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Anti-tank Mines Kill Eight Cambodian Farmers

Eight Cambodian farmers were killed and one was critically injured Friday, 3 February 2012, after their truck hit two anti-tank mines in Banteay Meanchey province in northwestern Cambodia. Due to Cambodia's recent rainfall, the ground was soft—making landmines more susceptible to detonation when driven over by a vehicle. Seven of the farmers died instantly when their truck ran over the AT mine, and an eighth died later in the hospital from injuries. At the time of writing, the truck's driver was in critical condition.¹

Cambodia remains heavily polluted with landmines and other explosive remnants of war left behind from almost 30 years of conflict, beginning with incursions by North Vietnamese and U.S. forces in the early 1960s, followed by a brutal civil war from 1970 to 1979, the Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia from 1979 to 1989, and ending in regional conflicts from 1989 to 1998.^{2,3} In 2011, landmines accounted for approximately 233 injuries or deaths.⁴ Estimates indicate that between four million and six million mines and other ordnance remain in Cambodia, spanning more than 648 square kilometers (250 square miles).⁴ To date, approximately 861,000 anti-personnel mines, 20,000 AT mines and 2 million explosive remnants of war have been destroyed in Cambodia.⁵ 📌



~ Katy Lovin, CISR staff

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Endnotes

1. "Eight Die in Cambodia Anti-tank Mine Blast." *APF*. <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iTRvuQmrL4HpL0yZkfXrKXJDvCgg?docId=CNG.80d7e08b72e081b97777932ee5026afd.2f1>. Accessed 8 February 2012.
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