



مرکز هماهنگی امور ماین پاکى افغانستان | د افغانستان د ماین پاکى چارو د همغږی مرکز

Mine Action **Coordination** Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA)

PRESS RELEASE

MACCA STRONGLY CONDEMNS ATTACK ON THE DEMINERS IN AYNAK COPPER MINE

(June 11, 2014) Kabul, Afghanistan. The Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA) strongly condemns the attack on Mine Detection Centre (MDC) a non-governmental organization and a member of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), which resulted in the deaths of eight MDC deminers and the injury of three others while they were working on an Afghan Government-funded demining project at the Aynak Copper Mine in Logar Province.

At approximately 9.30 am on June 10, 2014, an unknown armed group detonated an explosive device in the parking lot of the MDC teams in the copper mine where MDC deminers were working. MDC and Afghan National Police (ANP) vehicles were damaged as a result. In the ensuing small arms fire between ANP and the armed group, eight MDC deminers were killed and three others injured.

The NGO MDC has been demining throughout Afghanistan since 1989 and is an implementing partner of the MACCA. All humanitarian demining in Afghanistan is coordinated by the MACCA. The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan (MAPA), of which MDC is a valued member, comprises over 40 organisations and employs 8,800 Afghans. Humanitarian demining partners such as MDC provide jobs to Afghans, remove hazardous areas that would otherwise pose a danger to lives, and free up land for development.

MACCA would like to emphasise that MDC staff are civilians working to remove explosive hazards, in this case at the Aynak Copper Mine. Afghanistan's natural resources are important assets for the country. Demining ensures that these natural resources can be better exploited for Afghanistan's economic self-reliance. The Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan will not be deterred from this important work by such attacks, which violates the most basic principles of humanity.

MACCA extends its condolences to the families of all those killed and wishes a rapid recovery for the injured.

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For questions, please contact the Mine Action Coordination Centre of Afghanistan (MACCA):

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