

4,000 locations registered in south for mine-clearance (Sudan)

The South Sudan Demining Authority has registered over (4,000) locations in southern Sudan that need mine-clearance operations.

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Speaking during the occasion of the International Day for Mine Awareness, the deputy chairperson of South Sudan Demining Authority, Margaret Mathiang, said that the Authority is involved in land mine clearance of roads including mine action risk education.

Mrs. Mathiang said that the Authority also assists the victims of land mines in southern Sudan.

She urged institutions and citizens to work more on mine-awareness campaigns.

The Minister of Commerce and Industry in the Government of Southern Sudan, Anthony Makana, attended the occasion and said that the South still has land mine victims in many areas because citizens are not fully aware of the risks.

Mr. Makana urged the Government of National Unity to transfer the outstanding balance of money for de-mining activities to the Government of Southern Sudan.

A representative of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) General Maleg Rubent said that land mines are still a big threat in South Sudan.

In Wau town of Western Bahr el-Ghazal State, the UN Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and Civil Society Organizations also celebrated the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

The Minister of Information in the State, Efsio Kon, said that mines and unexploded ordinances have littered villages all over Southern Sudan and commended all stakeholders that are working hard to get rid of them.

The Director of the UN Mine action Office in Sudan, Tariq Gadeem, said that 60% of the total areas affected by mines has been de-mined and cleared.

Mr. Gadeem called on the Government to speed up the endorsement and signing of the convention of prohibition of ammunition and cluster bombs, hereby preventing its use.

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