

# DDAS Accident Report

## Accident details

<b>Report date:</b> 07/07/2011	<b>Accident number:</b> 708
<b>Accident time:</b> 08:00	<b>Accident Date:</b> 28/10/2009
<b>Where it occurred:</b> Geri, Nr Nicosia	<b>Country:</b> Cyprus
<b>Primary cause:</b> Other (?)	<b>Secondary cause:</b> Other (?)
<b>Class:</b> Excavation accident	<b>Date of main report:</b> 28/10/2009
<b>ID original source:</b>	<b>Name of source:</b> Press
<b>Organisation:</b> [Name removed]	
<b>Mine/device:</b> AT (unrecorded)	<b>Ground condition:</b> not recorded
<b>Date record created:</b>	<b>Date last modified:</b> 07/07/2011
<b>No of victims:</b> 1	<b>No of documents:</b> 2

## Map details

<b>Longitude:</b>	<b>Latitude:</b>
<b>Alt. coord. system:</b> Not recorded	<b>Coordinates fixed by:</b>
<b>Map east:</b>	<b>Map north:</b>
<b>Map scale:</b>	<b>Map series:</b>
<b>Map edition:</b>	<b>Map sheet:</b>
<b>Map name:</b>	

## Accident Notes

inadequate investigation (?)

no independent investigation available (?)

## Accident report

The only reports of this accident made available to date are press reports. Their conversion into a DDAS file has led to some of the original formatting being lost. Text in square brackets [ ] is editorial. This record will be revised as more information becomes available.

The reports are reproduced below, edited for anonymity.

### **Cyprus: UN deminer killed in accidental bomb blast**

28 October 2009 – A United Nations bomb disposal expert died today in an accidental explosion while clearing landmines in Cyprus' buffer zone separating the Greek and Turkish Cypriot sides of the Mediterranean island.

[The victim], from Mozambique, was killed in a minefield south east of the UN protected area of Nicosia, the first demining accident in the country in five years, according to the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus ([UNFICYP](#)).

Mr. [The victim] was a member of the UN Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) which was formed in November 2004 to clear the 180 kilometre-long buffer zone, covering around three per cent of the surface area of the divided island.

In a message conveying his condolences to Mr. [The victim]'s family on behalf of the UN team in country, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Cyprus [Name removed] said he was saddened and shocked to learn of the accident.

Mr. [Name removed], who also heads UNFICYP, added that Mr. [The victim]'s death was a tragic reminder of the dangers landmines still pose in the country.

Since 2004, the MACC team has removed and destroyed more than 14,000 mines, and cleared a total of 57 minefields to date, covering more than 6.5 million square metres of land.

Cyprus' minefields were laid during an outbreak of violence in 1974, and current records show a total of 101 mined, suspected and booby-trapped areas.

#### **28th October 2009**



**Deminer dies in accident**

A member of the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) was killed today in a demining accident, the group's first fatality in five years of work on the island.

[The victim], a MACC member from Mozambique, died in an explosion at approximately 8 this morning in a minefield near Geri, some 10 kilometres south east of Nicosia.

The Mine Action Centre Cyprus is a project of the United Nations Development Programme's Partnership for the Future. The MACC has removed and destroyed more than 14,000 mines since 2004, with the support of UNFICYP. A total of 57 minefields have been cleared to date, covering more than 6.5 million square metres of land.

<http://www.unficyp.org/media/SG%20Reports/N0961815.pdf>

11. On 28 October, a civilian contractor of the Mine Action Centre was killed in a demining accident, the demining group's first fatality in five years of operation on the island. The tragic accident happened in the buffer zone, some 10 kilometres south-east of Nicosia.



[Posed photo showing mines in Cyprus.]

<http://www.cyprusedirectory.com/articleview.aspx?ID=15967>

A MEMBER of the Mine Action Centre Cyprus (MACC) was killed yesterday in a demining accident in the buffer zone, the group's first fatality in five years of work on the island.

The 39-year-old [the Victim], a MACC member from Mozambique, died after an anti-tank mine exploded at approximately 8am yesterday in a minefield near Yeri, some 10 kilometres south-east of Nicosia.

According to AFP, nine people, including deminers and civilians, were injured by mines in the buffer zone last year.

[The Victim worked for a commercial demining company contracted to the UN MACC, so was not formally employed by the UN.]

### Victim Report

<b>Victim number:</b> 894	<b>Name:</b> [Name removed]
<b>Age:</b>	<b>Gender:</b> Male
<b>Status:</b> supervisory	<b>Fit for work:</b> DECEASED
<b>Compensation:</b> Not made available	<b>Time to hospital:</b> Not made available
<b>Protection issued:</b> Not recorded	<b>Protection used:</b> Frontal apron; Long visor

#### Summary of injuries:

FATAL

COMMENT: No Medical report was made available.

#### Other documents

January 21, 2011

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90856/7269093.html>

The UN Mine Action Center in Cyprus (UNMACC) marked "six years of successful work" on the island, having cleared more than 27,000 landmines once strewn along the 180-kilometer-long buffer zone, a UN spokesman said here Thursday.

"The deminers, who are contracted by the UN, will shut down their current operations next month," [Name removed], the UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing.

They have "dedicated years of their lives far away from their own homes to make Cyprus -- your home -- a safer place," said [Name removed], who heads the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) .

Most of the deminers are from Mozambique and Zimbabwe. One deminer lost his leg in an accident, and a team leader from Mozambique died a year ago.

## **Analysis**

The primary and secondary causes of this accident are listed as *Other* because there is not enough information to ascertain any causes. Given that the device was an AT blast mine (with a high operating pressure), it is likely that the Victim was defusing it when the accident happened.

The "Inadequate investigation" listed under notes refers to the absence of a full accident report. The UN supported MACC in Cyprus failed to make accident records available after 2008 in contravention of the requirements of the IMAS.