

Six children killed after finding landmine

From correspondents in Maputo

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SIX children from the same family were killed when a landmine left over from Mozambique's civil war exploded in the southeast African country, the interior ministry said today. The children found the landmine while playing on Thursday in a field behind their home near the village of Namacura in central Mozambique, the ministry said.

One of the children wanted to open the explosive device, which resembled a can, causing the blast. The victims were between the ages of five and 16, public television reported.

Some 15 years after the end of the 1976-1992 civil war, more than 100sq km remain to be de-mined in the country nearly twice the size of California, especially in rural areas.

About 10 people die each year in accidental mine explosions in Mozambique.

In March, an explosion ripped apart Mozambique's main armoury and killed 119 people. Many of the explosives that went off in the blast were left over from the civil war.