



MINES...BLIND KILLER

A REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (ACJ)

*that monitors and Documents killings, injuries and destruction of private property as a
result of mines from June 2014 to February 2022*

4 APRIL 2022



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INTRODUCTION

Over the past decades, Yemen has gone through a hostile experience for tens of years due to the planting of mines in the central regions during the National Front war and the wars between the two parts of Yemen over the border areas. Despite the end of the conflict at that time; however, the damage left by mines did not end easily, as the number of victims of that era reached about (50,000) victims, 96% of whom were children and women.

Successive Yemeni governments during the rule of President Saleh made great efforts to clear mines from those governorates, as the country was on the verge of declaring it officially mine-free, after years of strenuous efforts in clearing operations. However, the control of Sana'a by armed forces of the

Ansar Allah (The Houthi group) at the end of September 2014, the overthrow of the legitimate government, the undermined state institutions, the devastating war and the stifling humanitarian crisis for eight years now, the killing and wounding of thousands of civilian and military casualties, and the extensive destruction of public and private properties as a result of those wars are the key factors that make mines again one of the most serious threats to the life and safety of civilians in Yemen.

The Ansar Allah (The Houthi group) has used various and varied weapons, anti-personnel or anti-tank and even underwater mines, in its war in a widespread and systematic manner, often without the presence of military

necessity, which has caused the death, injury and displacement of thousands of civilian casualties in most of the country's governorates, and this violation was committed by the Houthi group alone, no other parties to the conflict did the same in the Yemeni arena.

Through this report, the American Center for Justice (ACJ) aims to shed light on the excessive scale of tragedy in terms of dead, wounded, handicapped, and property destruction, which civilians pay every day. Unfortunately, this tragedy will continue for several years after stopping the war, especially since the planting of mines continues with advanced techniques that are difficult to detect. ACJ also aims to pressure for an end to the use of these weapons, urgently work to clear the country of more than two million mines planted by the Houthi group since the beginning of the war and assist victims who lost limbs due to those mines.

This report consists of three chapters:

CHAPTER I:

An Introductory Chapter

CHAPTER II:

Mine Victims in Yemen (Examples)

CHAPTER III:

Violations Associated with Planting Mines

CONTEXT

For over seven years, Yemen has been experiencing a bloody conflict that has left thousands of dead and wounded from all segments of society, a large percentage of whom are children and women. The war has also caused a noticeable destruction of the state's capabilities. During the war and until the date of writing the report, those conflicts produced a number of entities and groups besides the legitimate authority in the country.

Forces affiliated with the legitimate government, led by President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, have control of the governorates of Shabwa, Hadramout and Al-Mahra, and parts of the governorates of Marib, Al-Jawf, Taiz, Hajjah, and Hodeida.⁽¹⁾

The Yemeni capital Sana'a, the neighboring northern governorates such as Saada, Hajjah, Amran, Al-Mahwit, Dhamar, Ibb, Al-Bayda, Raymah, and parts of the governorates of Marib, Al Jawf, Taiz, and Hodeida, are under the control of Ansar Allah (the Houthi group)⁽²⁾ which declared its commitment to all the agreements ratified by Yemen in its response to the report of the UN team issued end of 2019.

The southern governorates: Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhalea, Abyan and Socotra are under the control of the Southern Transitional Council.⁽³⁾

As for the West Coast districts, Bab al-Mandab Strait, and some islands in the Red Sea, such as Mayon and Honaish islands, they are controlled by the joint forces.⁽⁴⁾

(1) Saudi Arabia backs the Yemeni government, but its interventions along with the UAE in the sovereign affairs are burdening the Yemeni government, which was expressed by the Speaker of the Shura Council, Dr. Ahmed Obaid bin Daghr, and the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Abdul Aziz Jabbari, in a joint statement on November 30, 2021.

(2) The Republic of Iran stands behind the Houthi group politically, and the group receives financial and logistical support from armed movements, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Popular Mobilization in Iraq. The background of this support is due to the sectarian homogeneity between the Houthis and Iran, and the armed groups that support them in the region.

(3) The Southern Transitional Council receives military, financial and logistical support from the UAE, which enabled it to control those governorates after military confrontations with government forces, and the UAE aims behind this to control the Yemeni islands and ports.

(4) The joint forces are a group of brigades, including the Guards of the Republic and the Tihama Resistance, led by Tariq Saleh, the Giants Brigades of Salafi leaders, and others from the citizens of the southern governorates, all of which receive direct support from the United Arab Emirates.

METHODOLOGY

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) affirms its full commitment to the applicable methodology as international standards, the most important of which are transparency, independence, impartiality, objectivity, professionalism and confidentiality, and in accordance with the basic principles for which the center was established. In this qualitative report, ACJ is aware to monitor and clarify the violations committed against civilians in several governorates, being killed, injured, permanently disabled or maimed and other violations, because of the mines planted by the Houthi group during the war and still exist today. The monitoring team was able to access these mines during the period of the ongoing war in large areas in Yemen for seven years. During the reporting period, which lasted for a year, ACJ monitors has conducted field visits to different governorates, held interviews with the victims and their families, and listened to the testimonies of the whistleblowers directly, or through social media if access was not possible. ACJ also conducted a number of interviews and contacts with officials of the Ministry of Health in the Yemeni government and the actors in demining, including the Masam Project, which has been working in the field of demining in the country for four and a half years.



THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

prohibitions or restrictions on the use of mines, booby traps and other devices. Rather, it requires marking and mapping when such type of mine was used. The international law does not differentiate between the victims of these indiscriminately planted anti-personnel or anti-vehicle mines, whether they are "civilians or military."

It is worth noting that the Republic of Yemen ratified the Ottawa Convention in 1998, and is bound by all its provisions. Individuals responsible for the use of prohibited weapons or launching indiscriminate attacks may be prosecuted as war crimes.

Ansar Allah (The Houthi group) announced in a letter issued to the group of experts mandated by the Human Rights Council in 2018 its commitment to all conventions ratified by Yemen.

Article (2) of the Ottawa Convention stipulates the prohibition, use and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines, and all states party to the convention undertake not to (under any circumstances) (use anti-personnel mines, or develop, produce or otherwise possess or stockpile, retain, or transfer them to any place directly or indirectly). The Convention also requires all its states parties under the text of Article (5) therein to destroy all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control, as soon as possible.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has classified anti-personnel mines among five weapons whose use is strictly prohibited.

While international humanitarian law has prohibited the planting of anti-vehicle mines that are not controlled remotely, and has criminalized their indiscriminate planting, even if they can be controlled remotely; In accordance with Protocol II relating to



THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

of civilian victims in most of the country's governorates, and extensive destruction of transportation and private property. All these violations resulting from mine planting committed solely by the Houthi group in Yemen. It has been practiced systematically in all the military positions controlled by the group, or in the areas and roads from which the group withdraws.

The report relied on accurate data collected in a scientific and methodological monitoring and documentation process by a group of qualified and trained monitors, who conducted a series of field visits, inspections and meetings, with officials of the Ministry of Health in the Yemeni government, and with actors in demining in Yemen, including The Saudi "Masam" project. Moreover, the monitors listened to many victims and their relatives, witnesses and mine experts. We managed to monitor and document many violations that we were able to access in 17 Yemeni governorates.

The report is divided into three chapters; The introductory chapter presents a brief overview of the country's reality with mines, the source of the landmines currently used in Yemen, the most mined Yemeni governorates, the Houthi group's techniques in planting mines and their types, and the final chapter concludes with the actors in demining in Yemen.

The second chapter of the report reviews the number of civilian casualties caused by the Houthi group's planting of mines in 17 governorates. (ACJ), through its field team, was able, during the reporting period, to

This report is the findings of dedicated efforts exerted by the field research team of the American Center for Justice (ACJ) in monitoring and documenting many violations of the right to life and physical integrity, and the destruction of private property resulting from planting anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines by the Ansar Allah (The Houthi group) during the period from June 2014 to February 2022. ACJ is very grateful to these researchers, for their courageous and tireless work, which was carried out in the most difficult circumstances. This report would not have been produced without the efforts of these researchers who cannot be named in this report for security reasons.

Through this report, the American Center for Justice (ACJ) aims to shed light on the excessive scale of tragedy in terms of dead, wounded, handicapped, and property destruction, which civilians pay every day. Unfortunately, this tragedy will continue for several years after stopping the war, especially since the planting of mines continues with advanced techniques that are difficult to detect. ACJ also aims to pressure for an end to the use of these weapons, urgently work to clear the country of more than one million mines planted by the Houthi group eight years ago and assist victims who lost limbs due to those mines.

The Houthi group used various weapons (anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines) in its war extensively and systematically and without military necessity in most cases, causing the death, injury and displacement of thousands

monitor and verify the killing of (2526) civilians, including (429) children, and (217) women, in addition to the injury of (3286) others, including (723) children and (220) women. 75% of the injured have lost one limb or limbs, and have become disabled or disfigured by the explosion of whether anti-personnel or anti-vehicles landmines, naval mines or IEDs that were planted. Taiz governorate ranked first in terms of the number of dead and wounded, with a rate of 22%, followed by Al Hudaydah governorate with 13%. Marib governorate comes in the third place with 8.51%, followed by Al-Jawf governorate with 8.39%, while Aden comes in the fifth place with 7.9%, followed by Al-Bayda governorate with 7.4%. Al-Dhalea governorate ranks seventh with 6.1%, followed by Lahj governorate with 5%, and Shabwa governorate with 3%. The rest of the statistics were distributed among the governorates of Hajjah, Sana'a, Abyan and Saada.

Regarding the destruction of means of transportation by landmine, the ACJ's team was able to monitor and verify (425) cases of total destruction of different means of transport, and (163) were partially destroyed. Hodeida governorate had the highest percentage with (116), followed by Taiz governorate with (106) violations. Al-Jawf comes in third place with (79) violations, followed by Marib governorate with (58) violations. In fifth place, Al-Bayda governorate comes with (43) violations, followed by Lahj governorate with (36) violations, then Al-Dhalea governorate with (35) violations. As for the private properties of farmers, (334) farms were completely damaged, and in the livestock sector, (2,185) cases were monitored and verified dead in (17) Yemeni governorates.



2,526 Civilians Killed



(429) children



(217) women

3,286 Civilians Injured



(723) children



(220) women

The first chapter included a number of (40) tragic incidents and stories that claimed the lives of dozens of dead and injured people with permanent disabilities and deformities in the governorates of (Hodeidah, Taiz, Shabwa, Al-Bayda, Abyan, Lahj, Al-Jawf, Al-Dhalea, Hajjah, Marib, Sana'a). These painful stories are just examples, but not everything.

Chapter II of the report reviews the violations associated with planting mines in seven paragraphs:

Paragraph One: Forced Displacement of the Residents

Paragraph Two: Preventing Civilians from Returning Home Safely

Paragraph Three: Prevent Civilians from Accessing Pastures, Farms and Drinking Water

Paragraph Four: Injury of demining Personnel

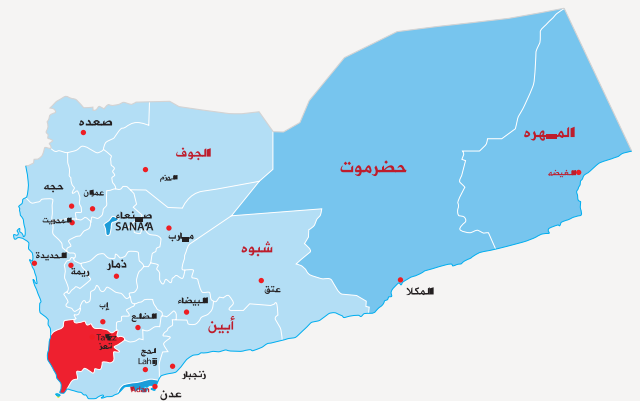
Paragraph Five: Preventing Children from Accessing Schools

Paragraph Six: Denying Humanitarian Access

Paragraph Seven: Injury of Passengers to and from Yemen

The chapter included (18) incidents and tragic stories of the types of violations associated with planting mines in several governorates.

The report concluded with the findings of the report and a group of recommendations for the international community, the Yemeni government, and the Houthi group.



THE NUMBER OF DEAD AND WOUNDED BY GOVERNORATE

| | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Taiz governorate | 22% |
| Hodeidah governorate | 13% |
| Marib governorate | 8.51% |
| Al-Jawf governorate | 8.39% |
| Aden governorate | 7.9% |
| Al-Bayda governorate | 7.4% |
| Al-Dhalea governorate | 6.1% |
| Lahj governorate | 5% |
| Shabwa governorate | 3% |

The rest of the cases were also distributed to other governorates (Hajjah, Sana'a, Abyan and Saada)

THE INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

(A): Yemen is the Most Prevalent Country with Mines

Yemen has become the largest country in the Middle East, which has been exposed to the disaster of the spread of mines, as it topped the list of countries with the most accidents of mine explosions in the world during the year 2018.⁽¹⁾ It poses a grave and continuing danger to civilians and aid workers.⁽²⁾

(1) According to the report of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining.

(2) In a statement issued by the United Nations on October 6, 2018



Although local and international statistics vary in estimating the areas planted with mines in Yemen, some confirm that the Houthi group has planted “hundreds of thousands,” and others raise the number to more than “two million land and sea mines.” However, through the field visits conducted by the ACJ’s team to several governorates in the north, central, and south of the country, and the meetings ACJ held with actors in the field of demining, it is confirmed that the practice of the Houthi group in mine-planting has become evident in many areas from where they have withdrawn or controlled. The Houthi group relies on planting internationally prohibited explosives and mines, not in self-defense, as much as it is a systematic policy in order to inflict the largest number of victims. It is a retaliatory policy by the Houthis in light of the continuous loss of their leaders and gunmen, the community’s disapproval of their presence in the areas they enter and be forced to leave. Thus, The Houthis are prompted to plant mines in residential neighborhoods, public roads, valleys, citizens’ farms, grazing places and water wells, indifferent to any dangers afflicting civilians.

Stories of endless pain and various disabilities that accompany the victims throughout their lives. It is not easy for a person to transform from a breadwinner for many families to someone looking for breadwinner, from a capable father who is keen to make his children satisfied with their demands and needs, to a person who hides behind sighs, and overflowing sorrows clear on his features. Before all this, the victim finds himself heavy, broken, and hiding behind patience.

***THEY ARE ENDLESS TRAGEDIES IN A COUNTRY THAT IS BEING
RE-WOUNDED EVERY DAY BY THE EIGHT-YEAR WAR.***

(B): The Source of Landmines in Yemen

Yemen has been plagued by landmines for decades. In 1960s, they were planted during the outbreak of the civil war in northern Yemen and the uprising in the south of the country. More landmines were planted during the conflicts that erupted in 1970s and 1980s on the borders between north and south Yemen, before the unification of Yemen in 1990, and again during the 1994 civil war. Ansar Allah [Houthi group] has also resorted to planting mines as a systematic behavior since the six wars of Saada that ended with their complete control of the governorate in 2010 until they overthrew the elected government by force of arms and took control of Sana'a and other governorates during the years 2014-2015. The group continued to use mines and explosive devices and explosives, as a lethal weapon in confrontation lines and areas from which they withdraw. The Houthi group is planting mines manually and indiscriminately, along main roads, battlefields, homes, water wells, grazing places and farms prompting thousands of families to flee from their places of residence for being uninhabitable due to mines.

The huge size of the Houthi use of landmines raises questions about their source. It is unreasonable that Yemen possesses local stockpiles of landmines. In 2002, the Saleh government announced that it had destroyed its stockpile, which contained four types of anti-personnel mines, in accordance with its obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty. In general, these four types are not found in Yemen, but there are several other common types, indicating that the Saleh government maintained secret stores of mines, or that the Houthi group obtained new quantities of them after 2002. The Houthis' primary supplies of landmines are likely to come from those local stockpiles.⁽¹⁾ In addition, the Houthis resort to the production and manufacture of large numbers of mines in local workshops by local and foreign experts.⁽²⁾ The group also obtains external supplies from Iran that are smuggled by sea.⁽³⁾ Large numbers of civilian casualties fall as a result of the Houthis planting mines and explosives using camouflaged booby traps that resemble toys, rocks or cooking pots, which proves the group's intention to inflict maximum harm on civilians by planting those weapons in such most dangerous methods.

(1) In a report issued in April 2017 by Human Rights Watch, the PPM2 is the worst anti-personnel mine, with a plastic casing (5.2) inches in diameter, made in the former East Germany. It was written on some mines that found in Taiz in October 2015, the dates of their manufacture are in the early eighties, which indicates that the Saleh government has not destroyed them since its obligations under the treaty. Another mine bore the name (TM57) in olive color with a diameter of 12 inches anti-vehicle, made in the former Soviet Union, and used by the Houthis frequently.

(2) In early April 2018, the Houthi-affiliated Al Masirah TV published a photo of Saleh Al-Samad, head of the so-called Political Council, touring a local weapons-manufacturing facility in Hodeida governorate.

(3) The report of the Security Council Panel of Experts on Yemen issued in early January 2022 that the Houthis are receiving arms support from Iran by sea and by land.

(C): The Most Heavily Mined Yemeni Governorates

During the current war, the Houthis have planted thousands of landmines in different parts of Yemen, as follows: along the western coast of Taiz governorate: the districts of Al-Mokha, Dhubab, Al-Wazi'a, and Mawza; the southern districts of Hodeida governorate: "Al-Durayhimi, Al-Tahita, Hays and Al-Khoukha"; Hajjah governorate: Midi and Haradh districts; Al Jawf governorate: khab Al Sha'af and Al Maslub; along the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Saada governorate; around the main cities; along the transportation routes linked to Sana'a city from the northern side to Nihm and Arhab districts; and along the main road linking Marib and Al-Jawf governorates; the road linking Marib and Sana'a; the road linking Marib and Al-Bayda governorates, which passes through the districts of Al-Abdiyyah and Mahlia; and the road linking Marib and the center of Serwah district. The Houthis also

planted mines in abundance in several districts and areas in Marib governorate, including Al-Abdiyyah, Jabal Murad, Al-Jubeh, Mahlia, Rahba, Raghwan, Harib Al-Qarmish, Harib Nehm, Al-Safra, Majzar, Serwah, Al-Mukhdara, Al-Mashjah, Hailan Mountains, Tabat Al-Masariah, and Al-Jufinah.⁽¹⁾ About 70% of Marib governorate is planted with mines. The Houthis also left a path full of landmines during their withdrawal from Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhalea, Al-Bayda and Marib in the years 2015 and 2016.⁽²⁾ Most concern is drawn to the fact that the Houthi group has randomly planted all these areas with mines, IEDs and unexploded ordnance, relying at first on untrained people and unclear maps through which the mined places are to be identified once the war stops and a permanent peace process is reached.

(1) Statistics issued by human rights centers in Marib governorate estimated that the number of mines planted by the Houthis in its districts and roads exceeded a quarter of a million mines and explosive devices.

(2) It is difficult to know the true number of landmines planted by the Houthi group, but it can be said that these numbers are very large, through data issued by demining actors, which exceed half a million mines that were removed until the beginning of 2022.





(D): Houthi Mines Planting Techniques

Ansar Allah group (Houthis) excelled in planting mines and explosive devices, and invented new and different methods of camouflage, including covering them with an insulating material that reflects the color of the soil and some rocks, and makes it difficult to detect, except by means of advanced scanning devices. The images obtained by the American Center for Justice (ACJ) show different shapes and sizes, some of which resemble children's toys, household items, pesticides, perfumes and gas cylinders, as shown in the photos. The Houthi group has also added the development of certain techniques of anti-vehicle mines, where they are connected to homemade pedals, which explode as soon as pressed even by individuals. In addition, the Houthi group has designed locally made camouflaged anti-personnel improvised explosive devices (IED), and other improvised explosive devices (IED) of various purposes and targets, used in Bombing areas and roads as a random weapon.

Moreover, some of the dismantled mines work in three ways, if one of them did not succeed, the other was sufficient to achieve the purpose. Some IEDs are detonated by remote control, by phone, or by pedals. There is a dangerous type of anti-armor mines. Its danger lies in the fact that it does not need the vehicle to pass over it in order to explode. Rather, as soon as any vehicle passes next to it, it sticks directly to the vehicle and explodes automatically, due to the sensitive magnetic material that this mine carries.⁽¹⁾



Shapes that resemble some children's toys or household items

(1) The United Nations provided the Houthis with financial support of more than one million dollars and cars allocated within the support program for demining.

(E): Types of Mines Used by the Houthi Group:

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) has obtained several governmental and private reports that reveal the Houthi group's use of several types of weapons, some of which are manufactured externally, and some are manufactured locally by local and foreign experts,⁽¹⁾ and these types include:



Anti-vehicle mines (UKA-63)
manufactured in Hungary.



Anti-personnel mines (PPM-2)
manufactured in the former
East Germany.



Anti-personnel mines
(GYATA-64) manufactured in
Hungary.



Anti-vehicle mines (TM-62)
manufactured in the former
Soviet Union.



Anti-vehicle mines (TM-57)
manufactured in the former
Soviet Union.

(1) In late December of the last year 2021, the leader of the Houthi group, Abdul Mohsen Tawoos, revealed an agreement with the United Nations to allocate \$1.5 million in support under the name of demining.

”

Removing one mine can cost between **300** and **1,000** USD.

The cost to remove all mines in Yemen will be expensive

- Various improvised explosive devices that explode in contact with a person, fall under the definition of anti-personnel landmines, and are prohibited under the 1979 Ottawa Convention.
- The last type is considered the most dangerous to the lives of civilians. A large quantity of this type is planted in all areas mentioned in the previous paragraph.

The price of one mine costs between 3 USD and 30 USD, which makes them effective tools for combat in terms of cost and effectiveness of injuries. However, the problem appears when removing them. Removing one mine can cost between 300 and 1,000 USD. The cost to remove all mines in Yemen will be expensive. Therefore, the cost of removing mines will be a great burden on the Yemeni government, which suffers from countless economic and financial problems.





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in the fishing sector, where about half a million fishermen work in this sector, and support about

1.7 million people

Naval Mines

The naval mine force was not known in Yemen in the past, but since Ansar Allah group (Houthis) took control of islands, coasts and ports, it began planting defensive type of sea mines, in anticipation of any attack by sea. Naval mines were planted in the coasts of Midi in Hajjah governorate in northern Yemen, and in several areas on the western coast of Hodeida, such as the port of Al-Hayma, the coast of Al-Ghuwair, Al-Faza, Al-Jah and the Durayhimi coast, and from the Ghalifa area to the Manzhar area in the city of Hodeida.

Naval Mine Damage:

The direct impact is on the fishing sector, where about half a million fishermen work in this sector, and support about (1.7) million people. Thus, sea mines expose them to the risk of losing their only source of income, as they stand in the way of moving their boats freely, and as soon as they collide with them, they explode immediately. (ACJ) investigated the case of a sea mine explosion in two fishing boats on the west coast early last year, killing all nine fishermen.

Naval mines pose a threat to Yemeni, regional and global security,⁽¹⁾ as they affect international trade corridors.⁽²⁾

(1) During January of last year, a sea mine hit a commercial cargo ship of the type (Sadaf), which damaged the ship without causing any casualties.

(2) In early January 2022, a spokesperson for the Arab coalition announced that the number of naval mines that had been destroyed was 175, indicating that they were Iranian-made.

(F): Actors of Demining in Yemen

A group of authorities undertakes the responsibility for removing and clearing mines in Yemen, foremost of which is the Saudi project (Masam), the National Army's Military Works Department, the National Demining Committee, the engineering teams of the joint forces on the West Coast, and the Yemeni Executive Center for Mine Action. All of these efforts, though working without full coordination, deserve praise and thanks for doing dangerous actions and avoiding civilians from certain death by the blind killer.

The Masam project to clear mines in Yemen began in mid-2018, intending to help the Yemeni people overcome the humanitarian tragedies resulting from the spread of mines. The Masam project took Marib governorate as its main headquarters. There, it began its work in training and rehabilitating Yemeni expertise by mines international and Saudi experts to help and enable the removal of various mines. At the beginning of 2020, the Masam project opened an office in the interim capital, Aden, to maintain direct supervision and monitoring of the workflow of Masam's engineering teams in the West Coast districts.



”

*until the end of February
2022, were able to remove
and destroy*

322,789 mines

Masam project owns the latest technology and advanced equipment in demining and has (451) employees, including (25) foreign experts, (6) Saudi experts, and (425) Yemenis, working as demining workers, administrative, logistical, and operational staff, and media team.

Masam project works in the field through (32) engineering teams, distributed in several Yemeni governorates: Marib, Al-Jawf, Shabwa, Aden, Taiz, Hodeida, Lahj, and Al-Dhaleae.

The engineering teams of Masam project, since the launch of the project on July 1, 2018, until the end of February 2022, were able to remove and destroy (322789) mines, improvised explosive device (IEDs) and unexploded ordnance.

The total area that was secured and cleared of mines by Masam teams until the end of February 2022 reached (30,837,206) m² of Yemeni land rigged with unexploded ordnance, mines, and IEDs.

”

*Masam project continues its
humanitarian mission in Yemen
despite the loss of **33** victims,
including 5 of its foreign experts
and **40** wounded*

The mission of Masam project is not limited to the process of removing mines and explosives of all kinds, but rather destroying them immediately, as a consistent approach that Masam project has been working on to ensure that they are not used again by any party. Since its inception, the project has carried out (240) operations to destroy and detonate thousands of mines and explosive devices.

For the fourth year in a row, the Masam project continues its humanitarian mission in Yemen despite the loss of 33 victims, including 5 of its foreign experts and (40) wounded, most of whom had permanent disabilities.

CHAPTER I:

A MODEL OF THE DEATHS, WOUNDS AND DISABILITIES OF MINES IN YEMEN

Since the outbreak of the war at the end of March 2015, thousands of citizens have been killed and wounded, in addition to the extensive destruction of private property by landmines planted and used by Ansar Allah (Houthis) in (17) Yemeni governorates.

During the reporting period, the American Center for Justice(ACJ)field team was able to monitor and verify the killing of (2,526) civilians, including (429) children under the age of 17, and (217) women, in addition to the injury of (3,286) others, including (723) children and (220) women. 75% of the injured lost one or more limbs and became disabled or disfigured because of the explosion of anti-personnel and

anti-vehicle landmines and the explosive devices planted by the Houthi group. Planting mines is solely act of the Houthi group who is the criminal of this violation among the other parties in the armed conflict in Yemen, where it is practiced systematically in all the military sites it controls or the areas and roads from which it withdraws.

2,526
killing cases



217

women

429



children

1,880



men

3,286
injury cases



220

women

723



children

2,343



men



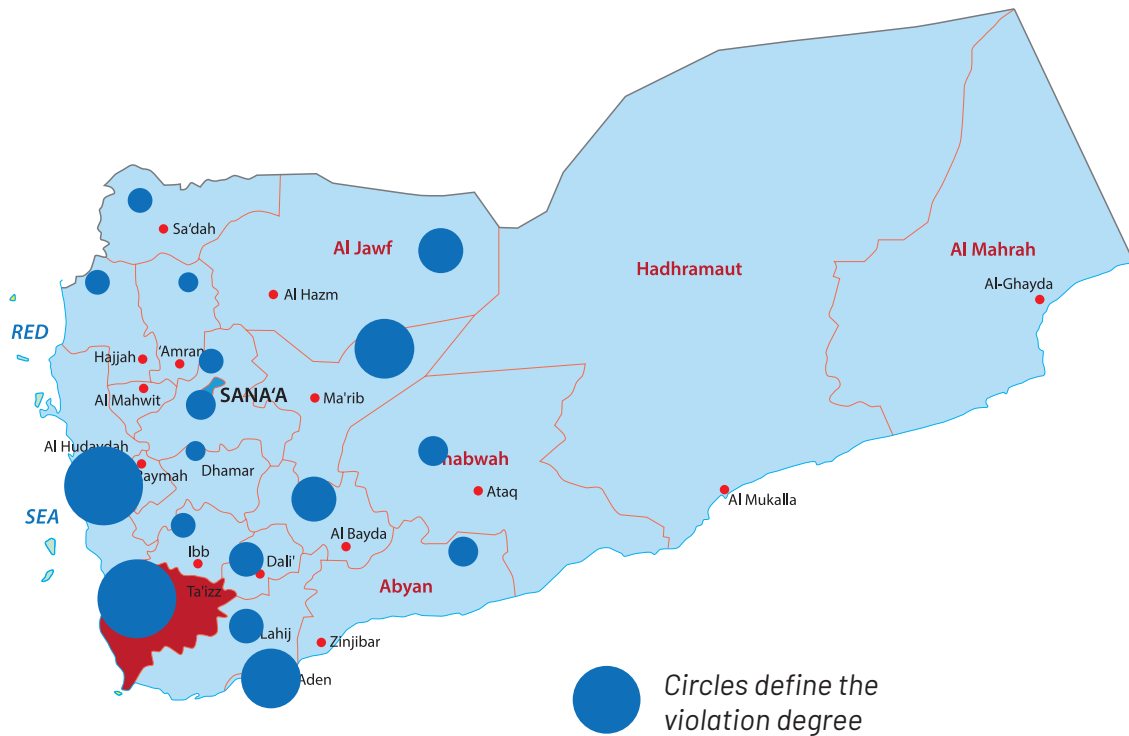
Taiz governorate is ranked first in terms of the number of dead and wounded, with a rate of 22%, especially the districts extending along the western coast of the governorate, which are "Al-Mukha, Dhubab, Al-Wazi'iyah, Mawza, and Bab Al-Mandab". Hodeida comes after Taiz in rank with 13%, and a higher percentage in the southern districts of the governorate, such as Al-Durayhimi, Al-Tuhayta, Hays, Al-Khokha. In the third place, here it comes Marib governorate with a rate of 8.51%, and the majority of its southern, northern and western

districts suffer from mines, followed by the Al-Jawf governorate with 8.39%. The districts most affected by mines in Al-Jawf governorate are "Khub Wa Sha'af, Al Maslub, and Al Hazm", while Aden comes in the fifth place with 7.9%, followed by Al Bayda governorate with 7.4%. Al Dhale'e governorate comes in seventh with 6.1%, followed by Lahj governorate with 5%, and Shabwa governorate with 3%. The rest of the statistics were distributed to the governorates of Hajjah, Sana'a, Abyan and Saada, as illustrated in the table below.

Table No. (1) shows distribution by categories of deaths and injuries caused by mines in (17) governorates

| governorate | Killings | | | | Injuries | | | | Totals |
|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Men | Children | Women | Total | Men | Children | Women | Total | |
| Taiz | 394 | 46 | 92 | 532 | 606 | 145 | 45 | 796 | 1328 |
| Hodeida | 277 | 117 | 40 | 434 | 210 | 151 | 26 | 387 | 821 |
| Marib | 210 | 36 | 8 | 254 | 387 | 81 | 19 | 487 | 741 |
| Al-Jawf | 130 | 36 | 20 | 186 | 230 | 43 | 32 | 305 | 491 |
| Aden | 202 | 27 | 15 | 244 | 190 | 21 | 10 | 221 | 465 |
| Al-Baydha | 136 | 58 | 10 | 204 | 120 | 108 | 12 | 240 | 444 |
| Al Dhale' | 81 | 27 | 2 | 110 | 115 | 52 | 33 | 200 | 310 |
| Lahj | 120 | 26 | 13 | 159 | 100 | 20 | 5 | 125 | 284 |
| The Capital Secretariat | 65 | 11 | | 76 | 145 | 21 | | 166 | 242 |
| Shabwa | 55 | 7 | | 62 | 81 | 19 | 9 | 109 | 171 |
| Abyan | 60 | 6 | 5 | 71 | 85 | 7 | 6 | 98 | 169 |
| Sana'a | 20 | 12 | 2 | 34 | 30 | 25 | 11 | 66 | 100 |
| Hajjah | 30 | 9 | 4 | 43 | 20 | 18 | 5 | 43 | 86 |
| Saada | 50 | 1 | 2 | 53 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 22 | 75 |
| Ibb | 40 | 6 | 3 | 49 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 59 |
| Amran | 7 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 17 |
| Dhamar | 3 | 3 | | 6 | 1 | 2 | | 3 | 9 |
| Total | 1880 | 429 | 217 | 2526 | 2343 | 723 | 220 | 3286 | 5812 |

In this chapter, we will discuss (40) tragic incidents of the victims of the blind killer, for example, but not limited, in several governorates, as follows:



 **5,812 TOTAL VIOLATIONS**


2,526
KILLING CASES

532 Taiz
434 Hodeida
254 Marib
186 Al-Jawf
244 Aden
204 Al-Baydha
110 Al Dhale'
159 Lahj
76 The Capital
62 Shabwa
71 Abyan
34 Sana'a
43 Hajjah
53 Saada
49 Ibb
9 Amran
6 Dhamar


3,286
INJURIES CASES

796 Taiz
387 Hodeida
487 Marib
305 Al-Jawf
221 Aden
240 Al-Baydha
200 Al Dhale'
125 Lahj
166 The Capital
109 Shabwa
98 Abyan
66 Sana'a
43 Hajjah
22 Saada
10 Ibb
8 Amran
3 Dhamar



HODEIDA GOVERNORATE

Hodeida is one of the most governorates exposed to mines and number of casualties, as the civilian victims of mines outnumbered the victims of the armed conflict, as hardly a day goes by without one or more victims.

During the reporting period, the ACJ's team monitored the killing of (434) people, and the injury of (387) others in the governorate, including, for example, the following:



The young girl Dhekra Mohammed Ahmed Daoud

She is 13 years old, and she lives in the village of Bani Okish, west of Hays district. She received her basic education in one of the village's schools. On March 5, 2022, while returning from school, a landmine exploded in one of the village's roads, which caused her legs to be amputated below the knees. She was still in bed in the hospital during the team's visit to document her critical and unfortunate condition.



2- Nasser Mohammed Dawbla

The young Nasser, 24, is from the village of Al-Dawbla in Hays district, south of Hodeida government. On March 1, 2022, while the victim was grazing sheep in one of the village valleys, from which the Houthi group withdrew a few months ago after randomly planting mines in the village's pastures and valleys, a landmine exploded, causing his legs to be amputated from the knee. The victim is married and has three children, and has become helpless to provide for any necessary needs due to his permanent disability.



official death certificate

3. Abdul-Rahman Yahya Ghalib

From the Al-Jarahi district, he is (37) years old. He was displaced three years ago with his family of (8) members to the city of Al-Khokha, and he continued to work there on his motorcycle. On January 3, 2022, he went out with one of his friends to fetch grass for the livestock. A mine exploded under his motorcycle, causing his immediate death, and wounding his friend who was taken to the field hospital in Al-Khokha.

TAIZ GOVERNORATE

1- Dalila Abdo Ahmed (25), from Al Shaqab village, Sabr Al Mawadam District

For a glorious day, she was preparing for her wedding with a smile that never left her face that was shining like the moon with joy for that wonderful day. She did not know that her joy would turn its light into the dusk of the night, as she did not know what was hidden for her on that misty sad day. Neither had she realized that today is the last day for her to be standing upright

A few days before her wedding, Dalila Abdo Ahmed, who lives in the villages of Al Shaqab in Taiz, went with her cousin, Afaf, 22, to fetch water, and she does this every day, not knowing that the Houthi group had infiltrated her village in Al Shaqab at night to plant mines. While they were passing between the houses, one of the mines exploded, causing Dalila to fall to the ground, soaking with her blood. Afaf tried to help her, but another mine exploded and she fell next to Dalila.

They shouted for help, but that was not feasible, as the "Houthi group" was stalking everyone who tried to help them with a barrage of bullets.

However, Afaf's determination was strong in an attempt to crawl and drag Dalila to a place a little far from the sniper's sight. After that, Dalila's father came and rescued them.

Dalila says, "When my father came to rescue us, we were naked because the mine explosion torn our clothes apart. At that time, my father took the quilt from his head and covered us. "Dalila and Afaf" were taken to Al-Borayhi Hospital in the city of Taiz. They underwent several surgeries, where Delilah's leg was amputated, while Afaf had her right foot amputated and the left foot was broken.

That day did not rob Dalila's limbs only, but also robbed her happiness and joy, as her marriage was not complete. The



”

"Now I am fighting with the first prosthetic limbs, once I get them repaired, they become ruined again

”

"What is my fault for being a disabled woman? Who will stand by me now?"

”

“What is my fault for being a disabled woman? Who will stand by me now?”

”

Witnesses of the incident confirmed: Houthi group planted a network of mines on the mountain before they withdrew

groom apologized for marrying her after she lost her limbs. Now, the memory of that day would carry aches that will not heal over the years.

Dalila asks, “What is my fault for being a disabled woman? Who will stand by me now?”

However, relief came in the form of prosthetic limbs. After suffering and misery, “Dalila” had the opportunity to travel to Jordan to install prosthetic limbs, to return to Yemen with two prosthetic limbs that help her to walk, even for a little while, but that relief did not last long as she needs other prosthetic limbs instead of the ones that were destroyed.

Dalila says, “Now I am fighting with the first prosthetic limbs, once I get them repaired, they become ruined again. I am afraid that I will be unable to walk again.”

1- The victim: Ashwaq Hashem Abdel Fattah (53)

From Al-Athawer sub-district in the district of Hayfan.

On February 1, 2022, and due to the lack of domestic gas, the victim went to the wood in one of the sub-district Mountains at the bottom of Al-Khazan mount separating the two districts of Hayfan in Taiz and Al-Maqatra in Lahj. She stepped on a landmine that exploded and caused the amputation of her legs and her death on the spot. Witnesses of the incident confirmed to ACJ team that the Houthi group planted a network of mines on the mountain before they withdrew from it, and it is still claiming civilian lives on an ongoing basis.

2- Ms. Asia Mohammed Saleh Al-Shjari (55), and Maysoon Waheeb Mohammed Al-Gharebi (8)

On September 6, 2020, in the village of Hawamra in Mawieh district, east of Taiz governorate, Ms. Asia and her granddaughter, Maysoon, were killed by the explosion of an anti-personnel mine planted near the road linking the village and the district controlled by the Houthi group. There were no Clashes in the area, but the Houthi group planted mines because of its geographical borders with the districts of Al-Dhalea, which are controlled by forces affiliated with the Transitional Council.

SHABWA GOVERNORATE

Shabwa is one of the governorates where mines were planted, especially in the districts of Bayhan, Al-Ain, and Asilan, from which the Houthi group withdrew at the end of the year 202 and have witnessed previous confrontations in 2017.

On January 21, 2022, the engineering teams of the Southern Giants Brigades announced the removal of (7,700) mines from the districts of Bayhan and Harib only. The ACJ monitors managed to documents and (62) deaths and (109) injuries with permanent disabilities or severe injuries. The following case is an example of this type of violation.



1. The Child Raed Abdullah Al-Zabaidi (10)

On February 13, 2022, while Raed was leaving his house in Asilan district, an anti-personal mine exploded, causing severe injuries to his face and hands. He was taken to a hospital in Aden, and his health condition is still critical.

2. The Three Children: “Fahd, Saleh, and Othman”

On December 19, 2017, at 1:00 pm, the child Othman Al-Sabban went out to a farm near the old market in the city of Asilan where he found a landmine left by the Houthi group after it withdrew from Asilan at the beginning of the year. He took the mine back to the village. Children gathered around him. The mine exploded, causing him to lose half of his right leg with the foot, and other wounds to the left leg, with a total amputation of the toes of the left foot. He is currently in need of prosthetic limbs to replace his lost while his younger brother Fahd suffered multiple injuries to the legs, chest and face. His friend Saleh also sustained superficial wounds on the top of the face with shrapnel in the right eyelid, and a medium-deep wound in the front of the mouth.

| No. | Victim's Name | Age | Type of Injury |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Fahd Saleh Othman Al-Sabban | 14 | Right leg amputation |
| 2 | Othman Saleh Othman | 16 | Multiple wounds to the legs and chest |
| 3 | Saleh Salem Abdullah Talan | 15 | Medium injury |



Medical Report for
Othman Saleh Othman



Othman Saleh Othman



Medical Report for
Fahd Saleh Othman Al-Sabban



Fahd Saleh Othman Al-Sabban



Medical Report for
Saleh Salem Abdullah Talan



Saleh Salem Abdullah Talan

3. Tasha Mohammed Ali Ahmad Al-Sheni

Tasha, 38, lives with her family in the district of Bayhan. On January 6, 2019, while she was returning from fetching water to her home, a landmine from the remnants of war planted by the Houthi group exploded. She was taken to Bayhan General Hospital in a very bad condition because of the injury. She lost her left leg below the knee, and she was subjected to wounds and ruptures in the vein and arteries in the right leg, with a fracture and fragmentation of the tibia bone in the right leg. Thus, she needs health care to recover.



4. Salem Abdullah Omar Al-Harethi

He is 48 years old and lives with his family in Asaylan district of Shabwa governorate. On July 1, 2018, while he was on his way to his farm, a landmine exploded and he was taken to Asaylan Hospital. However, he died of his injuries, as he lost his right leg and multiple wounds in the left thigh and lower abdomen. The victim is married and father of five children who became without a breadwinner after the loss of their father.

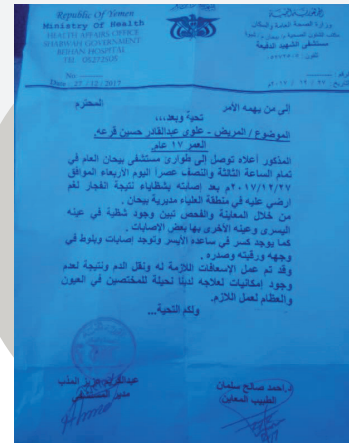


5. Dhabiyeh Mohammed Ali Khamis Al-Amri

She is 46 years old, married and mother of six. On September 18, 2019, when she was going to a valley of the village to collect wood, a landmine exploded, causing the loss of her right leg along with her foot. Moreover, she sustained several fractures in her left leg.

6. Alawi Abdel Qader Hussein Qara'a

On December 27, 2017, while the victim was going to the village market in the Olaya area in Bayhan district to bring some of his family's needs, a landmine exploded, leaving him with several shrapnel in his eyes, face, neck and chest, and a broken left forearm. The victim has an injury in his eyes and needs medical attention.





AL BAYDA GOVERNORATE

1. The girl child Halima Saleh Abdul-Nabi

Halima, 4, lives with her family in the village of Al-Qurain, Dhi Naem district, which is controlled by the Houthis. At 10:00 am, March 17, 2016, while she was with her father on his water truck transporting drinking water to homes, they passed through a side road on the Airport Street, a mine exploded, killing the girl on the spot, injuring her father with various injuries and destroying the vehicle.



photo of the vehicle after
it was destroyed



The Victim Halima

On February 17, 2018, while the two children Ahmed and Mohammed were passing on the highway in front of Al-Zahir clinic, a landmine planted by the Houthi group earlier exploded. The explosion caused the death of Mohammed Al-Wuhayshi on the spot, while his friend Ahmad was taken to Al-Zaher Hospital; however, he died upon arrival at the hospital due to a severe injury that led to limb amputation and rupture of tissues and organs. It is as if Ahmad chose to follow his companion, Mohammed and be buried together at an early age, leaving behind dreams of living in a peaceful country free from conflicts and armed militias.

| No. | Victim's Name | Age | Type of Violation |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|--|
| 1 | Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed Al-Batah | 14 | Killed and his body was torn to shreds by the mine |
| 2 | Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah Al-Wahishi | 15 | Killed and his limbs were amputated |

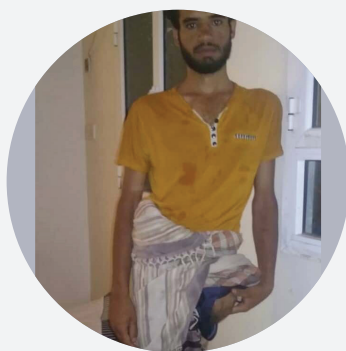


Mohammed Ahmed
Abdullah Al-Wahishi



Ahmed Abdullah
Mohammed Al-Batah

3. Aref Ahmed Abd Al-Rab Bagar



Aref, 28, resides in the village of Gul Zaid in the district of Al-Zahir. Aref thought one day with some of his friends to do humanitarian work, which is to remove the mines planted by the Houthi group in Wadi Gul Zaid, which caused the death and injury of civilians in despite of the risks. However, Aref and his companions decided to implement their idea, so on March 8, 2017, they went to the valley, removed four anti-personnel mines, and carried them for disposal in deserted places far from the population. On the way, the mine fell from his hands and exploded immediately, He was subjected to severe injuries and extensive wounds that caused the amputation of his left leg from the thigh, while the other leg is still suffering from the injury. The victim is married and supports family of (5) children.

MARIB GOVERNORATE

Marib is one of the governorates in which mines were planted by the Houthi group since mid-2015, until the moment of writing the report. 70% of the area of Marib was planted with mines, and in most of its districts: "Serwah, Al-Abdiya, Jabal-Murad, Al-Juba, Mahlia, Rahba, Raghwan Harib Al-Qaramish, Harib Nehm, Al Safra, Majzar, Serwah, Al Mukhdara, Al Mashajeh, Hillan Mountains, Al-

Masarya mount, Al-Jufaina, Al Mass, Al Minin, and the vicinity of the Marib Dam.⁽¹⁾

The ACJ's team documented and monitored the killing of (254) victims, and the injury of (487) others, 60% of whom had disabilities. We mention, for example, the following cases:

On May 19, 2016, in the sub-district of Halhlan of the Majzar district, north of the city of Marib, five girls went to graze sheep in one of the village's valleys, and suddenly there was an explosion. Residents rushed to the place to find that two mines had exploded, killing three of them and injuring another two girls.

| No. | Victim's Name | Sex | Age | Victim's Condition |
|-----|--------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Asmaa Ali Naji Ayed | 12 | Girl child | Died of mine injury |
| 2 | Rawya Saeed Hassan Al-Bakhiti | 8 | Girl child | Died of mine injury |
| 3 | Maha Mohammed Saeed Al-Bakhiti | 9 | Girl child | Died of mine injury |
| 4 | Hasna Saeed Saleh Al-Bakhiti | 15 | Girl child | shrapnel injury |
| 5 | Hasina Saeed Saleh Al-Bakhiti | 12 | Girl child | shrapnel injury |

(1) Statistics issued by human rights centers in Marib governorate estimated that the number of mines that the Houthis planted in its districts and roads exceeded a quarter of a million mines and explosive devices. The Houthi group has turned the Najran School in Al-Makhdara into a factory for the manufacture of mines and explosives.

At exactly 8:00 am on July 4, 2017, in Sennomah Al-Mahjezah area of Serwah district, while Hamda and Amina were going to graze sheep, 500 meters away from the village, the residents heard an explosion in the mountain. Upon their arrival, they saw that the explosion resulted from a landmine that killed Hamda and injured Amina.

Witnesses of the incident proved that the place where the mine was planted is far from the place of the confrontations between the Houthis and the national army. However, the Houthis used to plant mines in a random manner, without caring for any result or injuries to civilians or soldiers.

| No. | Victim's Name | Sex | Age | Victim's Condition |
|-----|----------------------------------|--------|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Hamda Mohammed Jaber Al-Mashre'i | Female | 67 | Death |
| 2 | Amina Amer Saleh Al-Mashre'i | Female | 20 | Shrapnel injury in the head |





AL-DHALEA GOVERNORATE

1. Child Ahmed Ramy Ahmed Qaid (12)

On February 21, 2019, the child Ahmed went out of his house in Hajar Sannah road in Al-Dhalea district to play with his friends as usual. A mine planted near his house exploded, hitting him with shrapnel in the head, chest and different parts of his body.

Eyewitnesses confirmed in their testimonies to the ACJ's monitors that the Houthi group infiltrated at night and planted mines to claim the lives of civilians, children and women.



The death certificate of the child Ahmed



The death certificate of the Bashryah child

2. The girl Bashryah Saleh Abdul Rahim Al-Yaisi (15)

On June 26, 2020, during the return of the girl Bashryah from her primary school to her village of Al-Jarouf in Qataba district in Al-Dhalea, a landmine planted by the Houthi group exploded on the road leading to the village, causing her deep wounds, and she died immediately.

3. Hamyar Farid Saif Abdullah, (25)

On August 8, 2015, the young Hamyar was driving his Hilux car on the road in the Lakma Salah area in Al-Dhalea governorate. Suddenly, an anti-vehicle mine exploded, cutting his body to pieces. Witnesses of the incident confirmed that the Houthi group at the time were the ones who planted mines and explosive devices on the roads usually crossed by civilians.

On the morning of December 4, 2018, in the village of Ya'is, in the district of Damt in Al-Dhalea governorate, the elderly Qassem Al-Muntasir left his house, accompanied by his daughter-in-law, on foot, towards one of his farms. While they were walking on the road between the village and the farm, a landmine exploded, causing permanent disabilities. Witnesses of the incident confirmed to (ACJ) that the village of Ya'is was controlled by the Houthi group before their withdrawal and after laying mines on the roads and near civilian farms.

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landmine exploded, causing permanent disabilities. Witnesses confirmed to (ACJ) that the village of Ya'is was controlled by the Houthi group

| No. | Victim's Name | Sex | Age | Type of Injury |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------|-----|--|
| 1 | Qasim Ahmed Mohsen Al Muntasir | Male | 61 | Left leg amputation and deep body wounds |
| 2 | Sahar Rajeh Mohammed Al-Sayadi | Female | 22 | Shrapnel in the abdomen and limbs and body burns |

4. Salah Hassan Muthanna Ammari, (30)

At 5:30 pm of Thursday October 17, 2019, while the victim Salah was walking next to the main road in Naqil Al-Shayhem leading to the city of Qataba, a landmine planted by the Houthi group during their control of Naqil al-Shayhem in a previous period exploded. He was injured by several shrapnel in the head and in different parts of the body. Immediately, the people rushed to the scene of the explosion, and they transferred the victim to a nearby health center. Due to the severity of the injury, he was transferred to Al-Boryhi Hospital in the city of Aden. Upon his arrival to the hospital, the victim died of the injuries he sustained as a result of the explosion of the landmine.

SANA'A GOVERNORATE

1. The Child Ahmed Mohsen Ayedh (10)

At 9:00 am of Wednesday, December 12, 2016, Ahmed, accompanied by his friends, Jarallah and Afif, went out to play in their village, Aal Amer, which is affiliated with Harib Nehm district. They saw something strange that looked like children's toys, so they took it to play with, and suddenly it exploded. The child Jarallah was moderately injured by shrapnel in different parts of his body, and his fingers were cut off, Afif sustained light injuries, while Ahmed was the most seriously injured, as his hand was immediately amputated and he was hit by various shrapnel in his body, face and one of his eyes. The victims were taken to the Authority Hospital in Marib governorate. Three days later, Ahmed died of severe injury. Witnesses of the incident confirmed to ACJ that the Houthi group makes mines in the form of toys and places them openly in roads, valleys and mountains to harm the largest number of victims.



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They saw something strange that looked like children's toys, so they took it to play with, and suddenly it exploded

2. Sam Mohammed Al-Hunaishi (20)

A young man lives in the village of Al-Madfoon Al-Hanishiyat in the district of Nehm, north of Sana'a. Sam lost his eyes and suffered fractures in his right humerus and scattered shrapnel in the head and face. He was plowing his family's land in the village, at 10:00 am of October 8, 2021 when the mine threw him for a long distance and blood shed from him. His father ran to him screaming, "My son, my son." after hearing the explosion. He was in a very bad condition. So, he was taken to the European Hospital in Sana'a, where he has been receiving treatment for over a month, and due to the poor conditions of his family, he was discharged from the hospital while his condition is still bad and he is in state of constant misery as a result of the injury.

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His father ran to him screaming, "My son, my son." after hearing the explosion

3. Mohsen Ahmed Mahyoub (50)

He lives in the village of Al-Baza of Harib Nehm district. At 5:00 pm of May 19, 2016, while he was returning from his farm to his home, a mine exploded and threw him away. As a result, he lost his lower limbs from the middle of his leg, and was hit by many shrapnel in his entire body.

Mohsen says, "I only felt as I was flying in the air, and after a few minutes I was trying to scream so someone will hear me and save me, so I couldn't move. I saw parts of my lower limbs and blood was flowing from every part of my body, and for a moment I knew that I would die."

He continues, "For four hours I kept bleeding and my breath started to faint, until I saw the ghost of a person in front of me, who was a passerby. I could hear him talking to me while I was unconscious. He took me with difficulty and called my family who rushed to help me to the city of Marib for treatment. I stayed for a while in the Marib Authority Hospital, then I went to Cairo to complete the treatment for a while, and I returned to my family, but without legs, and a body full of shrapnel."



”

I only felt as I was flying in the air, and after a few minutes I was trying to scream so someone will hear me and save me, so I couldn't move



4. Child Abdul-Wahed Ahmed Naji Saleh

Abdul Wahed, 12, lives in the district of Harib Nehm. On August 8, 2016, the child was grazing sheep when anti-personnel mine exploded, causing the amputation of his right leg. After his first injury, he fell on another mine, which led to the amputation of his hands. He is now disabled in three of his limbs, as shown in the picture.

HAJJAH GOVERNORATE

1. On May 6, 2019, at 9:00 am, in Al-Mansara Al-Absa Mountain in Hajjah governorate, the girls “Ahlam, Khadija, Fatima, and Nujood” went out to graze sheep and collect firewood from the mountain near the village. Suddenly, a big explosion was heard and people rushed to the place where they found the four girls were the victims of a network of mines that had been planted by the Houthis in anticipation of the outbreak of any resistance from the villagers.

| No. | Name | Sex | Age | Victim's Condition |
|-----|------------------------------|--------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Ahlam Mohammed Mohsen Ghazi | Female | 16 | Died of a mine explosion injury |
| 2 | Khadija Abdullah Ahmed Ghazi | Female | 15 | Died of a mine explosion injury |
| 3 | Fatima Ali Mohsen Ghazi | Female | 13 | Died of a mine explosion injury |
| 4 | Nujoud Mohammed Ali Ghazi | Female | 14 | Died of a mine explosion injury |



2. Raddad Al-Shoumy, 35, from Hajjah governorate, an expatriate in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for several years. He returned to his hometown in his car on March 12, 2022. On the Al-Jawf desert road, an anti-vehicle mine exploded. As a result, he sustained shrapnel and cuts in the feet and right hand, and his car was almost completely destroyed.

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they found the four girls were the victims of a network of mines that had been planted by the Houthis in anticipation of the outbreak of any resistance from the villagers.

3. On March 16, 2020, three civilians were killed by a mine explosion on a motorcycle in the village of Bani Fayed, in the district of Midi, west of Hajjah governorate. They are Mohammed Ali Jareihi (35), Hassan Yousef Jerry (15) and Ismail Hussein Msawi (14).

ABYAN GOVERNORATE

On January 25, 2016, at 3:00 pm, Mr. Aboud went out with his adult son Moataz and his two children, Mutaib and Jalal, to visit their farm in Wadi Hassan in Zinjibar district of Abyan governorate. When they got off the main road, they walked towards the road leading to the farm. Then, two mines planted in the middle of the road exploded, killing Aboud and his two children, Mutaib and Jalal, and wounding the third. Witnesses of the incident confirmed to the ACJ's team that the area was controlled by the Houthis and Saleh forces in mid-2015, and before they withdrew from it, they resorted to planting mines randomly in the roads and valleys.

| No. | Victim's Name | Age | Type of Violation | Injuries |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Aboud Salem Sultan Abdullah | 47 | Killed by an anti-personnel mine | the chest |
| 2 | Mutaib Aboud Salem Sultan | 4 | Killed by an anti-personnel mine | Head |
| 3 | Jalal Aboud Salem Sultan | 7 | Killed by an anti-personnel mine | In the chest and neck |
| 4 | Moataz Aboud Salem Sultan | 20 | | Shrapnel in the legs and back |

LAHIJ GOVERNORATE

Mr. Hamoud Ahmed Mohammed Saif Al-Rahadi, 61, Mrs. Welayah Mohammed Salem Qaid, 58

On February 2, 2022, in the village of Al-Karib, Al-Qubaita district in Lahij governorate, Mr. Hammoud went with his wife to plow their land with an ox-drawn plow in Al-Karib mountain. Once they reached the land that the Houthi group had planted with a net of mines, some of them exploded, killing Hammoud and his wife, and the bull they were plowing with.

Mr. Hamoud Al-Rahadi is a professor, educational inspector and member of the Teachers Syndicate in Taiz. He worked in the Education Office in the governorate, and then moved to Al-Qubaita district to work in agriculture due to the deteriorating living conditions and the irregular payment of teachers' salaries.

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Mr. Hamoud Al-Rahadi is a professor, educational inspector and member of the Teachers Syndicate in Taiz

On August 4, 2015, in Tuban district of Lahj governorate, the three young men “Nasi, Abdo, and Saleh” were riding a wooden cart pulled by a camel. When they reached an area next to the Fifth Brigade camp, a landmine exploded, killing the first and second, and wounding the third. The Houthi group had taken control of the area in mid-2015, and then withdrew from it by the southern resistance.

| No. | Victim's Name | Age | Victim's Condition |
|-----|-------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Nasi Saleh Salem Ali | 33 | Killed in a landmine explosion |
| 2 | Abdo Awad Haidara | 34 | Killed in a landmine explosion |
| 3 | Saleh Salem Awad Nasser | 25 | The right eye is lost |

At 9:30 am, on July 8, 2016, Mrs. Rajaa went out with her son Mohammed, on an Eid visit to her daughter, from the village of Khelan to the village of Al-Karib in Al-Qubaita district of Lahj governorate. While they were crossing on foot in Najd Fadhil area, two anti-personnel mines exploded. When the explosion was heard, young Mahmoud rushed to the scene of the incident to provide assistance, and a third mine exploded, turning the Eid visit into a bloody tragedy. Witnesses of the incident confirmed to ACJ monitoring team that it was the Houthi group who planted mines in the roads during their control of the area to impede the movement of the Resistance members.

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*A third mine exploded,
turning the Eid visit into a
bloody tragedy*

| No. | Victim's Name | Sex | Age | Type of Injury |
|-----|-------------------------------|--------|-----|---|
| 1 | Raja Ahmed Thabet Saleh | Female | 42 | Amputation of the left foot below the knee |
| 2 | Mohammed Abdullah Jazem Bishr | Male | 19 | Amputation of the right foot below the knee |
| 3 | Mahmoud Mohammed Abdullah Ali | Male | 20 | Amputation of the right foot below the knee |

AL-JAWF GOVERNORATE

On Friday, February 9, 2018, a group of women, accompanied by their children, were going on donkeys to carry grass for livestock in Al Bayda area, Al Maslub district, Al Jawf governorate. A network of mines planted on the road exploded, killing two women and two children. It also caused the death of three donkeys. Upon hearing the explosion, a passerby in his car rushed to the scene to try to rescue them. An anti-vehicle mine exploded killing him and destroying his car.

| No. | Victim's Name | Sex | Age | Victim's Condition |
|-----|---------------------------------|--------|-----|------------------------|
| 1 | Fatima Ali Hassan Faran | Female | 50 | Died of mine explosion |
| 2 | Hamda Mohammed Nasser Al-Zeraie | Female | 41 | Died of mine explosion |
| 3 | Mohammed Ali Mabkhout Ghorzah | Child | 12 | Died of mine explosion |
| 4 | Ahmed Ali Mabkhout Ghorzah | Child | 10 | Died of mine explosion |
| 5 | Hussein Mohammed Saleh Ghorzah | Male | 32 | Died of mine explosion |

On October 22, 2020, the citizen Muhammad Akrou Al-Sha'eri (45) was killed, Muhammad Al-Sha'eri (40) and Ali Al-Sha'eri (35) were injured, as a result of a mine explosion in their car in the Al-Yatama district of Al-Jawf governorate, and the car was completely destroyed.

On March 3, 2021, three civilians from one family were killed by a mine explosion in a car they were on on a desert road in the Al-Rayyan region, northeast of Al-Jawf.) years old, and Hamad Abdullah Lakrash Belaid (25), and the vehicle was completely destroyed.



THE DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY BY MINES

The effects of planting mines were not limited to killing, injuring and disabling people only, but also affecting private property, including means of transportation, farms and livestock. They were severely damaged by landmines of anti-vehicles, unexploded ordnance and explosive devices, which were planted extensively, randomly, and without necessity for planting them.

During the period from June 2014 to February 2022, the American Center for Justice (ACJ) managed to monitor and verify (425) cases of total destruction of various means of transportation, and (163) were partially destroyed. The Hodeida governorate had the highest percentage with (116) violations, followed by Taiz governorate with (106) violations. Al-Jawf governorate came in third place with (79) violations, followed by Marib governorate with (58) violations. In the fifth place, it came Al-Bayda governorate with (43) violations, followed by Lahj governorate with (36) violations, and in seventh place is Al-Dhale governorate with (35) violations, as shown in the table below.

334

334

2,185

2,185

As for farms, (334) farms were damaged, and for the livestock sector, the death of (2185) cattle was monitored and verified in (17) Yemeni governorates, as shown in the following table:

Table No. (2) shows the total losses and damages in means of transportation and farms left by mines

| Governorate | Damage to transportation | | | Damage to farms and livestock | | Totals |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| | Complete Destruction | Partial Destruction | The Total | Complete Destruction of Farms | Livestock death | |
| Taiz | 76 | 31 | 107 | 52 | 316 | 582 |
| Hodeida | 79 | 37 | 116 | 89 | 358 | 688 |
| Al-Baydha | 31 | 12 | 43 | 24 | 342 | 452 |
| Marib | 47 | 11 | 58 | 29 | 302 | 447 |
| Al-Jawf | 60 | 19 | 79 | 21 | 162 | 341 |
| Hajjah | 5 | 2 | 7 | 23 | 152 | 189 |
| Lahj | 26 | 10 | 36 | 11 | 149 | 232 |
| Sana'a | 7 | 1 | 8 | 14 | 109 | 139 |
| Al Dhale' | 29 | 6 | 35 | 17 | 42 | 129 |
| Aden | 28 | 14 | 42 | 6 | 34 | 124 |
| Ibb | 8 | 2 | 10 | 2 | | 22 |
| Saada | 4 | 1 | 5 | 20 | 91 | 121 |
| Shabwa | 14 | 9 | 23 | 7 | 48 | 128 |
| Abyan | 7 | 8 | 15 | 7 | 64 | 101 |
| Dhamar | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 10 | 17 |
| Amran | 2 | | 2 | | | 4 |
| Total | 425 | 163 | 588 | 334 | 2185 | 3694 |

CASES OF PROPERTY DESTRUCTION

(Means of Transportation)

On August 8, 2015, an anti-vehicle landmine exploded in the highway in the village of Al-Manady in Al-Dhalea governorate, while the car carrying “Ahmed Muthanna Nasser, Mahmoud Ahmed Mahmoud, and Tawfiq Ahmed Muthanna” was passing through, killing all of them. Completely destroying the car. Eyewitnesses told ACJ that the Houthis and Saleh’s forces planted the mines, when they were in control of the sites overlooking the highway.

In the morning of October 18, 2017, the residents of Qayfa in Al-Qurashiya district of Al-Bayda governorate heard a huge explosion on the road called Jabal Samah in Dhi Kalb

Al Asfal area. The residents rushed to the scene of the explosion, and there they saw an anti-vehicle mine exploded in a transport vehicle carrying five civilians from Abu Surima family. The explosion destroyed the car and killed everybody in it. The victims are Mohammed Mohammed Abu Suraima, Sam Salem Abu Suraima, Naif Saleh Abu Suraima, Habib Muhad Abu Suraima, and Nawaf Hassan Abu Suraima. Witnesses reported that the mine was planted by the Houthi group that controls the area to impede the movement of Resistance members, regardless to the risks exposed to the civilians.

On May 8, 2021, on the road linking the districts of Al-Durayhimi and Beit Al-Faqih, Heba’s family was aboard their Hilux car, when an anti-vehicle mine cut off their path and the car exploded, killing and wounding everyone who was in the car and destroying it completely.

| No. | Victim’s Name | Sex | Age | Injuries |
|-----|-------------------------|--------|-----|-----------------------|
| 1 | Maryam Mohammed Ahmed | Female | 35 | Died of a mine injury |
| 2 | Ghadeer Dawood Mohammed | Female | 18 | Died of a mine injury |
| 3 | Muhammed Daoud Mohammed | Child | 12 | Died of a mine injury |
| 4 | Salwa Sultan Heba | Child | 10 | Died of a mine injury |
| 5 | Ghaith Qassem Hassan | Male | 33 | serious injury |
| 6 | Khadija Qassem Heba | Female | 25 | serious injury |
| 7 | Nima Qassem Heba | Female | 23 | Medium injury |
| 8 | Radwan Qassem Heba | Male | 18 | Medium injury |
| 9 | Qassem Heba Hassan | Male | 60 | serious injury |



CHAPTER II:

VIOLATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH MINES- PLANTING

Planting mines by the Houthi group does not merely aim at killing, wounding, disabling and disfiguring thousands of civilians, and destroying property, but also there are some other accompanying violations, as serious as these ones. They violate the rights guaranteed to victims under the constitution, Yemeni laws and international covenants, a part of which is included in this chapter, as follows:

FIRST: FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF CITIZENS

The Houthi group seeks to randomly plant mines in roads, pastures, village entrances and homes, which causes the forced displacement of families from their homes, for fear of death with these blind and hidden weapons. The mines also prevent families displaced by the fighting from returning safely to their homes. The American Center for Justice (ACJ) documented (30) cases of displacement of families in Jabal Habashi district in Taiz governorate who were forced to flee because of the mines planted at the entrances and exits of villages. It also documented (20) cases of forced displacement due to mines in Hodeida

governorate during the height of military operations in 2018. In Marib governorate, during the Houthis' continuous attack since the beginning of 2021, the team documented (111) cases of forced displacement caused by mines. Moreover, the team documented testimonies of injured victims returning to villages in Tuhayta. The testimonies proves that mines were planted in the roads in different forms, such as stones and trees, many of which exploded in cars while they were returning to those villages. Here are two testimonies cited as an example:



CASE 1:

At nine in the morning on Friday December 25, 2015, in the village of Al-Mashjab in the Al-Misrakh district of Taiz governorate, during the clashes that took place between the Houthi group and the Resistance forces, the victims decided to leave their village to escape the hell of fighting. Therefore, they rented a Hilux car, and upon the arrival of the car to the road between the village and the market, a mine exploded in the car. The driver was trying to stop the car after it veered off the road; however, another mine exploded in the car, killing (4) people, including (3) women turned into lifeless bodies and scattered body parts, and (6) others, including (3) children, were wounded.

The following table shows the data of the victims:

| No. | Victim Name | Sex | Age | Status | No. | Victim Name | Sex | Age | Status |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----------|-----|--------|-----|----------------------------------|-----------|-----|--------|
| 1 | Bushra Hazza Mutee' | feminine | 25 | Death | 6 | Hamdi Khaled Mutee' | Male | 20 | Injury |
| 2 | Mohamed Abdel Khaleq Abdel Jalil | Male | 22 | Death | 7 | Mutasem Emad Abdel Qader | Baby boy | 4 | Injury |
| 3 | Asmaa Abdulrahman Ahmed | baby girl | 10 | Death | 8 | Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al-Hashidi | Baby boy | 5 | Injury |
| 4 | Khadija Abdul Rahman Al Hashidi | baby girl | 12 | Death | 9 | Doaa Abdul Rahman Ahmed | baby girl | 3 | Injury |
| 5 | Khaled Motee (car driver) | Male | 40 | Injury | 10 | Hazza Yahya Al Hashidi | Male | 60 | Injury |

CASE 2:

At the beginning of 2017, the combat battles raged in Al-Mukha district between the joint forces and the forces affiliated with the Houthis, which caused the displacement of many families for fear of death. Among those families, the family of Ahmed Tawil who was displaced to Al-Jerahi district. After the joint forces took control in the city of Mukha, the Tawaili family longed for their village in the Al-Rama area in Mukha district. On March 2, 2017, the family decided to return to their home. So, they got into a car, and as soon as they reached the village, a landmine exploded

in the car, killing the child Uday Ahmed Mohsen Tawil (13 years), and wounding his sister, Rawda (25 years), and his mother, Fatima Al-Wasabi (50 years), and the baby girl Anisa Abdullah Murad (3 years). In a blink of an eye, the blind killer who is present in more than one place is the one who determines who displaces and who returns to the homeland, regardless of the victim's right to choose.

SECOND: BANNING CIVILIANS FROM RETURNING HOME SAFELY

The random and massive planting of mines, without a military necessity required by the Houthi group, in villages, countryside, and towns from which the group withdrew in the governorates of Taiz, Marib, and Hodeida, caused dozens of deaths and injuries.

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) monitored and documented (33) violations of this type in the aforementioned governorates, (4) of which are described below:

CASE 1:

On December 14, 2021, the Bakhsheesh family returned to their home located in Hays district, Hodeida governorate, after the village was liberated from the Houthi group by the giants forces. After a journey of forced displacement that lasted over three years from their home, they all returned with longing and passion to their home, which they had always missed in the displacement camps. Once they entered the house, they began to clean it and remove

the waste. The children went up to the roof of the house and found a doll they were not familiar with. They took the doll and shook it right and left in great joy of returning to their house, without realizing that this doll is nothing but a mine that was deliberately left on the roof of the house to destroy their smiles forever. It took less than an hour until that doll exploded, killing (2) children and wounding (3) at the same time.

Witnesses to the incident confirmed to ACJ that, before withdrawing from the villages, the Houthi group deliberately placed mines inside houses in various forms, including toys or household cooking utensils with the aim of causing harm to civilians.

| No. | Victim's Name | Sex | Age | Victim's Condition |
|-----|-------------------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Ishaq Ali Suleiman Bakhsheesh | Child | 11 | Dead due to a mine injury |
| 2 | Nader Ali Khaddam Hakami | Child | 8 | Dead due to a mine injury |
| 3 | Mohammed Nasser Mohamed Fakih | Child | 8 | Severe injury by mine fragments |
| 4 | Tariq Mahmoud Bakhsheesh | Male | 18 | Medium injury by mine fragments |
| 5 | Mohammed Ali Khaddam | Male | 18 | Medium injury by mine fragments |

CASE 2:

Mr. Saleh Al-Qutaish and his family members used to live in the Ashraf area near the city of Marib. In the beginning of 2015, the Houthi group took control of the Al-Ashraf area, so Saleh Al-Qutaish and his family members fled to Marib. However, after the National Army took control of the Al-Ashraf, the Al-Qutaish family and others rushed to return to their homes. When family members entered the house and were checking it, a landmine exploded inside one of the rooms and tied up to the door, which led to the killing of Munif Musleh Al-Qutaish, Salha Saleh Al-Qutaish, and Layqa Salih Al-Qutaish, and the girl Hind was seriously injured.

CASE 3:

Ms. Hind Youssef Ahmed Mohamed (47 years old).

At 10:00 am, on Wednesday, October 25, 2019, Hind went to examine her house in the village of Al-Shaqab, Al-Mawadim district, in Taiz governorate, from which she was displaced two years ago after it was bombed by the Houthi group, about six months before the date of this incident. When Hind arrived next to her house, she found that there was only one room left. She opened the door to her destroyed house when an anti-personnel landmine exploded causing her left leg to be amputated. After she was injured, one of her relatives rushed to carry her on foot for two hours, during which he was exposed to fire by Houthi elements stationed in Al-Salihin mount overlooking Al-Shaqab. They were able to continue walking to Al-Najd village, then she was transferred by car to Al-Safwa Hospital in Taiz city.

”

She opened the door to her destroyed house when an anti-personnel landmine exploded causing her left leg to be amputated

CASE 4:

On December 20, 2022, after four years of displacement, the sons of uncle Taher with their family returned to their village called Al-Haed in Al-Durayhimi district, south of Hodeida governorate, after four years of diaspora in the displacement camps. The village was retaken by the joint forces on the western coast after it was controlled by the Houthi group. Only a few days later, their two children went out to play next to the house, when a landmine exploded, killing the child Ali Mohammed Maqbool Taher (15 years) and Mohammed Maqbool Taher (18 years). That tragedy turned the joy of returning home into a wound that will not heal easily.

”

tragedy turned the joy of returning home into a wound that will not heal easily.



THIRD: PREVENTING CIVILIANS FROM REACHING PASTURES, FARMS AND DRINKING WELLS

Mines claimed the lives of dozens of civilians and caused serious injuries to others in several governorates, most notably Hodeida, Taiz and Marib, as they were deliberately planted on roads leading to villages, pastures, farms and drinking water sources. The American Center for Justice (ACJ) documented (33) violations of this type in the governorates of Hodeida, Taiz, Marib and Al-Bayda, which caused the death of (17) people, and the injury of (21) others with serious injuries and burns, all of which occurred while the victims were going to their farms,

grazing livestock or obtaining drinking water. Below, we show (4) of these cases as follows:

CASE 1: On January 23, 2022, an anti-personal mine exploded while three children were grazing sheep in the village of Al-Hanjala, in Hays district, south of Hodeida. As a result, two children, Adel Ali Jamae (10 years old), and Yousef Hassan Jomae (14 years old) were killed, while Musa Hussein Jomae (12 years old) were injured.

CASE 2:

At 5:00 pm, on May 4, 2016, while Jamila Qassem Mahyoub Lutf was grazing her sheep in the Jarajer mount in Taiz governorate. With sunset and approaching the time of returning to the house, she walked with her sheep in a narrow pedestrian path. She passed between two stones from the same mountain when she ran over a mine and it exploded, throwing her leg away in the air. Then, she fell down to the ground and the fragments of the mine spread over the rest of her entire body. After she was transferred to the hospital, her legs were amputated below the knee, and she became completely immobilized. It was her fate to end her life paralyzed because of a mine without the help of others. Eyewitnesses confirmed to (ACJ) that the Houthi group was controlling the Al-Jarajer mount, and they withdrew from it in mid-March 2016, but they planted mines in the pastures at the top of the mount.

CASE 3:

On May 3, 2018, at 10:00 am, Heila Salem Al-Awadi and Alia Saleh Al-Awadi were grazing their sheep in Shaab Karsh in Numan district of Al-Bayda governorate when a landmine exploded causing the two victims fractures, wounds and burns in separate parts of their bodies. The district witnessed battles between the National Army and the Houthi group, which ended with the latter control of the area at the end of 2021.

CASE 4:

The 8-year-old girl, Taqiya Abd Rabbo Daifallah, lives with her family in the village of Shajan of Mahelia district of Marib governorate. On July 13, 2020, while the child was going with her grandmother to fetch water from one of the wells close to the village, a landmine exploded, injuring her and her elderly grandmother, who were taken to the Authority Hospital in Marib. They both are still suffering from the effects of the injuries.

”

*It was her fate to end her life
paralyzed because of a mine
without the help of others*

”

*while going with her
grandmother to fetch water
from one of the wells close to
the village, a landmine exploded,
injuring her and her elderly
grandmother*

FOURTH: INJURY OF DEMINING PERSONNEL:

Most minefields are unmarked, so it has become common to find mines planted in agricultural fields, around irrigation systems, and in the forests adjacent to some villages, if the mines are not located within the villages themselves. For such reason, demining personnel themselves are at risk of death or injury. Seriously Injured For every (5,000) mines successfully removed so far, one demining expert was killed and two others were injured. ACJ monitored and documented the killing of (33) demining personnel working within the Masam project, and the wounding of (40) others with severe injuries, two of which are described below.

- On February 9, 2022, two experts in demining, Mohammed Saleh Al Dhaheri (35) and Murad Abdul-Salam Saeed Saleh

(33), were killed and one expert Khaled Waheeb Ali Qassem was injured by a booby trap explosion while they were working in demining within the Masam project in the Al-Aqd area of Hays district, south of Hodeida governorate.

- On March 8, 2022, in the Harib district, south of Marib, the survey team of the Masam project was exposed to a mine explosion while performing their tasks in surveying and demining. Two members of the team, Mohammed Ali Ali Al-Hiri and Mubin Sadiq Mohammed Sufyan, were injured. The explosion also caused almost total damage to the team car. It is worth noting that half of Harib area has been turned into minefields by the Houthis.



FIFTH: PREVENTING CHILDREN FROM ACCESSING OR RETURNING FROM SCHOOLS

Mines have prevented thousands of students from reaching or returning from their schools in several governorates because they were randomly planted in the roads and corridors leading to schools, especially public schools. Not to mention that the Houthi group deliberately emptied government schools, turning them into warehouses and laboratories for the manufacture of explosive devices.

During the reporting period, ACJ monitored (79) violations of this type in Hodeida, Taiz and Marib governorates, including the following two cases:

CASE 1: On February 4, 2019, in the village of Al-Qudbah in Al-Durayhimi district of Hodeida governorate, (3) school students, Hussein

Saleh Mallah (15), Ibrahim Abdul Latif (11), and Musa Adam Hassan (13), were on their way back from their school on a motorbike. When they reached the entrance to the village, a landmine exploded, killing all of them and cutting their bodies to pieces.

CASE 2: At 1:00 pm on November 1, 2017, a landmine exploded in the village of Alyan of the Khokha district in Hodeida governorate while the child Abdullah Abdo Ahmed was returning from school. The explosion led to his death on the spot. Witnesses of the incident confirmed to us that the village was controlled by the Houthi group before they withdrew from it and planted mines in the roads leading to villages and schools.



SIXTH: DENYING HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

Planting mines has effectively prevented humanitarian access and relief organizations from reaching needy communities along the western coast. These villages and towns included the districts of Al-Tuhayta and Mawza.

The ACJ team met the director of one of the local organizations, who complained about the difficulty of access and movement in rural villages and towns because landmines are heavily planted there along the road. These villages can only be reached through dirt roads, which are more dangerous than asphalt roads. Therefore, it constitutes an obstacle to the delivery of aid to the targeted and most vulnerable groups.

The international humanitarian law guarantees the protection of people who do not participate in armed conflicts, and considers the right to food and an adequate standard of living for a person and his family, a natural and inviolable right, and denial of humanitarian access in any form is classified as starvation of civilians, and a war crime according to Article (8/2 Paragraph B 25) of the Statute of the International Criminal Court.



SEVENTH: THE INJURY OF PASSENGERS COMING FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO YEMEN

their cars have been completely or partially damaged. The ACJ, through its monitors, collected information about (19) cases in which travelers were exposed to anti-vehicle mine explosions, which caused the total or partial destruction of their cars and different injuries of the passengers. We mention two cases as follows:

CASE 1:

Khabat district in Al-Mahwit and Hodeida. The passengers were variously injured and their cars were destroyed as shown in the photo below.

In late 2021, the Houthi group intensified the planting of mines on the desert road linking Harib district in the south of Marib and Bayhan in Shabwa governorate. This road is used by travelers back and forth between Saudi Arabia and Yemen. The group also planted mines in the roads in the desert linking Al-Jawf and Marib. As a result, many victims have fallen and

On January 9, 2022, on the road linking the districts of Harib and Bayhan, a network of mines exploded when three cars of passengers coming from Saudi Arabia to Al-



CASE 2:

On March 3, 2022, in Al-Farsha area of Harib district, east of Marib governorate, upon the return of the passenger Mr. Ahmed Saleh Al-Tuhayfi (44) and his son Mubarak (23) from exile in a neighboring country, a landmine exploded under their car. As a result, the car was destroyed and the explosion injured both passengers.

FINDINGS

1. Mines in Yemen is solely planted by the Houthi group in the armed conflict since 2015, and the group has been practicing it systematically in all the military sites the group controls, and in the areas and roads from which they withdraw.
2. The Houthi group manufactures anti-personnel mines with local expertise in factories it established using army equipment in the areas it controlled, and distributes and stores these mines in all areas, in violation of international agreements ratified by Yemen, which prohibit the manufacture, transfer and stockpiling of this type of mines.
3. It has been proven to the American Center for Justice (ACJ) that the Houthi group deliberately planted anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, in an indiscriminate manner, often without military necessity.
4. It was proven to ACJ that Ansar Allah (the Houthi group) used mine weapons with a retaliatory motive, without distinguishing between military and civilian targets.
5. Planting (anti-personnel and anti-vehicle) landmines by the Houthi group caused the death of (2,632) civilians, including (477) children and (168) women, and the injury of (3,387) others, including (730) children and (219) women, in a (17) Yemeni governorates.
6. 75% of mine casualties have been permanently disabled or disfigured throughout their lives.
7. Planting mines by Houthis has caused complete destruction of (425) different means of transportation while (163) were partially destroyed.
8. (33) Workers in the Masam Project for demining in Yemen, including (5) foreign experts, were killed, and (40) others were injured.
9. The Houthi planting of mines caused the total destruction of (334) farms and (2158) livestock deaths.
10. The Houthi group deliberately caused harm to civilians by planting anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines in roads, pastures, homes and drinking water wells.

11. Mines obstructed children's access to schools, prevented civilians from reaching pastures and farms, and prevented farmers and fishermen from accessing their businesses in several governorates in Yemen.
12. Planting mines by the Houthi group in villages and rural areas has forced civilians to be forcibly displaced, and has prevented and impeded humanitarian aid from reaching the most vulnerable groups.
13. The engineering teams of the Masam project, since the launch of the project on July 1, 2018, until the end of February 2022, managed to remove and destroy (322,789) mines, IEDs and unexploded ordnance.
14. The total area secured and cleared of mines by Masam teams until the end of February 2022 reached (30,837,206) square meters of Yemeni land rigged with unexploded ordnance, mines and explosive devices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

First: For the Ansar Allah group (Houthis)

1. Committing to the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights law relating to the protection of the right to life and physical integrity, and the guarantee of the right to private property.
2. Committing to the principles of the Ottawa Convention, which criminalizes the import, manufacture and planting of mines and explosive devices of any kind or form.
3. Immediately stopping the use of all types of imported or locally manufactured individual mine weapons.
4. Presenting maps of cities, villages, roads and all the places planted with mines, of any kind, to the government and the demining agencies in Yemen.
5. Providing serious contribution to clearing mines in the villages and cities under control, and on the confrontation lines, and placing warning signs in places where mines are expected to be planted randomly and difficult to identify, in a way that ensures the safety of civilians, and that no more innocent victims will fall.
6. Destroying the entire stock of these weapons, and committing legally and morally not to re-manufacture or import them again, under any justification.
7. Respecting Yemen's obligations regarding banning mines, and their non-use, circulation or stockpiling, and bear legal responsibility before the local and international courts for all violations of those conventions and treaties.

Recommendations for the Legitimate Government

1. Committing to the principles of international humanitarian law and human rights law related to protecting the right to life and physical integrity, guaranteeing the right to private property for all citizens, and taking all necessary legal measures to hold violators, individuals or groups, to account before the national or international courts, with emphasis that those crimes do not have a statute of limitations.
2. Conducting an actual field survey of all mined areas to know the extent of the mine disaster in Yemen, continuing the process of exploration and clearance, ensuring the knowledge of the fate of the quantities of mines that have been extracted so far, and supervising their complete destruction to ensure that they are not misused by any party in the short or long term, not to repeat the tragedy.
3. Improving demining efforts, including training and coordination between agencies working in this field.

4. Providing Adequate qualification of mine clearance workers and personnel, and providing them with advanced technical and preventive equipment that would enable them to deal with smart mines coated with insulating material and network mines that are difficult for engineering teams to remove or deal with.
5. Providing the necessary assistance to mine victims to facilitate their reintegration into society by the establishment of a model center for the implantation of prosthetic limbs, in order to save them the trouble of travelling abroad.
6. Compensating the families of the victims of landmines.
7. Providing the required support to the working and active parties in demining in Yemen.

Recommendations for the International Community:

1. Making serious and urgent step to stop the war in Yemen, restore political balance between all components, and reach a political settlement as agreed by Yemenis in the outcomes of the national dialogue, while ensuring that human rights violators in the country do not go unpunished.
2. Conducting an independent investigation into the excessive and indiscriminate use of mines by the Houthi group, often without military necessity, and in a flagrant violation of the provisions of the 1997 Ottawa Convention.
3. Including the military leaders involved in the crimes of killing civilians with mines in the list of sanctions produced by the Security Council.
4. Providing adequate support to the Yemeni government's efforts in the process of clearing mined villages and countryside.
5. Providing the necessary assistance to landmine victims to alleviate their suffering and save the lives of those with permanent disabilities and serious injuries.
6. Putting pressure on the Houthi group to immediately stop using mines and provide maps of the areas planted with these weapons.

Recommendations for Demining Actors in Yemen:

1. Continuing their efforts to clear mines, explosive devices and exploded ordnance to preserve the lives of civilians.
2. Reaching the rest of the areas that they have not yet accessed.

BLIND KILLER

A REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (ACJ)

that monitors and Documents killings, injuries and destruction of private property as a result of mines planted by the Houthi grou

4 APRIL 2022



MINES...BLIND KILLER

A REPORT PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN CENTER FOR JUSTICE (ACJ)

*that monitors and Documents killings, injuries and destruction of private property as a
result of mines from June 2014 to February 2022*

4 APRIL 2022

WHY?

While violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are widespread, and at a time when extremist groups, armed violence groups and Government authorities continue to commit violations and war in more than one country, the suffering of civilians has increased, the most heinous crimes against humanity have been committed and numerous disasters have led to a rise in the prevalence of crime and the absence of the rule of law, accountability and punishment. The American Center for Justice (ACJ) has therefore come to defend human rights, stand by the victims without discrimination, champion their causes, reduce further violations, promote the values of democracy and freedom, and consolidate the norms of peace.

The war in Yemen and the humanitarian catastrophe that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands, most of them women and children, is among the reasons for establishing ACJ to be among the most important institutions that adopt the protection and defense of human rights in this country that has been intensified by wars for several years.

WHERE?

The United States of America is considered the most influential actor in global decision-making, as well as the most important offices of the United Nations services, bodies and programs, together with international organizations and all human rights institutions with great reach and influence are based in the country and from which ACJ also chooses to be the base of its activities.

HOW ?

The American Center for Justice (ACJ) monitors, investigates and documents human rights violations, issues reports and provides legal support to victims to ensure that perpetrators do not enjoy impunity.

Moving rights issues in international forums and seeking decisions and positions that support and champion the victims of human rights violations in the international community and United Nations decision-makers will be a strong foundation and the basis for addressing all violations and breaches of domestic laws, international conventions and treaties.

The Center will also work on numerous programmes and offer a range of activities, including conferences and symposiums, as well as producing human rights reports that reflect and coordinate the real picture of human right. Then work on it in coordination with the centers, organizations and personalities that influence international decision-making.

WHO?

American Center for Justice (ACJ) Team is a group of experts, specialists and prominent human rights advocates and victims of violations. The team has many capacities and relationships that enable it to perform its functions appropriately in accordance with international standards. The Center has a number of consultants, researchers and field investigators in its target areas and within its scope of work.



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