

TUNISIAN PROGRESS FOR FULLFILLING ARTICLE 5 OBLIGATIONS SINCE MAY 2006

1- Plan and progress in the implementation of the demining programme:

Since May 2006, the Tunisian Army has continued clearing the minefields in the South-East of the country. The following operations have been done.

- The minefield located at the region of Ras Djedir was totally cleared and all mines were removed and destroyed (3503 anti-personnel and 785 anti-tank mines),
- The minefield located at the region of M'Guisseem was also totally cleared and all mines were removed and destroyed (726 anti-personnel and 318 anti-tank mines). Raking of this minefield still ongoing using sensitive detectors to insure that no more mines left.

2- Remaining work:

Seven minefields remain not cleared. They represent 30% of the mined zones left. These minefields are perfectly marked and enclosed with barbed wire and concertina. Nobody can enter these mines areas. Fences are perfectly maintained and checked systematically every month by the army engineer units. These minefields are as follows:

- One located at the region of Bir Zar (173 anti-personnel and 81 anti-tank mines),
- Two located at the region of M'Chiguig (493 anti-personnel and 15 anti-tank mines),
- Four located at the region of Borj El Khadra (777 anti-personnel mines and 749 anti-tank mines).

3- Impeding circumstances:

Due to the hot season, the clearance of minefields will start in November 2007, with a view to be in accordance with the article 5 obligations and to complete work within the deadline set by the convention (end of December 2009).

4- National capacity and priorities for assistance:

Tunisia relies on its local demining capacity. The Army is charged to clear the totality of minefields left. It is proceeding by manual method using probe and different mine detectors. Tunisia is looking forward to obtain financial assistance from the international community to fulfill this task.