A Pakistani paramilitary soldier was killed and another injured along with a civilian driver when their vehicle hit a landmine in southwestern Baluchistan province, a military official said Wednesday.

The Frontier Constabulary (FC) soldiers were on security duty late Tuesday in the town of Sui which has the country's large natural gas reserves, they said.

"They were driving on track in the Sui gas field area when their vehicle hit a land mine, blowing its front part", an F.C official said.

The blast killed one soldier and injured another FC man as well as their driver, he said requesting anonymity.

Police have registered a case and efforts were underway to hunt down the culprits, the official said.

Sui is located in the troubled Dera Bugti district 340 kilometers south-east of the provincial capital Quetta.

Officials suspect the mine could have been planted by local tribesmen who had earlier this year twice blasted the main supply line transporting the natural gas to the neighbouring populous province of Punjab.

Hundreds of troops have since then deployed in Sui town to protect the gas pipeline.

Officials had blamed the pipeline ruptures in the past on the dominant Bugti tribe in the area, who have been demanding royalties from the company for the gas coming through their area and for jobs for their youth.

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