



Joint Statement on the International Day for Mine Awareness

Landmines in Yemen: An Ongoing Crime and Lives Suspended Until Further Notice

Justice for Yemen Pact Coalition

4 April 2026

On the International Day for Mine Awareness, the [Justice for Yemen Pact Coalition](#) renews its call to all parties to the conflict to recognize the enduring human cost of landmines and explosive remnants of war. These continue to claim Yemeni lives and threaten livelihoods. Despite a decline in military operations in some areas, casualties have not ceased. Civilians are repeatedly harmed while carrying out the most basic daily activities. These incidents are not “accidental,” but rather the direct result of indiscriminate mine-laying, in violation of **international humanitarian law** (<https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/war-and-law/ihl.htm>).

What is unfolding in Yemen is not merely contamination by landmines, but a systematic pattern of embedding danger into civilian life. Millions of mines are scattered across roads, valleys, farms, and residential areas—preventing the return of displaced populations, obstructing livelihoods, and imposing a constant climate of fear on local communities. Civilians—especially women and children—remain at grave risk.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war are not just weapons of conflict; they are a long-term legacy of fear and suffering. Even with political or military progress, these silent threats will remain a lasting consequence of the conflict and a continuing harm to future generations. This year’s commemoration comes amid a deepening humanitarian crisis, compounded by severe flooding that has further exacerbated vulnerabilities.

[Field reports](#) indicate that incidents continue to occur on a near-daily basis across several governorates, including Taiz, Al Hudaydah, Marib, and Hajjah—reflecting the scale and persistence of the threat.

According to recent international reporting by [Human Rights Watch](#) and the [Landmine Monitor](#), Yemen remains among the countries most severely affected by landmines, both in terms of casualties and the extent of contamination.

Demining actors continue their work under extremely challenging conditions. While millions of square meters of land have been cleared and hundreds of thousands of landmines and unexploded ordnance removed, the scale of the problem still far exceeds available capacity. Current international support mechanisms also raise serious concerns regarding effectiveness, particularly in the absence of strict oversight to ensure that assistance is not exploited by parties that continue to lay mines.

At the national level, data from [local institutions](#) confirm the persistence of the threat, particularly in conflict-affected areas such as Marib Governorate. Landmines remain a major barrier to the return of displaced persons and the resumption of agricultural and pastoral activities, resulting in ongoing human and material losses.



The Justice for Yemen Pact Coalition affirms that any international support for mine action programs must be conditioned on transparency and accountability, and directed in ways that ensure the protection of civilians and prevent the reproduction of harm. Mine clearance is not only an urgent humanitarian necessity—it is a foundational step toward achieving sustainable peace in Yemen. Without safe land, there can be no meaningful return, development, or future.

Recommendations

- The immediate and unconditional cessation of the use of landmines and improvised explosive devices by all parties, full compliance with international humanitarian law, and the provision of accurate and comprehensive maps of contaminated areas.
- The United Nations and its partners should establish an independent international monitoring mechanism to oversee demining activities, ensuring transparency and accountability, and linking support to measurable compliance.
- The international community should increase funding for mine action programs and support civil society organizations working in awareness, documentation, and victim advocacy.
- Expand support for mine victims, including medical care, psychosocial support, rehabilitation, and economic empowerment to ensure full reintegration.
- Support local mine risk education initiatives, particularly in affected communities and areas of return.

Signatory Organizations

1. Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)
2. Mosa'ala Organization
3. Amal Women's and Socioeconomic Foundation
4. Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development
5. Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
6. Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children (CSWC)
7. Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)
8. Watch for Human Rights Organization
9. Abductees' Mothers Association
10. SAM for Rights and Liberties