

A photograph of a person sitting on a wooden bench, using a silver metal walker. The person is wearing a dark blue button-down shirt and dark pinstriped trousers. A large, light-colored bandage is wrapped around their right knee. Their right hand is resting on the bandage, and their left hand is gripping the handle of the walker. A white smartphone is clipped to the waistband of their trousers. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

REPORT

Concealed Killer

Fall of civilians by the landmines laid by the Ansar Allah Armed Group (the Houthis) and Saleh Forces



Mwatana for Human Rights

April 2017 - Yemen
www.mwatana.org



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Background

Events of the Arab Spring in 2011 marked a turning point in Yemen and a starting point for major and accelerated transformations that reshaped the Yemeni political scene and its active forces.

Massive popular protests against the regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in early February 2011 led him to step down from power on 23 November of the same year based on the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative (GCC initiative) which was sponsored by the United Nations and was signed in the Saudi capital Riyadh by the JMP bloc and its allies, who demanded the removal of Saleh's regime, and by the General People's Congress and its allies who supported the former president.

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative agreement named the then Vice President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi (the current president) as the only consensus candidate to be elected on 21 February 2012 as the country's new president, to lead a transitional period and prepare and organize new elections within two years.

Instead of scoring achievements as per the files covered within the transitional period, the country witnessed severe deterioration in security and stability and a significant decline in political activity in favor of military action after a series of conflicts became active in different parts of the country between local political and tribal parties and groups.

Ansar Allah armed group (Houthis) represented one of the parties to these ongoing conflicts. It continued to wage multiple wars against political, tribal and military adversaries from its stronghold in Saada governorate in the far north of the country until it reached the capital Sana'a and seized power in alliance with former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in September 2014.

After Ansar Allah took control of the Yemeni capital Sana'a by force on 21 September 2014 and the signing of the peace and partnership agreement with the rest of the political parties under the auspices of the United Nations, and after tensions for weeks, the group imposed a house arrest on President Hadi and then Prime Minister Khalid Mahfouz Bahah and members of his government on 20 January 2015.

On February 21, 2015, President Hadi managed to flee to the city of Aden, prompting Saleh and Houthis to mobilize their forces to attack him in Aden on 21 March 2015, passing through Taiz and other governorates.

The attack by Saleh and Houthi forces elevated the conflict to a new and comprehensive level. After the Air Force, which became under the armed Ansar Allah group control, bombed the Presidential Palace in Aden, where Hadi was staying, the President fled to the Saudi capital Riyadh on 25 March 2015. Along with government forces loyal to President Hadi, local armed resistance groups were formed, mainly from The Yemeni Congregation for Reform (Islah Party), Salafi groups, the Southern Movement and jihadi groups, as well as other groups and parties loyal to President Hadi.

Following President Hadi's escape to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia launched a military campaign leading an Arab coalition of nine countries against Ansar Allah armed group and its ally Saleh at the dawn of Thursday 26 March 2015 at the request of President Hadi to the Gulf Cooperation Council to intervene and re-enable him to exercise his powers and uphold his legitimacy.

The areas of the armed confrontations between Ansar Allah (Houthi) fighters and forces loyal to its ally, former President Ali Saleh on one hand, and the Popular Resistance groups and forces loyal to President Hadi supported by the Saudi led Arab coalition air force on the other hand, has expanded to include the governorates of Taiz, Aden, Lahj, al-Dale'a, Abyan, Marib, al-Jawf and al-Baida .

Report Methodology



This report covers the incidents of the civilians casualties of landmines for the period from July 2015 to October 2016 in six Yemeni Governorates i.e. Aden, Taiz, Mareb, Sana'a, Al Baydha, and Lahj.

The report has been designed based on a methodology of field survey work. It presents examples that prove the use of landmines by the Ansar Allah armed group (The Houthis) and the forces of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh in the fields of battle which includes various governorates in Yemen.

The Mwatana Organization for Human Rights has conducted over 40 interviews, in Arabic language, with the victims who survived, eyewitnesses, and relatives of victims who were affected by landmines or explosive devices when they were passing through roads and places that are resided by or used by civilians.

The field researchers have conducted field interviews and collected information that includes medical reports of the victims, taking photos of the areas damaged or affected by landmines, airstrikes, and explosive remnants. After that, the researchers in charge of the report thoroughly examined the information, interviews, and documents collected. The information documented were verified and completed through phone calls in different time intervals during the period of preparing this report. Moreover, interviews were conducted with entities related to the Mine Action Program. Experts in International Humanitarian Law, Customary International Law in the legal analysis and identifying relation between the information collected and the relevant international laws and covenants. The report, in its final stages of preparation, was subjected to editing and finalizing before publishing it in its final form.

Mwatana Organization faced various challenges and difficulties during the preparation of its field survey researches of this report. On top of the overall difficult security situation, the organization encountered difficulty in tracking the families affected by the landmines because some of them were displaced to other areas while some others travelled outside the country.

Executive Summary



The violent conflict in Yemen since September 2014 has been accompanied by a horrifying deterioration at the security, economic, legal, and rights levels and the conflicting parties have committed a series of human rights violations.

These violations included the killing of large numbers of civilian victims and the injury of others as a result of airstrikes by the Arab coalition aircrafts as well as ground shelling and the planting of landmines by the local parties to the conflict.

The violations also included attacks on schools, hospitals, medical centers and staff, attacks on relief organizations, humanitarian assistance storage facilities, extrajudicial executions, the use of schools for military purposes, the blockading of cities, the denial and prevention of entry of food and medical assistance goods, in addition to arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance, torture and child recruitment.

Landmine explosions left scores of civilians dead and wounded in a number of governorates.

The use of landmines in all documented cases was limited to Ansar Allah and the pro-Saleh forces. These mines and ground bombs appeared in different areas where Saleh and Houthi forces withdrew from, particularly in the governorates of Aden and Lahj in the south, and in the central regions, such as Taiz and al-Baida, and in the north, in governorates such as Sana'a and northeast in Marib.

The gravity of the damage caused by these mines has been increased because they were planted in residential areas, public roads, main streets, homes, farms and crossing paths frequented by civilians daily. In addition to the killing and maiming rates as a result of these mines, they have also led to permanent disabilities among civilians who have been exposed to them, particularly children.

Mwatana Organization research showed that the landmine planting operations in residential neighborhoods were made during the displacement of civilians due to the confrontations, but they explode on them during their return to their homes from the areas they moved to. Landmines planting operations extended to citizens' farms and homes. Mwatana didn't find in any of the cases that the party responsible for planting these mines has drawn the attention of civilians to

them or left a warning sign, signal, or marks to prevent harm to civilians by the mines.

Civilians complained to Mwatana Organization that the mines had been planted at the entrances to their homes, which they considered as an act of targeting them from Ansar Allah armed group and Saleh's forces because of their refusal to join or support them in the fighting. In other cases, the rain and floods swept the surface layer of the earth and mines were exposed to children or passersby. Also the floods swept away mines from the areas of the armed confrontations to populated areas.

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights has verified 33 landmine explosion incidents in which 57 civilians were killed, including 24 children and four women, and 47 civilians injured, including 21 children and six women in six Yemeni governorates.

On 23 April 2016, while 16 civilians were traveling in a rented bus taxi on the road from Taiz country side to Sanaa, a landmine exploded on their bus, killing eight of them, including one child, and wounding eight others, including four children and two women.

This incident occurred in the public road that passes through al-Robaie area in al-Taiziah district southwest of the city of Taiz.

In the eastern Yemeni governorate of Marib, Yemeni citizen Yahya Abdulla Saklaa al-Sharif is still traumatized by the loss of his two children, who went with their third brother and mother to collect firewood in one of the valleys where a mine they were trying to extricate exploded, killing two and causing permanent disability to the third.

At dawn on Saturday, 21 May 2016, in the area of Shaab al-Hashfa'a, district of Harib in Marib governorate, a landmine exploded causing the death of two of Yahya Saklaa children, and the loss of the right eye of his third child.

The father of children victims recounts the incident:

"As usual, my wife and my children - Ahmed, Rowaida, and Nashmi – went out to collect firewood from an area called Shaab Al-Hashfa'a where there are trees that we can cut down. At 7:00 am we heard the sound of a big explosion. I rushed towards the smoke in the valley and when I arrived, I found my wife crying and embracing my two children Nashmi and Rowaida who were injured but still alive, while next to her was Ahmed's body stained with blood, and wounds are visible on his face, and he was dead. We rushed them to Marib Public Hospital in Marib city, and there my daughter Rawidah died and my son Nashmi was transferred to Saudi Arabia for treatment because his condition was serious and now his condition is improving but he lost his right eye."

This report, "Concealed Killer", prepared by Mwatana teams between July 2015 and October 2016, documents the use of landmines in which dozens of civilian victims were killed and wounded.

Monitoring and documentation that Mwatana Organization for Human Rights field team conducted through interviewing the victims or the relatives of landmine survivors shows that during the reporting period, 57 people were killed by mines that Ansar Allah group and Saleh forces used, including 24 children and 4 women. They were killed without being involved at all in the armed conflict in Yemen.

During the preparation of this report, Mwatana organization adopted the investigative field research methodology through verification visits and direct interviews with main sources of information relating to the incidents and the collection of supporting documents. The field research and verification of the information of the cases in this report continued from July 2015 to October 2016.

Mwatana conducted at least 40 interviews in Arabic with survivors, victims' families, eyewitnesses, medical personnel, paramedics and the competent authorities and specialists in the National Mine Action Program in the conflict areas. In analyzing the report, Mwatana sought the assistance of international experts in the field of International Humanitarian Law and Customary Humanitarian Law, as well as local demining experts who worked in conflict areas.

Article 1 of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines (the Ottawa Convention), signed in September 1997, and ratified by Yemen in September 1998, imposes a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel mines. It also prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, development and transfer of anti-personnel mines and requires the clearance and destruction of these mines, whether stored or planted on the ground.

The Mine Ban treaty defines Anti-Personnel Mines as the explosive devices ("detonated by the victim"). They are designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and to be exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person. The Second Protocol of The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices defines the term "Mine" as any munition placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and designed to be detonated or exploded by the presence, proximity or contact of a person or vehicle.

According to Article 3, paragraph 7, of the Second Protocol of The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, It is prohibited in all circumstances to direct weapons to which this Article applies, and include landmines and booby-traps against the civilian population as such or against individual civilians or civilian objects either in offence, defense or by way of reprisals.

In all the cases that Mwatana organization investigated, it was found that the rules of International Humanitarian Law and Customary Humanitarian law, which require implementing special measures to reduce the indiscriminate effects of landmines, were not implemented or followed.

For example, mines have been planted in areas where civilians reside and live without complying with the International Humanitarian Law and Customary International Law generally accepted principles and rules of distinction and proportionality. Also no marks, signs or warnings were posted to alert civilians to the presence of mines in villages and houses and other civilian objects to prevent harming civilians.

In some cases, the planting of mines in civilian villages and homes appeared to have been deliberate targeting because of their opposing positions to a particular warring party, resulting in more killings and civilian casualties, including a number of children.

Recommendations



To Ansar Allah armed group (Houthis) and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh:

- Immediately stop the use of anti-personnel mines as well as anti-vehicle mines and explosive devices in civilian areas.
- Identify the areas and locations of anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines they planted, especially those planted in non-military areas used or may be used by civilians.
- Fully cooperate with concerned authorities and all stakeholders, including international demining bodies, popular resistance groups and pro-government forces, in order to facilitate mine locations identification and clearance.
- To appropriately compensate the victims of these mines in proportion to the extent of damage done to them and one that will ensure equity and justice.

To the Government of the internationally recognized President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi:

- Request urgent international assistance and support from specialized demining agencies to remove all mines planted in different parts of the country that pose a deadly threat to the lives of the civilian population.
- Not to resort to the planting mines or the use of mines, especially in areas of civilian movement.
- Not to allow the resistance and pro-government forces and any other parties to clear and demine any area without securing technical expertise from the competent international agencies.

- To disclose whether the resistance and pro-government forces have planted mines and identify their locations and work to remove them immediately in the presence of the required international expertise.
- Disclose all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by the Yemeni government and destroy them if they are under their control to prevent their use in the future.
- Provide adequate and appropriate care to mine victims and clear homes and residential areas of mines and war remnants quickly to facilitate the return of civilians and spare them from any harm.

To the United Nations and the International Community:

- Assist Yemen in the disposal of mines and remnants of war that pose a threat to civilians.
- Exert pressure on all the parties to the conflict in Yemen not to use mines and explosive devices in a manner that threatens or may pose a threat to civilian life.
- Establish an independent international mechanism to investigate all human rights violations committed by all parties to the current conflict in Yemen.

■ ■ What law applies to the fighting in Yemen and who shall comply with it?

All parties to the armed conflict in Yemen including the non-governmental armed groups are responsible for the compliance with the controls of the International Humanitarian Law, which means that all these parties must respect the war laws and ensure compliance with these laws. This commitment or obligation shall not change or be affected by the principle of reciprocity. The parties of the conflict have to respect these controls whether the other party adheres to them or not. The same obligation shall not be affected by the underlying causes of conflict or the reasons one party reports to the use of force nor shall it be affected by the fact that the party is a governmental force or a nongovernmental armed group.

All parties to armed conflict shall adhere to unified standards despite any variance or difference in the damage incurred by such claimed violations. ⁽¹⁾

(1) Human Rights Watch, Questions & Answers: Conflict in Yemen and the International Law: <https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2015/04/07/267889>

■ ■ **The International Legal Framework: Use of Landmines in international and customary agreements**

There are a number of international agreements that organize or prohibit the use of landmines and explosive remnants of war. These covenants are a part of the entity of the International Humanitarian Law which aims at the reduction of the effects of armed conflict on civilians. The provisions of the International Humanitarian Law outline the broad lines of the rights of persons affected by these arms.

■ ■ **Landmines and War Remnants in the International Humanitarian Law:**

The International Humanitarian Law, the Law of War, aims to the furthest extent possible at the reduction of the severity of the acts of destruction and alleviation of the suffering that affect the civilians during armed conflicts. The International Humanitarian Law did not let the warring armies do what they please to achieve victory, but rather the customary legal rules prohibit the fighters from the use of arms of random/haphazard nature, that cause excessive suffering, or the use of which is not justified. It is also prohibited to use weapons that cause wide range, extensive, and severe damages to the natural environment.

The use of all weapons that by their nature cause unjustified suffering and severe unnecessary injuries, cause permanent disability to victims, exceed the legitimate aim of the use of weapons, and that have been declared by the St. Petersburg Declaration is prohibited by the International Humanitarian Law.

The only legitimate objective that states should seek during wars is the weakening of the enemy's military force and that is achieved by the neutralization of the soldier and preventing the possibility that he can continue in the battle, without inflicting any injuries that exceed this objective. The use of any weapon the effect of which is beyond such objective is prohibited in the International Humanitarian Law.

Landmines, particularly anti-personnel landmines, are the weapon most inclusive of all these grounds of prohibition. After the end of the armed conflict, the landmines remain under the ground for a very long time and hold only death, injuries, and permanent disabilities to civilians.

All that said, a proportionality should be ensured between military necessity and the consequences borne by the civilian population who should not be part of the objectives of the war parties in any way, whether by the war on one hand and the fighters on the other hand.

These rules are part of the customary law and are therefore applicable to all states regardless of their other treaty obligations.

Due to the severity of the risks and the gravity of the damages caused to civilians by the use of anti-personnel landmines, the anti-personnel landmines were classified as extremely dangerous weapons. Their dangers increase due to the haphazard use and with irresponsible will in armed conflicts.

Landmines often form a tempting weapon to the poor warring parties because of their low prices, ease of use, and basic requirements of their use represented in laying them to perform their horrific function to the victims.

Even though the International Humanitarian Law and traditional military principles have set controls and rules for the use of anti-personnel land mines, but most cases the use of these mines did not comply with the controls set by the International Humanitarian Law.

According to research conducted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), landmines were used in violation of the regulations of international humanitarian law in 26 conflicts after World War II, and that in only a few cases of the use of mines complied with these regulations and controls.

Historical evidence indicates that the use of landmines in an appropriate manner by highly qualified state armies and rebel movements during armed conflicts is rare. All parties have faced extreme difficulties in the proper use of landmines during battles which has reflected into indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines due to either negligence, bad faith, or ignorance of the relevant regulations such as not adhering to the obligation of developing accurate maps of mine fields. That has resulted in damages to civilians, particularly during civil wars that broke out late twentieth century.

The use of anti-personnel landmines as a weapon in conflict is considered a breach to the Public International Law and therefore violates the regulations of the International Humanitarian Law which is a branch of the Public International Law. The user of these landmines shall be responsible for the consequences of international responsibility and reparation of the damages resulting from such use.

One of the most prominent international conventions related to landmines is the Ottawa Treaty of 1997 which took effect on the first of March 1999 in response to the dangers landmines pose to individuals. The agreement includes the following principles:

- The purpose of the mine ban on anti-personnel mines is to stop the harm to human beings because they often inflict more harm on civilians than on military personnel. If these mines hit a person, they either kill, maim, or cause great physical damage to him. These landmines are used a lot because they are cheap and easy to use and there lies the danger.
- All states that have become members of the treaty shall refrain from the use, storage, production, and transfer of landmines. They shall also destroy all the landmines and dispose of the stored landmines within 4 years and the laid landmines within 10 years. The state members to the treaty shall also meet and prepare landmine maps to work on clearing the mined lands.

- The mines referred to in this treaty are the ones that are laid in the ground to explode and target personnel and therefore this treaty does not include anti-tank mines or anti-vehicle mines which are governed by another treaty and regulations of the International Humanitarian Law.
- The states who accede to the treaty shall provide the technical resources to clear landmines and help the victims through rehabilitating them physically, psychologically, and mentally whether from the states, the United Nations, or regional and international organizations.
- The state members of the treaty shall undertake to provide annual reports to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him of the anti-personnel landmines, mine fields, and stored mines. In case of failure to do that, the UN Secretary General shall call the state members for a meeting to discuss the obligations that the treaty states.

The Ottawa Treaty, officially named, The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction imposes a blanket ban on such weapons by the prohibition of their use, stockpiling, production, possession, and transfer. It also obliges the destruction of all anti-personnel mines whether stored or laid in the ground within a specific period of time. The adoption of the treaty means that for the first time in the history of the International Humanitarian Law, the states agree to the prohibition of a weapon that was widely used all around the world.

The treaty is not just an agreement for the disarmament but also a humanitarian work plan that puts an end to the suffering resulting from the anti-personnel landmines and respond to the humanitarian consequences resulting from these weapons. The state members of this treaty have committed to helping the victims and removing the threats of landmines that had been laid as well as alleviating the temporary risks on the civilians through preventive measures including putting up signs on dangerous areas, sending warnings, and raising awareness of the dangers.

The mine ban is based on important principles of the International Humanitarian Law such as the principle that the right of the parties of armed conflict to choose the methods and means of fighting is not absolute, the principle that prohibits resorting to the use of arms, projectiles, and military equipment and methods that will cause excessive unnecessary damages to civilians in armed conflicts, and the principle that requires the distinction between civilians and combatants.

It is also based on the perspective of the principle of proportionality between the use of methods and means of combat which obliges the warring parties to use combat methods and means that are proportionate with the military objective without causing by its nature excessive effects on the combatants or indiscriminate damages on the civilians.

In addition, the principle of military necessity in the International Humanitarian Law was provided for in many international agreements including the Hauge Convention of 1907 which confirmed this principle in its preamble.

Based on what the Customary International Humanitarian Law and a number of international

agreements has concluded, the principle of military necessity requires certain conditions including: that resorting to it shall be to achieve legitimate military objectives that cannot be accomplished except with an unusual military measure and that the tolls and damages of these military operations on civilians and civilian properties are the least possible.

Article 52 of the Additional Protocol I of 1949 emphasizes this principle by stating that “Attacks shall be limited strictly to military objectives. In so far as objects are concerned, military objectives are limited to those objects which by their nature, location, purpose or use make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time, offers a definite military advantage.”

The basic principles applicable to landmines state that soldiers may not use any means to reach their goal, but that there are limits for that. The balance or proportionality between military necessity and the consequences affecting the civilian population must be maintained and efforts have been made to impose restrictions on the use of landmines.

The United Nations Conference on the Prevention or Control of Conventional Weapons with Harmful and Indiscriminate Effects on 10 September 1979 led to the signing of a general treaty plus the Second Protocol governing the use of landmines and traps on 10 April 1981.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worked with international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout the 1990s to achieve comprehensive prevention of anti-personnel landmines and to provide assistance to the victims of these mines and the communities affected. The United Nations General Assembly appealed to all states to seek an effective and legally binding international agreement banning the use, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

Those efforts resulted in the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa, 1997). The Convention contained an undertaking by states parties to:

Under no circumstances shall they:

- Use of anti-personnel mines.
- Develop, produce, or in any way acquire, stockpile, store, or transfer to any place antipersonnel landmines.
- In any way assist, encourage or induce activities prohibited to a state party under this convention.
- Destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of this convention.

States are also committed to destruction of stockpiled antipersonnel mines, destruction of mines in mined areas, and international cooperation and assistance in demining operations, in particular mine victim assistance, rehabilitation, social and economic reintegration, and mine awareness programs.

Yemen and the Mine Ban Treaty

The Republic of Yemen signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 4 December 1997 and ratified it on 1 September 1998. It entered into force in March 1999. Yemen has committed not to use anti-personnel mines under any circumstances and to prevent activities prohibited by the Treaty.⁽²⁾

In April 2002, Yemen informed the United Nations that it had completed the destruction of its stockpile of four types of anti-personnel mines, as required under the Treaty. However, other types of antipersonnel mines that Yemen had not previously reported to have emerged in the country along with other types of antipersonnel mines in the current war in Yemen.⁽³⁾

After the ratification of national legislation to implement the Mine Ban Treaty by the Yemeni Parliament, a Republican Decree was resolved on April 20, 2005 to start working on the legislation. Yemen submitted its Ninth Transparency Report in accordance with Article 7 on 30 March 2007 covering the reporting period from 30 March 2006 to 30 March 2007.

However, the report of the International Landmine Monitor stated that before the start of the current war Yemen was contaminated with anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance as a result of multiple conflicts, including the war between Republicans and Melkites in the north (1962-1970) and the War of Independence in the south (1963-1967), the 1970-1983 war, and the 1994 war. Most landmines were laid in the border areas between north and south Yemen before the unification.

Hadramawt is the governorate most affected by mines as it holds a percentage of 42% of land suspected to be contaminated with mines.

On 30 March 2007, Yemen reported that about 550 square kilometers of land remained suspected of being contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance. However, the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Center YEMAC then expected that the majority of these areas are excluded from being suspected after technical and archaeological surveys.

In July 2007, YEMAC reduced the area of land still suspected of contamination to 288 square kilometers, according to the International Landmine Monitor, but with an addition of 31 square kilometers of highly contaminated areas in Khanfar, Addal, and Jawban areas. The YEMAC also classified the Al Nadirah District in Ibb Governorate as a moderately contaminated area and the areas of Khanfar, Jawban, Tawban, Damt, and Dar Sa'ad as low contaminated areas. The center marked these areas and then stopped once and for all.

Accordingly, in July 2007, about 419 square kilometers still needed to be cleared.

(2) The United Nations: Document: [http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/other/MineBan.nsf/a771169065dbad7d85256c750075950d/554a2168dc1b214a85256bac005566b4/\\$FILE/Article7_2002.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/other/MineBan.nsf/a771169065dbad7d85256c750075950d/554a2168dc1b214a85256bac005566b4/$FILE/Article7_2002.pdf)

(3) Human Rights Watch HRW: <https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2016/09/08/293734>

An analysis of the livelihoods of mine affected communities in Yemen in 2006 stated that “landmines and explosive remnants of war have affected infrastructure development (and denied) access to economic opportunities.” This problem also affects by increasing the limitedness of agricultural lands (2.6% of the country) and often results in the killing or impairing farmers and herders (mostly children) and livestock, which are necessary for agricultural production and the payment of basic economic activities.

The Government cannot implement social development projects in these affected communities due to the remaining landmines and explosive remnants of war.



From July 2015 to October 2016, the Mwatana Organization for Human Rights verified that six Yemeni governorates with a total area of 75,197 square kilometers of Yemen are contaminated with anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines, especially in villages and areas that have witnessed fighting between Ansar Allah (Houthi) forces and the Popular Resistance Forces especially the villages under the control of Ansar Allah, who used landmines to secure their control and to prevent the progress of the Popular Resistance and President Hadi's forces. They did not disclose the whereabouts of the landmines which remained buried in most of these governorates. The mine action teams were able to discover some of them but a part of them is still underground, on sides of roads, in passageways, and in fields posing a serious threat to the lives of civilians in these areas.

Monitoring and documentation also indicate that the Saudi-led Arab Coalition Forces used various types of weapons, especially missiles and bombs, which are believed to include cluster bombs, which are spread in significant parts of the country.



The Incidents



The Mwatana Organization for Human Rights has verified 33 incidents of mine explosions in which 57 civilians were killed, including 24 children and 4 women, and 47 civilians were injured, including 21 children and 6 women in 6 Yemeni governorates: Aden, Taiz, Marib, Sana'a, Al Baydha and Lahj. The results of monitoring, documentation and field research carried out by the organization between July 2015 and October 2016 indicate that Ansar Allah (the Houthis) committed serious violations of the International Humanitarian Law that could amount to war crimes by using landmines in a number of governorates. The use of landmines has resulted in many civilian deaths and injuries, becoming one of the most prominent violations on civilians that took different forms.

The forms of violations varied between the direct and intentional use of landmines or their use on the fringes of bombing and destruction, killing many civilians, whether they were using the roads on foot or on different vehicles. The victims also fell as they tried to flee their homes and residential areas in order to save their lives from the hell of war or during their return to their homes.

The following part of the report presents some of the incidents documented in interviews with victims or their relatives in a number of Yemeni governorates as a result of the use of landmines by the combatants:

IDPs Return Routes turn into Death Routes

Eight civilians including six children and a woman were killed and four others including three children and a woman were injured by a landmine explosion on July 25, 2015.

On Saturday afternoon, July 25, 2015, at about 12:00 pm, a landmine exploded in a small cart driven by a motorcycle used by the families of Saeed Abdo Mohammed Murad, 50 years old, and Ahmad Abdullah Obaid, 32 years old, as they were returning from the Al Lahoom Village to which they were displaced due to the war to their original villages of residence, the tribes of Al

Ra'yan and Al Falahain in Dar Sa'ad District, Aden. The mine explosion killed eight civilians, including six children and one woman and wounded four others including three children and one woman.

The area where the mine exploded was under the control of the Popular Resistance and forces of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi since just three days ago, and it was previously controlled by the Ansar al-Allah (the Houthi) militants and the forces of former President Saleh.

Salehah Mahdi Saleem Salam (28 years old), is the wife of one victim, the mother of another victim, and a survival from some incident. She says, ‘My husband and I planned on getting back home from where we were IDPs in Al Lahoom Area to our house in Al Ra'yan Village in Dar Sa'ad District, Aden. We were displaced to Al Lahoom Area when the clashes intensified in our village and the Arab Coalition started the airstrikes. Al Lahoom area was under the control of the Houthis and the forces of the former president Saleh. Three days before the incident, the Popular Resistance and forces of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi were able to control the area and a number of villages around it including our village, Al Ra'yan Village. At the time, the majority of the houses in Al Ra'yan Village were empty and there were many robberies and that is why my husband and I decided to go back home.

Saleha adds, “My husband Ahmed Abdullah Obaid, 32 years old, has an open motorcycle cart that he works on in transportation. It is our only source of income. The family of Saeed Abdu Mohammed Mourad, 50 years old, were our neighbors in Al Falahain Village. We all came back on the cart on the motorcycle. We were 12 persons including children, women, and my husband was driving.

“We drove a little distance until we reached the entrance of Al Lahoom area. The security checkpoint there was under the control of the Houthis and Saleh forces three days ago and when we passed, it was already under the control of the Popular Resistance in the day of the incident. Before passing the turn, the motorcycle stumbled and the wheels were stuck in the mud because it rained that morning. My neighbor and I went down to push the motorcycle. As soon as the motorcycle went out of the mud, I felt hot dust and fire pushing me back so hard. After that, I did not feel anything until four days later in the hospital of Doctors without Borders in Aden. When I was in the hospital, my husband was still alive but he died 2 days later. I learned that the accident killed 5 persons and injured four others from our family and the family of our neighbor Saeed Abdu. ⁽⁴⁾



(4) An interview with Salehah Mahdi Saleem Salam on 17 June 2016.

Landmines in Farms Bringing Death

A landmine kills two civilians in farm on 4 August 2015

On Tuesday afternoon, August 04, 2015, at 12 noon, a landmine exploded by a camel driven cart. A number of bamboo traders were on the cart and they were passing by one farm behind the headquarters of the Fifth Brigade in Beir Ayesha, Al Buraiqah District, Aden Governorate. It killed two civilians and the injury of another.

This area was under complete control of the Popular Resistance.

Saleh Salem Awadh Nasser, 24 years old, says, ‘‘I was accompanied by Abdu Awadh Nasser, 30 years old, and Nasi Saleh Salem, 28 years old. We were on a camel driven cart heading towards the farms of Beir Ayesha Village to buy the bamboo from farms to sell it in the local market to those who have livestock and use bamboo to feed them’’

Saleh Nasser adds that they were behind the headquarters of the 5th Brigade. They took a road as per the instructions of the Popular Resistance who thought that it is safe and clear of mines. ‘‘In order to get the bamboo, we passed through a road leading to the bamboo farms. The left wheel of the cart hit a landmine immediately killing my friend and injuring me. I was taken to the Saber Hospital in Al Mansoura District to receive treatment after we received first aid from the personnel of the 5th Brigade.’’⁽⁵⁾



Working within an area of landmines

Death of 6 workers including a child in a landmine explosion on 22 August 2015

It was half past three on the evening of Saturday, 22 August 2015, when a landmine exploded by a minibus carrying construction workers to their work location in the New City Real Estate owned by the Hail Saeed Anam Commercial Group in Aden.

Haitham Jamal Ahmed Fadhl, 21 years old, the only survivor of the incident, said a landmine exploded on a minibus he was driving to transport construction workers working in New City Real Estate.

He added, ‘‘My job was collecting the workers and transporting them to their homes after they finish their work. When I was doing that, six workers got on the bus. We together headed

(5) An interview with Haitham Jamal Ahmed Fadhl on 30 September 2016.

to the main gate to wait for the rest of the workers who were supposed to leave at the time. Suddenly, when the car approached the gate, the back right wheel of the bus passed on a landmine. The landmine exploded and I did not feel myself until two days later when I was in the Aden Refineries Hospital in Al Buraiah District, 15 kilometers away from the location of the incident. I then learned that the six workers that were with me all died. ⁽⁶⁾

According to Haitham, they were working in the incident location after the battles in Aden stopped because they were given assurances by the mine action teams who informed them that the area is completely clear of landmines and war explosives. Haitham highlighted that the area where the incident happened and all the neighboring areas were under the control of the Popular Resistance and President Hadi's Forces since the battles in Aden stopped.



Landmines Turn Mass Transit Vehicles into Mass Murder Means

A landmine explosion kills 8 civilians including a child and a woman and injures others when it hits their bus on April 23, 2016 in Taiz

It was half past one on the afternoon of Saturday, April 23, 2016, and 16 civilian passengers inside a taxi were hoping that their trip can overcome a dangerous war route in the Al Rubai'i Area, Al Taizyyah District, south west of Taiz. They had to cross this road on their way to Sana'a after the Houthi and Saleh forces blocked the main road passing through Al Rubai'i.

Their hopes did not continue. The trip ended in a tragedy after a landmine transformed the trip into a trip to death. At that moment, the landmine exploded hitting the bus killing 8 passengers including a child and a woman and injuring 8 others including 4 children and 2 women.

An eyewitness, Khaled Ahmed Ali Al Barkani, 30 years old, narrated to "Mawtana" the incident that shocked the Wadi Mana in al-Rubai'i District, Al Taizyyah District, Taiz Governorate. He said,

"We were on a bus behind the bus that the landmine hit. After the landmine exploded, we hurried to take the victims. Some of them were already killed and others were injured with shrapnel from the explosion which threw them outside the bus. We took some of those injured to the Hajdah Hospital, some others to Al Nashmah Hospital, and some others to Khalifah Hospital in Al Turbah Area. I was one of the people who took the victims to the Hajdah Hospital.

Al Barakani continued telling his testimony saying that Mane' Al Rubai'i Area where the landmine exploded was under the control of the Houthis who closed these same small routes due to the clashes with the Resistance. The closest Houthi checkpoint is 100 meters away from the

(6) An interview with Haitham Jamal Ahmed Fadhl on September 30, 2016.

incident location while the closest Resistance checkpoint is 1.5 kilometer away. It is a rural and agricultural land that is surrounded by mountains. It has been used by the warring parties in Taiz forcing the residents of the area to displace.

Al Barakani also said, “The car and truck drivers would go through this route when the main road linking Taiz City and Al Turbah Area, Al Dhabab Road, is closed.

A few days before the incident, the Houthis and Saleh forces withdrew a short distance after the clashes with the Resistance intensified.



Landmines leave no place safe for children to play

A landmine explosion kills two children and a girl and injures other girls in Mareb on May 19, 2016.

In a short time on May 19, 2016, the echoes of the laughs of children in Wadi Al Halan, Majzar City, Mareb turned into a tragedy.

In the same place where the laughs of children and girls echoed, their blood was shed in a landmine explosion in their playground killing two children and a girl and injuring other girls.

A sad story told to Mowatana by Mohammed Saeed Al Bukhaiti, 20 years old, the father of the girl victim Maha Al Bukhaiti, “My daughter Maha went out with my little sister Rawiyah and my little cousins. They went out to play in an area that is 50 meters away from our village. While they were playing, they found the landmine laid in the water draining paths with some of its parts exposed. They called my cousin who was older than them. Hasnaa was 20 years old. Once they arrived to its location, they started digging in an attempt to know what it was. While they were digging, the landmine exploded and killed three of them including my daughter Maha and my sister Rawiyah and injuring two other girls one of whom is a child.

After the residents hurried to the location of the explosion, they found the young victims lying down on the floor dead or injured. According to Al Bukhaiti, his daughter Maha was still alive and injured like Haseenah and Hasnaa who were injured in their stomachs and hands.

“We took my daughter Maha, Haseenah, and Hasnaa to Mareb Public Hospital in the city. As soon as we arrived to the hospital, we found out that my daughter Maha had died. Haseenah and Hasnaa were admitted to the surgery room and received the surgeries. The shrapnel were taken out and the wounds were stitched,” Al Bukhaiti adds.



Landmines as a means of blowing up civilian houses

A landmine explosion in a civilian house kills a child and amputates his mom's leg in Sana'a on May 24, 2016

Mohammed Saleh Saleh Ahmed Al Sa'di, who was 16 years old, was killed and his mom who was in her thirties was injured and her leg was amputated as a result of the explosion of two landmines that were laid in a house in Hareeb Nihm Area, Nihm District, Sana'a Governorate on May 24, 2016.

Saleh Saleh Ahmed Al Sa'di, who was 38 years old and the father of the child victim, said that he lives in Aal Sa'ad Area in Hareeb Nihm, Nihm District, Sana'a Governorate which is an area administratively categorized as part of Nihm District in Sana'a Governorate. It is located on the borders between Nihm District, Sana'a and Hareeb Al Qarameesh District in Mareb. He says that his wife decided she would go home earlier than him to make sure that all the furniture and things are still there.

"At that moment, my children started to pack and organize our things in the place we were displaced to, around 5 kilometers down the valley. They were waiting for me to come back to take their things to the car and follow their mother. In the evening of the same day, I went to Mareb to buy some things. My wife arrived to the house and before she entered through the door, a landmine that was laid there exploded and cut her right leg and broke her left leg."

The story Saleh tells us reaches the most tragic part that his family suffered saying, "I received a call from the residents of the area informing me of the incident. I hurried to the place and took my wife to the field hospital of the army and Popular Resistance. On the way to the hospital, I received a call that another landmine in the house exploded and injured my son Mohammed. I did not know what to do or what I could do. I decided to go back there and take him with me to the hospital, but the residents of my village told me that they took him to the field hospital of the Resistance. He, however, died on his way to the hospital.

The death of Mohammed aggravated the grief felt by his mom who was in the hospital for a surgery amputating her leg from above the knee to become disabled and not able to walk except with a walking stick or a person that she can lean on. Her husband describes the act of laying the two landmines in the house as, "a criminal cowardly act that the Houthis laid not only in roads and places that the Resistance might use or pass by but even in our houses to avenge us, our stand against them, and our refusal to fight for them."⁽⁷⁾



(7) An interview with Saleh Saleh Ahmed Al Sa'di on July 23, 2016.

Landmines, a race to death

A child who was playing in a playground near his school was killed in a landmine explosion on March 10, 2016 in Al Baydha Governorate

While the child Khaled Ali Ahmed Al Dhefri, who was 11 years old, was playing with his friends on Thursday, March 10, 2016, in a playground near his school in Qou'ah Aal Al Modhaffar in Al Baydha District, Al Baydha Governorate, he stepped on a buried landmine that exploded and immediately killed him.

Ali Ahmed Abduljaleel Al Dhefri, who was 50 years old and the father of the victim, was at the mosque when the landmine exploded at around 5:30 in the afternoon. He heard the explosion which occurred near the May 22 School and he hurried with others to the explosion site to find his son wounded with shrapnel in his head. His son bled to death. Al Dhefri stated that the area is under the control of Ansar Allah and the forces of Ali Saleh.



Landmines, the Silent Killer

A young man was killed in a landmine explosion in Lahj on August 9, 2016.

Sanad Mohammed Ghaleb, who was 27 years old, was killed due to injuries from a landmine explosion that hit a truck he was driving on Tuesday August 9, 2016 in Saber Area, Lahj Governorate.

The residents of the area told Mwatana that the Houthis and Saleh forces laid landmines in the area before they withdrew and that the area is now under the control of the Popular Resistance and President Hadi Forces.

Waleed Mohammed Ghaleb, 37 years old, told Mwatana that his brother was driving his truck which was loaded with water to sell it near Saber College in the same area. While he was parking near one of the houses, a landmine exploded under his truck resulting in burns all over his body and a shrapnel in his head. He was taken to Al Jamhoriah Hospital but died the next day.

The context of exposing the physical safety of Yemeni citizens to dangers:

The use of landmines by the Houthis and Saleh Forces did not just result in the killing of civilians but also exposed their physical safety to many risks, on top of which is incurring injuries that often resulted in the amputation of one or more body parts, especially legs and arms.

This part of the report presents a number of incidents leading to cases of amputation of civilians body parts as a part of the cases that Mowatana verified through monitoring and documentation through interviews with these victims in more than one Yemeni governorate.

- **Farmer Yassin Omar Salem Ahmad, 35 years old, says,** ‘‘On Sunday, September 20, 2015, while I was working on the tractor at the farm of Omar Al Aqrabi located in the Ja’wala Area, Dar Saad District, and after about three hours of work, I was surprised by hot smoke coming out of the ground. The rear wheel of the tractor was hit which immediately injured me and hauled me to the ground. In the meantime, I tried to sit on my leg, but I could not, and then I realized that my right leg was injured. I fainted, and I woke up two days after I arrived at the Doctors without Borders Hospital, and my right leg was amputated. I currently walk using walking crutches. Before I started working, I received assurances from the owner of the land that the land was completely clear of landmines because the mine action teams had cleared the landmines laid during the period the Houthis controlled the area.
- **Sameh Saeed Ahmed Said, 35 years old, a taxi driver says,** ‘‘ While I was working in the morning of Monday, August 10, 2015 on my car transporting a family through the coastal road in Abyan Governorate and before I arrive to the Al A’lam Checkpoint, the front right wheel of my Hilux car went over an anti-tank mine that exploded under the car. I was not conscious until I was in the Doctors without Borders Hospital. The next day, I learned that the person who was next to me had died in the incident and that my left leg and my right ankle had been amputated. It is important to know that the coastal road in which we drove, the Al A’alam Checkpoint, and some areas and districts of Abyan Governorate are under the control of the Popular Resistance who had kicked out the Houthis and Saleh groups.
- **Qatadah Saeed Mohammed Ismail, 39 years old:** I fled my area of residence in Sheikh Othman, Aden to Inmaa in Al Buraiqah District due to the intensifying clashes in the area where I used to live. However, after the withdrawal of the Houthis and the advances of the Popular Resistance in Sheikh Othman at the beginning of August 2015 and after I received news saying that the mine action teams have cleared all mines and war remnants from the area, I decided to come back home on August 20, 2015. At 4 in the afternoon and before I arrived to my house, particularly when I was arriving at the market in my car, an anti-tank landmine exploded on my car and resulted in the amputation of my leg.

- **Abdu Qassem Zaid Al Ashwal, 45 years old, an engineer in the Mine Department in the Corps of Engineers:** On February 8, 2016, I was working on mine clearance in an area around Aden International Airport, Khur Maksar District, especially a German kind of mines. However, the landmines laid in the area were covered with a carbon layer making it hard to be discovered by the devices the teams use. At around 9 in the morning, my left foot stepped on an anti-personnel landmine, PPM2 German mine covered with carbon. I felt it haul me to the ground due to the strength of the explosion. Al Ashawl incurred wounds in his left leg which was later amputated from the knee.



Incidents documented in 6 Yemeni Governorates:

In this part of the report are facts and incidents documenting the deaths of civilians in explosions of landmines and explosive devices that have been laid in neighborhoods, roads, fields and public passageways used by residents in their daily activities in several Yemeni areas.

This section includes a detailed statement of 19 documented cases in six governorates: Aden, Taiz, Marib, Sana'a, Al Baydha and Lahj. During the period covered by this report, Mowatana Organization conducted about 40 interviews with surviving victims, witnesses and relatives of victims who were killed by landmines or explosive devices.

□ Aden Governorate

Aden which is located in the far south of Yemen is one of the most mine-affected governorates in the period following the fighting in 2015 as a result of a change in the map of military control between the warring parties and the displacement of the population more than once and for more than one area within and outside the governorate.

Research conducted by Mowatana Organization indicates that mine related incidents took place in areas where Ansar Allah and former President Saleh's forces withdrew and that became under the control of the Popular Resistance and the forces of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Adel Saeed Ali, director of Planning and Training Department at the National Mine Action Center, said that the mine teams of the center had disposed of about 15,000 anti-tank mines and about 3,000 anti-personnel mines, many of which were used in civilian areas of Aden, Lahj and Bab al-Mandab in Taiz Governorate from July 2015 until October 2016.

According to Colonel Haitham Qaed, director of the National Mine Action Program in Aden Governorate, the ICRC's teams from Aden alone disposed of 1,689 anti-personnel mines, 5,000 anti-personnel mines stockpiled on Permi Island in Aden, and 1282 locally manufactured mines

in various containers.⁽⁸⁾

Adel Saeed, who was a mine clearance specialist in the mine action field teams, explained that the mines that had been removed from the Aden, Lahj and Bab al-Mandab district of Taiz included anti-tank landmines, TM46, TM57, TM62, PMEET, MON-100, MON-50, PMN, and PPM2.⁽⁹⁾

● Sample Case One:

A landmine put an end to the return of two families to their homes in the governorate of Aden on 25 July 2015 at 12:00 noon. A mine exploded in a small motorcycle-driven vehicle carrying the families of Saeed Abdu Mohammed Murad, 50 years old, and Ahmed Abdullah Obaid, 32 years old, on the way to Al Falahin Village, in Dar Saad District. The two families were returning from the village of Al Lahoom to which they had been displaced from their original place of residence, Al Ra'yan Village and Al Falahin Village in Dar Saad District. The landmine explosion resulted in the killing of eight civilians including six children and a woman and the injury of four others including three children and a woman.

According to the testimonies of relatives of victims and survivors of the mine explosion, the area where the mine exploded fell under the control of the Popular Resistance and President Hadi's forces three days ago, and that it was previously controlled by Ansar Allah and forces of former President Ali Saleh.

Saeed Abdu Mohammed Murad, 50 years old, told Mowatana that the area witnessed clashes before the families were displaced. Three days after the Popular Resistance took control of the Al Falahin and Al Lahoom areas which were under the Houthi and Saleh control, "We decided to return. My family and my neighbor Ahmed's family decided to prepare and returned on the small cart that Ahmed has."

Saeed continues, "The motorcycle cart moved with 12 persons on board, from my family and Ahmed's family. My older son and I remained at home to pack the rest of the stuff. Ten minutes later, we heard the sound of a big explosion that shook the house. It was close to the house and close at the entrance to the area where we were displaced. We went out to see what had happened. We found the bike scattered, the boys were in pieces, and the rest were each thrown in one side.

The scene shocked Saeed who screamed praying to God. The soldiers who were serving in the military checkpoint took the victims to Al Naqeeb Hospital in Al Mansoura District. Ahmed and his wife Salehah were taken to the Doctors without Borders Hospital where the husband died six days later.

(8) An interview with Colonel Haitham Qaed, director of the National Mine Action Program in Aden on October 26 and 27, 2016.

(9) An interview with Saeed Ali in the headquarters of the National Mine Action Program, Aden Governorate, on October 26, 2016.

Saeed concludes his story saying, “I did not know who had died. I just saw pieces of mixed flesh. The Resistance collected some of the flesh in blankets they took from the residents of the area. I just looked at them and could do nothing but cry. After that, the people buried the flesh in the Dawoud Graveyard in Dar Saad District.”⁽¹⁰⁾

● Sample Case Two:

Al Lahoom Village, Dar Saad District, Aden

Saleh Abdullah Al Hadi, 50 years old, and his neighbor, Fadhl Amr Abdulnabi, 32 years old, headed to a market in Al Lahoom Area in Dar Saad District in Aden in the car which Fahd drove. They went to buy groceries on the morning of July 31, 2015. A landmine, however, surprised them and exploded under their car immediately killing Al Hadi and injuring Abdulnabi.

Saleem Saleh Mohammed Abdullah Al Hadi, 21 years old, the son of the victim, said to Mowatana, “We were IDPs in Yafe Area, in Lahj Governorate. We returned to our house in Al Lahoom Area two days before the incident. My father and our neighbor Fahd were driving our neighbor’s Cressida car”

“Our neighbor Fahd and my father crossed a distance of 300 meters from our home and when they reached Aqlan’s yard, a landmine exploded under the front right wheel, the side where my father was sitting causing his immediate death. The people in the neighborhood heard the explosion and took them to the Doctors without Borders hospital in Sheikh Othman District, 7 kilometers away from the incident site.”

Saleem said that the nearest war front to the Al Lahoom Area was in Al Kuraa Roundabout which is around 4 kilometers from the house.

● Sample Case Three:

A civilian died and his brother was wounded on the morning of July 30, 2015, when a landmine exploded in a car in which they were traveling. They were on their way home in the Al Moghtarebeen Neighborhood, Dar Saad District, Aden governorate. They were displaced escaping from the war.

Amro Abdul Karim Mohammed Ali, 28 years old, was killed while his brother Ammar Abdul Karim Mohammed Ali, 26 years old, was injured.

(10) An interview with Saeed Abdu Mohammed Murad on June 17, 2016.

According to the victims sister's statement to Mowatana, the Al Moghtarebeen Neighborhood was under the control of Ansar Allah and former President Saleh's forces and the house of the victims was under their control, too, which forced the family to move to Al Lahoom, in Dar Saad District. After the family learned that the Resistance took control of the Al Moghtarebeen Neighborhood and that the Houthi and Saleh forces had left and with the news that there are robberies of houses, the brothers Amro and Ammar took their small bus and headed home to make sure it is safe. Even though the fighters of the Resistance warned the brothers not to enter the neighborhood because there are landmines, they continued their advance to the neighborhood. At the entrance of the neighborhood where their house is, a landmine exploded under the left part of the car killing Amro who was driving the bus and injuring his brother Ammar.

The youngest brother of the two victims, Mohammed Abdul Karim Mohammed Ali, 23 years old, told Mowatana about the incident. He said that the nearest point of engagement was about 500 meters away. Their house was in the area controlled by the Houthis and Saleh forces which forced them to flee the area.

"My brothers took a small Toyota Hiace Bus," he said. "When they arrived in Al Moghtarebeen Neighborhood. The soldiers in the Resistance checkpoint warned them that there were mines, but they continued heading towards the house. When they reached the entrance of the neighborhood, a landmine hit the front left wheel. The soldiers in the checkpoint took Amro who was in a critical condition to Al Buraihi Hospital in Al Mansoura District which was 6 kilometers away from the incident site. The hospital, however, refused to admit him. They then took him to Saber Hospital in Al Mansoura District, but he died. For Ammar, they took him to Al Wali Hospital in Al Mansoura District.

● **Sample Case Four:**

Dar Saad District in Aden Governorate, for the fourth time, witnesses explosions of landmines, and the victims this time were a killed woman and a child and injured woman.

On August 7, 2015, a woman and a child were killed and another woman was injured in the explosion of a landmine in Al Lahoom Area, Dar Saad, Aden Governorate when they were returning to their home from which they were displaced to Lahj Governorate during the intensifying of the clashes.

Providing more details, Wajdi Saif Saeed Yafouz, 30 years old, the nephew of Yasmin Balgaith, one of the victims, added saying, "After the Popular Resistance and government forces took over Al Lahoom Area, Yasmin learned that the houses are being robbed and her neighbors told her that the Mine Action Teams had cleared the neighborhood from landmines, and so she decided to return."

Wajdi continued, "Our neighbors in Lahj where we were displaced had a Toyota bus. That day they took Yasmin, her son Abdul Rahman, her niece Nisreen, my cousin Samar, and the driver's brother was also with them. They started the trip at 8:30 from Lahj and arrived in Al Lahoom at 10 in the morning. They entered the neighborhood and the Resistance checkpoints told them

that all the landmines had been cleared. The bus arrived in front of the house. When the driver was making a U turn, a landmine exploded to hit the back left wheel immediately killing Abdul Rahman. His mother Yasmin and the driver's brother were taken to the Doctors without Borders hospital. Samar was taken to Al Naqeeb Hospital.”⁽¹¹⁾

The Mwatana researchers could not get the complete information of the driver and his brother who were injured in the incident.

The Balgaith family was displaced from their house when the Houthis and Saleh forces took over Al Lahoom area and deployed their soldiers in Al Kuraa Roundabout. The Government Forces and the Resistance were around Dawood Mosque. That means there was a one kilometer distance between them. The house of Balgaith family is 5 kilometers from the Al Kuraa Roundabout.

● Sample Case Fifth:

On the way to a farm located in Bier Ayesha in Al Buraiqah District, Aden Governorate, two civilians were killed and another was injured in the afternoon of August 4, 2015, when a landmine exploded hitting a camel driven cart. The victims were taking the cart to a farm to buy bamboo trees. The area was under the control of the Popular Resistance behind the headquarters of the Fifth Brigade.

One of the concerns of Mwatana Organization is the fact that landmines were laid in the farmlands of the civilians which poses a threat to their lives and makes the cultivation and use of their lands a dangerous process.

(11) An interview with Wajdi Saif Yafouz on June 20, 2016.

Saleh Salem Awadh Nasser, 24 years old, a victim who survived from this incident and the eyewitness to the incident where his workmates died.

Saleh worked with his two workmates, Abdu Awadh Nasser, 30 years old, and Nasi Saleh Salem, 28 years old. They bought bamboos from farms and sold them to livestock farmers.

Saleh said, “The three of us were on the camel driven cart heading to the farms in Beir Ayeshah Village. We were exactly behind the headquarters of the Fifth Brigade. On the way to another farm to complete the load, the left wheel of the cart hit a landmine. I immediately fainted and I woke up in Saber Hospital in Al Mansoura District. I learned then that my friends Abdu and Nasi had died in the incident site. The personnel in the military camp heard the explosion and took us to the hospital as I learned later.”

According to the testimony of Saleh, the Beir Ayeshah, the road leading to it, and the camp of the Fifth Brigade were under the control of the Popular Resistance and President Hadi forces. Members of the Popular Resistance had told the victims that the road they were heading to was clear of mines. ⁽¹²⁾

● Sample Case Six:

A landmine killed two civilians, including a child, and injured another civilian in the village of Dar Mansour in Dar Saad District, Aden governorate at 4:00 pm on 15 August 2015.

According to the testimonies documented by Mowatana, a landmine exploded on a camel driven cart carrying a heavy load of construction debris in the area under the control of the Popular Resistance who had taken over the demining task. According to eyewitnesses, people passed the narrow pathway where the mine had exploded all day, but the mine exploded as a heavy vehicle was passing on it.

Ammar Abdullah Saleh Ali, 22 years old, was driving the camel driven cart when the mine exploded. He is a workmate of the victims and works with them for a daily wage in the real estate city, New City owned by the Hael Saeed Anam Group. He is the main eyewitness of the incident.

Ammar said, “Our job, Nassr Fadhl, 21 years old, Ali Mahdi, 17 years old, and I, was to collect the construction waste on a camel driven cart because the big bulldozers could not pass through the narrow buildings. On that day, this area was under the control of the Resistance and one week before the incident, the Mine Action Teams went to the field and cleared it from mines in order to resume the construction works in the city and hand over the apartments to their owners.”

(12) An interview with Saleh Salem Awadh Nasser on August 7, 2016.

“At 4:00 in the afternoon, we drove the camel driven cart behind the buildings and the sewage pipes, which are narrow spaces where the camel cart barely passes. We collected the construction waste on the cart and moved towards the exit. The vehicle was fully loaded. When we reached the exit from behind the buildings. As soon as we went out of the narrow passageway the left wheel of the camel driven cart hit a landmine. I could not hear anything and I went unconscious. I woke up in the Doctors without Borders hospital in Sheikh Othman District which is around 10 kilometers away from the incident site. I then learned that Nassr and Ali had died in the incident and that they were cut in halves by the explosion”

Feeling sorry, Ammar commented, “Oh my God. I had never imagined that this would happen to my friends.”⁽¹³⁾

● Sample Case Seven:

The explosion of a landmine on a camel driven by a camel in Al Madinah Al Khadraa was not the only incident that the Mine Action Teams and the Popular Resistance mistakenly believed that the area was clear of mines. After that incident, there were incidents of mine explosions that killed and injured civilians.

On 22 August 2015, a landmine killed six civilians, including a child, and wounded another civilian. They were construction workers who were traveling in a minibus to their work site in the real estate city called New City.

The area was under the control of the Popular Resistance and President Hadi’s forces. The driver of the bus was assured by members of the Popular Resistance and the demining teams that the area had been cleared of mines after two weeks of demining work.

• Mowatana Organization for Human Rights demands that the Mine Action Teams (demining teams) and official authorities in all areas not to announce any area as free of mines unless the technical capacity and staff for the clearance of all mines and verification of that are available.

(13) An interview with Ammar Abdullah Saleh Ali on September 28, 2016.

Haitham Jamal Ahmad Fadhl, 21 years old, the driver of the bus hit by the landmine told Mowatana that he worked as a contractor for New City Real Estate to pick up workers and take them to their work site in the morning and then take them back home in the evening. He was taking 6 workers at 3:30 in the afternoon of that day to their homes.

Haitham explained, “The city has a main gate and three smaller gates. I headed towards the main gate to wait for the rest of the workers. At the gate, the right wheel passed over a mine. It exploded and I only woke up two days later in the Aden Refineries Hospital. I learned then that all the six workers who were with me all died. I received a surgery in Al Wali Hospital in Al Mansoura District and then travelled to Sudan to receive the rest of the treatment.”⁽¹⁴⁾

The Government forces and the Popular Resistance had tightened their control over the area where the incident took place. Demining teams worked twice at the site of the mine explosion: the first before the resumption of work after the war and the second after a landmine exploded on a construction debris collection camel driven cart in New City one week before this incident. According to Haitham’s testimony, these teams assured them that their work sites were clear of mines.

● Sample Case eight:

A mine explosion in Al Qalou’ah Village in Al Buraiqah District, Aden Governorate killed two civilians and injured a child on 2 August 2015.

Awadh bin Awadh Ali Nasser, 50 years old, the son of one of the victims and the neighbor of the rest of the victims told Mowatana the details of the incident. “My father was an old man and he lived in my house in Al Qalou’ah Village. He could not walk for long distances and thus asked our neighbors to take him to Beir Ayeshah Village at 3:30 pm on May 17, 2016 to visit some of our relatives. He was on a small cart driven by a motorcycle. Our neighbor Mohammed Haidarah and Awadh Ali Awadh who was riding the motorcycle were with him.”

“Before they reached the village they wanted, specifically behind the 131st Armored Brigade, a landmine exploded on the motorcycle and the bodies of the three people on board flew and the soldiers of the brigade took them to Al Naqib Hospital.” The driver Awadh Ali Awadh, 22 years old, was immediately killed, while the parents of Awadh Ali Nasser, 70 years old, died 10 days after the incident. The child Mohammed Haidarah Awadh, 15 years old, was injured and went out of the hospital 2 days after the incident.

Awadh pointed out that the area where the mine exploded was under the control of the army and the Popular Resistance, months after the expulsion of the forces of the Houthis and Saleh.⁽¹⁵⁾

(14) An interview with Haitham Jamal Ahmed Fadhl on September 30, 2016.

(15) An interview with Awadh bin Awadh Ali Nasser on August 17, 2016.

● Sample Case Nine:

While Yassin Omar Salem Ahmed, 35 years old, was driving his tractor in the farm of a tribal leader in the village of Al Zabad Ja'walah, in Dar Saad District, Aden Governorate, a landmine exploded under the tractor costing Yassin his right foot.

Yassin recalls that he was plowing in a farm owned by Omar Al Aqrabi at 10am on September 20, 2015, when the back wheel hit a landmine that exploded.

“I saw a strong air hauling after the explosion throwing me five meters from the tractor. I could not hear anything and remained on the ground. I tried to stand up, but my feet were no longer carrying me. I tried again but I could not. I looked at my right foot and saw that it was separated and only attached by the skin to my leg. I fainted and woke up two days later in the Doctors without Borders Hospital in Aden. My foot was amputated and I rely on a crutch for walking.

Yassin continues, ‘‘At the time, Ja'walah Area and the villages and farms around it were under the control of the Popular Resistance who managed to take over them in August 2015, a month before the incident. Military teams went down to the field to clear the landmines around the Fifth Brigade camp which is located behind the Beir Ahmed Area in Al Buraiqah District as well as all the roads leading to the camp.’⁽¹⁶⁾

□ Taiz Governorate

Taiz is located in the south of Yemen. It is located between the capital, Sana'a, controlled by Ansar Allah and former President Ali Saleh's forces since the fall of 2014, and the coastal city of Aden, which President Abd Rabbu Hadi's forces recaptured in July 2015.

Civilians in the districts of Taiz, such as Al Ma'afer, Al Shamayatain, and Al Wazziyah, suffered from the effects of war as well as the various types of anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines which form a violation of international humanitarian law and the customary humanitarian law.

Brigadier Taher Hameed, head of the engineering division in Taiz axis and director of the Mine Action Program in the governorate, reported that about 2,000 mines were seized in different areas of Taiz from the beginning of March until December 2016, including 200 anti-personnel mines PPM2, GS, and T-42. The rest of the mines varied from anti-tank, which were divided into three types: TM75, PMDP and TM47, as well as at least ten locally manufactured types, including bombs, detonators, grenades, projectiles, and explosive devices in the form of rocks and cement bricks. Some explosive devices weigh up to 250 kilograms.⁽¹⁷⁾

(16) An interview with Yassin Amr Salem Ahmed on July 19, 2016.

(17) A telephone interview with Brigadier Taher Hamid, the director of the Mine Action Program in Taiz – December 15, 2016.

Most of the imported mines were stored at the headquarters of the Military Engineering Corps and the Republican Guards which were led by Saleh's son.

Taher added that the mines were laid indiscriminately in neighborhoods, subways main roads. There was also laying of booby traps inside neighborhoods, homes, and house entrances and the laying mines in a number of schools and health centers. In addition, booby traps were laid in the windows and doors of the houses inside residential neighborhoods, particularly the neighborhood of Al Jahmaliah and Quraish Neighborhood. ⁽¹⁸⁾

Research conducted by Mowatana Organization shows that mine incidents took place in areas where Ansar Allah, the Houthis, and Ali Saleh's forces withdrew from and became controlled by the Popular Resistance and the forces of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Mowatana found that these cases did not comply strictly with the rules of international humanitarian law and customary humanitarian law.

According to "Mowatana" information, engineering teams of President Hadi's forces are currently working on the demining, but the organization did not have any information on the availability of the needed mine-clearance capabilities and expertise.

● Sample Case One:

One of the most horrendous type of incidents happened in Al Rubai'i, Al Taizyyah District, southwest of Taiz on April 23, 2016. A landmine exploded under a bus that was carrying 16 civilian passengers. It killed half of them including a child and a woman and injured the other half including four children and two women.

Al Rubai'i where the terrible incident took place is a rural area surrounded by mountainous hills and many heights which made it form appropriate war sites for the warring parties putting the lives of civilians in danger and thus they had to be displaced from their areas.

Mohammed Abdul Jalil Mohammed Al Sharjabi, 28 years old, a brother of two victims, Hussein and Sarah, gave Mowatana the information about the incident:

"My brother Hussein, sister Sarah, and her daughter Malak were on this bus intending to go to Al Hawban and then travel to Sana'a. When they arrived in Al Rubai'i Area, the landmine exploded and injured Hussein Abdul Jalil, 16 years old, with shrapnel in his right leg, and Sarah, 26 years old, with shrapnel in the back and pelvis with bruises all over her body due to the pressure of the explosion, and her one year old daughter Malak with a break in her left arm due to the pressure of the explosion."

(18) A telephone interview with Brigadier Taher Hamid, the director of the Mine Action Program in Taiz – December 15, 2016.

Al Sharjabi added, ‘‘We did not find my sister Sarah until the next day. My brother found her in Hajdah Hospital with her daughter Malak. She was taken to more than one hospital but she is still in a bad condition. My brother Hussein is still receiving treatment.’’⁽¹⁹⁾

For his part, Khalid Ahmed Ali Al Barakani, 30 years old, eyewitness who was in a car behind the bus of the incident. and who also participated in taking the victims said that Al Rubai’i Area where the landmine exploded was under the control of the Houthi fighters who closed the small roads leading to the place due to the intensifying clashes with the Popular Resistance fighters.⁽²⁰⁾

● Sample Case Two:

There was a landmine explosion in Al Nashmah Area, Al Ma’afaer District, Taiz Governorate killing three civilians who were returning to their houses on a motorcycle in the afternoon of January 25, 2016.

Witnesses interviewed by ‘‘Mwatana’’ said that the area where the mine exploded was under the control of Ansar Allah fighters and Saleh forces and that it was recaptured by the Popular Resistance and Hadi forces days before the incident.

Rashad Mohammed Noman Ali Al Nomani, 31 years old, a relative of the victims, works n Al Nashmah Rural Hospital and he was on his shift in the emergencies department when the victims were taken to the hospital.

Al Nomani said that the limbs of the victims were cut and in pieces due to the strength of the explosion and the motorcycle was shattered into pieces.

Al Nomani added that the majority of the areas that the Houthis took over witnessed incidents of mine explosions. They laid the landmines to prevent the government forces and Popular Resistance from accessing these areas.⁽²¹⁾

(19) An interview with Mohammed Abdul Jalil Mohammed Al Sharjabi on September 25, 2016.

(20) An interview with Khaled Ahmed Ali Al Barakani on September 25, 2016.

(21) An interview with Rashad Mohammed Noman Ali Al Nomani on October 12, 2016.

● **Sample Case Three:**

In one of the bloodiest mine explosions, a mine explosion killed 10 civilians including 6 children and injured 9 others including 4 children in Wadi Hanah Village, Al Waziyyah District, Taiz Governorate on August 9, 2016.

The terrible incident happened when a mine exploded in a car carrying the victims in areas at the time under the control by Ansar Allah, Houthi, and Ali Saleh's forces. The nearest military point is about 2,000 meters away from the incident site while the nearest military barracks from the site is 1,500 meters away.

Ameen Hameed Al Mashwali, 38 years old, witness who spoke to Mowatana, stated that the incident happened at 11 in the morning when a landmine exploded in Hanah Village thing a Hilux carrying 19 civilians all of whom were either killed or injured. The toll was 10 dead including six children and 9 injured including 4 children.

Al Masholy said, "I was in the city of Taiz when the incident occurred, and as soon as I was informed, I went to the incident site and took photos of the site and remnants of the landmine. I then went to the hospitals where the victims had been taken. They were taken to Al Barh Hospital to receive first aid and then transferred to Hodeidah to receive treatment.

Al Mashwaly reported that the residents of the area said that a car carrying one person, the driver, passed from the same road and it was not harmed.⁽²²⁾

□ **Mareb Governorate**

Mareb is one of the governorates of the Republic of Yemen. It is located to the northeast of the capital, Sana'a, about 173 km away from the capital. The population of the governorate forms 1.2% of the total population of the country. Mareb City is the capital of the governorate which comprises 14 districts.

The total area of the governorate is around 17,405 square kilometers comprising 14 districts the biggest of which is Mareb District. Mareb is one of the governorates whose population suffered from the explosions of landmines and unexploded ordnance. "Mowatana" has identified cases that have left many victims. They are as follows:

(22) An interview with Ameen Hameed Al Mashwali on September 27 and 28, 2016.

● Sample Case One:

Two children, brothers, were killed when a landmine exploded and their third brother was injured in the early hours of Saturday, May 21, 2016 in the Sha'b Al Hafa area, in Harib district, Mareb Governorate.

The two victims are Ahmed and Ruwaida, and the injured is Nashmi who lost his right eye and he it was necessary that he travels to Saudi Arabia.

The father of the victims, **Yahya Abdullah Sakla Al Sharif, 38 years old**, narrated the moments of the incident and what preceded it.

Sakla said, "As usual, my wife and my children Ahmed, Ruwaidah, and Nashmi went out to collect firewood from She'b Al Hashfaa where there are trees you can get wood from. At 7 in the morning, we heard a big explosion. I hurried towards the smoke rising from the valley. When I arrived, I found my wife crying and holding my children Nashmi and Ruwaida in her hands. They were injured but they were still alive. Next to her was the body of Ahmed stained with blood, wounds, and maims on his face. He was dead. We took them to the Mareb Public Hospital in Mareb City. There my daughter Ruwaidah died. Then my son Nashmi was transferred to Saudi Arabia for treatment since he was in a critical condition. He is improving now but he has lost his right eye."

He said that his wife said his son Ahmed found a landmine covered in plastic. He dug to take it out and found that it was linked with a wire to another mine. He kept tracking the chain of mines until he found 15 linked landmines. His mom was collecting firewood 15 meters away and she warned him from playing with what he found. She was unaware that they would explode if the wire is disconnected.

Sakla mentioned that a team from the Engineering Corps inspected the incident site the next day and told him that these mines are designed to target eyes. ⁽²³⁾

● Sample Case Two:

One child was killed and another was injured when a landmine exploded in Al Hashfa Area, Harib District, Mareb Governorate on March 22, 2016 after the withdrawal of the Houthi and Saleh forces from the area and the control and Resistance and government forces of the area.

Hussein Nasser Ali Al Abab, 36 years old, father of the injured child, said that his son Badr, 14 years old, and his cousin Saleh, 17 years old, went out at 2:00 in the afternoon looking for weapons the Houthis might have left behind.

(23) An interview with Yahia Abdullah Sakla Al Shareef on July 28, 2016.

Hussein continued, “The child Saleh Ali Al Abab stepped on a landmine that exploded. My son was walking right behind him. The explosion killed Saleh and injured my son Badr in different parts of his body.

“It was a tragic incident and it greatly affected his health and psychological conditions. Even though his health conditions have improved after the surgery repairing the intestinal rupture at Marib Hospital, his psychological condition is very difficult and exhausting, especially when he remembers his friend Saleh and that he saw his body parts scattered.”⁽²⁴⁾

● Sample Case Three

Three women were killed and two were injured one of whom was a child on May 19, 2016 when a landmine exploded while they were trying to take it out in Wadi Al Halan Area in the district of Majzar in Mareb governorate.

According to testimonies recorded by Mowatana, it seems that the rains had moved landmines laid in a conflict area to the civilian areas in Wadi Al Halan.

Mohammed Saeed Al Bukhaiti, 20 years old, says, “My daughter Maha, accompanied by my little sister Rawiah and my little cousins, went to play in an area no more than 50 meters away from our village. While they were playing, they found a landmine laid in the water stream. They called my cousin Hasnaa, 20 years old, who is older than them, to see it. As soon as they arrived, they started digging around it to take it out and identify it. While they were digging, it exploded and killed three of them including my daughter Maha and my sister Rawiah and the injured two others including a child.

After that, the people rushed to the site of the explosion, and they found the young victims lying on the ground dead or injured. According to Al Bukhaiti, his daughter Maha was alive along with Haseenah and Hasnaa who were wounded in their stomachs and hands”.⁽²⁵⁾

(24) An interview with Huseein Nasser Ali Al Abab on July 29, 2016.

(25) An interview with Mohammed Saeed Al Bukhaiti on June 16, 2016.

❑ Sana'a Governorate

The fight between the Houthi and Saleh Forces on one hand and the Government Forces supported by the Popular Resistance in Nihm District continued during February 2016. After the advances of the Government Forces and the Resistance to Al Fardhah, the confrontations extended to Wadi Harib Area making the civilians there flee.

The family of Saleh Al Sa'di were IDPs like everyone else until the Government Forces supported by the Popular Resistance took over the Wadi Harib Nihm when the family decided to go back to their home. However, while they were returning on Tuesday, May 24, 2016, what occurred turned the return into everlasting sadness.

Two landmines exploded. One of them was laid near the door of the house. They killed the child Mohammed Saleh Saleh Al Sa'di, who was 16 years old, and injured his mom who is in her thirties and whose right leg was amputated.

Saleh Saleh Ahmed Al Sa'di, 38 years old, the father of the child victim said that his wife went home before him. Before she entered the house, the first landmine exploded cutting her right leg and breaking the other.

While Saleh was on his way to take his wife to the hospital, the residents of the area called him saying that another landmine exploded in the house and killed his son Mohammed.

Al Sa'di complained that his wife needs to an artificial leg so that she can walk, not suffer from disability, and live as freely as before. "I fear that the psychological condition of my young daughter Halima will deteriorate. She needs psychological counselling to take her out of the trauma she has lived." ⁽²⁶⁾

❑ Al Baydha Governorate

Al Baydha which comprises 20 districts the biggest of which is Rada'a is located on the southeast of the capital Sana'a. This governorate is suffering from the scourge of mines and remnants of war. It is one of the governorates where the armed conflict broke out early, at the end of 2014.

While the child Khalid Ali Ahmed Al Mudhaffari, 11 years old, was competing with his colleagues in the fourth grade in the running race, a landmine that was buried there exploded on 10 March 2016.

This area is under the control of Houthi and Ali Saleh forces.

(26) An interview with Saleh Saleh Ahmed Al Sa'di on July 23, 2016.

The father of the victim, Ali Ahmad Abdul Jalil al-Mudhaffari, 50 years old, was on his way to the mosque when he heard the explosion, which occurred at 5:30 pm, in front of the May 22 School.

He said, “The destiny of my son Khaled was to die before his friends after he stepped on an explosive device. A shrapnel hit him in the head and he bled to death.” He noted that the patrol of the Houthis in control of the area arrived to the incident site but did nothing.

Al Mudhaffari added that his neighbors took his dead child home and that he remained frozen in pain and shock. The next morning, the residents of the village buried Khaled in the graveyard of the village.

Khaled, another young soul that was killed by gunpowder lying below as evidence of the cruelty of the people who laid it in the deadly hole. That way a child is gone and left behind a psychological trauma for his mom according to his grieving father.”⁽²⁷⁾

❑ **Lahj Governorate**

Lahj is located to the southeast of the capital Sana’a at a distance of about 337 kilometers, and the population of the governorate forms 3.7% of the total population of the country. The number of its districts is 15.

Al Houtah City is the capital of Lahj which has been burned by the fire of landmines and war remnants like the other governorates where the military conflict has been going since 2015.

● **Sample Case One:**

Sanad Mohammed Ghaleb, 27 years old, died of severe injuries and burns a day after a landmine exploded on a truck he was driving on August 9, 2016 in the Saber area of Lahj Governorate.

Residents in the area told Mowatana that the Houthis and Saleh forces laid mines in their area before withdrawing from these areas for the government forces and Popular Resistance.

Waleed Mohammed Ghaleb, 37 years old, said that his brother was driving his truck which was loaded with water to the house of Muhsin Al Muhandis in Saber area next to the College of Education, named after the area. When he parked the truck, a mine exploded under it, causing shrapnel to hit his head and burned all his body. He was then taken to Al Jamhoriah Hospital in Aden and then he died the next day.

(27) An interview with Ali Ahmed Abdul Jalil Al Mudhafarri on April 21, 2016.

- **Sample Case Two:**

Al Mujrabaa Village, Tuban District, Lahj Governorate on July 27, 2015

A mine explosion killed a civilian and wounded two women on the morning of July 17, 2015.

The members of the affected family were on their way as IDPs from the Al Jarbaa in Lahj governorate to Al Fayush Area in the same governorate.

Siham Mohammed Hadi, 40 years old, a surviving victim and the sister of the deceased victim, attributed the displacement of her family to the fact that the Houthi fighters forced them to leave their house for snipers to position in the house.

Siham said, ‘‘My deceased brother and my sister who lived near my house and I agreed to go out. At 5 in the morning, we quickly left on a bus that took my family, my brother’s family, and my sister’s family. After a very short distance, my brother who was driving wanted to park the car to meet my son when a very strong explosion shook the bus. It was the explosion of a landmine.’’

She said that the explosion killed her brother Mohammed, 50 years old, and injured her in the jaw and head and her sister Noura, 30 years old, with rib fractures. ⁽²⁸⁾

(28) An interview with Siham Mohammed Hadi on August 10, 2016.

Number of victims by governorate

Governorate	Number of Victims
Aden	25
Taiz	21
Mareb	7
Sana'a	1
Al Baydha	1
Lahj	2
Total	victims 57

Number of women and child victims

Governorate	Women	Children
Aden	2	9
Taiz	1	7
Mareb	1	6
Sana'a	0	1
Al Baydha	0	1
Lahj	0	0
Total	4	24

Acknowledgement



Mwatana Organization for Human Rights extends its thanks to those who provided their testimonies including surviving victims, victim's relatives, eyewitnesses, and mine action workers. It also extends its thanks to the consultants who contributed information during the preparation and revision of this report. Thanks to them, this report has come to light.

Concealed Killer

Fall of civilians by the landmines laid by the Ansar Allah Armed Group (the Houthis) and Saleh Forces.

Landmine explosions left scores of civilians dead and wounded in a number of Yemeni governorates. The use of landmines in all documented cases was limited to Ansar Allah and the pro-Saleh forces. These mines and ground bombs appeared in different areas where Saleh and Houthi forces withdrew from, particularly in the governorates of Aden and Lahj in the south, and in the central regions, such as Taiz and al-Baida, and in the north, in governorates such as Sana'a and northeast in Marib.

The gravity of the damage caused by these mines has been increased because they were planted in residential areas, public roads, main streets, homes, farms and crossing paths frequented by civilians daily. In addition to the killing and maiming rates as a result of these mines, they have also led to permanent disabilities among civilians who have been exposed to them, particularly children.

Mwatana Organization for Human Rights has verified 33 landmine explosion incidents in which 57 civilians were killed, including 24 children and four women, and 47 civilians injured, including 21 children and six women in six Yemeni governorates.

Mwatana for Human Rights:

Mwatana for Human Rights is an independent Yemeni organization concerned with defending and protecting human rights. It works through investigations and field research to obtain accurate and objective accounts of the incidents that fall within its mandate in order to stop and expose human rights violations, and to provide support and justice for its victims and hold accountable those responsible for the violations and to create effective safeguards in legislation and policy against repetition of such violations.



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