



## PRESS ADVISORY

Upcoming Congressional Hearing:

### “Legacies of War: Unexploded Ordnances in Laos”

Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2172

The House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, chaired by Rep. Faleomavaega (D-American Samoa), will examine the issue of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) in Laos and U.S. funding for their removal.

#### Background:

- **Laos is the most heavily bombed country in history.** U.S. Vietnam War-era bombings from 1964-1973 resulted in over 260 million cluster bomblets dropped (five times more bombs than were dropped on Iraq).
- Today, more than **75 million** unexploded cluster bomblets litter forests, rice fields, villages, school grounds, roads and other populated areas in Laos, hindering development and poverty reduction.
- The massive bombing campaign **left over one-third of Laos contaminated** with vast quantities of unexploded ordnance.
- **Over 20,000 people have been killed or injured by UXO** since the bombing ceased, with close to 300 new casualties in Laos occurring every year.
- More than **half of all confirmed cluster munitions casualties** in the world have occurred in Laos.
- About 40% of the accidents result in death, and 33% of the victims are children.
- The U.S. **spent more in 3 days bombing Laos** than it has spent in **the last 15 years** cleaning the bombs up.

Witnesses will include: **Scott Marciel** of the U.S. Department of State, **Channapha Khamvongsa** of Legacies of War, **Robert Keeley** of the Humpty Dumpty Institute and **Virgil Wiebe** of the Mines Advisory Group.

#### About Legacies of War

*Legacies of War ([www.legacieofwar.org](http://www.legacieofwar.org)) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness about the history of the Vietnam War-era bombing in Laos and advocate for the clearance of unexploded bombs, to provide space for healing the wounds of war, and to create greater hope for a future of peace.*

#### Contact

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