



## Joint Statement on the International Day for Mine Awareness

### For All of Us: Warring Parties Must Eliminate the Weapons of Fear Planted in Yemen

#### Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition April 4, 2025

On this International Day for Mine Awareness, warring parties must recognize the devastating toll that landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) inflict on the future of Yemenis. While the world observes this day, Yemenis continue to endure a horrifying reality—landmines scattered across valleys, mountains, farmlands, homes, and roads. The **Justice 4 Yemen Pact Coalition** reminds all conflict parties that while the guns will eventually fall silent and the fighting will cease, the landmines and war remnants will remain as a lasting legacy of the conflict, instilling fear in communities and leaving behind crimes Yemenis will never forget.

This day also coincides with **Eid al-Fitr**, a time of celebration for Yemenis, yet thousands of families are instead mourning their lost loved ones or coping with disabilities caused by landmines and ERWs. In the past month alone, the **Yemeni Mine Action Center** documented multiple incidents, including the injury of an elderly woman tending her livestock in western **Taiz** and the death of two beekeepers in **Al-Durayhimi, Hodeidah**.

### A Grim Reality: Alarming Reports on Landmines in Yemen

Specialized reports highlight the alarming scale of the landmine crisis in Yemen. The **2024 Landmine Monitor Report** places Yemen among the worst-affected countries, ranking it among the top nations for landmine casualties and one of the most heavily mined by armed groups—specifically referring to the **Houthis**. Reports from international and local organizations working on the ground confirm that vast areas have been contaminated with thousands of landmines and ERWs.

As part of the first phase of the **Emergency Mine Action Project**, the **United Nations** announced that it has cleared over **23 million square meters** of land and removed nearly **635,000 pieces of explosive ordnance**. Meanwhile, **Project Masam** reported that from its



inception in **June 2018** until **March 14, 2025**, its teams have removed **484,949 landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), and improvised explosive devices (IEDs)**, clearing **65,875,624 square meters** of land in **government-controlled areas** alone. Additionally, **HALO Trust** confirmed the destruction of over **150 tons** of explosive ordnance and the mechanical clearance of **116,000 square meters** in **Aden and Taiz**.

## Devastating Human Cost in Marib and Across the Nation

The latest data on casualties in **Marib** alone is deeply troubling. A study titled *Fields of Silent Death* by **Marib Dam Foundation**, a member of the **Justice 4 Yemen Pact Coalition**, revealed that **28 civilians** were killed and **103 were injured** in landmine explosions between **early 2023 and October 2024**. Furthermore, the **Yemeni Minister of Human Rights** reported that **4,501 people** were killed and **5,083 injured** by landmines planted by **Houthis** between **September 2014 and the end of 2024**. In contrast, the **Houthi-controlled Mine Action Center** reported **228 casualties** from ERWs in **2024** alone.

## The Use of Landmines as a Weapon of War

Local and international reports confirm the **Houthis'** use of landmines as a strategic weapon in the conflict. Yemeni civil society has also raised serious concerns over **UN funding** for Houthi mine-clearance efforts, given the group's continued deployment of landmines. Any international support for demining in Yemen must be accompanied by **strict oversight** to ensure the proper use of resources and effective results.

## Recommendations:

1. **Immediate Halt to Landmine Deployment** – The **Houthis and all other parties** must immediately cease landmine and explosive ordnance deployment and provide maps of contaminated areas.
2. **Accountability for UN Assistance** – The **United Nations must cease its support for Houthi demining efforts** unless there is clear evidence of compliance, and all parties must be held accountable for their mine clearance obligations.



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3. **Increased International Support** – The **international community must mobilize greater support** for demining organizations on the ground, as well as for **civil society organizations** engaged in victim documentation, protection, and awareness campaigns.

### **Signatory Organizations:**

- **Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations**
- **Musaala Organization**
- **Al-Amal Women’s and Sociocultural Foundation Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development**
- **Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism**
- **Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children**
- **Studies and Economics Media Center**
- **Watch 4 Human Rights**
- **Abductees’ Mothers Association**
- **SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties**