

General information about landmines

Land mines are designed to explode when triggered by pressure or a tripwire. Known as anti-personnel mines, they lie hidden below the surface of the ground waiting for a footstep to set them off. These land mines cannot tell the difference between war and peace and the footstep of a soldier or of a civilian (including a child). They are ready for more victims and more human prey. Most land mines are found in the poorest countries, tens of millions are hidden in the ground in more than 60 countries.

The purpose of these mines is to disable any person or vehicle that comes into contact with them. I call these mines good soldiers because they don't miss, but they end up being evil soldiers because they have no mercy.

Landmines are often laid in groups, called mine fields, and are designed to prevent an enemy from passing through a certain area or sometimes to force an enemy through a particular area. An army also will use land mines to slow an enemy until reinforcements can arrive. There are more than 350 kinds of land mines. They can be described in two categories: Anti-personnel (AP) mines, Anti-tank (AT) mines.

In Lebanon: The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and the National Demining Office (NDO) of the Lebanese Army estimate that in Lebanon there are approximately 90,000 victims, 55% who are still alive; 22% are amputees and 26% lost sight or hands. Every year there are roughly 200 more victims of land mines and 80% of victims are innocent civilians and children. The experts estimate there are a half million land mines concentrated along the blue line, a border between Lebanon and Israel drawn up by the United Nations and guarded by (UNIFIL) UN Interim Forces in Lebanon.