

President Obama Acknowledges Legacies of War

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Given our history here, I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal. And even as we continue to deal with the past, our new partnership is focused on the future. We want to be partners as you invest in the the well-being of your people, and especially your children." -- President Obama, Vientiane, Laos, Sep 9, 2016

Dear Friends,

What a year this has been and how far we have come together!

I was so proud to represent all of you when President Obama, in his speech earlier this month, acknowledged all of our work to help focus U.S. policy on the legacies of war in Laos. During his extraordinary visit to the capital city of Vientiane, the first visit by a U.S. president, the President openly acknowledged the U.S. bombing of Laos during the war. Thank you for helping us get this far. [I hope we can count on your continued financial support to take the next steps in this important work.](#)



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Here's what President Obama said:

"Over nine years -- from 1964 to 1973 -- the United States dropped more than two million tons of bombs here in Laos -- more than we dropped on Germany and Japan combined during all of World War II. It made Laos, per person, the most heavily bombed country in history. Given our history here, I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to help Laos heal."

For those of us who have fought so hard for so long to bring this history to light, it was a truly incredible moment. But then, it got even better.

The President pledged \$90 million over the next three years, or \$30 million per year, to the unexploded ordnance (UXO) sector in Laos. This means a doubling of annual U.S. funding and moves us closer to making Laos safe from these leftover bombs.



This is the first multi-year commitment by the U.S. government to clear bombs and support victims in Laos – exactly what Legacies of War has been fighting for since 2004.

In his speech, President Obama acknowledged our work. "We're connected by Channapha Khamvongsa," he said, "who came to America when she was seven years old and who is back here today. And for years, she urged the United States to do more to help remove unexploded bombs here in Laos. 'There are many, many problems in this world that might not be able to be solved in a lifetime,' she said, but this is one we can fix. So, Channapha, we thank you for working to fix this

problem."

I am grateful to the President for his words of acknowledgement. But the real thanks goes to you, our supporters. You have so much to be proud of.

But our work is far from done.

On September 17, just a week after the President's visit, three boys ages 9 and 10, from the southern province of Khammouane, were digging for crickets, a common source of food, when they struck a bomb. One boy died, and the two others were severely injured.

We see this new funding as a down payment. The money will provide a comprehensive survey of UXO in Laos. After this critical survey is completed, we need to ensure that additional funding is available to clear the land. We also must not forget about the much needed long-term support to the 12,000 UXO survivors still living in Laos.

Remember, none of this new funding will go to Legacies of War. Instead, it goes to our wonderful partner organizations on the ground, such as MAG, HALO Trust, Sterling International, World Education, Norwegian People's Aid, Handicap International, Health Partnership International and Spirit of Soccer.

I'm writing to you today to ask you to help us launch the next phase of work with a special gift to Legacies of War. [We need to raise at least \\$50,000 by the end of October to build on the success of our Vision 20 | 20 campaign, which would expand critical support in Congress and develop the next generation of advocates who will lead us to finish this job in our lifetime.](#)

[Will you please make a tax deductible gift today of \\$5,000, \\$1,000, \\$500, or \\$100 to help us reach our goal? I hope we can count on you.](#)

Thank you for your continuous support. We never could have done all of this work without your support!

With deep appreciation,



Channapha Khamvongsa
Executive Director

P.S. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff and his team joined me for several days in Laos. **The result is a beautifully produced video that gives the affected children and victims in Laos a voice. I hope you take a few minutes to watch this intriguing feature and share it with your friends and family:**



 [Forward to a Friend](#)

After you make your gift, will you share this appeal with 5 other people who might also be able to make a similar contribution?

[DONATE NOW](#)



President Obama in Laos 2016 © AP Photo / Cardyn Kaster

**WHITE HOUSE MEDIUM -
"AFTER WAR, A NEW
LEGACY OF PEACE"**

NUMBERS AND FACTS

[Legacies of War:
Fact Sheet](#)

[Legacies of War:
Press Release on Obama's Announcement of Funding Increase](#)



Read our Executive Director, Channapha Khamvongsa's letter to the American people that was featured in the [White House newsletter!](#)

Office of Senator Leahy:
Press Release on UXO Removal in Laos

ABC News - The Bombing of Laos:
By the Numbers

White House Fact Sheet:
U.S.-Laos Relations

U.S. Department of State - To Walk the Earth in Safety:
U.S. Clearance Efforts Throughout The World

LEGACIES IN THE NEWS

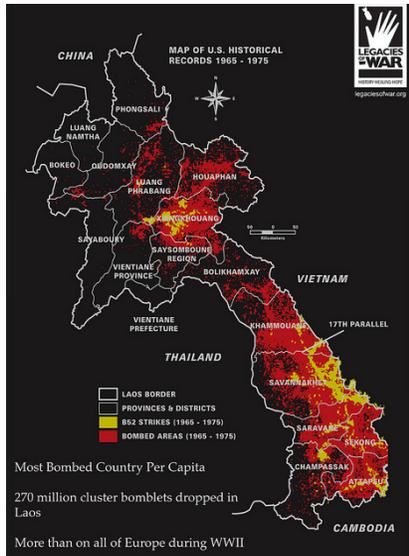
White House Medium, **After a War, A New Legacy** By Channapha Khamvongsa

The Nation, **The Heroes Behind Obama's Historic Announcement in Laos** By John Cavanagh

The Diplomat, **Obama in Laos. Cleaning Up After The Secret War** By Brett Dakin

CNN, **My Friends Were Afraid Of Me** By Rebecca Wright

PBS, **Decades On, Millions Of American Unexploded Bombs Left Behind Still Kill And Maim Laos** By Mike Cerre



SAVE THE DATE: #LaoNow - Fashion Meets Philanthropy Fundraiser, NYC on October 15

You are invited to join us in our 2nd annual [#LaoNow: Fashion Meets Philanthropy Fundraiser 2016!](#) Join Us On Our Mission To Advocate For The Removal Of Unexploded Bombs in Laos! Last year, we SOLD OUT! This year, we got an even bigger space for more than 500 people. **Celebrate Obama's visit as the first president in Laos and Legacies' accomplishments!** There are only a few tickets left. Save the Date, get your [tickets](#), and stay up to date on our [event website](#).

LEGACIES OF WAR, MODABOX, ARTICLE 22, & KHE-YO PRESENT:

cocktails | fashion show | lao food | auction | night market | music



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