A 16-year-old Indian boy was killed and his father and another relative were wounded by a landmine in the northwestern banana-growing region of Uraba, the Colombian National Indigenous Organization (ONIC) said Sunday.

(22.03.2005)

ONIC officials said Gabriel Domico was killed last Friday at a ranch in Mutata, in Antioquia province, where nearly 30 soldiers and rebels died in fighting last month between the army and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas.

The boy was killed instantly and his father, Jose Flavio Domico, and uncle, Reinaldo Domico, residents of Jaikerazabi, were wounded and transported to a hospital in Apartado.

The landmine exploded in an area known as El Porroso, where army troops and FARC rebels clashed last month.

On Feb. 9, 18 soldiers and 11 rebels died in fighting in Uraba. A few days later, on Feb. 14, three children were killed by landmines planted by the FARC in Vistahermosa, in the central province of Meta.

In a statement, ONIC denounced "this new violation of human rights and international humanitarian law."

ONIC leaders called for "the investigations necessary to ensure that there is no impunity in this crime," and they asked the government to "take all the necessary actions to clear our territory of all instruments of death."

An estimated 70,000 to 100,000 landmines have been planted in Colombia, the only country in Latin America where these weapons are still in use.

In the past 13 years, at least 2,450 people have been the victims of landmines in the Andean nation, with about one-quarter of them being killed by these weapons.

Colombia approved the Ottawa Convention to ban landmines in 2000.

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