



UKRAINE

NEWLY PLANTED LANDMINES AND EXPLOSIVES IN UKRAINE WILL LAST FOR DECADES. INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT IS URGENTLY NEEDED. ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT MINE SITUATION IN UKRAINE.

ANALYSE



Newly planted landmines and explosives in Ukraine will last for decades. International support is urgently needed. Analysis of the current mine situation in Ukraine.

There are newly planted landmines along humanitarian corridors that were supposed to be designed for the safe evacuation of civilians, children.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned the population on Saturday that the retreating Russians were generating a real "catastrophe" because they were leaving mines all over the territory, even "in houses and corpses." As a result of full-scale Russian aggression, Ukraine has become one of the largest mined areas in the world.

The authorities and relevant services are working on the elimination of missiles and the disarming of a large number of mines as soon as possible. This will enable the regular supply of medicines, water, food and basic necessities to the residents. In the Kiev region, more than 1,000 explosives were disarmed in one day. In the Chernihiv region, according to local authorities, there are many mined roads, many damaged communication links and broken bridges.

Anti-personnel mines are banned under the 1997 Ottawa Treaty, signed by 164 countries. Using landmines on Ukrainian territories is a crime according to international and national law. The Russian Federation has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty.

Russian troops used in urban areas cluster munition missiles and air bombs with mines, which are prohibited by international and Ukrainian law.

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Russian troops are using PFM-1 air-dropped anti-personnel mines, also known as butterfly mines. These small plastic munitions, each weighing less than two ounces, are scattered by the thousand over a wide area. The mines come in several colors, including the bright green version which gave it the 'green parrot' nickname. Lying by the road, it might be a toy bird or airplane. These munitions are now maiming children.

Butterfly mines are particularly dangerous, because due to their shape, they are not recognized at first glance as weapons or explosives and can be picked up by toys. In addition, they have a cumulative pressure detonator and will not necessarily explode on first contact.

Russia used mine surprise and booby traps which are prohibited by law according to the Protocol II Geneva Treaty. A booby trap is a device that is intended to kill, harm, or surprise a human being.

Any area that has been the scene of an armed conflict is a dangerous area. This is one of the priorities of the Ukrainian authorities and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which has launched a campaign to raise awareness of this threat to civilians living in areas affected by current or recent fighting. Modern artillery systems always leave dangerous debris for the civilian population.

The mine problem took on a new dimension with the outbreak of the war in Donbas. Despite the efforts of the authorities and international organizations in clearing, alerting and informing citizens, according to OSCE data, 13 civilians died in 2019-2020 and 46 were injured by mines and explosives from the war. After the conflict in Donbas, it has already been estimated that the Ukrainian clearing effort will be a huge exercise. It is already a much bigger problem that must be dealt with by demining authorities and agencies. Apart from endangering the lives of civilians, the presence of mines and war remains threatens to restore normality and rebuild the socio-economic life of the places affected by the clashes.

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