



World Chronicle

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"TAKING ACTION AGAINST LANDMINES"

By some estimates there are currently at least 80 million landmines in more than 70 countries around the world. Like time-bombs set to explode long after the conflict is over, some mines remain active for more than 50 years. Removing them is not only extremely dangerous, but also very expensive. How effective is the Ottawa Convention – which imposes a total ban on antipersonnel landmines – in addressing this problem? Will Afghanistan ever be cleared of landmines and unexploded cluster bombs? What techniques are used to help make the fields of war safe again? In this edition of **World Chronicle**, these questions are explored with the help of Martin Barber, Director of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS).

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