

CalsMUN 2020
Historical Influences



Research Report

Forum: General Assembly First

Issue: Stray landmines in past conflict areas

Chairs: Michou van de Rijke and Ramon Groenewoud



Personal Introduction

Michou van de Rijke

Hello, my name is Michou van de Rijke and I am currently attending Cals College Nieuwegein. I am 17 and in my sixth year of pre-university education (VWO). I enjoy reading, chatting with my friends (or talking in general) as well as binge watching hours of content of my favourite creators on YouTube (such as but not limited to Jolly, Drew Durnil & ClickForTaz). Furthermore, I am a figure skater (though not a very good one) and normally spend my Saturday morning in the ice rink.

My first MUN experience was at CalsMUN in the GA1, I am therefore very happy to be assist new MUN'ers as well as experienced delegates in the upcoming weekend in said committee. This conference will be my ninth, and I hope to chair fruitful debates as well as fun ones.



Ramon Groenewoud

Whatup delegates,

My name is Ramon Groenewoud and I'm 16 years old. I'm now in my fifth year of vwo on the Farel college in Amersfoort, the home of FAMUN. I love doing sports such as but certainly not limited to tennis, soccer, snowboarding and wakeboarding. I started participating in MUN's a little over a year ago and couldn't stop anymore. This conference will be my seventh conference in total, but my first CalsMUN ever. My lifelong tip for people that want to learn English is: Watch YouTube and Netflix. Of course, I listened to my own advice, therefore watching Netflix and Youtube is another thing I do in my spare time.





Introduction

Step, you hear a click, another step and “boom,” you’re gone. Landmines are remarkably durable, posing a threat years after the wars for which they were laid have ended. Most of the 23 million mines reported by the Egyptian government, for example, date from the North Africa campaigns of World War II, while others in the Sinai were laid in more recent wars with Israel. A number of Central and Eastern European states also suffer from mines and unexploded ordnance left over from World War II. Indochina still has millions of mines and other unexploded ordnance left from the 1960s and 1970s.

The tens of millions of mines laid in around 1995 are largely the results of internal conflicts, civil wars, or armed interventions. In such conflicts, the use of mines frequently shifts from traditional tactical defensive roles to offensive, strategic uses "often aimed deliberately at civilians in order to empty territory, destroy food sources, create refugee flows, or simply spread terror. Despite the stipulations of international humanitarian law (which does not support the use of landmines against civilians), few records are kept, with the result that the mines' locations are almost completely unknown and unmarked. In addition to the hazards they pose during conflict, these "hidden killers" represent a substantial barrier to economic recovery and the return to normal life.

The Committee

General Assembly First

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.



Definition of Key Terms

Explosive remnants of war (ERW)

All live explosives which did not explode on impact and all those left behind in a past conflict area such as landmines. These form a great threat as these can be triggered and therefore detonated by civilians.

Past conflict areas

All areas where a war or battles of the sorts have taken place.

Landmines

Bombs which are often hidden underneath a thin layer of ground. Landmines are most of the times triggered on contact.



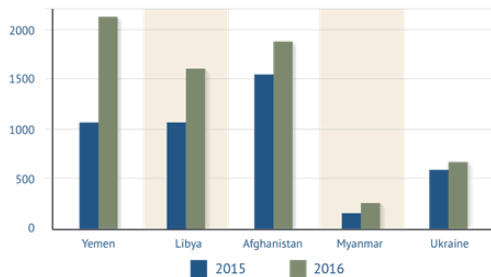
General Overview

Landmines are often referred to as “hidden killers.” These hidden killers are used all over the world and this forms great threats to human security, especially in past conflict areas where landmines can be found most.

From the graph we can see that the casualties resulting from mines/ERWs were decreasing

the past 20 year until 2015. Even though this spike in casualties is very sudden, there is a

Largest increases in mine/ERW casualties 2015–2016



need of good demining operations.

All casualties mentioned above only show how important straying landmines in past conflict areas really is. All casualties can be prevented and that is something we should always aim for.

Major Parties Involved

Organisations

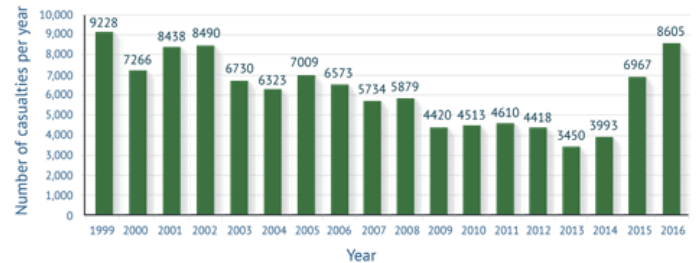
The Halo Trust

The HALO Trust helps countries recover after conflict. Clearing landmines, to save lives, is at the heart of what we do. We work with communities that are too often forgotten once the fighting has ended, a point reinforced by Princess Diana after her visit to Angola in 1997.

UNMAS

The United Nations Mine Action Service is a service located within the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations that specializes in coordinating and implementing activities to limit the threat posed by mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.

Number of mine/ERW casualties per year (1999–2016)*



good explanation. The beginning of the Yemeni civil war was in March 2015. This would also explain as to why most of the casualties of 2016 are in Yemen. However, this would mean that these mines are not necessarily explosive remnants of war, but all mines that are laid down will become ERWs and Yemen is therefore in



Countries

Egypt

Sources say that one fifth of all mines and other unexploded ordinance are located in Egypt. Since 2009 about 40% of the contaminated area has been cleared of ERWs, however this means that 60% still has to be done.

Colombia

Colombia is in the midst of an internal armed conflict that began more than 40 years ago. Anti-personnel mines continue to be laid on a regular basis by non-state actors, and it would appear that Colombia also has a significant ERW problem.



Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of Event
<i>March 1st 1999</i>	The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, known informally as the Ottawa Treaty, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, or often simply the Mine Ban Treaty, aims at eliminating anti-personnel landmines around the world. Drafted on 18 th of September 1997, and effective since March 1 st 1999.
<i>April 14-18 2009</i>	Egypt mine action inter-agency assessment. As Egypt is one of the most heavily mined countries. In order to draw conclusions and exact numbers, an UN mission was carried out.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The Ottawa convention treaty has made sure that the situation could not worsen, but it did not really talk about straying the mines that are already there. So far there have not been any general sessions on this issue. However, a lot of countries do have their own demining process in action.

Possible Solutions

First of all, there could be an agreement to UNMAS setting out several demining missions for those countries who need it the most but don't have the resources to do it themselves. Furthermore, there could be an agreement to sharing the latest information on demining methods, think for example about drones, satellites or other new technologies, which would mean that all countries could implement those techniques and demine more efficiently. There could also be



Bibliography and Further Reading

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