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## Syria Plants Landmines on Lebanese Border

News Brief

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## Syria Plants Landmines on Lebanese Border

According to BBC and CBS news reports, Syrian troops planted landmines along its border with Lebanon, further perpetuating the uprising that began in March 2011 against President Bashar Assad and his regime. The mines are primarily located in Homs province, across from the eastern Lebanon region of Baalbek. Syrian government officials claimed that these mines were emplaced to keep weapons from being smuggled across the border, but some view this as an effort to section the country off from the rest of the world.<sup>1</sup> According to the report from CBS News, however, no evidence suggests Syria is planting landmines along its borders with Iraq, Jordan or Turkey.<sup>2</sup>

Since the uprisings began, more than 5,000 Syrians fled the country to avoid the violence. CBS reported at least one victim: A Syrian man had his foot amputated after stepping on one of these newly-planted landmines.<sup>2,3</sup> Subsequently, in November 2011, a 24-year-old man became the first Lebanese casualty of the landmines planted along the border.<sup>4</sup>

In Syria, no national mine-action program or mine-action center exists. The United Nations Disengagement Observer Force is responsible for mine clearance in the Area of Separation near Golan Heights, which comprises a Syrian-controlled area, an Israeli-controlled area and a buffer zone.<sup>5</sup> According to the report from CBS News, no evidence suggests Syria has planted landmines along its borders with Iraq, Jordan or Turkey.<sup>3</sup> ↴

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### Endnotes

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