

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**  
**RESOLUTION**  
**LAND MINES**  
1996

Whereas there are 110 million active land mines in 64 countries; 2,000 people are killed or maimed by land mines each month; for every mine cleared, 20 new mines are laid; a mine costs \$3 to \$30 to make and \$300 to \$1,000 to clear; the United Nations estimates it would take \$33 billion and 1,000 years to clear the Earth of mines, even if no new mines were laid; one in four casualties treated by the Red Cross is a mine victim; women and children account to 30 percent of all land-mine victims; mines block vast amounts of otherwise usable land; and

Whereas last June, two Americans, one from Long Island, the other from Minnesota, both in the military but on their honeymoon were killed from a land mine in the Sinai Desert on their way to a resort on the Red Sea, even though peace had long since come to the area; and

Whereas the first U.S. casualty in Bosnia was from a land mine; and

Whereas Pope John Paul II, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, UNICEF director James Grant, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, former President Jimmy Carter, American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole, and the Foreign Ministers of Germany and Canada join others in calling for an end to the use of antipersonnel land mines; and

Whereas, twenty-seven countries have declared land mine export moratoria, including France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Spain, Canada, Italy, Sweden and South Africa; and

Whereas the United States Senate has passed, under the leadership of Senator Patrick Leahy, legislation that imposes a one year moratorium on the use of antipersonnel land mines (except along International borders and the demilitarized zones) and to impose sanctions against countries that export antipersonnel land mines;

Now therefore the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association commits itself to recommend the President sign this legislation when it comes before him; to urge the President and Congress to work towards the eventual worldwide elimination of antipersonnel land mines; to educate those we come in contact with in our rabbinate; and to support the worldwide elimination of antipersonnel land mines.