

Mines and ERW in Iran - 2016

These pictures were sent for inclusion on this website by Ali Pourmoridi, an EOD Specialist & MRE trainer working for the Sarvak Azar Engineering and Development Company based in Tehran, Iran.

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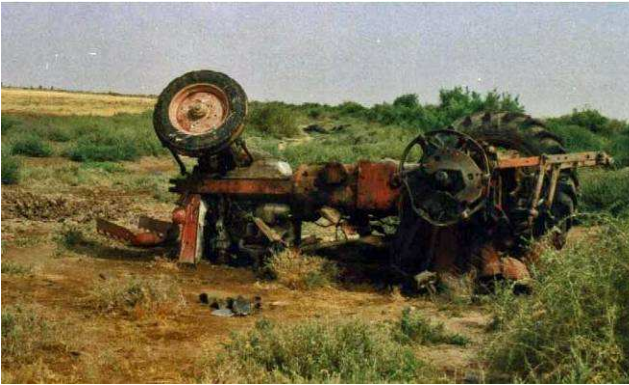
The pictures in this document are from the Western border of Iran which was mined by both sides during the Iraq/Iran war (from 1980 to 1988). It is reported that around 16 million mines remain from that conflict.

Iran's Humanitarian Mine Action needs have been largely ignored for 25 years. Some international organizations have been involved in the commercial clearance of areas where oilfield survey, construction and pipeline work has been conducted but the humanitarian needs of the population have been left to under-funded and under-resourced Iranian organizations.



Typical warning signs used in the area

Mined areas are not all the barren desert that outsiders imagine. They include farmland and pasture...



The mines prevent the use of land for agriculture, killing both farmers and livestock....

...and, of course, they also kill the hard working women, children and men who are simply trying to have a normal life.



There are pictures of civilian casualties.

In areas where mines have been used, or battles have taken place, there are usually signs that the area is dangerous. The mines themselves may be visible or there may be defensive positions marked by barbed wire and iron defences or trenches.



The minefields continue into the sea...



And there is war debris and abandoned or unexploded ammunition on all sides.





The Iranian deminers have cleared a wide area, but there is far more still to do.

Anti-personnel and Anti-tank mines found include those shown below. There are many other types.



Source: www.minefield.blogfa.com



Many, like these anti-tank mines, are in poor condition, adding extra hazards to their clearance.



The V-69 bounding fragmentation mine is found in very varied condition, including the example above with a flower rooted inside the mine body.

Conditions for the deminers have been harder than usual with little communication or equipment coming from the rest of the world. It is possible that some of the deminers who have been injured and died need not have done so if international cooperation about Mine Action had been in place.



These Iranian deminers died trying to stop others being at risk.

Few of the mines known to be there were actually made in Iran. Mines made in Europe and America make up most of the threat. More US mines than usual are present because the USA supported Iraq in the Iran/Iraq war.

“Iran is the [second-most mine-polluted country](#) in the world. On Aug. 30, Iranian Students’ News Agency acknowledged a UN report which stated that 16 million mines remain planted in Iranian soil..... Unofficial statistics point to one person being maimed or killed every day.”

Read more: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2013/09/iraq-war-landmines-killing-iranians.html#ixzz3yrH8I7SR>

Iran's mine-affected area (Hectares)	
Ilam	1.700.000
Khuzestan	1.500.000
Kermanshah	700.000
Kurdistan	150.000
West Azerbaijan	150.000
Total	4.200.000

The estimated 16 million mines remaining are reported to cause over 300 casualties a year despite being in thinly populated areas.

With the lifting of international sanctions, there is now a real potential for International NGOs to work in Iran – helping support a concerted national effort.

از مناطق امن عبور نکنید.

اشیا، مشکوک را جمع آوری نکنید.

به خطر مین و مواد منفجره توجه کنید

خطر

اگر شی مشکوک دیدید به آن نزدیک نشوید و هرگز به آن دست نزنید.

محل خطر را به خاطر بسپارید و دیگران را از وجود آن آگاه کنید.

سازمان اسلحه و انفجار

ICRC

Some cooperation is happening, but not nearly enough.



These pictures show defused mines awaiting collection for destruction, (the bird's eggs were not disturbed). But the work still to be started remains very extensive...



And any hope for building a sustainable peace in Iran and the region must rely on the people being able to earn a living from the land without the constant fear of mines.



Every new casualty means that the old conflicts have not ended.

There is a clear need for the international Mine Action community to support the efforts of Iran's deminers now.