

Landmine Monitor Report

Toward a Mine-Free World

2000



International **TO BAN**
CAMPAIGN
LANDMINES

LANDMINE MONITOR REPORT 2000

Toward a Mine-Free World

International Campaign to Ban Landmines

Landmine Monitor Core Group:
**Human Rights Watch · Handicap International · Kenya
Coalition Against Landmines · Mines Action Canada ·
Norwegian People's Aid**

Table 6. Organizations with current victim assistance programs⁵⁷

Organization	Capacity	Remarks
Handicap International	Prosthetic and rehabilitation support.	
ICRC	Victim surveillance system	In conjunction with WHO and MACC
VVAF	Victim assistance outreach program	Funded by EU contribution to VTF.
WHO	Victim assistance point of contact	

NAGORNY-KARABAKH

Key developments since March 1999: In March 2000, the Nagorny-Karabakh Minister of Agriculture said that thirty percent of the territory's most productive agricultural lands are not being used because of the danger of mines. HALO Trust, which had carried out mine clearance in Nagorny-Karabakh in 1995-96, resumed operations in January 2000.

Background

Nagorny-Karabakh is an autonomous region of western Azerbaijan, but the majority of the inhabitants are Armenian. In 1988, the region voted to secede and join Armenia, which led to armed conflict from 1988-1994 involving forces from all three armies. In the midst of the conflict, the region proclaimed itself the Nagorny-Karabakh Republic (NKR) on 2 September 1991, and declared independence on 6 January 1992. Armenian forces occupied 20% of Azerbaijan territory. The UN Security Council adopted four resolutions in 1993, calling for the withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from Azeri territories and reiterating the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan with Nagorny-Karabakh as an integral part.¹ These resolutions have not been implemented. In May 1994 Azerbaijan and Armenia signed a cease-fire agreement; however, negotiations for a final peace agreement are still going on under the auspices of the OSCE.

Mine Ban Policy

There have been no public comments regarding landmines by officials of Nagorny-Karabakh. The Nagorny-Karabakh military has told the Landmine Monitor researcher that mines are viewed as useful weapons in numerous tactical military tasks and that as long as the war lasts, mines are necessary. The military recognizes that mines kill both enemy and friend.²

⁵⁷ Mine Action Capacity Operating in Kosovo over the Reporting Period, UNMIK KMACC quarterly report 1 March-31 May 2000, Annex A.

¹ UN Security Council Resolution, S/RES/822, 30 April 1993; UN Security Council Resolution, S/RES/853, 29 July 1993; UN Security Council Resolution, S/RES/874, 14 October 1993; UN Security Council Resolution, S/RES/884, 12 November 1993.

² Discussions with soldiers and members of the special mine clearing regiment, including Lt.-Colonel Anatoly Galayan, Commander of the mine-clearing regiment, NKR Ministry of Defense, late 1999 and early 2000.