Three members of a family were killed and two others sustained injuries when an old mortar shell exploded in the central Kapisa province, officials said on Saturday.

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Crime branch chief Ghulam Farooq told Pajhwok Afghan News it was an old mortar shell swept by flood water from the nearby mountains. The device went off when someone hit it, believed the officer.

The dead included 18-year-old Diba, Pardes (15) and their 12-year-old brother. The police officer said the incident took place in the Namaz Joy village on Friday evening. The injured had been shifted to a hospital in Panjshir province, said Farooq.

Mirzayee Khan (60), father of the slain, said he did not know how the tragedy struck his family. With tears rolling down his cheeks, the ill-fated father lashed out at the de-mining agencies for not clearing the area.

Speaking to this news agency, a resident Faqir Shah said the area was cleared of mines about three months back. However, several war-era mines and other explosive devices were still existed in the uninhabited areas and the residents or their children often fall prey to it.

Von: 27.2.2006 Pajhwak Afgan News, by Nadeem Kohistani

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