China

Country Profile

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CHINA

People's Republic of China

History
Dynasties, Kublai Kahn and warlords have ruled China, one of the world's oldest civilizations. In the early 20th century, the Nationalist Party, with the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, captured Beijing, executing many communists. Remaining communists reorganized under Mao Zedong and in 1949, declared the People's Republic of China. In 1989, pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square resulted in violence. Despite its political situation, China is currently experiencing rapid economic growth.

Landmines/UXO Overview
China is known to be one of the largest producers and exporters of AP landmines. The Type 72 mine may be the most encountered landmine in the world. China has planned an estimated 10 million AP landmines along its borders with Russia, India and Vietnam. According to the Chinese government, major clearance operations from 1992-1999 have resulted in a reduced mine threat along the Sino-Vietnamese border. The danger posed to civilians along China's borders with Russia and India are minimal because of the inhospitable mountainous terrain.

Casualties
In a 1999 document obtained by the Landmine Monitor Report, information regarding mine injury disabled persons was detailed for Fang Cheng Gang city, which shares a border with Vietnam. Of the 149 disabled people 80 percent were male farmers with half of the accidents occurring from 1978-1985. Only eight of the disabled had a functioning prosthesis. There is no special care for disabled people within the medical system, nor do they receive pensions or financial assistance.

Demining
Demining is carried out by the People's Liberation Army and is considered a military activity. In September 1999, China completed its clearance of the Sino-Vietnamese border. Officers and soldiers cleared 1.88 million landmines, 32,000 UXO and destroyed more than 700 tons of discarded ammunition. A total area of 300 square kilometers was cleared. China has proposed to assist South and North Korea to clear landmines in the demilitarized zone (DMZ) near the truce village of Panmunjom. Chinese Defense Ministry officials are believed to have given the go ahead to lending technical and personnel support for removing landmines in both Koreas.

Reality Check
China signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in November 2000. The MOU program will initially focus on training in the areas of human rights education, police, and the issue of minor crimes and administrative detention. However, it does not appear to include a monitoring component.

"The Chinese government should take concrete steps to improve the human rights situation on the ground by addressing the widespread torture, executions, and repression. It should widen its cooperation with the U.N. and invite human rights monitoring mechanisms to visit China freely and without conditions, and implement U.N. recommendations," the United Nations said.

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INDIA

History
The British East India Company established trading posts in the 1600s in India and became a major power through the mid-19th century. A controversial massacre of Indians by the British in 1919 encouraged demands for Indian independence. By 1920, Mohandas Gandhi emerged as the leader of Indian independence based on non-violence. The nation gained independence in 1947. Disputes occurred with China in 1959 and 1962 over border conflicts.

Landmines/UXO Overview
While India is not a severely mined country, there have been reports of uncleared mines on the India/China and India/Pakistan borders. Mines laid in the 1965 and 1971 conflict with Kashmir are still claiming victims. According to the army, no mines are placed for border protection or armed infiltration. Armed groups in India hold a wide variety of mines and explosive devices. From 1990-1999, 44,768 AP mines and 582 RAP mines were recovered from militant groups by the police. The People's War Group in Central India also uses mines. On March 7, 2000, Raj Minister Madhav Reddy was killed in a landmine blast.

Casualties
Because of insurgent activities in Kashmir, Jammu and elsewhere, landmine incidents have been reported. In the states of Jammu and Kashmir, from 1990-1999, 889 civilians were killed and 7,798 were injured. Indian medical agencies have developed prosthetics for mine victims and it has been reported that mine victims receive proper medical and rehabilitative services.

Demining
The Indian armed forces have extensive mine clearance capabilities and have been involved with the United Nations in mine clearance and rehabilitation programs. Their services have included all aspects of humanitarian mine action from survey to clearance, developing databases, mine awareness and victim assistance. They are currently working in Sierra Leone.

Reality Check
Pakistan-backed militant groups massed sacred Hindu civilians in at least six separate incidents in the first nine months of 2000. Most of the killings took place in the Doda district and in border villages and appeared to represent a tactical shift for militant groups that had been largely driven out of major towns in the Kashmir Valley. The Parents of Missing People, the first organization of its kind in Kashmir, stated at its inaugural press conference that 2,000 people had "disappeared" since 1990 after being taken into custody in Kashmir, and that no legal remedies were available for discovering their fate. Other human rights groups reporting on conditions in Kashmir reported harassment and fear of possible reprisals by the security forces.

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