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**KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MINE BAN TREATY  
SINCE MAY 2000 BY REGION****AFRICA  
States Parties**

*Benin.* Benin has set up an interministerial commission to consider the measures needed nationally to implement the Mine Ban Treaty. With French support, Benin is establishing a regional demining training center open to other African countries, which should become operational in mid-2002.

*Botswana.* The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for Botswana on 1 September 2000. As of July 2001, Botswana had not yet submitted its first Article 7 transparency report that was due on 28 February 2001.

*Burkina Faso.* Burkina Faso has proposed a draft decree, including penal sanctions for violation, to implement the Mine Ban Treaty at the national level. It submitted its first Article 7 transparency report on 4 December 2000.

*Cape Verde.* Cape Verde ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 14 May 2001.

*Chad.* A Landmine Impact Survey was completed in May 2001. Approximately 300 mine- and UXO-related casualties were recorded in the past two years. Chad has not submitted its Article 7 reports, due 29 April 2000 and 30 April 2001.

*Congo-Brazzaville.* Congo-Brazzaville acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 4 May 2001. A military official told Landmine Monitor that the country has a stockpile of some 700-900,000 antipersonnel mines, and that an inventory of all the stocks is being conducted throughout the country by the army. This is the first time Congo-Brazzaville revealed information about its mine stockpile.

*Côte d'Ivoire.* Côte d'Ivoire became a State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty on 1 December 2000. The Article 7 transparency report, due at the end of May 2001, had not yet been submitted as of July. A Côte d'Ivoire Campaign to Ban Landmines was established in December 2000.

*Djibouti.* In February 2001, a National Mine Action Center was inaugurated in Djibouti. In November 2000, Djibouti hosted a conference on landmines for the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden states. Djibouti has not yet submitted its first Article 7 report, due in August 1999.

*Gabon.* Gabon ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 8 September 2000 and became a State Party on 1 March 2001.

*Ghana.* Ghana ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 30 June 2000 and it entered into force on 1 December 2000.

*Guinea-Bissau.* Guinea-Bissau ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 22 May 2001. The nongovernmental organization HUMAID began demining operations in January 2000, and through February 2001 had cleared some 44,392 square meters of land, removing 1,284 antipersonnel mines, 45 antitank mines, and 264 UXO, mostly in Bissau city. In mid-2000 the UNDP began support aimed at creation of an integrated mine action program in Guinea-Bissau. A national mine action coordination body, the National Center for Coordination of Anti-mines Actions (CAAMI), was established in late 2000, and a draft National Humanitarian Mine Action Program (PAAMI) was prepared in early 2001.

*Kenya.* Kenya ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 23 January 2001. UXO victims in Kenya are currently seeking legal redress from the British government, which undertakes joint military training exercises in northern Kenya. British Royal Engineers started clearing munitions early April 2001.

*Liberia.* The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for Liberia on 1 June 2000. An independent panel of experts is investigating UN allegations that weapons including antipersonnel mines have been imported by

Liberia in violation of the UN embargo. Despite fighting in Lofa county in Liberia there are no reports of mine use.

*Malawi.* There was one mine incident in Malawi in 2000, resulting in five casualties. Malawi reports that it is in the process of enacting national implementing legislation, but it has still not submitted its required Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 report, due on 28 August 1999. In December 2000, the United States did not approve Malawi for US demining assistance.

*Mali.* Mali has adopted legislation to implement the Mine Ban Treaty at the national level. In February 2001, Mali hosted the Bamako Seminar on the Universalization and Implementation of the Ottawa Convention in Africa, attended by 45 African governments. Mali's initial transparency report required by Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 was finally submitted on 17 May 2001.

*Mauritania.* On 1 January 2001, Mauritania became the 100<sup>th</sup> State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty. A two-year US assistance program has helped create a long-term indigenous mine action program in Mauritania. By early 2001, 141 hectares and 202 kilometers of roads had been cleared, 27 minefields had been identified and some 3,200 antipersonnel mines and 2,300 unexploded shells destroyed. Mauritania has reported destruction of its antipersonnel mine stockpile (about 5,000 mines), and intends to keep 5,918 antipersonnel mines for training purposes.

*Mauritius.* Mauritius enacted the Anti-Personnel Mines (Prohibition) Act in April 2001. As of July 2001, Mauritius had still not submitted its first Article 7 report, due on 27 August 1999.

*Mozambique.* According to the National Demining Institute, in 2000 a total of 4.98 million square meters of land was cleared, including over 317 kilometers of road. Landmine casualties continued to decline dramatically, from 133 casualties in 1998, to 60 in 1999, to 25 in 2000. The initial findings of the Mozambique Landmine Impact Survey were released in June 2001. It found that all ten provinces and 123 out of 128 districts in Mozambique are mine-affected. The survey identified 1,374 suspected mined areas, covering an estimated 562 square kilometers. Mozambique submitted its first Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 transparency report, which provided the first public details on Mozambique's stockpile of 37,818 antipersonnel mines.

*Namibia.* It appears that both Angolan UNITA rebel forces and Angolan government forces have used antipersonnel mines inside Namibia. The number of mine incidents has risen dramatically since 1999. Police statistics show that in 2000, 14 people were killed and 125 injured in mine incidents. The US-sponsored mine clearance program came to end on 8 February 2001. Namibia has still failed to submit its initial Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 transparency report due on 27 August 1999.

*Rwanda.* There are serious allegations of antipersonnel mine use by Rwandan troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in June 2000. Rwanda denies the allegations. Mine clearance operations resumed in Rwanda in June 2000. As a result by January 2001, 2,966 mines and UXO were removed and 11,337 square meters of land were cleared for resettlement.

*Senegal.* There continue to be allegations of use of mines by the MFDC rebels. The number of new mine casualties decreased slightly to fifty-seven in 2000.

*Seychelles.* Seychelles ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 2 June 2000 and became a State Party on 1 December 2000.

*Sierra Leone.* Sierra Leone ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 25 April 2001. Sierra Leone has acknowledged that it has a small stockpile of 900 antipersonnel mines.

*South Africa.* South Africa has continued to play a leading role in the intersessional work program of the Mine Ban Treaty. South African companies continued to carry out mine clearance operations and extensive research and development on demining technology and mine clearance equipment.

*Tanzania.* Tanzania ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 13 November 2000. The treaty came into force for Tanzania on 1 May 2001. Tanzania is the only State Party that has not revealed whether or not it currently maintains a stockpile of antipersonnel mines. Field visits by Landmine Monitor to the border area between Tanzania and Burundi showed that there continue to be landmine victims arriving from Burundi in northwest refugee camps.

*Togo:* Togo became a State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty on 1 September 2000, but has not yet adopted national measures to implement the treaty or submitted its first Article 7 transparency report. In December 2000, four local NGOs established the Togolese Campaign to Ban Antipersonnel Mines

*Uganda:* Landmine Monitor has continued to receive disturbing reports that indicate a strong possibility of use of antipersonnel mines by Ugandan forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo in June 2000. Landmine Monitor believes that these serious and credible allegations merit the urgent attention of States Parties, who should consult with the Ugandan government and other relevant actors in order to seek clarification, establish the facts, and resolve these questions regarding compliance with the Mine Ban Treaty. The Ugandan government denies that it used antipersonnel mines in the DRC. There continue to be new mine casualties in northern Uganda. The Mines Advisory Group completed the first assessment of the mine situation in Uganda in May 2001.

*Zambia.* Zambia ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 23 February 2001; the treaty entered into force for Zambia on 1 August 2001. UNMAS carried out an assessment mission in May-June 2000, and the US State Department conducted an assessment mission in October 2000.

*Zimbabwe.* In January 2001, Zimbabwe enacted *The Anti-Personnel Mines (Prohibition) Act, 2000*. In November 2000, Zimbabwe destroyed its stockpile of 4,092 antipersonnel mines. It has decided to retain 700 mines for permitted training purposes. European Union-funded mine clearance was terminated in December 2000. Zimbabwean officials strongly denied allegations of use of antipersonnel mines by Zimbabwean forces deployed in the DR Congo, as reported in *Landmine Monitor Report 2000*. Zimbabwe became co-chair of the Standing Committee on the General Status and Operation of the Convention in September 2000.

#### AFRICA Signatories

*Angola.* Both government and UNITA forces have continued to use antipersonnel mines, even though the Angolan Parliament approved ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty in July 2000. Major mine action NGOs report clearing some 5.8 million square meters of land in 2000. INAROOE reported that 1,335 antipersonnel mines, 51 antivehicle mines, and 75,017 UXO were destroyed through clearance operations. UNICEF reports that mine awareness campaigns reached more than 237,000 people in 2000. During 2000, there were 840 landmine and UXO casualties recorded.

*Burundi.* It seems certain that antipersonnel mines have continued to be used in the ongoing conflict in Burundi. There have been allegations of use by both government and rebel forces. Landmine Monitor has not been able to obtain conclusive evidence regarding which belligerents are responsible for mine use. The government appointed an interministerial commission to oversee and facilitate the Mine Ban Treaty ratification process.

*Cameroon.* Although Cameroon has passed national legislation to ratify the Mine Ban Treaty, as of July 2001 it had not deposited its instrument of ratification with the United Nations. Despite not being a State Party, on 14 March 2001 it submitted a transparency report as required by Mine Ban Treaty Article 7; it declared a stockpile of 500 antipersonnel mines.

*Ethiopia.* The border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea came to an end in June 2000. A variety of mine action activities are underway. A Mine Action Coordination Center has been established within the United Nations Mission on Eritrea and Ethiopia, and the government has created an Ethiopian Mine Action Office.

The NGO HALO Trust conducted a rapid assessment survey. Mine awareness activities and survivor assistance programs expanded. Still, there were 170 new mine casualties in just the Tigray region in 2000. There have continued to be reports of mine use by Ethiopia as well as Eritrea during their border war from May 1998 to June 2000. While Landmine Monitor does not have conclusive evidence, there are strong indications that Ethiopian forces used antipersonnel mines during the conflict. In June and July 2001 letters to Landmine Monitor, the Minister of Foreign Affairs denied any use of antipersonnel mines by Ethiopia.

*Sudan.* There are strong indications that both government and rebel forces in Sudan continued to use antipersonnel mines. The government continues to deny use. The first meeting of the Sudan Mine Network, established to coordinate mine action, was held in April 2001. Between September 1997 and March 2001 clearance teams have removed 2,816 antipersonnel mines, 411 antitank mines, and 88,019 UXO. Sudan has recovered 2,972,024 square meters of land, along with 676 miles of road.

## AFRICA Non-Signatories

*Central African Republic.* The Central African Republic, a non-signatory, attended the Bamako Seminar on the Universalization and Implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty in Africa, in February 2001, and also attended the Mine Ban Treaty intersessional Standing Committee meetings in Geneva in May 2001. The Central African Republic had never before participated in international diplomatic landmine meetings.

*Democratic Republic of Congo.* The government of President Joseph Kabila has expressed its intention to join the Mine Ban Treaty. The DRC reportedly completed the domestic procedures necessary to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty on 28 March 2001. However, as of July the instrument of accession had not yet been formally deposited at the United Nations. Since May 2000, there has been continued use of antipersonnel mines in the DRC, even as the fragile peace takes hold. An April 2001 UN report stated, "During the disengagement phase, [UN observers] received information indicating the presence of minefields laid by the belligerent forces to protect their front-line positions," and remarked on "both the increased number of new defensive positions and the danger of mines." Landmine Monitor has been unable to confirm definitively which of the fighting parties have used antipersonnel mines. In light of continued serious allegations regarding use by Mine Ban Treaty States Parties, Landmine Monitor strongly urges States Parties as a matter of priority to consult, seek clarifications, and cooperate with each other to establish the facts and resolve questions regarding antipersonnel mine use in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

*Eritrea.* Since the border war between Eritrea and Ethiopia came to an end in June 2000, Eritrea has acknowledged use of antipersonnel mines during the conflict. A variety of mine action activities are underway. A Mine Action Coordination Center has been set up within the United Nations Mission on Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE). The Eritrean Mine Action Center has been established as the coordinator of all mine action in Eritrea. The HALO Trust has conducted a rapid assessment survey of danger areas. Training of deminers is underway. Eritrea has submitted to UNMEE a detailed map and 313 comprehensive minefield records.

*Nigeria:* On 10 May 2000, the Federal Executive Council resolved that Nigeria should join the Mine Ban Treaty. The decision of the Council is in the process of being implemented.

*Somalia.* According to UNDP Somalia, as of July 2001, a Rintland Mine Action Center was being established and a Mogadishu Mine Action Center will be established in September 2001. UNDP Somalia indicates demining in Somalia can begin in October 2001. The Survey Action Center carried out an Advance Survey Mission in March 2001. Agreement of government authorities has been obtained to conduct a Landmine Impact Survey. In 2000, in two regions of central Somalia, there were 147 mine casualties.

## AMERICAS States Parties

*Argentina.* Argentina co-hosted a regional seminar on stockpile destruction in November 2000. Argentina submitted its initial Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 transparency report, which made public for the first time details on its stockpile of 89,170 antipersonnel mines. An Office for Humanitarian Demining has been established in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

*Bolivia.* For the first time, Bolivia provided detailed information to Landmine Monitor on Chilean minefields near its border. In January 2001 parliamentarians from Bolivia and Chile met and issued a joint declaration on demining their common border. Bolivia has not submitted its required Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 transparency report annual updates in 2000 and 2001.

*Brazil.* Domestic legislation to implement the Mine Ban Treaty is currently before the Senate. Brazil submitted its initial Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 transparency report, which made public for the first time details about Brazil's stockpile of 34,562 antipersonnel mines. Brazil intends to retain 16,550 mines for training, the most of any State Party.

*Canada.* Canada has continued to play its leadership role in promoting universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. It coordinated the Universalization Contact Group, and co-organized regional conferences in Mali, Mongolia and Poland. It took responsibility for work related to operationalizing Article 8 on compliance. It promoted stockpile destruction, including co-organizing seminars in Buenos Aires and Budapest. It has served as co-rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance. The government contributed US\$14.6 million to mine action programs.

*Colombia.* Colombia ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 6 September 2000. Guerrilla groups continued to use antipersonnel landmines. Landmine Monitor identified a growing number of mine-affected areas, including at least 168 municipalities in 27 departments in all five regions of Colombia. A new pilot project on mine awareness and victim assistance is being implemented in 16 municipalities. A total of 83 mine casualties were recorded in 2000, an increase from 63 in 1999. From January through July 2001, 138 mine casualties were recorded. Colombia has reported a stockpile of 18,294 antipersonnel landmines.

*Costa Rica.* Domestic implementation legislation has been introduced to the Legislative Assembly. Costa Rica has not yet submitted its initial Article 7 transparency report, due by 27 February 2000. According to current plans, mine clearance is due to be completed in July 2002.

*Dominican Republic.* The Dominican Republic ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 30 June 2000.

*Ecuador.* Ecuador and the Organization of American States signed a Framework Agreement for an Integrated Mine Action Program in Ecuador. Ecuador has reported that it is retaining 16,000 antipersonnel mines for training, the second highest number of any State Party.

*El Salvador.* For the first time, the Armed Forces has told Landmine Monitor that El Salvador has a stockpile of 5,657 antipersonnel mines. Although the government has declared itself "mine-free," the International Demining Group, and its partner organization CORDES, identified 53 mine- and UXO-affected sites in Chalatenango, Cabañas, Cucatlán and Usulután departments. A mine action project, including demining, by IDG was scheduled to start in late 2001. El Salvador has not submitted its initial Article 7 transparency report, due 27 December 1999.

*Guatemala.* Clearance of unexploded ordnance in the northern areas of El Quiché department was completed in March 2001; clearance of all 13 departments considered high risk is scheduled for completion by 2004. There were no reported casualties in 2000 or 2001. Guatemala submitted its initial Article 7 transparency report on 2 March 2001.

*Honduras.* On 2 November 2000 Honduras destroyed its stockpile of 7,441 antipersonnel mines, except for an uncertain number retained for training purposes. Honduras is serving as co-rapporteur of the

intersessional Standing Committee on Victim Assistance. The mine clearance operation along the border is scheduled for completion in September 2001.

*Nicaragua.* Nicaragua is the host of the Third Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty, which takes place from 18 to 21 September 2001 in Managua. Since September 2000, Nicaragua has served as co-chair of the Standing Committee on Victim Assistance. A total of 70,000 antipersonnel mines have been destroyed from stockpiles since 1999, and stockpile destruction is scheduled for completion by December 2002. As of April 2001, a total of 2.1 million square meters of land had been cleared, including 64,874 landmines. More than 70,000 mines were still in the ground at 369 mined areas along the border with Honduras and 39 sites in the interior. Mine clearance along Nicaragua's border with Costa Rica was reported completed in April 2001. New mine victims including fatalities are reported in 2001.

*Perú.* Perú has served as co-chair of the Mine Ban Treaty Standing Committee on Mine Clearance. Perú reduced the number of antipersonnel mines it intends to retain for training to 5,578. From March 2000 through July 2001, Peru destroyed 117,506 stockpiled antipersonnel mines. An interministerial Foreign Affairs and Defense Working Group was established in 2000 to coordinate mine action and develop a national plan. In May 2001, Perú and the Organization of American States signed an agreement to support integrated mine action in the country. New mine casualties were reported in 2000 and 2001, both civilian and military.

*Trinidad and Tobago.* Trinidad and Tobago became the first Caribbean state to adopt domestic implementing legislation in September 2000

*Uruguay.* Uruguay ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 7 June 2001. The Ministry of Defense provided Landmine Monitor with details on its stockpile and destruction. As of July 2001, Uruguay had a stockpile of 1,918 antipersonnel mines, and it had destroyed a total of 242 stockpiled antipersonnel mines since May 2000.

*Venezuela.* As of July 2001, Venezuela had not yet submitted its initial Article 7 transparency report, due 29 March 2000. Venezuelan military sources indicate that Venezuela holds a small number of antipersonnel mines in stock for training purposes.

#### **AMERICAS Signatories**

*Chile.* In May 2001 the Chilean Senate passed ratification legislation. As of July 2001, the President had not signed the legislation into law. The Army has approximately 25,000 antipersonnel mines stockpiled. The Navy destroyed 2,000 M16 mines on 6 November 2000. There are no reports of significant mine clearance operations. Landmine Monitor fieldwork has produced new information on mined areas.

#### **AMERICAS Non-Signatories**

*United States of America.* A White House-directed landmine policy review began in June 2001. Decisions are pending on the continued development and production of two key alternatives to antipersonnel mines, RADAM and NSD-A, both of which may be inconsistent with the Mine Ban Treaty. The total budget for the landmine alternatives program was nearly \$50 million in fiscal year 2000; spending estimates for fiscal years 2001 and 2002 are \$100 million for each year. The United States contributed \$97 million to mine action programs in 37 countries in fiscal year 2000 and plans to spend a comparable amount in fiscal year 2001. The U.S. Campaign to Ban Landmines hosted the ICBL's General Meeting and held a "Ban Landmines Week" in Washington, DC in March 2001. There were two mine incidents that injured U.S. military personnel during the reporting period, in Kosovo and South Korea.

**ASIA-PACIFIC  
States Parties**

*Australia.* The Australian government announced a collaborative program with the Australian Network of the ICBL to encourage universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty in the Southeast Asia region. Australia was named President of the Review Conference of the CCW. Australia became co-rapporteur of the Mine Ban Treaty Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction. It destroyed another 6,460 previously unrecorded antipersonnel mines and revised downward the number of antipersonnel mines retained for training purposes to 7,845. Australia provided clarification that it is a former producer of antipersonnel mines. Approximately US\$6.8 million was committed or spent on mine action programs in the 2000/2001 fiscal year.

*Bangladesh.* On 6 September 2000 Bangladesh ratified the Mine Ban Treaty, and it entered into force on 1 March 2001. According to Bangladesh officials, Myanmar government forces have continued to plant antipersonnel mines inside Bangladesh territory. From January 2000 to March 2001, at least nine people were killed and six injured by landmines.

*Cambodia.* A comprehensive Cambodian National Level One Survey is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of 2001. In the year 2000: a total of 32.2 million square meters of land was cleared, including 22,613 antipersonnel mines; mine awareness education was provided in 903 villages, reaching 627,244 people; and 802 people were injured or killed in mine incidents, a decrease of 24 percent from the previous year. An additional 328 people were injured or killed between January and April 2001. In September 2000, a new coordinating body, the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority, was established. The Cambodian Mine Action Center faced a funding crisis that resulted in the lay-off of most CMAC employees and the closure of the bulk of demining operations on 13 October 2000. Although Cambodia declared in 1999 that it destroyed all of its stockpiled antipersonnel mines, local communities have said that many military regions still have stores of antipersonnel mines.

*Japan.* Japan has served as the co-chair of the Mine Ban Treaty's Standing Committee on Victim Assistance since September 2000. Japan destroyed more than 220,000 antipersonnel mines by the end of February 2001, and expects to destroy an additional 380,000 by the end of February 2002. After increasing significantly to \$13.2 million in 1999, Japanese mine action funding decreased to \$11.86 million in 2000. On 26 December 2000, Japan announced a new commitment to provide 500 million yen for research and development of new demining technology.

*Kiribati.* Kiribati acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 7 September 2000.

*Malaysia.* In January 2001, Malaysia completed the destruction of all 94,721 antipersonnel mines in its stockpile. Malaysia has served as the co-chair of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction since September 2000. Domestic legislation, the Anti-Personnel Mines Convention Implementation Act 2000, took effect on 15 June 2000.

*Maldives.* Maldives ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 7 September 2000 and it entered into force for Maldives on 1 March 2001.

*Nauru.* Nauru acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 7 August 2000.

*New Zealand.* New Zealand has continued its international advocacy in support of the Mine Ban Treaty, and its financial and in-kind contributions to mine action programs. In March 2001, it co-hosted a United Nations Asia-Pacific Regional Disarmament Conference, which included discussion on landmines.

*Philippines.* The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for the Philippines on 1 August 2000. Increased hostilities resulted in increased landmine use by three rebel groups: the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the New People's Army, and the Abu Sayyaf Group. The Armed Forces of the Philippines identified 40 landmine incidents in 2000, resulting in 64 casualties, including 19 civilians. Although the Philippines

previously destroyed all of its Claymore mines, it is now pursuing the possibility of acquiring new Claymore mines.

*Thailand.* A Level One Landmine Impact Survey was carried out from September 2000-May 2001. The survey identified 530 mine-affected communities in 27 provinces, and recorded 3,472 mine victims, including 350 injured or killed during the last two years. Since August 2000, two new Humanitarian Mine Action Units have been organized, trained, and deployed. A total of 69,346 stockpiled antipersonnel mines were destroyed from January through June 2001. Thailand has decided to reduce the number of mines retained for training to 4,970. In September 2000, Thailand became co-rapporteur of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention. Thailand has accused Myanmar forces of laying mines inside Thailand.

### ASIA-PACIFIC Non-Signatories

*Afghanistan.* In the year 2000, an average of about 88 mine and UXO casualties per month were recorded, a sharp decline from recorded casualties in 1999. In 2000, mine action organizations marked and mapped about 126 million square meters of mine and UXO contaminated land, and cleared about 104 million square meters of mine and UXO contaminated land. A total of 13,542 antipersonnel mines, 636 antitank mines and 298,828 UXO were destroyed during these clearance operations. Mine awareness organizations provided formal mine awareness training to more than one million people. MAPA experienced a severe shortage of funds in 2000 and as a result could not achieve its operational targets for the year and had to lay off five manual mine clearance teams, two technical survey teams and two international experts. Mine action operations were suspended in Badghais and Faryab provinces after seven mine awareness workers were killed in August 2000. The Taliban and their opposition, the Northern Alliance, have accused each other of laying new landmines. The Northern Alliance denied use to Landmine Monitor, but admitted to an EU mission that they continued to use antipersonnel mines.

*Burma (Myanmar).* Myanmar government forces and at least eleven ethnic armed groups continue to lay antipersonnel mines in significant numbers. The governments of Bangladesh and Thailand both protested use of mines by Myanmar forces inside their respective countries. In a disturbing new development, mine use is alleged to be taking place under the direction of loggers and narcotics traffickers, as well as by government and rebel forces.

*India.* India has for the first time designed a remotely-delivered antipersonnel mine system for trial evaluation and prototype production. It has also designed for production a detectable version of its hand-laid, non-metallic M14 mine. According to government sources, 129 civilians were killed and 715 were injured as a result of landmine and IED incidents in Jammu and Kashmir in 2000.

*Democratic People's Republic of Korea.* The leaders of North Korea and South Korea discussed the landmine issue at their June 2000 summit meeting. North Korea agreed to build a transportation linkage across the Demilitarized Zone requiring a major mine clearance operation in the DMZ in 2001, but the project has been suspended.

*Republic of Korea.* In September 2000, South Korea began a transport linkage project across the DMZ that will require clearing thousands of landmines, but the project has been suspended. South Korea states it cleared 1,100 antipersonnel mines below the DMZ and 4,800 antipersonnel mines in the rear areas in 2000. There were six civilian and thirteen military mine casualties reported in 2000. South Korea produced about 7,000 KM18A1 Claymore mines in 2000. South Korea ratified CCW Amended Protocol II on 9 May 2001.

*Lao P.D.R.* In 2000, 7.42 million square meters of land were cleared and 80,538 UXO and mines were destroyed. In the half of 2001, 43,851 UXO and mines were destroyed. According to UXO LAO, in 2000, 39 people were killed and 63 injured by UXO.

*Mongolia.* Ministry of Defense officials acknowledge the existence of significant stockpiles of antipersonnel mines. A government-sponsored conference on landmines was held on 27-28 June 2001.

*Nepal.* Maoist rebels have used homemade landmines in ever-greater numbers as conflict expands. There are now serious indications that government police forces may be using mines as well. Parliamentarians have confirmed that the Army has a stockpile of antipersonnel mines. The government reported 2,456 mine incidents, killing 1,366 people, from February 1996 to June 2000. For the year 2000, the Nepal Campaign to Ban Landmines identified 182 casualties from landmines and improvised explosive devices.

*Pakistan.* It appears Pakistan is engaged in new production of both hand-emplaced detectable mines and remotely delivered mines. Pakistan is continuing to modify its stockpile of low metal content mines. From August to December 2000, the non-governmental organization Human Survival and Development (HSD) carried out an assessment mission in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas and collected data on landmine victims in the Bajaur Agency. This household survey identified 599 landmine victims since 1980. In 2000, 31 people were killed or injured by landmines in Bajaur Agency. HSD launched the first mine awareness program in August 2000. As of December 2000 it had reached 24,076 people, in about 147 villages of the Bajaur Agency.

*Singapore.* The Ministry of Defense acknowledges that Singapore continues to produce antipersonnel mines, and asserts that it has a stockpile "for training and defensive purposes only."

*Sri Lanka.* Increased fighting has resulted in increased use of antipersonnel mines by government and LTTE forces, and increased military and civilian mine casualties. UN mine action and mine awareness programs have been terminated. In March 2001, a Symposium on the Impact of Landmines in Sri Lanka was held in Colombo, and in May 2001, a Conference on the Use of Landmines by Non-State Actors was held in Colombo.

*Vietnam.* The government has carried out clearance activity related to construction of the new Ho Chi Minh national highway. Clearance by non-governmental organizations has expanded. The US and Vietnam signed their first mine action assistance agreement. An advance survey mission was conducted in May 2001 in preparation for a national Landmine/UXO Impact Survey.

*Taiwan.* In March 2001, the Ministry of National Defense confirmed that Taiwan no longer uses, produces, or transfers antipersonnel mines. Clearance operations continue on Kinmen Island.

#### **EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA States Parties**

*Albania.* The Mine Ban Treaty entered into force for Albania on 1 August 2000. In January 2001, Albania signed an agreement with the NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund for the destruction of Albania's 1.6 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines. Dismantling started in late May 2001 and is due for completion by April 2002. Landmines claimed a total of 35 casualties in 2000, a sharp decrease from 191 the previous year.

*Austria.* Austria's continued efforts to sensitize other countries to the landmine issue and encourage accession to the Mine Ban Treaty have concentrated on Central Asia and the southern Caucasus. Austria doubled its mine action funding to US\$1.9 million in 2000, but has reduced the budget for 2001 to its previous level of US\$950,000.

*Belgium.* Belgium continued to play a leadership role in promoting universalization and effective implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. Belgium has served as co-chair of the intersessional Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention since September 2000. There has been much activity in Parliament and elsewhere in support of a ban on antihandling devices. Belgium contributed more than US\$3.7 million to mine action in 2000, an increase from the previous year.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina.* The Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center (BHMACH) reported the clearance during 2000 of more than 7.1 million square meters of land, including the destruction of some 5,800 mines. The International Trust Fund for Demining and Victim Assistance provided about US\$11 million in 2000 to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Shortfalls in funding in 2001 have put at risk the operation of BHMACH. Following the dismissal on grounds of corruption and abuse of authority of three Demining

Commissioners, a new BiH Demining Commission was inaugurated in December 2000. In 2000, 2,642 mines were collected from civilians in an SFOR initiative. In 2000, 92 new mine and UXO casualties were recorded, a small decrease from the previous year. Several incidents have been reported of Bosnian Serbs laying landmines to prevent the return of Bosnian Muslims. Bosnia and Herzegovina adhered to CCW Amended Protocol II in September 2000.

*Bulgaria.* Bulgaria reported that it completed the destruction of its stockpile of 885,872 antipersonnel mines in December 2000. Bulgaria decided to reduce the number of mines it retains for training purposes from 10,446 to 4,000.

*Croatia.* During the year 2000, a total of 9.8 square kilometers of land were demined, and another 23.2 square kilometers of suspected mined land were declared free of mines and UXO as a result of general and technical survey. Croatia spent US\$22.5 million on demining in 2000. The National Mine Action Program was approved by Parliament in October 2000. There were 22 new mine casualties in 2000, a significant reduction from 51 casualties in 1999. Croatia announced that it would reduce the number of antipersonnel mines retained under Mine Ban Treaty Article 3 from 17,500 to 7,000. No stockpiled antipersonnel mines have been destroyed since June 1999, but large-scale destruction is to begin in September 2001. Croatia has served as co-rapporteur of the Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction since September 2000 and will become co-chair in September 2001.

*Czech Republic.* On 15 June 2001, the Czech Republic reported the completion of its stockpile of 324,412 antipersonnel mines. Czech units in SFOR and KFOR continued to clear mines in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, respectively, and the Czech Republic funded mine action programs in Croatia and Kosovo. In May 2001, at an arms fair in Brno, a Czech company displayed an antivehicle mine in tripwire-activation mode.

*Denmark.* Denmark nearly doubled its mine action funding in 2000, to about US\$13.4 million. The number of antipersonnel mines retained for training and development has been reduced from nearly 5,000 to just over 2,000.

*France.* France has continued to promote universalization and implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, with a special focus on compliance issues. In February 2001, France organized jointly with Canada and Mali a Pan-African seminar in Bamako. In 2000, the total French contribution to mine action programs was about US\$6.77 million, an increase from the previous year.

*Germany.* In 2000, Germany increased its financial support for mine action from \$11.4 million in 1999 to approximately \$14.5 million. Initiatives are underway in the government and the Parliament aimed at a ban or increased restrictions on antivehicle mines.

*Hungary.* Hungary hosted a seminar on the destruction of PFM-1 antipersonnel mines in February 2001.

*Italy.* Italy had destroyed more than 4 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines as of March 2001. In its fiscal year 2000, Italy committed about US\$2 million for mine action programs, a significant reduction from the previous year's contribution of US\$6.45 million. In February 2001, the Italian Parliament approved the establishment of a national Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining, but with drastically less funding than previously envisioned.

*Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of).* Since ethnic Albanian insurgents began fighting the FYROM government in March 2001, the press has reported at least six antivehicle mine incidents, in which four FYROM soldiers were killed and nine injured, and two EU Monitors and their interpreter were killed. Several seizures of antipersonnel mines being smuggled into FYROM from Kosovo have been reported. No progress has been made in the destruction of FYROM antipersonnel mine stockpiles.

*Malta.* Malta ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 7 May 2001. It will enter into force on 1 November 2001.

*Moldova.* Moldova ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 8 September 2000 and it entered into force on 1 March 2001. Moldova has begun discussions on a project with the NATO Partnership for Peace Program for the

destruction of its landmine stockpile. Demining teams cleared 1,658 mines and UXO in 2000, and 450 mines and UXO between January and May 2001. Between May and August 2000, a Moldovan demining unit carried out mine clearance operations in the safety zone of the Transdnier peacekeeping mission, clearing some 85 hectares of previously unused agricultural land.

*The Netherlands.* For 2000, the Dutch contribution to humanitarian mine action was increased by more than fifty percent, totaling US\$14.2 million. The Netherlands has taken a leadership role in the CCW on the explosive remnants of war issue. The Netherlands has served as co-chair of the Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, and as chair of the donors' Mine Action Support Group.

*Norway.* Norway continued to play a crucial leadership role in promoting full implementation and consolidation of the Mine Ban Treaty. Norway served as President of the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in September 2000 and presided over the intersessional process throughout the subsequent year. Norway became co-rapporteur of the Standing Committee on General Status and Operation of the Convention in September 2000. Norwegian funding for mine action in 2000 totaled more than US\$19 million.

*Portugal.* The beginning of stockpile destruction was apparently delayed due to safety and environmental concerns; the new target date was April 2001.

*Romania.* Romania ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 30 November 2000 and it entered into force on 1 May 2001. Romania declared in June 2001 that it has just over one million antipersonnel mines in stockpiles, which it will destroy by detonation and disassembly.

*Slovak Republic.* The Slovak Republic has reported the complete destruction of its stockpile of 180,000 antipersonnel mines, with only 1,500 retained for permitted training and development purposes. Since the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in September 2000, Slovakia has acted as co-chair of the intersessional Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction. The Slovak Ambassador to the United Nations chaired the Second Annual Conference of States Parties of Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Conventional Weapons.

*Slovenia.* On 21-22 June 2000, Slovenia hosted the Third Regional Conference on Landmines, in Ljubljana. Slovenia had destroyed nearly 20,000 antipersonnel mines as of May 2001; plans call for destruction of the remaining mines by the end of 2001. Slovenia announced its intention to reduce the number of antipersonnel mines it retains for training from 7,000 to 1,500. The International Trust Fund in Slovenia received more than US\$29 million in 2000 for regional demining activities. The ITF initiated the establishment of the South Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council on 30 November 2000.

*Spain.* Spain completed the destruction of its stockpile of 849,365 antipersonnel mines in November 2000. It has reduced the number of mines retained for training from 10,000 to 4,000. Spain plans to set up an International Center on Demining.

*Sweden.* As of 1 April 2001, Sweden had destroyed 2.3 million antipersonnel mines since entry into force of the Mine Ban Treaty. It planned to retain 11,120 antipersonnel mines for permitted training purposes. It has reported rendering Claymore-type mines "useless" as antipersonnel mines. Sweden contributed some US\$8 million in 2000 to mine action, continuing a downward trend in funding.

*Switzerland.* Switzerland hosted the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in September 2000. In 2000, Switzerland provided US\$8.5 million for mine action programs, a significant increase from the previous year.

*Tajikistan.* Russian forces have placed antipersonnel mines inside Tajikistan along the border with Afghanistan. Russian peacekeepers have also used antipersonnel mines in Tajikistan. Uzbekistan acknowledges laying antipersonnel mines on its border with Tajikistan, and Tajikistan claims that Uzbek forces have laid mines inside Tajik territory. Kyrgyzstan has reportedly laid mines on its border with Tajikistan. The new mining has resulted in an increase in mine victims.

*United Kingdom.* The UK continues to be one of the biggest contributors to mine action internationally, spending approximately US\$23 million in its financial year 2000/2001, a significant increase from the previous year.

#### **EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA** **Signatories**

*Cyprus.* The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that legislation for the ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty would be put before Parliament following elections in May 2001. The Ministry of Defense stated that “forward steps have been taken in the spirit of the treaty such as demining, exclusion of antipersonnel mines [from] our armament programs, [and] schedule of destruction of the stocks” of antipersonnel mines.

*Greece.* In April 2001, the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs jointly announced with his Turkish counterpart that Greece, a signatory, and Turkey, a non-signatory, would simultaneously adhere to the Mine Ban Treaty. As one of a number of cooperative activities, Greece will demine its side of the border with Turkey. Greece continues to clear mines from its borders with Albania, Bulgaria, and Macedonia.

*Poland.* Poland established an interagency working group in 2000 to develop a plan and time line for Poland’s ratification of the Mine Ban Treaty, but officials continue to insist on a variety of pre-conditions. Poland and Canada co-sponsored a landmines seminar in Warsaw on 18-19 June 2001. Landmine Monitor has been told that Poland has between one and two million antipersonnel mines in stockpile. In 2000, 2,091 landmines were cleared, as well as 770 aviation bombs, 28,724 artillery and mortar shells, 5,892 grenades and 649,960 pieces of other ammunition, nearly all left from World War II.

*Ukraine.* Ukraine has disclosed that its antipersonnel mines stockpile consists of 6.35 million PFM and PMN mines. Ukraine and Canada signed a framework agreement for destruction of the PMN mines, and discussions are underway with NATO’s Maintenance and Supply Agency on a PMN destruction project. In 2000, Ukrainian demining units joined UN demining operations in Lebanon and Sierra Leone, and a Ukrainian-Polish Joint Peacekeeping Battalion started demining operations in Kosovo. Ukraine is developing a Crimea Humanitarian Demining Program.

#### **EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA** **Non-Signatories**

*Armenia.* Armenian deminers participated in joint training with Georgian and Azeri deminers conducted by the US military in the fall of 2000. Landmine Monitor researchers carried out site visits along the border area in the Synik, Vayots Dzor, and Tavush provinces, developing new information on the impact of mines and on mine survivors. As of May 2001, the database compiled by the Armenian National Committee of the ICBL contained details of 335 landmine survivors in eleven provinces of Armenia.

*Azerbaijan.* A limited Level One Survey was completed in the Fizuli region. With the results of the survey, the National Mine Database was created. Other surveys are on-going. A total of 27 deminers and 16 mine surveyors were trained during 2000; 163,860 square meters of land were cleared, along with the marking and fencing of 289,991 square meters. In December 2000, mine action was suspended due to lack of funds. Ten mine incidents occurred in 2000 in which four people died and six were injured.

*Belarus.* Belarus for the first time revealed that it has 4.5 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines, of which 3.6 million are of the PFM-1 and PFM-1S type. Belarus destroyed 8,183 stockpiled antipersonnel mines from 1997-2000. Belarus hosted an UNMAS assessment mission from 31 July -4 August 2000. In the past ten years, the Armed Forces have cleared more than 350 hectares of mines and UXO.

*Estonia.* There were twenty deaths and injuries due to mines and unexploded ordnance in 2000. In June 2000, a Demining Center was established. Estonia became a State Party to the CCW Amended Protocol II on 20 October 2000.

*Finland.* Finland has reaffirmed its goal of acceding to the Mine Ban Treaty by 2006, despite attempts by the Ministry of Defense to put back the timetable. In 2000, Finland provided about US\$4 million to mine action, a reduction from the previous year.

*Georgia.* There continued to be reports of armed groups from Georgia laying antipersonnel mines in the Abkhazia region. Georgia has said the government has “neither tacitly nor openly supported Georgian partisans in their use of antipersonnel mines.” Georgia acknowledges that it laid antivehicle mines (but not antipersonnel) on the Chechen sector of Georgia-Russia border, then subsequently cleared them. Georgia states that Russian forces have mined the Russian-Georgian border near the villages of Shatili and Omalo. The Georgian military began an inventory of its stockpiled mines, which was to be completed at the end of May 2001. In September-November 2000, the U.S. conducted humanitarian demining training of Georgian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani soldiers at a military base in Georgia. The ICBL Georgian Committee reports that between January and the end of June 2001, 51 people were killed or injured by landmines and unexploded ordnance.

*Kazakhstan.* According to one newspaper report, Kazakhstan possesses 800,000 to one million antipersonnel mines. This is the only known public estimate of Kazakhstan’s antipersonnel mine stockpile.

*Kyrgyzstan.* Kyrgyz forces reportedly mined the border with Tajikistan in summer and fall 2000. Uzbekistan mined its border areas with Kyrgyzstan, and Kyrgyzstan contends that Uzbekistan planted some mines on Kyrgyz territory. In June 2001, the Kyrgyz government adopted a law to provide the legal framework for mine clearance and mine awareness, and Kyrgyzstan started demining the border areas with Uzbekistan.

*Russia.* Russian forces continued to use mines in Chechnya. Russian troops also mined the Tajik border with Afghanistan. Russia had destroyed 1.5 million stockpiled antipersonnel mines as of January 2001, including all of its blast mines. In April 2001, the Federal Working Group for Mine Action was formed to facilitate Russia’s progress in mine action, including stockpile destruction. Russia is expanding its participation in international mine action operations. The Russian military carried out a public roundtable analyzing mine use in Chechnya; among the revelations was that remotely-delivered AFM-1Ñ/PFM-1S mines failed about 50 percent of the time because of problems with the self-destruct mechanism.

*Turkey.* Turkey announced on 6 April 2001 that it was starting the process of accession to the Mine Ban Treaty. Turkey has confirmed that it has ceased production of antipersonnel mines. In late 2000, Turkey announced a project to demine the border with Syria. In January 2001, Turkey signed a joint declaration with Georgia that includes a commitment to demine the border and forswear future use. A Turkish NGO campaign against landmines was formed in September 2000.

*Uzbekistan.* Uzbekistan has mined its border areas with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Uzbek forces apparently were continuing to mine the border with Tajikistan in June 2001. Both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan contend that Uzbekistan has laid mines inside their borders. The new mining has resulted in an increase in mine victims in all three countries.

*Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.* Following the change of regime in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY), the FRY has announced its intention to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty. Yugoslav military authorities claimed that no antipersonnel mines have been produced, imported or exported since 1992. In southern Serbia, bordering the province of Kosovo, irregular ethnic Albanian forces have used landmines.

#### **EUROPE/CENTRAL ASIA**

##### **Other**

*Abkhazia.* In 2000, the HALO Trust cleared 1,049 mines and 285 UXO. As of July 2001, mine awareness education had been provided to 29,590 people, including 12,308 in 2000 and 8,698 in 2001. There continued to be reports of armed groups from Georgia laying antipersonnel mines in Abkhazia. Georgia has said the government has “neither tacitly nor openly supported Georgian partisans in their use of antipersonnel mines.”

*Chechnya.* Use of antipersonnel mines by Russian and Chechen forces has continued. Hundreds of new mine victims have been identified. Since June 2000, in close cooperation with UNICEF, UNHCR's mine awareness project has reached 15,000 youth and children in Ingushetia and Chechnya. The Chechen Minister of Public Health has said that some 8,000 people are in need of artificial limbs.

*Kosovo.* By the end of May 2001 a total of 26.2 million square meters of land had been cleared, including 13,805 antipersonnel mines, 5,452 antivehicle mines, 6,482 CBUs, and 13,409 UXO. The UN Mine Action Coordination Center expects all known minefields to be cleared by the end of 2001. In 2000, a total of 4,684 mine awareness sessions were carried out in 935 towns and villages. Between 16 June 1999 and 31 December 2000, there were 437 civilians and 20 deminers killed or injured in Kosovo by mines, cluster bomblets and other ordnance. There were seven mine and unexploded ordnance incidents in the first five months of 2001. Use of landmines, particularly antivehicle mines, has apparently continued in Kosovo, by unknown persons apparently targeting the remaining Serbian population in Kosovo. Caches of weapons, including antipersonnel mines, continue to be uncovered in Kosovo.

*Nagorno-Karabakh.* From September to November 2000, some 3 million square meters of land in the Askeran and Martakert regions were cleared of mines. At the same time, the Defense Ministry cleared 270,000 square meters of arable land in the Hadrout region, which was handed over to the families of war disabled, including mine victims. In 2000, fifteen people fell victim to landmines.

#### **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA** **States Parties**

*Jordan.* Jordan has destroyed an additional 16,000 stockpiled antipersonnel mines, for a total of 36,552 destroyed. A National Demining and Rehabilitation Committee has been formed. Mine awareness activities continue to expand. Jordan acceded to CCW Amended Protocol II on 6 September 2000.

*Qatar.* Qatar revealed for the first time that it has a stockpile of antipersonnel mines for training purposes. Qatar has still not submitted its initial Article 7 report, due in September 1999.

*Tunisia.* Tunisia submitted its Article 7 transparency report in July 2000, detailing its 17,575 stockpiled antipersonnel mines and five mined areas for the first time.

*Yemen.* The Landmine Impact Survey was completed in July 2000 and the Yemeni government approved a five-year Strategic Mine Action Plan based on the survey data in February 2001. The Survey identified 592 affected villages and 1,078 mine sites covering 923 million square meters of land, affecting 828,000 Yemeni civilians. An additional 4,286 antipersonnel mines were destroyed from stockpiles in February 2001. In 2000, 447 antivehicle mines and 4,897 UXO were cleared from an area of land covering 666,445 square meters. There were at least twelve mine casualties in 2000, and three mine incidents by mid-2001.

#### **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA** **Signatories**

*Algeria.* Algeria completed the internal ratification process for the Mine Ban Treaty in December 2000, but has not yet deposited its instrument of ratification at the United Nations.

#### **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA** **Non-Signatories**

*Egypt.* The National Committee to Supervise Mine Clearance met for the first time in June 2000. The National Committee established a trust fund for mine clearance in the western desert. There were twelve new mine/UXO victims reported in 2000.

*Iran.* According to Iranian officials, in the year 2000, more than 880,000 mines and UXO, and 30,000 hectares of land, were cleared. Since 1988, over 750,000 hectares of mined land and 9 million mines and

UXO have been cleared. The Medical Engineering Research Center estimates that there are about 300 mine and UXO casualties in Iran every year.

*Israel.* It appears that Israel has continued to use antipersonnel mines in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, allegedly without proper fencing and marking as required by CCW Amended Protocol II, which entered into force for Israel on 30 April 2001. There have been allegations of mine use by Palestinians as well.

*Kuwait.* Kuwait has reportedly agreed to provide \$50 million for development projects, including mine clearance assistance, in South Lebanon. In Kuwait, it is estimated that some 250 antipersonnel and antivehicle mines were cleared in the year 2000. There were at least forty-four recorded and reported mine casualties between March 2000 and February 2001. A new mine victim database has been established which shows there have been more than 1,500 civilian mine/UXO victims in Kuwait since August 1990.

*Lebanon.* The National Demining Office has identified 1,388 mined areas, including 553 in South Lebanon. A nationwide Level One Landmine Impact Survey was due to start July 2001. From October 1999 to April 2001, the Lebanese Army cleared 23,293 antipersonnel mines, 4,905 antitank mines and numerous other UXO. The Lebanese Army cleared 672,415 square meters of land in 2000 and 154,772 square meters up to April 2001. At least 57 mine awareness education events were conducted between May and December 2000. The United Arab Emirates has pledged \$50 million for demining and reconstruction in South Lebanon. Since the Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon in May 2000, 132 mine casualties have been recorded.

*Morocco.* In February 2001, Moroccan officials for the first time claimed that Morocco no longer uses antipersonnel mines. In March 2001, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Landmine Monitor that Morocco does not have a stockpile of antipersonnel mines. Morocco and the Polisario traded accusations of new mine use in Western Sahara. According to a UN report, in May 2001 the Royal Moroccan Army destroyed about 3,000 antitank mines and 37,000 antipersonnel mines in the Western Sahara. Between March 2000 and March 2001, Moroccan authorities registered 51 victims of antivehicle mines and UXO explosions in the Western Sahara.

*Oman.* US demining assistance began in 2000, including a survey in April 2000 and a training mission in February 2001. Oman revealed for the first time that it has a "limited" stockpile of antipersonnel mines for training purposes.

*Saudi Arabia.* In May 2001, Saudi Arabia announced it would provide \$3 million for mine action in Yemen, Saudi Arabia's first mine action funding contribution since 1999. Saudi Arabia has confirmed that it has never used, produced, or exported antipersonnel mines.

*Syria.* In cooperation with Syrian authorities, UN peacekeeping forces in the Golan Heights have initiated a program to identify and mark all mined areas in their area of operations. A mine awareness component is included in the Ministry of Health's "Safe Gardens Project," initiated in August 2000. The Syrian Campaign to Ban Landmines was launched on 4 July 2000.

*United Arab Emirates.* In March 2001 the United Arab Emirates announced its intention to donate \$50 million to help redevelop South Lebanon, which includes funding for mine clearance.

## **MIDDLE EAST/NORTH AFRICA**

### **Other**

*Northern Iraq (Iraqi Kurdistan).* From 1997 to mid-2001 over 7 million square meters of land was cleared under the Mine Action Program with over 70 percent of that land cleared during 2000 and 2001. The MAP spent approximately \$20 million in 2000 and has a budget of about \$30 million in 2001. In 2000, the Mines Advisory Group cleared fourteen minefields, and declared safe 702,111 square meters of land. Norwegian People's Aid cleared seven minefields and a total of 449,778 square meters of land. According

to the UN, known UXO and mine explosions caused an average of 56 casualties per month in 2000 and 31 per month in 2001.

*Palestine.* It appears that Israel has continued to use antipersonnel mines in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. There have been allegations of mine use by Palestinians as well. The Defense for Children International/Palestine Section's mine awareness campaign continued, as more than 70 mine awareness sessions took place in 2000. DCI/PS, in cooperation with the Palestinian National Security Forces, also erected a fence and put warning signs around the Qabatia minefield. In August 2000, the UK-based Mines Advisory Group completed an assessment of mined areas around the village of Husan.

*Western Sahara.* Polisario and Morocco traded accusations of new mine use. A mine awareness education program conducted by Norwegian People's Aid ended in May 2000.

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