

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 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

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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.

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 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 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

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

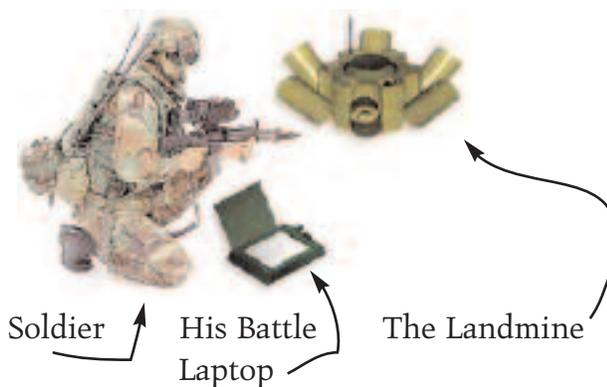
Alliant Techsystems and Textron Systems were given
 a \$53.8 million contract to develop the “Spider” landmine system

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

The most victims of landmines in 2005?

Colombia

1,007 killed or maimed

—U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines

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

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

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

Human Rights Watch, The Campaign to Ban Landmines: 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 (mostly pro-landmine, but it’s interesting to study their website)

