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Landmine Monitor Report

Toward a Mine-Free World

2008
PAKISTAN



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Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War

Peace agreements may be signed, and hostilities may cease, but landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are an enduring legacy of conflict.

Antipersonnel mines are munitions designed to explode from the presence, proximity, or contact of a person. Antivehicle mines are munitions designed to explode from the presence, proximity, or contact of a vehicle as opposed to a person.

ERW refer to ordnance left behind after a conflict. ERW includes unexploded artillery shells, grenades, mortars, rockets, air-dropped bombs, and cluster munitions. Cluster munitions consist of containers and submunitions. Launched from the ground or the air, the containers open and disperse submunitions over a wide area.

Landmines are victim-activated and indiscriminate; whoever triggers the mine, whether a child or a soldier, becomes its next victim. Mines emplaced during a conflict against enemy forces can still kill or injure civilians decades later.

Weapons that for some reason fail to detonate as intended become unexploded ordnance (UXO). These unstable explosive devices are left behind during and after conflicts and pose dangers similar to landmines. Abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) is explosive ordnance that has not been used during armed conflict and has been left behind and is no longer under control of the party that left it behind. It may or may not have been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for use. Under the international legal definition, ERW consist of UXO and AXO, but not mines.

Both landmines and ERW pose a serious and ongoing threat to civilians. These weapons can be found on roads, footpaths, farmer's fields, forests, deserts, along borders, in and surrounding houses and schools, and in other places where people are carrying out their daily activities. They deny access to food, water, and other basic needs, and inhibit freedom of movement. They prevent the repatriation

of refugees and internally displaced people, and hamper the delivery of humanitarian aid.

These weapons instill fear in communities, whose citizens often know they are walking in mined areas, but have no possibility to farm other land, or take another route to school. When land cannot be cultivated, when medical systems are drained by the cost of attending to landmine/ERW casualties, and when countries must spend money clearing mines rather than paying for education, it is clear that these weapons not only cause appalling human suffering, they are also a lethal barrier to development and post-conflict reconstruction.

There are solutions to the global landmine and ERW problem. The 1997 Mine Ban Treaty provides the best framework for governments to alleviate the suffering of civilians living in areas affected by antipersonnel mines. Governments who join this treaty must stop the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of antipersonnel mines immediately. They must destroy all stockpiled antipersonnel mines within four years, and clear all antipersonnel landmines in all mined areas under their jurisdiction or control within 10 years. In addition, States Parties in a position to do so must provide assistance for the care and treatment of landmine survivors, their families and communities, and support for mine/ERW risk education programs to help prevent mine incidents.

Until May 2008, the only international legislation explicitly covering ERW was Protocol V of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). Its provisions are considered insufficient by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), but Protocol V does make efforts to address responsibility for ERW clearance, sharing information for clearance, mine/ERW risk education, warning civilian populations, and assistance.

Using the Mine Ban Treaty as a model, building on its strengths and learning from experiences in implementing its provisions, in May 2008, the Convention on Cluster Munitions was negotiated in Dublin, Ireland, and formally adopted by a total of 107 countries. This new treaty is a legally binding agreement prohibiting cluster munitions that cause unacceptable harm to civilians. When the treaty

enters into force, States Parties will be obliged to stop the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of cluster munitions immediately. States must destroy all stockpiled cluster munitions within eight years of becoming party to the treaty, and clear all cluster munitions in areas under their jurisdiction or control within 10 years. In addition, States Parties in a position to do so must provide assistance for the care and treatment of cluster munition survivors, and support mine/ERW risk education programs to help prevent cluster munition casualties. The Convention on Cluster Munitions includes ground-breaking provisions for victim assistance, and includes those killed or injured by cluster munitions, their families and communities in the definition of a cluster munition survivor. The Convention on Cluster Munition will be opened for signature in Oslo, Norway on 3 December 2008.

These legal instruments provide a framework for taking action, but it is up to governments to implement treaty obligations, and it is the task of NGOs to work together with governments to ensure they uphold their treaty obligations.

The ICBL's ultimate goal is a landmine- and ERW-free world, where civilians can walk freely without the fear of stepping on a mine, and where children can play without mistaking an unexploded submunition for a toy.

Landmine Monitor

Landmine Monitor Report 2008 is the tenth annual report. Since 1999, each of the nine previous reports have been presented to the respective annual meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty.

Landmine Monitor is the ICBL's research and monitoring initiative and the de facto monitoring regime for the Mine Ban Treaty. It monitors and reports on States Parties' implementation of, and compliance with, the Mine Ban Treaty, and more generally, it assesses the international community's response to the humanitarian problem caused by landmines and ERW. The Landmine Monitor project represents the first time that NGOs have come together in a coordinated, systematic, and sustained way to monitor a humanitarian law or disarmament treaty, and to regularly document progress and problems, thereby successfully putting into practice the concept of civil society-based verification.

In June 1998, the ICBL formally agreed to create Landmine Monitor as an ICBL initiative. A four-member Editorial Board coordinates the Landmine Monitor system: Mines Action Canada, Handicap International, Human Rights Watch, and Norwegian People's Aid. Mines Action Canada serves as the lead agency. The Editorial Board assumes overall responsibility for, and decision-making on, the Landmine Monitor system.

Landmine Monitor is not a technical verification system or a formal inspection regime. It is an attempt by civil society to hold governments accountable to the obligations they have taken on with respect to antipersonnel mines. This is done through extensive collection, analysis, and distribution of publicly available information. Although in some cases it does entail investigative missions, Landmine Monitor is not designed to send researchers into harm's way and does not include hot war-zone reporting.

Landmine Monitor is designed to complement the States Parties' transparency reporting required under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty. It reflects the shared view that transparency, trust and mutual collaboration are crucial elements for the

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successful eradication of antipersonnel mines. Landmine Monitor was also established in recognition of the need for independent reporting and evaluation.

Landmine Monitor aims to promote and advance discussion on mine and ERW-related issues, and to seek clarifications, to help reach the goal of a world free of mines and ERW, including cluster munitions. Landmine Monitor works in good faith to provide factual information about issues it is monitoring, in order to benefit the international community as a whole.

The Landmine Monitor system features a global reporting network and an annual report. A network of 59 Landmine Monitor researchers from 46 countries, and a 20-person Editorial Team gathered information to prepare this report. The researchers come from the ICBL's campaigning coalition and from other elements of civil society, including journalists, academics, and research institutions.

The 2008 Annual Report contains information on 120 countries and other areas with respect to ban policy, use, production, transfer, stockpiling, demining, mine/ERW risk education, casualties, victim assistance, and support for mine action. It covers affected countries, States Parties with major outstanding treaty implementation obligations, and states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty. It includes summary and analysis of trends in ban policy, mine action, mine/ERW risk education, casualties and victim assistance, and support for mine action. An Executive Summary is published separately, in addition to a set of maps. A CD-ROM containing the Annual Report and translations of the Executive Summary and maps in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish, comes packaged together with the Executive Summary. All report contents are available online at www.icbl.org/lm/2008

Acknowledgements:

We are pleased to present the Landmine Monitor Report 2008 Pakistan chapter. The reports contains updates on the recent development on *Mine Ban Policy, Production, Transfer and Stockpile of landmines, Non-State Armed Groups, landmine and ERW Problem, Mine Action Program, Mine Risk Education, Landmine/UXO/IED Casualties, Landmine Survivor Assistance, and Disability Policy and Practice in Pakistan.*

Community Appraisal and Motivation Program (CAMP) and Sustainable Peace & Development Organization (SPADO) carried out the research and reporting work for the 2008 Landmine Monitor report. We wish to thank scores of individuals, non-governmental and international organizations, mine action NGOs, journalists, government officials who provided us with essential information. We like to thank our staff members who provided logistical support for undertaking this research.

Finally we are gratified to International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) for its financial support for the translation and publication of Pakistan chapter and also giving us this opportunity to contribute in the struggle against eradication of landmines from the face of earth.

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PAKISTAN

Mine Ban Treaty status	Not a State Party
Use, production, transfer in 2007–2008	Production and use by non-state armed groups continued
Stockpile	Not reported; estimated 6 million
Contamination	Antipersonnel and antivehicle mines, IEDs, probably ERW
Estimated area of contamination	Unquantified
Demining progress in 2007	Not reported
Mine/ERW casualties in 2007	Total: 271 (2006: 488) Mines: 164 (2006: 390) IEDs: 91 (2006: 86) ERW: 10 (2006: 12) Unknown: 6 (2006: 0)
Casualty analysis	Killed: 89 (2006: 203) Injured: 182 (2006: 285)
Estimated mine/ERW survivors	Unknown
RE capacity	Unchanged—inadequate
Availability of services in 2007	Unchanged—inadequate
Key developments since May 2007	Non-state armed groups continued to use antipersonnel mines in Balochistan, some districts of the North-West Frontier Province, and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

Mine Ban Policy

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. In June 2008, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs official said that “the regional security environment and its military requirements have constrained Pakistan from joining the Ottawa Treaty. However, Pakistan continues to scrupulously adhere to a policy...which ensures that mines in its inventory will never become a cause for civilian casualties anywhere, and this position is in line with the basic objectives of the Ottawa Treaty.”¹

Pakistan abstained from voting on 5 December 2007 on UN General Assembly Resolution 62/41 calling for universalization of the Mine Ban Treaty. It abstained on similar annual General Assembly resolutions in previous years. In explaining its vote, it stated, “Pakistan remains committed to pursue the objectives of a universal and non-discriminatory ban on anti-personnel mines in a manner which takes into account the legitimate defence requirements of States. Given our security compulsions and the need to guard our long borders, not protected by any natural obstacle, the use of landmines forms an important part of our self-defense strategy. As such, it is not possible for Pakistan to agree to the demands for the complete prohibition of anti-personnel landmines till such time that viable alternatives are available.”²

In its latest Article 13 report, submitted in accordance with Amended Protocol II on landmines to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), Pakistan stated that it “supports the UN vision of ‘a world free from the threat of landmines and Explosive Remnants of War, where individuals and communities live in a safe environment conducive to development, and support the mine survivors of neighbourly countries and thus integrate them into society.’”³

Pakistan attended as an observer the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty in Jordan in November 2007, but did not make any statements. It has not attended any intersessional Standing Committee meetings since 2002.

Pakistan is party to the CCW and its Amended Protocol II on landmines. Pakistan attended the Ninth Annual Conference of States Parties to Amended Protocol II in November 2007, and submitted its annual report required by Article 13. Pakistan is not party to CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.⁴

Pakistan also participated in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum Seminar on Antipersonnel Mines held in Penang, Malaysia in April 2008. It did not attend the Dublin Diplomatic Conference on Cluster Munitions in May 2008.

¹ Interview with Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Director of Disarmament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, 4 June 2008. These remarks are identical to earlier statements. See *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, p. 948, and *Landmine Monitor Report 2006*, p. 1039.

² Pakistan, Explanation of Vote on the draft resolution, A/C.1/62/L.39, 17 October 2007. The remarks were made after the vote on the draft resolution in First Committee and were identical to those made the previous year.

³ CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Preamble.

⁴ In 2006, Pakistan stated that its law requires that at the “cessation of hostilities ERW are marked, removed and eventually destroyed.” Statement of Pakistan, Third Review Conference, Convention on Conventional Weapons, Special Session on Entry into Force of Protocol V, 13 November 2006.

In March 2008, the Sustainable Peace and Development Organization (SPADO) urged the governments of Pakistan and India to include the issue of landmines in the peace dialogue between India and Pakistan as a confidence building measure.⁵

Use

Although Pakistan stated in December 2006 its intention "to fence and mine some selective sections" of its border with Afghanistan to prevent cross-border militant activity,⁶ as of mid-2008 there were no reports that Pakistan had emplaced any new mines on the border. In its latest Article 13 report, Pakistan stated that no new minefields had been laid.⁷ In June 2008, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs official told Landmine Monitor that Pakistan decided to postpone consideration of laying mines on the Afghan border following international criticism. He also said those who criticized the contemplated action should have recommended alternatives.⁸

During Landmine Monitor field research in both North and South Waziristan agencies, many local people said that Pakistani security forces plant landmines to protect their military installations, but no one could offer specific details, and Landmine Monitor was not able to substantiate the claims.⁹ Similarly, in Balochistan, journalists, human rights activists, and others alleged that Pakistan's security forces emplace mines to protect their installations, but again no one could provide specific details, and Landmine Monitor was not able to substantiate the allegations.¹⁰

In October 2007, an official with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), based in New Delhi, India, told the Landmine Monitor that UNMOGIP had not received any reports of recent mine use near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir.¹¹ Another UNMOGIP official based in Muzaffarabad said they had not received any recent reports of new mine casualties there either.¹²

Pakistan's last major use of antipersonnel mines took place between December 2001 and

⁵ "India, Pakistan should include ban on mines in peace talks," *The Frontier Post*, 14 March 2008.

⁶ This announcement was met with strong opposition from the UN, Afghanistan, numerous other governments, the ICBL and Pakistani NGOs. See *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, pp. 949-951.

⁷ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B.

⁸ Interview with Mohammad Kamran Akhtar, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, 4 June 2008.

⁹ On 16-22 March 2008, Landmine Monitor interviewed community leaders and professionals in Waziristan with in-depth knowledge of the area. In Miranshah, North Waziristan, this included journalists Samiullah Dawar, Ihsan Dawar and Noor-Ul-Basar, historian Haji Laiq Shah Darpakhel, Pakistan Telecom supervisor Farmuanullah Khan, and businessperson Mulana Nasrullah Khan. In Wana, South Waziristan, this included Mulan Taj Muhammad, a teacher in an Islamic school, and Haji Muhammad, a businessperson. Hereafter cited as "Landmine Monitor field research, North and South Waziristan," 16-22 March 2008.

¹⁰ For example, interviews with Nasir Kakar, Senior Journalist and Correspondent, Voice of America News Service, Balochistan, 24 April 2008; and Zahoor Ahmad Shahwani, Vice-Chairperson, Pakistan Human Rights Commission, Quetta, Balochistan, 29 March 2007.

¹¹ Interview with Col. Kim Shih Hwan, Liaison Officer, UNMOGIP, New Delhi, 22 October 2007. He indicated there had been no use during the Landmine Monitor reporting period (since May 2007). The 1949 Cease-Fire Agreement with Pakistan prohibits any use of mines within 500 yards of the line. Agreement between Military Representatives of India and Pakistan Regarding the Establishment of a Cease-fire Line in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, 27 July 1949, Sections E and F.

¹² Interview with Capt. Mikko Monkkoen, Field Officer, UNMOGIP, Muzaffarabad, 7 October 2007. UNMOGIP has a policy of asking whether there have been any civilian casualties in the vicinity when visiting Pakistan Army outposts on the LoC.

mid-2002 on the border with India, during a time of heightened tensions.¹³

Production, Transfer and Stockpiling

Pakistan is one of a small number of countries still producing antipersonnel mines.¹⁴ Since January 1997, Pakistan Ordnance Factories has produced detectable versions of hand-emplaced blast mines in order to be compliant with Amended Protocol II.¹⁵ In 2007, Pakistan reported that it "has also planned incorporation of self-destruct and self-deactivation mechanism in its future production" in order to meet Amended Protocol II requirements.¹⁶ The protocol requires that all remotely-delivered mines have self-destruct and self-deactivation mechanisms. Pakistan reported in 2002 that it was developing a remotely-delivered antipersonnel mine system, but has provided no further details.¹⁷

Pakistan's Statutory Regulatory Order No. 123 (1) of 25 February 1999 makes the export of antipersonnel mines illegal.¹⁸ Pakistan states that it has not exported mines "since early 1992."¹⁹ In the past, the country was a major exporter of landmines. Pakistani-made mines have been found in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sri Lanka, and other locations.

There is no official information available on the size of Pakistan's antipersonnel mine stockpile. Landmine Monitor has estimated that Pakistan stockpiles at least six million antipersonnel mines, the fifth largest total in the world.²⁰ Pakistan has neither confirmed nor denied this estimate.

In 2007, Pakistan stated that it had "met the deadlines to improve the specifications on detectability of mines" to be compliant with CCW Amended Protocol II.²¹ The nine-year deadline for Pakistan to destroy or modify all stockpiled low-metal-content (non-detectable) antipersonnel mines was 3 December 2007. Pakistan provided no details about how or when it met the requirement.

¹³ See *Landmine Monitor Report 2004*, pp. 1087–1088.

¹⁴ Pakistan Ordnance Factories, located in Wah cantonment, is a state-owned company established in 1951 that in the past produced six types of antipersonnel landmines, two low-metal blast mines (P2Mk1 and P4Mk2), two bounding fragmentation mines (P3Mk2 and P7Mk1), and two directional fragmentation Claymore-type mines (P5Mk1 and P5Mk2).

¹⁵ Article 13 Report, Form C, 2 November 2005; and Sixth Annual Conference of States Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II, "Summary Record of the 1st Meeting, Geneva, 17 November 2004," CCW/APII/CONF.6/SR.1, 13 May 2005, p. 14.

¹⁶ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form C.

¹⁷ See *Landmine Monitor Report 2002*, p. 724.

¹⁸ CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form D, 10 November 2006 states, "Pakistan has declared a complete ban on export of landmines, even to States Parties, with effect from March 1997."

¹⁹ Letter from Joint Staff Headquarters, 14 February 2002. Previously Pakistan said it had not exported since 1991.

²⁰ In a December 1999 meeting between ICBL and Brig. Feroz Khan, Director Arms Control and Strategic Affairs in Geneva, Brig. Khan noted that since 1997 Pakistan had converted 2.5 million antipersonnel mines to detectable status. He said that at one time this represented about one-third of Pakistan's total stockpile, but [in 1999] represented a higher proportion. He noted that the stockpile number is a state secret, and that the number is fluid and could increase in the future. Based on these comments, the ICBL estimated that Pakistan could maintain a stockpile of at least six million antipersonnel mines.

²¹ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form C. Presumably, Pakistan added metal to its mines, rather than destroy them.

In 2005, 2006, and again in 2007, Pakistan reported that it “destroys a large number of outdated mines every year.” However, no information about the quantity or types of mines destroyed has been made available.²²

Each year Pakistani armed forces are reported to seize weapons, including some antipersonnel mines, during counterinsurgency operations. Officials have previously stated that Pakistan destroys confiscated mines, but have not made further information available regarding the number of mines confiscated or their country of origin.²³ In January 2008, security forces were reported to recover an unknown number of antipersonnel mines and other weapons from a house in Sawal Dher, Mardan district of the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).²⁴

Non-state armed groups

In Balochistan, some districts of the NWFP, and in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), including the Frontier Regions of Bannu, Kohat, and Tank, non-state armed groups (NSAGs) sporadically use antipersonnel mines, antivehicle mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in attacks on Pakistani security forces and civil administration, and in sectarian, inter-tribal and inter-family conflicts.

Community elders, government officials, NGOs, journalists and others interviewed during Landmine Monitor field visits in Balochistan and the North and South Waziristan agencies of FATA in 2007 and early 2008, all claimed that militants continued to use antipersonnel mines. The government of Pakistan has reported use of mines and IEDs by armed groups in its annual Article 13 report.²⁵

In the North and South Waziristan agencies, local tribal elders, journalists and others told Landmine Monitor during its field research in 2007 and 2008 that each of the 35 tribes and sub-clans living along the Durand Line in Waziristan have kept stockpiles of mines since the time of Afghan-Soviet conflict.²⁶ Landmine Monitor was also told that Pakistani Taliban and other NSAGs in North and South Waziristan agencies pay high prices for these locally stockpiled mines, or receive them out of sympathy for their cause.²⁷ A decree banning the sale of mines in Waziristan is no longer enforceable because most of the area is under the control of the Taliban or other armed groups.²⁸

There is a general perception in FATA and in the province of Balochistan that some antipersonnel mines are smuggled across the border from Afghanistan.²⁹ NSAGs in FATA

²² Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B; and Article 13 Reports, Form B, 10 November 2006 and 2 November 2005.

²³ See *Landmine Monitor Report 2006*, p. 1040.

²⁴ Mohamad Iqbal, “Militants break through police siege,” *Dawn* (Mardan), 22 January 2008, www.dawn.com.

²⁵ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B. Pakistan reported that NSAGs “have several times used mines and improvised explosive devices against army personnel and civil administration. The Corps of Military Engineers continues to assist both military and civil authorities in defusing and clearing such devices.”

²⁶ The Durand Line separated British India from Afghanistan in 1893. Today, the border line is disputed by Afghanistan and Pakistan.

²⁷ Landmine Monitor field research, North and South Waziristan, 16–22 March 2008; and CAMP research database on small arms and light weapons, FATA, 2008.

²⁸ Landmine Monitor field research, North and South Waziristan, 16–22 March 2008.

²⁹ *Ibid.* Landmine Monitor has been told this by government officials, tribal leaders and local

and Balochistan can also acquire antipersonnel mines on the clandestine market in the tribal areas.³⁰

Balochistan

NSAGs in the province of Balochistan are active in the districts of Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Kohlu, Musa Khel, and Nasirabad.³¹ The Balochistan Liberation Army ("Parraris"³²), anti-establishment elements, and criminals used landmines and IEDs in 2007 and early 2008, mostly targeted at government infrastructure and outposts of the Pakistan Army and the Frontier Corps, but civilians have also been killed and injured. The Marri, Bugti and Dumki tribes have also used mines in their tribal disputes. There has reportedly been a decline in explosive attacks since a government-initiated peace program in mid-2007.³³

Most reported incidents have involved antivehicle mines or IEDs, rather than antipersonnel devices.³⁴ Among the antipersonnel incidents are the following. In November 2007, it was reported that a child was killed and his parents injured after stepping on a victim-activated IED while traveling to their home in the Nelegh area of Sui in Dera Bugti district.³⁵ Also in November, a soldier on patrol was injured by a mine in Kahlū Kahan.³⁶ In December 2007, a man was injured after stepping on a mine in a cemetery in Quetta. Police later recovered another mine from the site.³⁷ In March 2008, two people were injured when they stepped on

journalists. However, none has been able to provide any details or corroboration. See also *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, p. 952; and *Landmine Monitor Report 2006*, p. 1041.

³⁰ Dara Adam Khel is infamous for merchants who openly trade in a variety of arms. A jurga decree and a trade association ban on the sale of mines in Dara Adam Khel carries a penalty of 20,000 Rs (\$330), so mines are not offered publicly. However, *Landmine Monitor* was told that with proper connections acquisition of mines can still be arranged there. Interview with Nasir Kakar, Voice of America News Service, Balochistan, 24 April 2008; *Landmine Monitor* field research, Balochistan province and North and South Waziristan, March and April 2007; and interviews with arms merchants, Dara Adam Khel, February 2007.

³¹ *Landmine Monitor* field research, Balochistan, February 2006, March–April 2007, and 23–25 April 2008; and see *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, p. 952.

³² Parraris is a generic term for Balochi freedom fighters.

³³ Interview with Nasir Kakar, Voice of America News Service, Balochistan, 24 April 2008.

³⁴ Balochistan Liberation Army combatants can produce high-explosive antivehicle IEDs, and have frequently posted videos of their attacks on Pakistani military convoys on the internet. "BLA blowing up two Pakistani soldiers in a powerful remote controlled bomb in Marri area," *Baloch Voice*, 17 October 2007; and "BLA blow up a Pakistani army truck in a powerful roadside bomb and ambushed the salvation team killing at least 14 and injuring several others in Marri area of Tratani," *Baloch Voice*, 31 July 2007, www.balochvoice.com. Among the numerous antivehicle mine/IED incidents reported, many of which caused civilian casualties, are the following: "Landmine kills two security personnel," *Dawn* (Quetta), 17 September 2007; "Landmine blast kills man, 4 hurt," *Dawn* (Jacobabad), 14 September 2007; Saleem Shahid, "Seven killed in landmine explosions near Sui," *Dawn* (Quetta), 2 November 2007; "Five injured in two landmine explosions in Kohlu," *Daily Times* (Quetta), 20 November 2007; "Man killed in landmine blast," *Dawn* (Quetta), 10 December 2007; "Two die in Spin Buldak blasts," *Dawn* (Quetta), 2 January 2008; "Man killed in landmine blast," *Dawn* (Quetta), 10 January 2008; and Saleem Shahid, "Explosions leave three security men dead," *Dawn* (Quetta), 25 February 2008.

³⁵ Saleem Shahid, "Seven killed in landmine explosions near Sui," *Dawn* (Quetta), 2 November 2007, www.dawn.com.

³⁶ "Five injured in two landmine explosions in Kohlu," *Daily Times* (Quetta), 20 November 2007, thepost.com.pk.

³⁷ "One killed, 10 injured in Quetta bomb, mine blasts," *The News International* (Quetta), 18 December 2007, www.thenews.com.pk.

a mine near Goth Abdul Rehman.³⁸ Also in March 2008, two soldiers died after stepping on a mine while clearing a road near the town of Dera Bugti.³⁹

North and South Waziristan

In April 2007, Landmine Monitor learned that the Political Agent issued a decree prohibiting the sale of mines, and at that time mines could no longer be purchased openly in local arms shops and markets.⁴⁰ However, during field research in March 2008, Landmine Monitor was informed that the Political Agent's decree was no longer effective due to the collapse of state authority in the agencies, and that anyone could now easily acquire mines from local markets.⁴¹

Sporadic use of antipersonnel mines has continued in both Waziristan agencies. Tribes and their sub-tribes have used mines and IEDs, both command-detonated and victim-activated, against government forces and each other.⁴² It is very difficult to obtain any precise information on the dates and locations of incidents, the responsible party, the types of device used, or the casualties caused.

In September 2007, three children were seriously injured after a mine exploded in Khar, Bajaur agency.⁴³ In November 2007, five soldiers died and four were injured when their vehicle was destroyed by a mine or IED near the Afghan border outside Miranshah, North Waziristan.⁴⁴

In the Aurakzai, Bajaur, and Kurram agencies of FATA, mines and IEDs have been used in family and personal feuds, tribal clashes, and sectarian violence.⁴⁵

Kashmir

Many political and armed organizations opposing the Indian government reside in Pakistani-administered Kashmir. In October 2007, Landmine Monitor was presented with a Declaration for a Mine Free Kashmir by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (G) AJK, a political organization. The declaration requested an immediate halt to mine use by all combatants operating in Kashmir, and stressed the urgent need for international assistance to assure comprehensive victim assistance and mine clearance.⁴⁶ The United Jihad Council, a front of Kashmiri and non-Kashmiri armed groups, also provided Landmine Monitor with

³⁸ Saleem Shahid, "Girl among eight injured in three explosions," *Dawn* (Quetta), 10 March 2008, www.dawn.com.

³⁹ "Landmine claims 2 Pak lives," *Press TV*, 17 March 2008.

⁴⁰ A Political Agent is appointed by Islamabad and is the highest governing authority in the agencies.

⁴¹ Landmine Monitor field research, North and South Waziristan, 16–22 March 2008.

⁴² Since March 2004, the Pakistan Army has been operational in South Waziristan against tribes allegedly involved in harboring Taliban and al-Qaeda terrorist activities. The main sub-tribes of the Wazirs tribe apparently using mines are the Ahmadzai and Yar Gul Khel, and the main sub-tribes of the Mahsud tribe apparently using mines are the Bahlolzai, Shabi Khel and Shaman Khel. This information was conveyed in interviews with prominent Maliks, community elders, local politicians and religious clerics in North and South Waziristan agencies, April 2007 and March 2008; and interview with Samiullah Khan, Journalist, Peshawar, 2 April 2007 and 23 March 2008.

⁴³ "Five soldiers injured in Waziristan attack," *Daily Times* (Miranshah/Khar), 26 September 2007, www.dailytimes.com.pk.

⁴⁴ "12 civilians, five soldiers killed in Pakistan fighting," *Deutsche Presse-Agentur* (Islamabad), 29 November 2007.

⁴⁵ See *Landmine Monitor Report 2005*, pp. 844–846.

⁴⁶ ICBL, "2006–2007 Kashmir Mission Report," Geneva, November 2007.

a statement in which it pledged not to use antipersonnel mines and to abide by international humanitarian law obligations.⁴⁷

Landmine/ERW Problem

Despite clear evidence to the contrary, Pakistan has repeatedly affirmed that it "faces no problem of uncleared mines."⁴⁸ It has also stated "mines have never caused humanitarian concerns in Pakistan, despite having fought three wars with India and...[a] military standoff during 2001–2002."⁴⁹ The evidence that Pakistan is affected by both mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) includes the occurrence of mine/ERW casualties during 2007 and 2008. In addition, Pakistan's latest Article 13 report stated that the, "existing perimeter marking signs have been painted and marked according to AP-II standards," acknowledging that some mined areas remain.⁵⁰

Pakistan has declared that mines it laid on the Indo-Pakistan border during the 2001–2002 stand-off with India "have been completely cleared."⁵¹ It has also claimed that "minefields laid along the LoC are properly fenced and clearly marked to impose requisite caution on civilians living in the surrounding areas."⁵² However, inhabitants of Pakistani-administered Kashmir report consistently that some areas along the LoC are still contaminated and have not been properly fenced by the militaries of either India or Pakistan.⁵³ Inhabitants of Garhi Sher Khan in Poonch district, for example, informed Landmine Monitor that villages on both sides of the LoC were contaminated by mines and ERW, and that rainfall caused mines to drift from areas on the Indian side that were at a higher altitude.⁵⁴

The government has acknowledged that a mine problem does exist from mines left by Soviet troops, on the Pakistan-Afghan border.⁵⁵ Contamination dates from the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979–1989), when mines were scattered by Soviet and Afghan forces from helicopters and the mujahideen used mines to protect their bases in the tribal areas.⁵⁶ The government also acknowledges that "in the ongoing war on terror, the terrorists have several times used mines and improvised explosive devices against army personnel

⁴⁷ ICBL, "Kashmir Insurgency Bans Use of Antipersonnel Landmines," 4 December 2007, www.icbl.org.

⁴⁸ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B; and Article 13 Reports, Form B, 10 November 2006, 2 November 2005, and 8 October 2004. For mine/UXO contamination reported in earlier years, see *Landmine Monitor Report 2004*, p. 1088.

⁴⁹ Article 13 Report, Form F, 8 October 2004.

⁵⁰ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² Article 13 Report, Form A, 10 November 2006.

⁵³ Landmine Monitor field research, Pakistani-administered Kashmir, 16–19 April 2008, 20–23 March 2007, and 21–23 February 2006. Landmine Monitor also conducted a brief survey in Garhi Sher Khan, Poonch district, visiting 10 small villages/hamlets and interviewing 35 local inhabitants, including landmine survivors, 21–23 March 2007.

⁵⁴ Interviews with local inhabitants of Garhi Sher Khan, Poonch district, Pakistani-administered Kashmir, including the communities of Boon Colony, Chai, Chakrali, Daliry, Dossi, Jamotra, Japak, Khapar Gala, Kota, and Nala, 21–23 March 2007.

⁵⁵ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B; and Article 13 Reports, Form B, 10 November 2006, and 2 November 2005.

⁵⁶ Letter from Joint Staff Headquarters, Strategic Plans Division, ACDA Directorate, Chaklala Cantonment, 14 February 2002; and Naveed Ahmad Shinwari and Salma Malik, "Situation Analysis of SALW in Pakistan and its Impact on Security," CAMP research paper, Peshawar, February 2005, p. 13.

and civil administration.”⁵⁷

In North and South Waziristan, local inhabitants told Landmine Monitor during field research in 2007 and 2008 that NSAGs, including Taliban and tribal armed elements, continued to use former mujahideen bases, and that the area around these camps was contaminated with mines emplaced by the NSAGs as well as by mines dating back to the Afghan-Soviet war. Known camps included Ghulam Khel, Mada Khel Wazir, Shawal, and Zavar in North Waziristan, and Azami Warsak, Bermal, and Shakai in South Waziristan. Inhabitants of the two provinces said mine incidents were still occurring, but did not provide specific casualty data.⁵⁸

In Balochistan, areas believed to be mined include Barkhan, Dera Bugti, Jafarabad, Kohlu, Nasirabad, and Rait.⁵⁹ Other areas which have had a mine problem include Chamalang and Mekhter (see below), near the Loralai district border, which are affected by Baloch and Pushtun tribal disputes over coal resources. Kirbag, the homeland of the Marri Balochi tribe, is also said to be mine-affected.⁶⁰ Mines were reportedly planted by NSAGs near insurgent camps and along roads, including 160km of road from Modh to Kahaan.⁶¹ The sides of roads leading to coal mines in Indus, Margat, Maror, and Marwar in Bolan district were said to be mined as of early 2006.⁶² In February 2006, a district coordination officer warned people against traveling on roads in Dera Bugti until mines could be cleared.⁶³ The government then started demining operations and cleared most of the affected areas.⁶⁴

Mine Action

Pakistan has no formal civilian mine action program. Mine and ERW clearance is carried out by engineer units of the armed forces.⁶⁵ Pakistan's paramilitary Frontier Constabulary is said to have also undertaken demining operations in FATA.⁶⁶ The government asserts that “regular lectures are given to troops and officers during on the job training in the units operating/deployed in the border area with Afghanistan as well as India.”⁶⁷

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs disclosed plans in 2007 to establish a Training Center for

⁵⁷ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B; and Article 13 Report, Form B, 10 November 2006.

⁵⁸ Landmine Monitor field research, North and South Waziristan, April 2007 and 16–22 March 2008. Bermal which is half in Pakistan and half in Afghanistan, was bombarded by American forces, while Azam Warsak is 40–50 miles inside Pakistan. Shakai is on the boundary of North and South Waziristan. These camps were operational in the Afghan-Soviet war and are still operational under the command of local Taliban leaders.

⁵⁹ Interview with Nasrullah Bareech, Executive Director, Center for Peace and Development, Quetta, Balochistan, 26 March 2007.

⁶⁰ This view was expressed by several journalists during a group interview at Quetta Press Club, Quetta, 25 April 2008.

⁶¹ Some 1,500 mines were reportedly planted along this road, but no independent verification was available. Interview with Watan Yar Khilji, Zhob District Press Club, Quetta, 16 February 2006.

⁶² Muhammad Ejaz Khan, “Jam asks people to support action against miscreants,” *News International*, 20 January 2006.

⁶³ “Pakistani gas pipeline blown up,” *BBC News Online*, 23 February 2006.

⁶⁴ Interviews with local journalists, Press Club, Quetta, 23–25 April 2008.

⁶⁵ See *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, p. 955.

⁶⁶ Interview with Mohammed Tashfeen, former Political Agent of Kurram, Parachinar, 4 February 2006.

⁶⁷ Article 13 Report (for the period 16 August 2006 to 15 August 2007), Form B.

