

10-28-2009

DDASaccident708

Humanitarian Demining Accident and Incident Database
AID

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DDAS Accident Report

Accident details

Report date: 07/07/2011	Accident number: 708
Accident time: 08:00	Accident Date: 28/10/2009
Where it occurred: Geri, Nr Nicosia	Country: Cyprus
Primary cause: Other (?)	Secondary cause: Other (?)
Class: Excavation accident	Date of main report: 28/10/2009
ID original source:	Name of source: Press
Organisation: [Name removed]	
Mine/device: AT (unrecorded)	Ground condition: not recorded
Date record created:	Date last modified: 07/07/2011
No of victims: 1	No of documents: 2

Map details

Longitude:	Latitude:
Alt. coord. system: Not recorded	Coordinates fixed by:
Map east:	Map north:
Map scale:	Map series:
Map edition:	Map sheet:
Map name:	

Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

no independent investigation available (?)

Accident report

The only reports of this accident made available to date are press reports. Their conversion into a DDAS file has led to some of the original formatting being lost. Text in square brackets [] is editorial. This record will be revised as more information becomes available.

The reports are reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

Cyprus: UN deminer killed in accidental bomb blast

28 October 2009 – A United Nations bomb disposal expert died today in an accidental explosion while clearing landmines in Cyprus' buffer zone separating the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides of the Mediterranean island.

[The victim], from Mozambique, was killed in a minefield south east of the UN protected area of Nicosia, the first demining accident in the country in five years, according to the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus ([UNFICYP](#)).

Mr. [The victim] was a member of the UN Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) which was formed in November 2004 to clear the 180 kilometre-long buffer zone, covering around three per cent of the surface area of the divided island.

In a message conveying his condolences to Mr. [The victim]'s family on behalf of the UN team in country, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Cyprus [Name removed] said he was saddened and shocked to learn of the accident.

Mr. [Name removed], who also heads UNFICYP, added that Mr. [The victim]'s death was a tragic reminder of the dangers landmines still pose in the country.

Since 2004, the MACC team has removed and destroyed more than 14,000 mines, and cleared a total of 57 minefields to date, covering more than 6.5 million square metres of land.

Cyprus' minefields were laid during an outbreak of violence in 1974, and current records show a total of 101 mined, suspected and booby-trapped areas.

28th October 2009



Deminer dies in accident

A member of the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) was killed today in a demining accident, the group's first fatality in five years of work on the island.

[The victim], a MACC member from Mozambique, died in an explosion at approximately 8 this morning in a minefield near Geri, some 10 kilometres south east of Nicosia.

The Mine Action Centre Cyprus is a project of the United Nations Development Programme's Partnership for the Future. The MACC has removed and destroyed more than 14,000 mines since 2004, with the support of UNFICYP. A total of 57 minefields have been cleared to date, covering more than 6.5 million square metres of land.

<http://www.unficyp.org/media/SG%20Reports/N0961815.pdf>

11. On 28 October, a civilian contractor of the Mine Action Centre was killed in a demining accident, the demining group's first fatality in five years of operation on the island. The tragic accident happened in the buffer zone, some 10 kilometres south-east of Nicosia.



[Posed photo showing mines in Cyprus.]

<http://www.cyprusdirectory.com/articleview.aspx?ID=15967>

A MEMBER of the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) was killed yesterday in a demining accident in the buffer zone, the group's first fatality in five years of work on the island.

The 39-year-old [the Victim], a MACC member from Mozambique, died after an anti-tank mine exploded at approximately 8am yesterday in a minefield near Yeri, some 10 kilometres south-east of Nicosia.

According to AFP, nine people, including deminers and civilians, were injured by mines in the buffer zone last year.

[The Victim worked for a commercial demining company contracted to the UN MACC, so was not formally employed by the UN.]

Victim Report

Victim number: 894	Name: [Name removed]
Age:	Gender: Male
Status: supervisory	Fit for work: DECEASED
Compensation: Not made available	Time to hospital: Not made available
Protection issued: Not recorded	Protection used: Frontal apron; Long visor

Summary of injuries:

FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

Other documents

January 21, 2011

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90856/7269093.html>

The UN Mine Action Center in Cyprus (UNMACC) marked "six years of successful work" on the island, having cleared more than 27,000 landmines once strewn along the 180-kilometer-long buffer zone, a UN spokesman said here Thursday.

"The deminers, who are contracted by the UN, will shut down their current operations next month," [Name removed], the UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing.

They have "dedicated years of their lives far away from their own homes to make Cyprus -- your home -- a safer place," said [Name removed], who heads the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) .

Most of the deminers are from Mozambique and Zimbabwe. One deminer lost his leg in an accident, and a team leader from Mozambique died a year ago.

Analysis

The primary and secondary causes of this accident are listed as *Other* because there is not enough information to ascertain any causes. Given that the device was an AT blast mine (with a high operating pressure), it is likely that the Victim was defusing it when the accident happened.

The "Inadequate investigation" listed under notes refers to the absence of a full accident report. The UN supported MACC in Cyprus failed to make accident records available after 2008 in contravention of the requirements of the IMAS.