

IRAN NEWS

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GICHD Delegation In Iran to Inspect Mine-Infested Areas

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN — A delegation of the Geneva-based International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) arrived in Iran on Sunday to inspect mine-infested areas in southern Iran, IRNA reported.

In its first meeting with the representatives of Iran's Mines Sweeping Headquarters, the GICHD delegation briefed the Iranian officials on its performance, activities and assistance in those areas of the country contaminated with landmines.

Representatives from the ministries of defense, foreign affairs, the interior, Iran's Red Crescent Society

See Page 15

GICHD... From Page 3

and the organization for supporting those injured by landmine explosion have been designated to cooperate with the GICHD delegation.

The GICHD will also hold talks with the Iranian representatives on mine sweeping operations in the country and the measures taken by local governmental and non-governmental bodies to detect and clear mine-infested areas.

The members of the GICHD delegation are to head for southern areas on Monday to inspect those parts affected to various degrees by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs).

The Ministry of Defense is responsible for clearing mine-contaminated areas in the country. Of a total of 4.2 million hectares of lands contaminated with landmines, the ministry has cleared 1.8 million hectares of land.

A large quantity of landmines has been left from the Iraqi-imposed war period in 1980-1988 especially in southern areas.

The GICHD is active in the fields of information management, standardization, the provision of technical assistance and training, evaluation and facilitation of the exchange of information.

The Regional Support Centers (RSC), affiliated to the GICHD, established in 2003 in Beirut, Lebanon, covers Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Puntland, Somaliland, Sudan, Western Sahara and Yemen.