



Mine action in areas controlled by armed non-State actors: opportunities and challenges

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Armed non-State actors (ANSAs) and landmines

- According to Landmine Monitor, in 2015 ANSAs have used AP mines or IED acting as AP mines in 10 countries: Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria, Tunisia, Ukraine and Yemen
- Some ANSAs have access to factory-made AP mines but most appear to make their own improvised mines
- Some ANSAs control mine affected areas



Geneva Call

- Geneva Call originated from ICBL in 2000
- Geneva Call has engaged nearly 100 ANSAs on a total ban on AP mines and mine action
- Geneva Call has developed the *Deed of Commitment* mechanism that enables ANSAs to undertake to respect the AP Mine Ban Convention's norms



Deed of Commitment

Under the *Deed of Commitment*, signatory ANSAs agree to:

- prohibit under any circumstances the use, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and transfer of AP mines and similar victim-activated IED
- destroy any AP mines under their possession
- undertake and cooperate in mine action in cooperation with specialized mine action agencies

Deed of Commitment follow up

- Implementation support (training, technical assistance, linkage with specialized mine action agencies)
- Compliance monitoring (self-reporting, third party monitoring and field missions by Geneva Call)



Dissemination and training

Video clips



Booklets



Mobile phone application





Achievements

- 49 ANSAs have signed the *Deed of Commitment*
- Signatory ANSAs have taken measures to enforce the ban and, except a few exceptions, have abided by their commitment
- Most signatories have destroyed their stockpile (about 30,000 AP mines to date, along with thousands of IEDs and AXO) and have cooperated with specialized agencies in mine action
- In addition to the *Deed of Commitment*, a number of ANSAs have committed to prohibit AP mines through other means

Stockpile destruction



Cooperation in mine clearance





Challenges

- Continued use of AP mines and IEDs by non-signatory ANSAs
- Lack of ANSAs' technical capacity to undertake mine action (especially mine clearance and victim assistance)
- Lack of access to mine affected areas under ANSA control

Conclusions

- Engagement with ANSAs on the ban on AP mines is not only necessary but can be effective
- Mine action to assist affected populations in areas controlled by ANSAs, especially those which have agreed to abide by the AP Mine Ban Convention's norms, should be supported

Thank you for your attention

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