Canada condemns attacks on deminers

Kabul, AFGHANISTAN, 14 April 2010 (Pajhwok Afghan News) - Canada has condemned attacks on a team working for the Demining Agency for Afghanistan in the restive southern province of Kandahar on April 11. Four deminers were killed and others 17 injured in the assaults.

The Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan said on Wednesday deminers risked "life and limb" to remove landmines that litter this country, making the land available for use once more. William Crosbie recalled: "Only just the week before, we celebrated International Day for Mine Awareness and I was honoured to have had the opportunity to meet many of this country's brave deminers. "The attacks clearly demonstrate the insurgents had no regard for the lives of Afghans and those who are working to build a better future for Afghanistan, according to the envoy. He called for unhindered humanitarian access to affected populations and encouraged all parties to ensure the safety of aid workers. "On behalf of all Canadians, I extend our deepest sympathies to those who were injured and condolences to the friends and families of those who were killed in this terrible attack. "Since 1989, Canada has contributed more than $109 million towards the demining programme in Afghanistan, supporting efforts to survey, clear and release land, provide mine risk education and assist victims of landmine tragedies.