also considered a major threat to the reconstruction of Afghanistan and repatriation of the refugees and displaced persons to their homes. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) believes that, unless a total ban is imposed on the production, trade, stockpiling, and use of landmines, this tragedy will continue not only in Afghanistan but in the whole world. The IEA in consideration of its Islamic and humanitarian feelings and in consideration of the antagonistic effects of the landmines, strongly condemns the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines, and considers it an un-Islamic and anti-human act.

While strongly supporting the Afghan Campaign to Ban Landmines (ACBL) and the Ottawa landmine ban treaty, the IEA invites the attention of the Muslim Ummah and the international community to the following points:

1. At the international level, the IEA calls for a total ban on the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines, and is ready to actively co-operate in this regard.
2. At national level, the IEA announces a total ban on the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines, and makes a commitment to the suffering people of Afghanistan and the international community that the IEA would never make any use of any type of landmines.
3. The IEA asks all the opposition groups to avoid the use, trade and stockpiling of landmines and do not cause more harm to the bereaved and suffering people of Afghanistan.
4. Those who use landmines in personal, political or any other differences in Afghanistan would be punished in accordance with the Islamic law.

5. The IEA thanks all those countries that have signed the Ottawa treaty, and urges all those countries that have not yet signed this treaty to immediately stop production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines in respect of the Ottawa international treaty.

6. The IEA ask the whole international community and neighbouring countries to stop export of landmines to Afghanistan immediately and thereby do not increase the sufferings and hardships of the Afghan people. The IEA strongly condemns the exporters of landmines to Afghanistan and considers such acts violations of international law.

7. As Afghanistan is a war torn and worst off country, the IEA requests the international community to provide further financial and technical assistance to mine action operations in Afghanistan to enhance these efforts in order to get rid of the landmines and release the people of Afghanistan from dangers and worries of landmines as soon as possible.

8. The IEA requests the international community to provide generous assistance to the hundreds of thousands of mine victims in Afghanistan in order to enable them to start their normal social and economic life and play their part in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Finally, the IEA once again calls on the international community in general and the neighbouring countries in particular to support a total ban on the production, trade, stockpiling and use of landmines in order to end this human tragedy in the world as soon as possible. In addition, the IEA requests the international community to provide generous assistance to mine action activities and other rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan to enable people to stand on their own two feet and resume their normal and peaceful life.

Sign and seal of:

The servant of Islam

Amir Almonineen (Mujahid) Mulla Mohammad Omer Akhund

06 October 1998