

The farmer Haji Jeheel was a respected old man from a well-known family, and lived in the town of Jabal Senam in Safwan municipality in Basrah Governorate. He supported his children and extended family through farming and keeping livestock on his farm.

The farm was, however, situated in an area contaminated with explosive remnants of war, mainly cluster bombs. One day, while he was preparing for harvesting, he came across an unexploded bomb, which turned out to be a BLU-63 cluster bomblet, a type that was used during the war, lying on his farmland.

As he was not aware of the risk associated with moving the bomb, he tried to lift it up and move it off his land. It exploded, however, killing him and seriously injuring his son.

With the death of Haji Jeheel, the extended family lost its breadwinner, and their farming stopped too. Moreover, the fear and suspicions of possibly more explosive remnants of war in the area spread among other farmers. As a result, many stopped using the land, and eventually some of them even moved away.

THE HIDDEN DANGER

Clearance by Humanitarian Demining Organization (Basrah), Son of Haji Jeheel story



Things only returned to normal after Rafidain Demining Organization was contacted and asked to clear the area. Soon those who left returned, and they started using the land for farming and sheep grazing again. This included Haji Jeheel's family, who began to use their farm land again too.

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