Peaceful citizens are dying although the civil war in Tajikistan finished five years ago. The cause is mortar shells left on the combat fields.

(13.09.2004)

The special program on mine cleaning of the OSCE is in its second year in Tajikistan. There are approximately 16 thousand of shells and landmines in the ground. Tajik field engineers clean the territory, and foreign specialists, who had previously worked in Angola, Afghanistan and Kosovo are heading the teams. Each person, allowed on the minefield, must undergo training. The most dangerous places are enclosed. Each field engineer has a protective uniform, helmet and a metal detector. All of them are residents of the nearest villages or soldiers in service for a limited period. 100 mines were neutralized during the past last two years. There were 16 cases of explosions. A cow was killed recently. Probably, there are nearly 800 mines in this mountain.

The mine removals are being performed in the internal regions of the country. And the most dangerous site is the Uzbek-Tajik border. The military of the neighboring country tried to deny access to terrorists to it’s territory by any means. The armistice was concluded several years ago. And the negotiations on mine removal continued for several years. However, people continue to die.

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