



The Future of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention

Between the ban reality and its impact on human rights



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Preamble

Millions of landmines were planted decades ago all over the world in various places, including Cambodia, Mozambique, Angola and Afghanistan. These landmines have killed thousands and changed the lives of thousands of others forever. Mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices threaten the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in society, such as women, farmers, children and humanitarian aid workers who are in desperate need.

Landmine survivors also often suffer from a permanent disability with severe social, psychological and economic consequences. In addition to the direct impact on the people killed or injured, the victim's family members are also affected, especially if the family is the breadwinner. Members of mine-affected communities are paying a heavy price as they lose their livelihoods, cannot access fields and suffer economic disruption. Landmines and unexploded ordnance are also global problems, but it is difficult to measure their exact size. No one knows the real number of mines laid, the number of people affected thereby, or the size of the areas infested.

Based on this threat, civil society demanded in the early 1990s that the United Nations need to work towards developing a global legal mechanism against the use of anti-personnel mines, which led to the adoption of the Mine Ban Convention in 1997 and other basic texts. Today, many countries have completely eliminated mines, and others are on their way to doing so. The United Nations also works with national authorities, international and regional organizations, and in partnership with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to reduce the humanitarian, social and economic threats posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war.



Hence comes the interest of the Global Coalition for the Limitation of Armaments (GCLA) to present this research paper on:

First: The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Ottawa 1997.





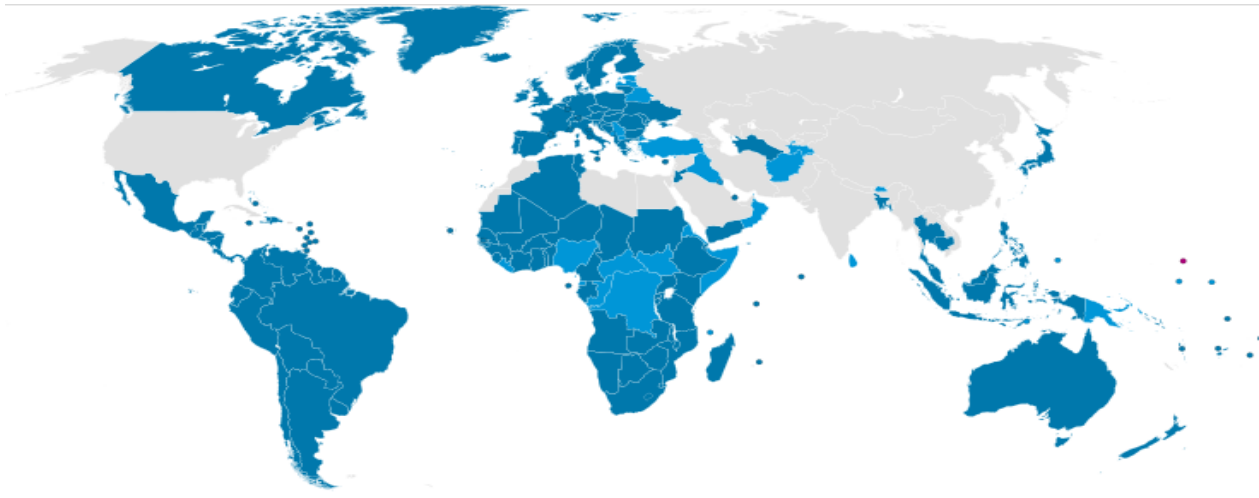
Second: the Efforts of the United Nations to Ban Landmines.

Third: the Actual Reality of Banning and Destroying Landmines.

Fourth: Landmines and Human Rights.

First: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, Ottawa 1997

The mine ban is based on a number of important principles in international humanitarian law, such as the principle denying the parties to an armed conflict the right to choose the methods and means of fighting, the principle prohibiting recourse in armed conflicts to the use of weapons, missiles, equipment and methods of warfare that are likely, or of their nature, to cause excessive harm or unnecessary suffering to the civilian population, and the principle requiring a distinction between civilians and combatants. International humanitarian law seeks to limit, as far as possible, the magnitude of the destruction and suffering inflicted on the civilian population. The basic principles applicable to landmines state that soldiers may not use any means to achieve their objective, but there are limits to this. A balance or proportionality must be achieved between military necessity and the consequences for the civilian population, and efforts have been made to place restrictions on the use of landmines¹.



Throughout the nineties of the 20th century, international governmental and non-governmental organizations worked to reach a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel landmines, and to deliver assistance to the victims of these mines and to the communities

¹- حماية الاطفال في القانون الدولي الانساني، الموسوعة الجزائرية، 2018، الرابط <https://bit.ly/3PQArzt>





affected by them, these efforts resulted in the signing of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines, "Ottawa" 1997.

The Convention banning anti-personnel landmines was adopted by the United Nations on September 18, 1997, proposed for signature on December 3, 1997, and entered into force on March 1, 1999. To date, the Convention has been signed by 133 countries and ratified by 164 States Parties to the Landmine Ban Convention, and one country, which is The Marshall Islands, has not ratified the convention. **Speaking of the Arab countries**, 12 countries (Algeria - Comoros - Iraq - Jordan - Kuwait - Mauritania - Sultanate of Oman - Qatar - Palestine - Sudan - Tunisia - Yemen) ratified. Another 10 countries did not join or sign (Lebanon-Syria-Saudi Arabia-Bahrain-UAE-Egypt-Libya-Morocco-Djibouti-Somalia).²

The United Nations and the International Community Aimed at Adopting this Agreement to:

- Ending the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines that kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and unarmed civilians, especially children, hinder economic development and reconstruction, prevent refugees and internally displaced persons from returning home, and cause other dire consequences years after they were planted.
- Believing that it is necessary to make every effort to contribute in an effective and coordinated manner to address the challenge of removing anti-personnel mines planted in various parts of the world, and ensuring their destruction.
- Is willing to do its utmost efforts to provide assistance for the care and rehabilitation of mine victims, including their social and economic reintegration.
- Recognizing that a total ban on anti-personnel mines would also be an important confidence-building measure³.

Based on these objectives, the Convention approved a number of general obligations represented in the provisions of Article 1, including:-

1. Each State Party, under any circumstances, undertakes not to:
 - a) Use anti-personnel mines.

² -2 اتفاقية حظر الألغام الأرضية المضادة للأفراد، الرابط، https://treaties.unoda.org/t/mine_ban

³ -3 راجع ديباجة الاتفاقية على الرابط، <http://www.icbl.org/media/605063/treatyarabic.pdf>





- b) Develop or produce anti-personnel mines or possess them in any other way, or store, keep or transfer them to anyone, directly or indirectly.
- c) Aid, encourage or induce anyone, in any way, to carry out activities prohibited to a State Party under this Agreement.

2. Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of this Convention.

Despite these obligations, Article 3 provided for a number of exceptions, as follows:

1. Notwithstanding the general obligations under Article 1, a number of antipersonnel mines may be retained or transferred for the purposes of developing and training in mine detection, clearance or destruction techniques, and the number of such mines shall not exceed the absolute minimum number necessary for the above-mentioned purposes.
2. The transportation of anti-personnel mines for the purpose of destruction is permitted⁴.

Hence, it can be said that the Landmine Ban Convention is a great addition to international humanitarian law, with its detailed rules dealing with the prohibition of this type of weapon, and it was an example of the success that humanitarian mobilization can achieve in favor of war victims, by setting an international legal standard that prohibits landmines. Great hopes are now pinned on the behavior of states in abiding by the provisions of that convention to protect civilians, especially children, from suffering and pain caused by wars. The United Nations has followed it up with a number of efforts to monitor the implementation by member states of measures to ban and destroy stockpiles of landmines.

Second: The Efforts of the United Nations to Ban Landmines

Mine action is not limited to removing landmines only, but also has the effect of increasing efforts to protect people from danger and help victims to achieve self-sufficiency, help them become active members of their communities, and provide them with opportunities for stability and sustainable development. Mine action aims to identify and reduce the impacts and risks of landmines and explosive hazards to a level that is safe for personnel.⁵

⁴- راجع المواد المذكورة من الاتفاقية على الرابط، <http://www.icbl.org/media/605063/treatyarabic.pdf>

⁵- الاجراءات المتعلقة بالألغام، عمليات الأمم المتحدة لحفظ السلام، الرابط، <https://peacekeeping.un.org/ar/mine-action>





That is why the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) was established in 1997 and performs the following:-

- 1. Lead, coordinate, and implement United Nations efforts to eliminate landmines and explosive hazards and mitigate their impact on people's lives:** the United Nations Department has contributed to saving lives and protecting livelihoods in conflict-torn communities including the Abyei region (Sudan and South Sudan), and Afghanistan Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, State of Palestine, Somalia, Sudan (including Darfur), South Sudan, Syria, and Western Sahara Territory.⁶

For example, the many conflicts and the conflict in Libya since April 2019 have exacerbated the level of ERW contamination and ammunition management issues. More than 3 million square meters of land south of Tripoli has recently been designated as potential or confirmed danger areas, where the use of heavy weapons in urban areas has caused widespread damage to homes, markets, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure. The use of heavy weapons also impedes the safe return of internally displaced persons and the access of humanitarian workers and early recovery. The number of internally displaced persons is estimated at 168,011; it is worth noting that the prospect of safe return is virtually non-existent unless non-technical and technical surveys, EOD identification and clearance missions are carried out in conflict areas. UNMAS activities contribute to the implementation of the October 23, 2020 ceasefire agreement, humanitarian operations, stabilization and reconciliation activities, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

An UNMAS March 2022 report showed that since 2016 more than 96,000 explosive items have been destroyed or safely stored through EOD missions, and more than 297,000 people have received explosive ordnance risk education, including 197,476 children and 99,891 adults to help them live more safely with the threat of explosive remnants of war. In addition, UNMAS has provided risk awareness training to 280 UN personnel since 2019 to increase knowledge and promote safe behavior.⁷

Iraq is also considered one of the most contaminated countries in the world with explosive ordnance; it has approximately 2,850 square kilometers of recorded contaminated areas,

6- الألغام الأرضية والمتفجرات من مخلفات الحروب تقتل أو تجرح آلاف الأشخاص كل عام، تليجراف، سبتمبر 2021، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/3NCLTwE>

7- LIBYA, UNMAS, March 2022, link, <https://www.unmas.org/en/programmes/libya>





including extensive and complex contamination in areas recaptured from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Across Iraq, 27% of explosive ordnance contamination was found in agricultural areas, which prevents the use of land for agricultural activities, and 21% is found in infrastructure, which impedes reconstruction efforts and access to infrastructure for services and economic opportunities, as well as with an additional 20% found in roads - challenging the country's interconnectivity. According to the Landmine Division report from January 1 to February 28, 2022: 1,684 Explosive Remnants of War, 505 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), including 68 Victim Actuated IEDs removed in areas recovered.⁸

2. **This mechanism works to achieve peace and promote human rights:** Mine action is a critical enabler for post-conflict stabilization, peacebuilding, and development efforts. UNMAS promotes gender equality and women's empowerment and creates livelihood opportunities through targeted measures from hiring female technical experts to training women deminers. The department is also working under the UN Gender Guidelines for Mine Action Programs 2019 to integrate the different needs of women, girls, men, and boys.

Women are more than 25% at UNMAS duty stations and more than 63% at UNMAS headquarters. The United Nations and its partners seek to include women and men in demining work; it aims to provide the highest level of mine action services and to respond to the needs of all members of society, regardless of their gender⁹.

Banning and destroying antipersonnel landmines can be a valuable peacebuilding tool and increase peace and security. For example, Greece and Turkey, longtime rivals in border disputes, have used their shared commitment to accede to the Mine Ban Treaty as a confidence-building measure. Some countries have joined the Mine Ban Treaty, despite ongoing internal conflicts, such as Afghanistan, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some countries, such as Cyprus, have joined the treaty, and although they do not have control over the area, they say it is under their jurisdiction¹⁰.

Third: The Actual Reality of Banning and Destroying Landmines

⁸ - IRAQ, UNMAS, March 2022, link, <https://www.unmas.org/en/programmes/iraq>

⁹ - الاجراءات المتعلقة بالألغام، عمليات الامم المتحدة لحفظ السلام، الرابط، <https://peacekeeping.un.org/ar/mine-action>

¹⁰ - Arguments for the Ban, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), link, <http://www.icbl.org/en-gb/problem/arguments-for-the-ban.aspx>





According to article IV of the 1997 Ottawa Mine Ban Convention: Each State Party undertakes to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible but not later than four years after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party¹¹.

The Landmine Monitor 2021 annual report recorded no less than 7,073 casualties caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war during 2020, compared to 5,853 in 2019. More than half of those killed or maimed in 2020 were children.

According to the Landmine Monitor 2021 report, Myanmar government forces continue to use anti-personnel mines in 2021, while non-state armed groups use them in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Several international organizations are also interested in reviewing allegations of new landmines being used during the late 2020 conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. In Syria, there were no less than 2,729 new landmine victims in 2020. New landmine victims were identified in 53 other countries and regions in 2020¹².

- During 2020, the States Parties to the Convention, according to Landmine Monitor statistics, destroyed more than 55 million anti-personnel mines from their stockpiles, including the destruction of more than 106,500 mines.
- Sri Lanka completed the destruction of its stockpile of landmines in 2021, bringing the total number of countries that announced the completion of the destruction of its stockpile to 94.
- Greece and Ukraine continue to violate the agreement as both have missed deadlines for completing stockpile destruction (2008 and 2010 respectively).
- Two countries have approximately 3.6 million anti-personnel mines that must still be destroyed. Ukraine has 3.3 million mines, and Greece has 343,413 mines.

63 States Parties reported that they maintain a total of more than 135 antipersonnel mines for training and research purposes, including 30 countries that each retain more than 1,000 mines, where:-

- Chile destroyed its remaining mines held from mid-2020 to October 2021.

¹¹ - راجع نص المادة الرابعة من الاتفاقية على الرابط، <http://www.icbl.org/media/605063/treatyarabic.pdf>

¹² - Landmines: US Should Support Global Ban, HRW, 10 November 2021, link, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/10/landmines-us-should-support-global-ban>





- Seven States Parties have never reported the consumption of any mines held for permitted purposes since the Convention's entry into force for them: Burundi, Cape Verde, Djibouti, Nigeria, Oman, Senegal, and Togo.

It was reported that from mid-2020 until October 2021, new use of antipersonnel mines was detected by the government forces of one country, Myanmar, which is not a party to the Mine Ban Treaty. In addition, there are indications of new use of antipersonnel mines during the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in late 2020. Non-state armed groups have also used antipersonnel mines in at least six countries during the mentioned period: Afghanistan, Colombia, India, Myanmar, Nigeria, and Pakistan. as well as unconfirmed reports of sporadic use of mines by non-state armed groups in Cameroon, Egypt, Niger, the Philippines, Thailand, Tunisia, and Venezuela¹³.

Obstacles to implementing the Landmine Ban Treaty

Landmines alone are not a threat to the security and safety of people in conflict areas. Unexploded ordnance, grenades, and unexploded ordnance are bigger problems than mines in conflict areas. About 10% of explosives in armed conflicts do not explode, which complicates the demining process. Consequently, demining agencies encounter more unexploded ordnance than mines during demining operations. If these weapons are included with mines in the global estimates, it is difficult to imagine the extent of human losses and the expected global pollution of the environment¹⁴.

The lack of commitment by states to ban and destroy stockpiles of landmines is also the most important obstacle facing the agreement, as non-compliance is not limited to use only but also production. International reports have confirmed the presence of 12 countries as producers of antipersonnel mines: China, Cuba, India, Iran, Myanmar, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, the United States of America, and Vietnam. Russia and the USA are also developing and testing new landmine systems. Despite the focus on anti-vehicle mines, these systems may include victim-activated components. Russia has also revealed the production of a new type of antipersonnel mine that has been in development since at least 2015, the seismically activated POM-3¹⁵.

In addition to non-compliance, there are a number of technical and procedural obstacles that impede the implementation of the agreement, including:

¹³ - تقرير مرصد الألغام الأرضية 2021، الرابط، <http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3317430/LM2021-Press-Release-AR.pdf>

¹⁴ - الألغام الأرضية وحقوق الإنسان، مركز آدم للدفاع عن الحقوق والحريات، الرابط، <https://ademrights.org/news121>

¹⁵ - تقرير مرصد الألغام الأرضية 2021، الرابط، <http://www.the-monitor.org/media/3317430/LM2021-Press-Release-AR.pdf>





- International staff faced a lack of funding and difficulties in obtaining entry visas to some mine-affected countries.
- Challenges facing importing demining equipment are among the obstacles to effective humanitarian demining.
- Challenges in mine action include a lack of regular coordination between government agencies, a lack of a central data collection mechanism, and limited data collection.
- Decisions about where to spread are based on reports from the population rather than survey data or research analyses.¹⁶

Based on this, the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty comprehensively prohibits the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of antipersonnel mines. It asks states to destroy stockpiles, clear all mined areas, and assist landmine survivors. Under the Mine Ban Treaty, 94 state parties destroyed more than 55 million landmines in their arsenals. Sri Lanka completed the destruction of its stockpile landmines in 2021. Greece and Ukraine violate the treaty after missing deadlines for stockpile destruction. In addition, 31 countries have completed clearance of mine-affected areas, while another 60 countries and areas contaminated with landmines are not cleared¹⁷.

Fourth: Landmines and Human Rights

The Mine Ban Convention is of historic significance thanks to its adoption and human rights-centered approach. Not only is the Mine Ban Treaty one of the most widely ratified disarmament treaties, but it has generated a firm conviction that the use of landmines cannot be justified and should never be laid under any circumstances.

On the positive side, we find that:

- The Convention changed international positions and international law regarding the prohibition of landmines. More importantly, it demonstrated unequivocally how an international agreement can generate greater respect and protection for fundamental rights.
- Its human rights-based approach is an essential part of her legacy. As it is one of the first Conventions to recognize the rights of survivors with disabilities, recognizing

¹⁶ - ليبيا: ألغام أرضية ومخلفات حربية أخرى تقتل المدنيين، هيومن رايتس واتش، 24 أبريل 2022، الرابط،

<https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2022/04/27/libya-landmines-other-war-hazards-killing-civilians>

¹⁷ - Landmines: US Should Support Global Ban, HRW, 10 November 2021, link, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/10/landmines-us-should-support-global-ban>





that the challenges they face must be addressed from a human rights perspective, and obligating states to provide the assistance they need.

- This perspective played a fundamental role in the subsequent negotiations on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The two conventions share the same goal, which is to recognize the full inclusion of all persons with disabilities and their active participation in the social, cultural, economic and political life of their society.
- Measures under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities help states understand their precise obligations under the Mine Ban Treaty, including ensuring access for survivors to health care, rehabilitation, employment, social protection, and education, and respecting key principles of inclusion and participation¹⁸.

The Downside or Dangers of Anti-Personnel Land Mines

Antipersonnel mines are indiscriminate and inhumane weapons and therefore violate the basic elements of international humanitarian law. The law of war imposes certain restrictions on how combatants operate. It says that they have to distinguish between civilian and military targets and that the injuries inflicted should be proportionate to military objectives. Antipersonnel landmines fail both the discrimination and the proportionality tests.

- **Its impact on economic growth**

- Landmines slow repatriation of refugees and displaced people, or even prevent it altogether.
- It impedes the provision of relief services, as well as the realized danger to the relief workers themselves.
- Vocational training and support is often not available so many survivors struggle to earn a living after the accident.
- The high cost of medical treatment for landmine victims, overburdening the already overstretched health care system¹⁹.

Also, there is no justification for any country, whether it is a party to the Mine Ban Treaty or not, to use these weapons. They are by nature random and disproportionate. Their use

¹⁸ - اتفاقية حظر الألغام 20 عاما من الحماية ، مكتب المفوض السامي لحقوق الانسان، مارس 2019، الرابط، <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/2019/03/mine-ban-convention-20-years-protection-celebrating-20-years-mine-ban-treaty-entered-force>

Arguments for the Ban, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), link, http://www.icbl.org/en-19_gb/problem/arguments-for-the-ban.aspx





violates international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and they are never accepted by any state or any other non-state actor. Landmines don't distinguish between combatants and civilians. It harms between 70 and 85 percent of civilians, including children and adults, aid workers, peacekeepers, deminers and journalists. However, its impact is not the same on all segments of society. For example: -

- Men are still more likely than women to be affected by landmines, and their society may exclude them if they can't fulfill their traditional role. Women survivors are likely to be abandoned if they can no longer fulfill their traditional functions within the family; their access to health services or decent work is also undermined - making them more vulnerable to poverty.
- Child mine survivors are disproportionately excluded from education, because schools are not equipped to receive them. They may also be forced to enroll in institutions for their case because their families lack information and support²⁰.

Landmines also violate the right to life, Landmines and explosive remnants of war often cause civilian casualties, and children are the most vulnerable. Since children are smaller than adults, they are more likely to experience the full impact of the blast and are therefore more likely to die or be seriously injured²¹.

In Iraq, in 2021, 125 children were killed or disabled as a result of explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance, of whom 52 children were killed, and 73 children were disabled²². The number of child victims increased by 67% compared to 2020 (79 children in the aforementioned year, including 61 boys). In February 2022, 4 children (3 boys and one girl) were killed and two others lost their limbs, as a result of accidents related to explosive ordnance in two different locations²³.

In Yemen, the reports of the United Nations Group of Experts on Yemen indicated that the Houthi alone planted mines, which is confirmed by almost daily facts and events, as it is noted that the areas from which the Houthi mostly withdraw are planted with various mines, including individual and anti-vehicle mines. Demining organizations announced in mid-January 2022 that it had managed to clear 303,279 mines and live unexploded ordnance,

²⁰ اتفاقية حظر الألغام 20 عاما من الحماية ، مكتب المفوض السامي لحقوق الانسان، مارس 2019، الرابط،

<https://www.ohchr.org/ar/2019/03/mine-ban-convention-20-years-protection-celebrating-20-years-mine-ban-treaty-entered-force>

²¹ أطفال يتعرضون للهجوم - من أجل عراق خالٍ من المتفجرات من مخلفات الحرب، اليونيسف، 26 اغسطس 2021، الرابط، <https://uni.cf/3NEvkAv>

²² الندوب الدائمة للنزاع في العراق : الأسلحة المتفجرة هي أحد التهديدات الأكثر تدميرا للأطفال أثناء النزاعات المسلحة ولكن بعدها أيضا، اليونيسف، 4 ابريل

2022، الرابط، <https://uni.cf/3toVWOz>

²³ - بيان صحفي - المخلفات الحربية بوصفها أكثر فتكا بالأطفال من الحرب نفسها، اليونيسف، 2 فبراير 2022، الرابط، <https://uni.cf/3LTsvKL>





from June 2018 until the beginning of 2022. Of these, more than 100,000 anti-tank mines, 4,000 anti-personnel mines, and more than 6,000 explosive devices. Reports estimated the number of mine victims in Yemen at about 10,000 people, most of them women and children, indicating that it is difficult to reach a real number, because the Houthis are still continuing to plant mines²⁴.

In Libya, government agencies concerned with demining confirmed that between May 22, 2020 and March 8, 2022, 130 people were killed and 196 others injured due to mines and explosive devices throughout Libya, most of them in southern Tripoli. The injuries included severe burns and shrapnel injuries, which sometimes led to amputation of limbs. Relief organizations said that the ages of the victims ranged from 4 to 70 years, including 299 men and boys and 26 women and girls. The Libyan Center said that 78 of the victims (24%) were mine specialists, and none of them were able to return to work²⁵.

Hence, it can be said that landmines continue to kill, burn, and maim other body parts in horrible ways. It also causes permanent damage, including at that time, to the production of food, destroys livelihoods, impedes access to water, prevents the delivery of humanitarian assistance, affects cultural activities, and even undermines the national economic recovery.

Accordingly, **the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments (GCLA)** affirms that everyone's support is needed along the path to a mine-free world, regardless of whether the country is affected by mines or not, or whether it is large or small. Joining the Mine Ban Convention is in the interest of mine-affected countries because it will stimulate international support for the landmine problem. For countries that do not have mines in their stockpiles or in the ground, joining the Mine Ban Treaty is also in their interest because they will gain moral standing and show their support for affected communities around the world.

Also, all governments must take a clear position on prohibiting and destroying stockpiles of landmines, acceding to the Mine Ban Convention, stopping the use and transfer of antipersonnel mines, and providing information on stockpiles of landmines and their destruction. Antipersonnel mines are not indispensable weapons, have no high military value, and do not necessarily offer any military advantage, especially since the long-term

²⁴ الألغام.. حقوق الموت في اليمن، TRT عربي، 20 يناير 2022، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/3sYJAMv>
²⁵ ليبيا: الألغام أرضية ومخلفات حربية أخرى تقتل المدنيين، هيومن رايتس واتش، 24 أبريل 2022، الرابط،

<https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2022/04/27/libya-landmines-other-war-hazards-killing-civilians>





humanitarian costs of mines far outweigh any limited military benefit. This is why many ex-military personnel support banning antipersonnel mines and reject the use of mines.

From this standpoint, the GCLA affirms that in order to achieve the vision of the United Nations of a world free from the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war, where individuals live in a safe environment that helps achieve sustainable development and meets the needs of the victims of mines and explosive remnants of war, fully integrated into their communities, we should work on:-

- Advocating for a world free from the threat of landmines and encouraging states to participate in international treaties and agreements aimed at ending the production, trade, shipment or use of mines and upholding the rights of persons with disabilities.
- All parties should accelerate and intensify all efforts to remove mines and unexploded ordnance, enhance assistance to victims, and support children's right to a safe and protected environment.
- The United Nations Development Program, which is supervising support for emergency efforts related to mines in Yemen, must work with the competent authorities and engineering teams that clear areas of mines, and not with the party involved in planting them.
- All stakeholders that the need to maintain the safety of the child must remain a primary consideration in all circumstances.
- Countries must ensure comprehensive education for all children with disabilities who are survivors of landmine explosions and ensure respect for their right to active participation in society.
- Combating all forms of discrimination based on gender, ensuring equality, and adopting policies that include all persons with disabilities, especially women and girls who are survivors of the threat of landmines.
- Removing and destroying landmines and explosive remnants of war and marking contaminated areas or surrounding them with fences.
- Intensifying Mine Risk Education to help people understand the dangers they face, learn about mines and ERW, and know how to avoid the dangers.
- Providing medical assistance and rehabilitation services to victims, including job skills training and employment opportunities.



