Islamic Republic of Iran

Country Profile

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Algeria

by Joseph Keane [Mine Action Information Center]

Algeria’s history over the past two centuries is marked with more periods of violence than peace. Beginning with a brutalroulette in the 1830s and continuing through the sectarian fighting of the 1990s, Algeria has experienced the brunt of war. According to the Economist, al-Qaeda and the diaspora from the insurgencies of the 1990s joined together to form the al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb.1 That terrorist organization has been carrying out attacks in the capital of Algiers through suicide bombings and roadside bombs. The most recent strike was on 13 December 2007, when two car bombs exploded near the United Nations Development Programme and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees buildings. According to the New York Times, 37 people were killed, including 17 UN employees.2 Steven Olejas, a well-known and respected member of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, was among the casualties (see his obituary on page 86 of this issue). Algeria’s security forces are fighting back and reporting success. Despite a past of difficulties and, today, Algeria is taking steps to move into a new era of peace by removing its landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination.

Profile: Islamic Republic of Iran

by Matthew Voogel [Mine Action Information Center]

The Islamic Republic of Iran’sMine Action Center2 was created by NMAC in 2003 and stands as the executor of NMAC’s protocols and protocols. IRMAC’s mission is to coordinate and coordinate all mine action in Iran and all demining organizations must also apply to the Convention on Conventional Weapons.3 The country’s officials say that if landmines from their borders were completely removed, then terrorists and narcotics traffickers would have no problem getting into the country.4

The Landmine Problem

Landmines are abundant in the western and southwestern parts of the country, stretching from Abadan on the Persian Gulf to the Turkish border some 600 kilometers (373 miles) north. Mine and unexploded ordnance contamination particularly affected the following areas: Asahan, Khuzestan, Kermanshah and Ilzad. According to the 2007 Landmine Monitor Report, there were 389,062 casualties in 2007.2

Casualties

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Since the remaining insurgent forces of the revolution in the 1970s linked with al-Qaeda in September 2007, there has been a significant increase in the number and scale of their attacks; landmines are not the sole form of contamination.1 There were 148 casualties from IEDs as of 12 July 2007.2

Action Assistance

All citizens of Algeria are guaranteed free access to government hospitals and medical facilities. Legal physical rehabilitation for amputees is only available for those registered in the national security system; many victims of landmines are not registered.2

Ministerial and International Affairs

Ms. Tatar, the Ministry of National Solidarity, offers access to medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration services.5 The Ministry of Health has a few specialized centers to care for the victims of mines. The Ministry also gives money to the landmine victims to help communities affected by landmines. The coordinated groups are responsible for meeting the requirements of the Ottawa Convention and leading the future of mine action.4 The country’s officials say that if landmines from their borders were completely removed, then terrorists and narcotics traffickers would have no problem getting into the country.4

Progress

UNDP-Algeria and the United Nations Development Programme’s Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery are working together to help communities affected by landmines. The country’s officials say that if landmines from their borders were completely removed, then terrorists and narcotics traffickers would have no problem getting into the country.4

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