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 by more periods of violence than peace. Beginning with the Arab Takeover in the 19th Century and continuing through the secession fighting of the 1990s, Algeria has seen a cycle of war and peace. According to the Economist, Al-Qaeda and the Islamists lost control of the territory after the opening of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties (November 2005) and ahead of the Conference of April 2006 deadline. The ceremony to mark the event was well-attended. The President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Employment and Solidarity, Minister of War Veterans, Minister of Local Communities, Minister of Defense, Chief of Armed Forces, President of the Parliament’s Defense Committee and the President of the Interministerial Committee on the Implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty all attended to show their support. The President of Algeria “proclaimed his deep respect and attachment to the Mine Ban Treaty.” Algeria’s deadline to make all mine-laden areas safe is 30 March 2012. The Algerian Army began concentrated mine-clearance efforts in November 2004 with the help of the UNDP. The Army estimates that about three million mines remain, though the number was recently found to be statistically improper when France shared its information with Algeria. France admitted that it placed 11 million mines along the borders of Tunisia and Morocco.

Casualties
According to the 2007 Landmine Monitor Report, there were 38 casualties in 2008: 12 deaths and 26 injuries. The majority of the casualties were caused by improperly disposed devices. Only four casualties were caused by AP mines, which is a decrease from the nine casualties in 2003.

Since the remaining insurgent forces of the revolution in the 1990s linked with the army’s leadership in September 2007, there has been a significant increase in the number and scale of their activities. Landmines are not registered. It is estimated that 200,000 landmines remain in areas now occupied by the military. As of 12 July 2007, there were 148 casualties from IEDs as of 12 July 2007.

Victim Assistance
All citizens of Algeria are guaranteed free access to government hospitals and medical care. Rehabilitation for landmine amputees is only available for those registered in the national security system; many victims of landmines are not registered. Mohamed Adimi, the former Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Former Fighters of the Algerian War of Independence (Al-Qahdawie) and the Ministry of Health share responsibility for the victims of French-laid landmines. The Ministry of National Solidarity offers access to medical care, rehabilitation and reintegration services. The Ministry of Emergency has a few specialized centers to care for the victims of mines. This Ministry also gives money to the landmine victims. The Ministry of Local Communities provides sanitary services for the victims.

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 coordination groups are responsible for meeting the requirements of the Ottawa Convention and leading the future of mine action. Goals have been established to complete a mine-action study, create and implement a national mine-action strategy, create a national mine-action database and establish a mine-risk education program.

Profile: Islamic Republic of Iran
by Matthew Voegel [Mine Action Information Center]

The Islamic Republic of Iran Mine Action Center was created by INMAC in 2003 and stands as the executor of INMAC’s protocols and protocol, IRMAC, plans and coordinates all mine action in Iran and all demining organizations must clear any actions with IRMAC before proceeding. UNDP in 2002 the Iranian government signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme in order to help support Iran in its endeavor to establish a beneficial mine-action program. Not much progress has been made however, considering funds for projects were submitted by Iran, help from the UNDP have not been made available yet.

Demining and the Future
For 2006, the Iranian military reported the clearance of 104.42 square kilometers (40.52 square miles), which included the elimination of 60,908 anti-personnel mines and 25,094 anti-vehicle mines, 34,484 square kilometers (13,316 square miles). This amplification is evident in the number of landmines encountered was not registered with the Ottawa Convention and that lead to the opening of the Sixth Meeting of States Parties. Since the 1990s, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Mine Action. Matthew Voegel has been working as an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Mine Action since October 2004. He is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree at James Madison University. Matthew Voegel is an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Mine Action. Matthew Voegel is an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Mine Action. Matthew Voegel is an Editorial Assistant for the Journal of Mine Action.