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- [Belgian Mines in Libya](#)
- [Tracking Belgian Weapons](#)

- [Archive](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Ask me anything](#)

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[Previous](#)[Next](#)

120.000 Belgian mines in Libya. Current location: unknown

These pictures were taken in Tripoli in August-September 2011. Stored in Salahaddin, south of the capital, were 20.000 crates

containing each six bounding AP Belgian landmines PRB-NR-442 and their fuses. [More info on those mines here](#). The marks on the mines and crates indicate that they were made and probably shipped in 1973-74. The company that made those mines, “Poudrières Réunies de Belgique”, went bankrupt in 1990.

On the last picture above, you can see those 120.000 anti-personnel mines being loaded on a truck. According to Peter Bouckaert, from Human Rights Watch, they were to be taken to [Rujban, West Libya](#). When he asked about the destination of those mines, M. Bouckaert was presented with a document signed by the military council of Rujban.

According to some sources, those Belgian mines might have been connected to an arms-dealer, now under investigation, who tried to sold them. Asked about them, a military official from Rujban didn't denied nor confirmed that they were in the town. *“If they were transfered in Rujban, the Defense Ministry must have known about it”*, he said. In Rujban, there is a warehouse used to store weapons before the war. During the conflict, the place was emptied. A few days ago, the entry to the facility was denied to a contact of mine who believes the mines could be stored there. But so far there is no evidence of such a thing and the location of those 120.000 Belgian AP bounding mines is currently unknown.

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About

Damien Spleeters / The Trigger - Le Labo d'un journaliste
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trigger |'trɪgə|

noun

- a small device that releases a spring or catch and so sets off a mechanism, esp. in order to fire a gun: *he pulled the trigger of the shotgun.*
- an event or thing that causes something to happen: the trigger for the strike was the closure of a mine.

verb [trans.]

- cause (an event or situation) to happen or exist.
- cause (a device) to function.

quick on the trigger
quick to respond.

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Damien Spleeters

freelance journalist • father, husband • born in the South of Belgium, living in the North • RT≠endorsement

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