

Landmines: The Worst Affected Areas. (1999, February 28).
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02/28 0602 LANDMINES: THE WORST AFFECTED AREAS

By Chris Hamilton, PA News

The Ottawa Treaty banning the use of landmines and championed by Diana, Princess of Wales, comes into force tomorrow.

There are no accurate estimates on the numbers of buried mines around the world and it has even been claimed some agencies exaggerated figures to boost fund-raising.

However, there is little dispute over the worst affected countries. They are:

:: Afghanistan. USSR invaded in 1979 followed by on-going civil war. The UK Government estimates mine casualties at around 300 a month. Estimates on numbers of landmines vary between 500,000 and 10 million.

:: Angola. There was a war there from 1961 until a UN peace deal 30 years later but a civil war flared again in 1993. Casualties estimated at 120 a month and 60 different types of mines are thought to have been laid. Estimated number of landmines vary between one million and 15 million.

:: Cambodia. It is slowly emerging from 30 years of war but it has one of highest casualty rates at 300 a month. Estimated number of landmines vary between 330,000 and six million.

:: Iraq. From 1980 there was an eight-year war with Iran, followed by an Allied invasion in 1991. Casualty figures estimated at 100 a month. Estimated number of mines up to 10 million.

:: The other worst affected countries are: Laos, Bosnia, Burma, Croatia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Vietnam.