

#### **YEMEN: GARDENS OF DEATH**

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON MINE CASUALTIES

**FEBRUARY 2020** 







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# PHASES OF YEMEN'S CONFLICT HISTORY

The cycles of violence in Yemen are renewed again and again over time. Just when there is a chance for peace and reconciliation, the conflict is renewed. In Yemen's modern history, war broke out after the 1962 Revolution against the rule of Imamate (Hamid Al-Din family) in the northern part of Yemen. The war broke out between the Imam's supporters, who were against this revolution, and the republicans who supported it. That war lasted until 1970.

There was another war during and after the 1963 Revolution. It managed to expel the British colonialism that controlled southern Yemen at the time. The cycles of violence and civil wars were renewed, each time with new reasons for their outbreak and continuation.

The most famous cycle of civil conflict started with Ali Abdullah Saleh's assumption of the presidency in 1978. War broke out in the governorates of central Yemen and lasted until 1982. The parties to this conflict laid thousands of anti-personnel mines and the conflict was strengthened by the regime of the Libyan Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. After this war, Yemen witnessed peace agreements between the northern part and the southern part which culminated in the Unity Agreement between the two halves of Yemen in 1990.



After the Unity Agreement, the Presidency Council led by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his vice president Ali Salem Al-Baid took power in Yemen. The country had a period of relative calmness after this agreement until a civil war broke out between what was known as the northern and southern halves of Yemen in 1994. This war was led by its two parties, the President of Yemen on one side, and his vice president on the other side. Ali Abdullah Saleh's forces managed to defeat the forces of his opponent, Ali Salem Al-Baid, and they took control over the governorates of southern Yemen.

Ali Abdullah Saleh's regime settled down and his rule performed quite well during the period from 1994 and 2004 until the armed conflict known as the six Saada wars broke out between the Houthi rebels and the forces of Ali Abdullah Saleh. These six wars began in June 2004 and ended in February 2010. The conflict intensified intermittently in a period of six years during which the Houthis were able to control many areas of Saada Governorate and other areas in the governorates of Amran, Al-Jawf, Sana'a and Hajjah. During this war, the Houthi militia used improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and anti-vehicle mines as weapons to kill their opponents, as well as anti-personnel mines to a lesser extent.

In 2011, a popular movement broke out during the so-called 'Arab Spring' revolutions. The most prominent contributors to this popular movement were the Yemeni youth, who participated in an uprising against the regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. This popular movement was accompanied by a limited armed conflict in the capital Sana'a and the city of Taiz between the forces of Ali Abdullah Saleh on one side, and the forces that were known as the 'Guardians of the Revolution' on the other.

To terminate the repercussions and effects of that popular movement, Gulf states led by Saudi Arabia exerted efforts to mediate the dispute between Ali Abdullah Saleh and his opponents in the Yemeni opposition parties via 'Joint Meeting Parties'. These efforts led to the signing of what was known as the Gulf Initiative between the two parties.



A key item of this initiative stated that Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who at the time was vice president, would take over the presidency of the Republic of Yemen. In accordance with this initiative, the presidential election was held in February 2012. Hadi was the only candidate in the election and today, he is still regionally and internationally recognized as president.

In the period between 2012 and 2014, Yemen witnessed an expansive dialogue that included representatives of many parties, entities, groups, youth, women and minorities. This dialogue resulted in the outcome document of the National Dialogue Conference, which was the basis for the draft of the Federal Constitution of Yemen and was coordinated by the committee formed for that purpose in January 2015.

After the former president Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down, alliances began to form. These alliances included Ali Abdullah Saleh, his forces, his party (the General People's Congress) and the armed Houthi militia (Ansar Allah) led by Abd Al-Malik Al-Houthi. That alliance, with its military forces, managed to take control of Amran Governorate and head towards Sana'a to take it over on September 21, 2014 after a limited confrontation with some government military brigades and a number of military leaders.

The Houthi and Saleh's forces placed President Hadi and his prime minister under house arrest, leading President Hadi to submit his resignation. In February 2015, he managed to escape to Aden and withdraw the resignation that he had announced earlier.

The alliance of the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces extended its military operations and launched a number of air strikes on the Al-Maasheeq presidential palace which was the residence of President Hadi in Aden. The alliance managed to control large parts of the city of Aden. As a result, the Yemeni president had to send a message to the UN Security Council to authorize military action against the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces. He requested support from Saudi Arabia which established a military alliance involving 10 countries.

Yemen: Gardens of Death

The Houthi-Saleh alliance began its intervention in Yemen in the context of a military operation called 'Asifat Al Hazm' against Saleh and the Houthi forces backed by Iran, to restore Yemeni legitimacy, according to its spokespersons. The alliance has launched thousands of air strikes against the Houthi and Saleh's military targets since March 26, 2015. Hundreds of these air strikes have killed or injured thousands of civilians and destroyed civilian infrastructure.

Yemen has witnessed what can be called the fiercest armed conflict in its modern history. It started when the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces took control over the capital Sana'a in September 2014 and the armed conflict continues to this day. After the takeover of Sana'a, the alliance expanded militarily to other Yemeni governorates such as Taiz, Ma'rib, Aden, Al-Hodeidah, Al-Bayda, Al-Jawf, Lahj and Al-Dhale, facing a popular rejection and armed resistance. During this conflict, there have been massive operations laying anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines and explosive devices. The Houthi militia and Saleh's forces were the main actors responsible for laying them, followed by extremist groups to a limited extent.

The factors in the conflict were intertwined and the parties were formed as allies and opponents; a number of those who were allies later became opponents and there were several armed conflicts among a number of the parties. In December 2017, the Yemeni governorates, including the capital, Sana'a, witnessed a limited and short armed conflict between Saleh and loyal military forces on one side, and the Houthi forces on the other side. This conflict ended with Saleh's death after a four-year alliance.



The city of Aden also witnessed a limited and sporadic conflict in January 2018 between the government forces loyal to Hadi and the UAE-backed forces. In August 2019, the city witnessed a violent conflict between the forces of the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council and Hadi's government forces. This conflict ended with the Transitional Council forces taking control over Aden and all of its official institutions. Shabwa Governorate also witnessed a conflict between these forces in August 2019 which ended with the government forces taking control over the governorate.

The UAE used its warplanes in support of the Southern Transitional Council forces and it bombed the government forces at the entrances to the city of Aden while trying to retake the city. These parties were united against the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces in 2015 and 2016. A conflict broke out intermittently in 2018 and 2019 between the government forces in Taiz on one side and the extremist groups and the Emirati-backed Abu Abbas battalions on the other. It ended with the government forces taking control over the strongholds of these groups in a number of the neighborhoods of Taiz.

While preparing this report, a number of the Yemeni governorates such as Taiz Governorate, Al-Bayda, Hajjah, Al-Jawf, Ma'rib, Sana'a and Saada are witnessing an armed conflict between the Houthi forces and the government forces. Al-Hodeidah Governorate and the West Coast of Taiz are also witnessing an armed conflict between the Houthi forces and UAE-backed forces under the cover of Yemeni legitimacy. The conflict coincides with the conflict parties' signing of the Stockholm Agreement sponsored by the United Nations to reduce tension. Other governorates such as Aden, Abyan, Lahj, Al-Dhale and Shabwa are also witnessing significant tension between the government forces on one side and the forces of the UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council on the other side.

The cycles of violence and armed conflict in Yemen have affected many factors of stability among Yemenis. In addition, the economic and humanitarian conditions have deteriorated to very poor levels, especially in the past four years. In October 2018, the severe humanitarian situation led the United Nations to announce that half of the Yemeni population was threatened by an impending famine. In June 2019, the World Food Program confirmed that 20 million Yemenis were undernourished.

#### **ISSUE OF MINES: HISTORICAL**

#### BACKGROUND

the southern half of Yemen, what was known as the Central Region War took place in the period from 1978 to 1982. It was between the National Front supported by the ruling regime in southern Yemen on one side, and the ruling regime in northern Yemen on the other. According to the Aid Association for Human Rights and Immigration, the governorates of the central regions were the stage for this violent conflict: "Hundreds of thousands of mines were laid on tens of mountains and plains of the central region. This deprived its people of enjoying life in this region and cultivating its soil. This dates back to the eighties of the last century when the National Front occupied all the mountains and areas of the central region of Ibb Governorate. At that time, its policy was to control the most important highlands and mountains in the region.

The regime of the late Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi supplied the National Front with thousands of mines in the context of what was known as the support of Arab liberation movements to topple the ruling regimes of some countries, including the ruling regime of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. These mines have continued to injure and kill hundreds of people until recently.

The issue of laying mines emerged during the six Saada wars which the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh waged against the rebellion of the armed Houthi movement in Saada and some areas in the neighboring governorates such as Amran, Al-Jawf, Hajjah and Sana'a. This conflict lasted intermittently for six years during which the Houthis laid IEDs and anti-vehicle mines, as well as anti-personnel mines, to a lesser extent, in different parts of Saada Governorate, Harf Sufyan and Koshar in



Hajjah Governorate.

Mines were planted in a limited manner in the summer war of 1994. They were also planted in a limited manner in 2011, especially in the vicinity of Republican Guard camps in areas north of the capital, Sana'a. In addition, the extremist groups such as Ansar Al-Sharia Group laid mines in 2011 during their control over a number of areas in the governorates of Abyan and Shabwa in southern Yemen.

In a report issued on July 3, 2018, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy said, "The Yemen Demining Commission claimed that Houthi supporters laid mines during the Saada wars and until 2010 and that Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula used mines in the south of the country in 2011. Mines were also laid in the north of Sana'a during the 2011 protests against the government of Ali Abdullah Saleh. To hint at the breadth of the problem, a landmine impact survey conducted in 2000 found 1,078 mine sites in nineteen of Yemen's twenty governorates."

After the outbreak of the Yemeni Popular Revolution in 2011, the armed Houthi militia took advantage of this popular movement which was confronted by the institutions of the Yemeni government system, and then it expanded militarily to the neighboring governorates of Saada, especially extending its military control over Saada Governorate. It expanded towards Hajjah and fought a fierce war against the Kushar District in Hajjah. According to a report issued by the Wethaq Foundation for Civil Orientation, the mines laid by the Houthis in that area resulted in more than 82 casualties, including dead and wounded persons. In addition, more than 1,900 persons were displaced.

The worst period that Yemen has witnessed regarding laying anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicles mines, explosive devices, booby-traps, etc., as well as manufacturing and trading them, starts from the beginning of 2014 and continues to the date of the

issuance of this report. All indications show that these practices are still ongoing. This is a period in which the Houthi militia expanded towards Amran and managed to control it militarily, and later controlled the capital Sana'a and a number of Yemeni governorates with the assistance of forces loyal to Saleh.

In the areas where the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces fought military battles against their opponents, the land and sea mines were a terrible military tool that they used indiscriminately. They laid mines in civilian areas, roads, bridges, public institutions, private property, animal grazing areas, citizens' farms, and in many areas and governorates of Yemen.

According to Human Rights Watch in a report dated April 22, 2019, mines were used by the Houthis and Saleh's forces as a military weapon against their military opponents that caused damage to the civilians and hindered development. Many human rights organizations and expert reports have stated that the Houthi militia is responsible for laying mines that have resulted in thousands of civilian and military casualties during this period.

In its report entitled 'The Problem of Landmine Proliferation in Yemen', the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, gathering information from the demining teams, states that the teams removed 300,000 landmines during the period from 2015 to 2018. The Institute also received information from the report of 'Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor', an initiative that monitors compliance with the 'Mine Ban Treaty', stating that the number of mine casualties was nearly three thousand during the period 2015-2016.

In its report, the Institute states that "during the current war, the Houthis laid landmines along the coast and the borders with Saudi Arabia, around main towns and along transport routes linking back to Sana'a in order to create defensive perimeters or set the stage for retreat."



Laying anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, IEDs and unexploded ordnance is considered one of the unlawful weapons used in wars. It is prohibited to use them during war because they are inherently illegal weapons, like chemical weapons and cluster munitions. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, they are weapons that cause excessive damage and have an indiscriminate effect.

principle of international humanitarian law that states that the parties to an armed conflict do not have an unlimited right to choose the methods or means of war, in addition to the principle that prohibits the use of weapons, shells, equipment and methods of war that cause excessive damage or unnecessary pain in the armed conflicts, as well as the principle that differentiates between civilians and fighters.

Humans have a right to life and to not be abused and this is guaranteed by all the agreements and treaties formulated by the world and the Republic of Yemen ratified many of them. The laws of Yemen guarantee the human right to personal security and bodily integrity. The Yemeni constitution and laws state that these rights have holiness, believing in the sanctity of humans whatever their religion, sect, gender or origin.

The International humanitarian law also criminalizes the use of anti-personnel or anti-vehicle landmines and explosive devices as weapons used in war. The parties to an armed conflict have a restricted right to use the means and methods of war. It is prohibited to use means and methods that have random effects,

cause unnecessary harm or pain or result in extensive and long-term damages that have a severe impact on the natural environment such as anti-personnel mines.

Anti-personnel mines are illegal weapons that are entirely prohibited. International humanitarian law also prohibits the laying of anti-vehicle mines that are not controlled remotely and criminalizes their indiscriminate laying, even if they can be controlled remotely, according to the protocols regarding prohibiting or restricting the use of mines, booby-traps and other devices.

The protocol obligates marking and mapping when using these mines, in addition to recording and using the information regarding minefields, mined areas, mines, booby-traps and other devices. International law does not differentiate between the casualties of anti-personnel or anti-vehicle mines that are laid indiscriminately, whether they are civilian or military persons.

The obligations set out in the Ottawa Treaty prohibits countries from engaging in any way with anti-personnel mines whether by possessing, transferring or using them, as well as assisting or encouraging any party to practice such activities.

In implementation of the Ottawa Treaty, Yemen issued Law No. 25 of 2005 prohibiting the production, possession, use, transfer and trafficking of anti-personnel mines. In April 2002, Yemen announced and reported to the United Nations the disposal and destruction of mines.

However, the reality is a different matter. A large number of mines were planted during the six Saada wars in Saada Governorate and its neighboring areas in the governorates of Amran, Al-Jawf, Hajjah and Sana'a, killing dozens of people.

According to military sources, the size of the anti-personnel and anti-armor mines seized by the Houthi militia from the warehouses of the Yemeni army was evidence of the extent of distortion of the truth in the declaration of demining in Yemen.



#### REPORT METHODOLOGY

This human rights report on mines and their casualties in Yemen has been prepared considering that mines represent one of the most prominent and dangerous issues of the war, a cause of pain and tragedy. This issue requires the due care that suits the extent and barbarity of this kind of crime and the civilian deaths and casualties that come with it, as well as the risks and impacts on the life of Yemenis for decades, whether during or after the war. This report highlights the dangers caused by anti-personnel, anti-vehicle and explosive mines and their decoys to the present and future of Yemenis. The report reveals part of the losses, damages and human and material casualties that these mines caused during the period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2019.

There were two phases in the reporting period: the first phase involved field work by collecting information, documenting crimes, listening to witnesses and collecting evidence. In this phase, Rights Radar relied on a number of field monitors in most of the Yemeni governorates. The monitors used the agreed field monitoring methodology, met with the injured, the victims' relatives, the eyewitnesses and relevant persons for clarification. To collect information, they used forms prepared for documentation, as well as videos and photographs. The monitoring team also used modern means of communication to collect information. They made sure to access the information with the utmost verification and collect all evidence about it. The second phase of the report involved sorting the collected data according to the category of casualty, the type of damage and the geographical scope, and then compiling the report into its current form.

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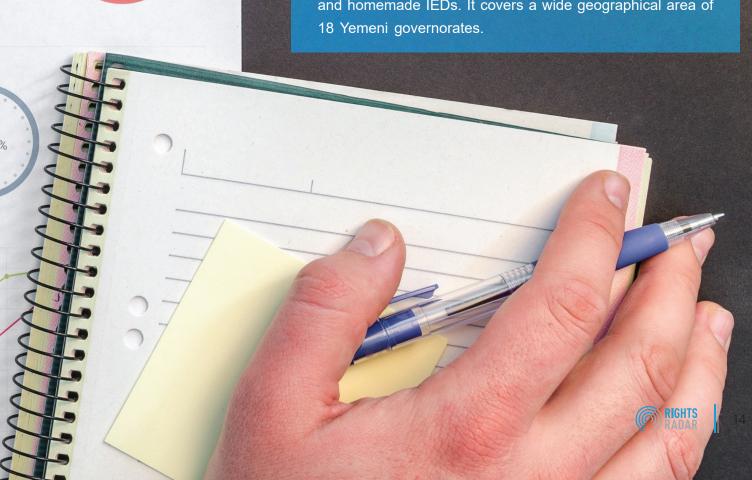
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# IMPORTANCE OF REPORT This report on mines in Yemen is one of the most qualitative and specialized reports in Yemen that of the special specia

This report on mines in Yemen is one of the most important qualitative and specialized reports in Yemen that documents a dangerous and important phase in the life of Yemenis in the period from 2015 to 2019 and the tragedies and horrors that they suffered as a result of mines. It also makes important recommendations for all the parties to the conflict and the concerned persons in the local, Arab and international community to protect Yemeni citizens from the dangers of the 'gardens of death' that are full of mines in Yemen.

The importance of this report also lies in its accuracy and the methodology used for collecting data and analyzing them, in accordance with the standards of various human rights organizations around the world. In addition, it focuses on both civilian and military casualties and includes an inventory and documentation of property and facilities detonated by mines and homemade IEDs. It covers a wide geographical area of 18 Yemeni governorates.



# Out DANGE MINES

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Yemen is witnessing what can be called the fiercest armed conflict in its modern history. It started when the Houthi forces and former President Ali Abdullah Saleh took control of the capital Sana'a in September 2014 and continues to the present day.

After the alliance expanded militarily to other Yemeni governorates such as Taiz, Ma'rib, Aden, Al-Hodeidah, Al-Bayda, Al-Jawf, Lahj and Al-Dhale, the military expansion was faced with popular rejection and armed resistance in those governorates. During the conflict, the number of anti-personnel, anti-vehicle mines and explosive devices laid was the largest number recorded in Yemen's history. The Houthi and Saleh's forces were the main actors responsible for laying these mines, followed by the extremist groups to a limited extent.

This report highlights the risks caused by antipersonnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, IEDs and booby traps that can affect the present and future of Yemenis. It also reveals a portion of the losses, damages and human and material casualties caused by these mines during the period covered by the report, from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2019. These losses and damages occurred in a geographic area covering 18 Yemeni governorates.

During the reporting period, Rights Radar documented that 685 Yemenis were killed in 18 governorates as a result of mines. Taiz Governorate had the highest number of casualties with 160 deaths, followed by Al-Hodeidah Governorate with 114 deaths and Al-Bayda Governorate with 94 deaths.

This total number of deaths documented by Rights Radar includes 484 men, 67 women and 134 children. The number of civilian deaths is 609 and the number of military deaths is 76.

As for the perpetrators of these crimes, Rights Radar's statistics indicate that the Houthi militia killed 580 Yemenis by laying mines, including 104 children, 60 women and 416 men.

Unknown groups, including extremist organizations, killed 105 people in the governorates of Sana'a, Aden, Hadhramaut, Taiz, Abyan and Al-Dhale, including 30 children, 7 women and 68 men.

During the same reporting period, Rights Radar monitored 601 cases of disability and injury caused by mines, including 427 men, 115 children and 59 women. Taiz Governorate has the largest number of disabled and injured people as a result of mines with 134 casualties, followed by Al-Hodeidah Governorate with 88 casualties, Aden Governorate with 75 casualties and the rest were distributed among the other governorates monitored in this report.

As for the division of casualties by category, the number of civilian casualties reached 428 and the number of military wounded was 173. The military activities of the Houthi militia resulted in the injury of 457 people as a result of mines, including 288 men, 113 children and 56 women. 144 people were injured, including 139 men, 3 women and 2 children as a result of mines laid by the extremist and unknown groups in the governorates of Aden, Hadramawt, Abyan, Taiz and Al-Dhale.

Rights Radar monitored the detonation of 240 private houses during the period from January 1, 2015 to the end of December 2019, distributed among 13 Yemeni governorates. The largest number of detonated houses was in Taiz Governorate where 70 houses were detonated, followed by Ibb Governorate with 32 houses, the

rest distributed among the remaining monitored governorates.

During the same reporting period, Rights Radar monitored the detonation of 20 public facilities. According to the data collected for this report, the Houthi militia is responsible for the detonation of private houses, with the exception of one house that was detonated by the Shabwani Elite Forces. The Houthi militia is also responsible for the detonation of 17 public facilities. One of these public facilities was detonated by the Abu Al-Abbas Brigades in Taiz. The UAE-backed Giants Brigades detonated an archaeological landmark on the West Coast of Taiz, while Al-Qaeda detonated a security center in Abyan.

According to official statements announced by officials in the national demining program and recorded by Rights Radar, the Houthis have laid more than a million mines during the period of the armed conflict since the fall of the capital Sana'a. The statements reported that more than 500,000 mines were deactivated by the end of 2019 and it is expected that there are a greater number of mines still out there that have not been deactivated. More than 6,000 civilian casualties have been recorded and they include dead, injured and disabled women, children and students but the officials say that the true number of casualties is much higher.

Rights Radar recorded the types of mines that were laid and they include anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines that were imported from outside Yemen or looted from the warehouses of the Yemeni army. These mines were made in countries such as the former East Germany, Hungary and the former Soviet Union and include homemade IEDs and booby traps that can be camouflaged within the environment. TNT, dynamite and gunpowder were used to detonate private property and public facilities.



#### CHAPTER 1: YEMEN.. GARDEN OF MINES

This report is one of the first specialized reports on mines and mine casualties in Yemen, with data collected by Rights Radar. The report shows how the anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, IEDs, booby traps, other devices, explosive traps and remnants of artillery projectiles were used to cause damage to Yemenis. The information contained in this report reveals the number of mine casualties and detonated houses and facilities. However, the actual statistics of the casualties and the destroyed properties are higher than the numbers Rights Radar has monitored.

#### STATISTICS AND NUMBERS

The report presents mine casualties monitored during the period from the beginning of January 2015 to the end of December 2019. The deaths of 685 Yemenis as a result of mines were monitored and documented in 18 Yemeni governorates. Taiz Governorate had the highest number with 160 deaths, followed by Al-Hodeidah Governorate with 114 deaths and Al-Bayda Governorate with 94 deaths. The remaining number of casualties occurred across a number of Yemeni governorates. As for the categories of casualties, the number of deaths reached 484 men, 67 women, and 134 children. As for the type of casualties, the number of civilian deaths was 609 and the number of military deaths 76.

As for the deaths according to the type of mines, the number of deaths due to the explosion of antipersonnel mines was 546 Yemenis, the number of deaths due to the explosion of anti-vehicle mines was 41, while the number of deaths due to the explosion of explosive and equivalent devices reached 98 Yemenis.

Out of this total number, the Houthi militia killed 580 Yemenis by planting mines, including 104 children, 60 women and 416 men, while the unknown groups, including extremist organizations, killed 105 people in the governorates of Sana'a, Aden, Hadhramaut, Taiz, Abyan and Al-Dhale, including 30 children, 7 women and 68 men.

During the same reporting period, Rights Radar monitored 601 cases of disability and injury caused by mines, including 427 men, 115 children and 59 women. Taiz Governorate had the largest number of people disabled and injured by mines with 134 casualties, followed by Al-Hodeidah Governorate with 88 casualties, Aden Governorate with 75 casualties, Al-Dhale Governorate with 65 casualties and Al-Bayda Governorate with 54 casualties. The remaining number were distributed across the other governorates.

Regarding the division of casualties by category,

the number of civilian casualties reached 428 and the number of military wounded was 173. As for the wounded and injured casualties according to the type of mines, the number of people injured by antipersonnel mines was 411 civilians, the number of people wounded by anti-vehicle mines was 43, while the number of people wounded by explosive and equivalent devices reached 147 civilians.

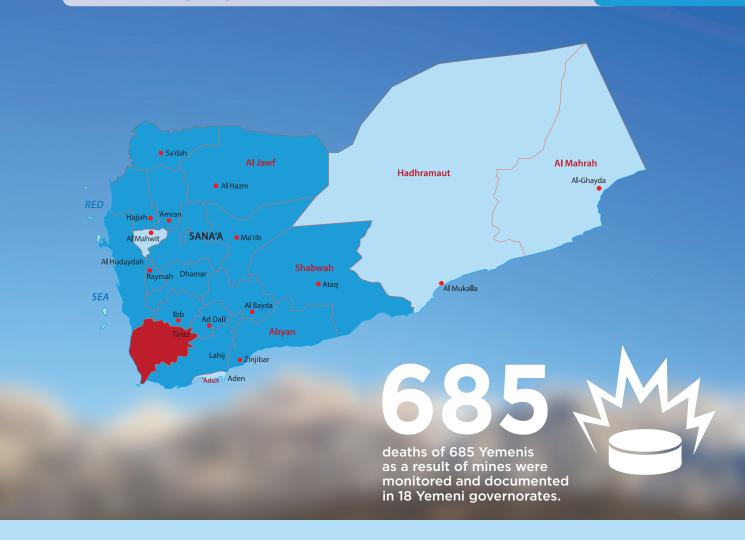
Out of the total number of disabled and injured people, 457 people were injured as a result of mines planted by the Houthi militia, including 288 men, 113 children and 56 women. 144 people were injured, including 139 men, 3 women and 2 children as a result of mines laid by the extremist and unknown groups in the governorates of Aden, Hadramawt, Abyan, Taiz and Al-Dhale.

With regard to the material damage or statistics related to the crime of detonation of private property and public facilities, Rights Radar has monitored the detonation of 240 private houses during the period from January 1, 2015 to the end of December 2019, distributed across 13 Yemeni governorates.

The largest number of detonated houses was in Taiz Governorate where 70 houses were detonated, followed by Ibb Governorate with 32 houses. The remaining number of detonated houses were distributed across the governorates of Sana'a, Al-Hodeidah, Hajjah, Al-Jawf, Lahj, Shabwa, Amran and Raymah. During the same period, Rights Radar monitored the detonation of 20 public facilities.

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#### **TYPES OF MINES**

The anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines, IEDs and the other mines, booby traps and devices, which were laid during the reporting period, took different forms and types. Some of them were imported from outside Yemen and others were made locally. It is believed that the imported mines were in the warehouses of the Yemeni army which were seized by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces. According to photos collected of those mines or the experts or the experts of the engineering teams, the majority of those mines that were discovered and removed by the specialized engineering teams are as follows:



TM-62 anti-vehicle mines that were manufactured in the former Soviet Union



GYATA-64 anti-personnel mines that were manufactured in Hungary.



PPM-2 anti-personnel mines that were manufactured in the former East Germany.

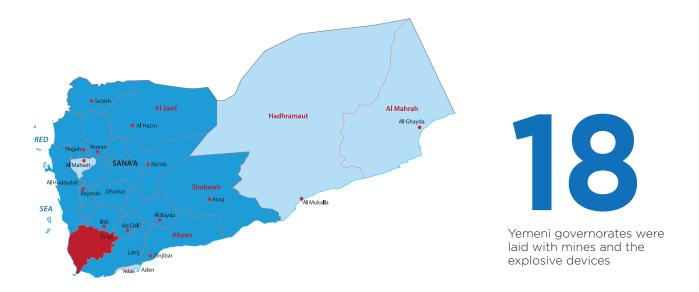


TM-57 anti-vehicle mines that were manufactured in the former Soviet Union.



UKA-63 anti-vehicle mines that were manufactured in Hungary.





## GOVERNORATES LAID WITH MINES

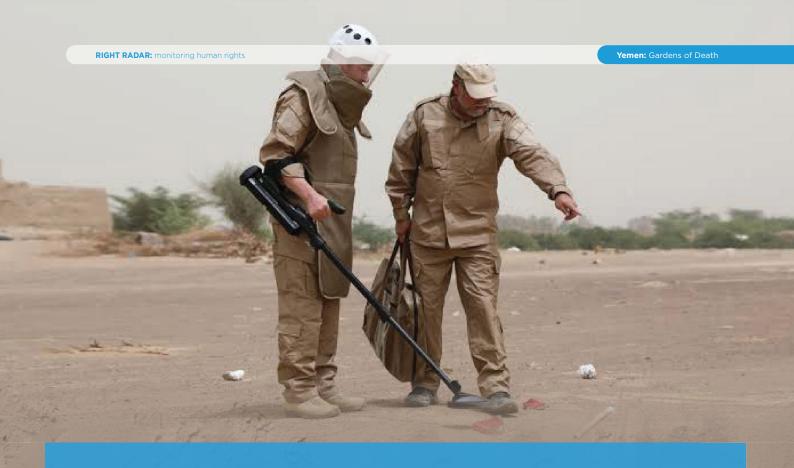
According to Rights Radar's field monitoring teams, 18 Yemeni governorates were laid with mines and the explosive devices were used in different areas within the governorates. The governorates are: Taiz, Al-Bayda, Shabwa, Al-Dhale, Al-Jawf, Aden, Al-Hodeidah, Ibb, Ma'rib, Hajjah, Lahj, Hadhramaut, Sana'a, Dhamar, Saada, Amran, Raymah and Abyan.

Taiz Governorate is the Yemeni governorate with the highest number of mines laid on a large scale. According to government military sources, the Houthis planted various kinds of mines in the border areas around the cities, in addition to the rural areas where they were planted to cause many casualties.

The monitoring teams reported that the areas most affected by mines are the city of Taiz and the districts of Al-Silw, Al-Ahkum, Beni Omar, Jabal Habashi, Muqbana and Shamir, in addition to Rasin, Al Wazi'iyah, Muzaa, and the western coast from Bab Al-Mandab to Al-Khokha. They also said that the number of mines in the city of Taiz and its outskirts reached about 200,000. In

the coastal areas such as Khaboub, Al-Omari, and Jabal Al-Tawir, the mines were randomly laid over a large area. There are a lot of mines around and inside Khalid Camp and Al-Omari Camp and in the area from Bab Al-Mandab to Al-Khokha where floating magnetic mines were laid. The teams indicated that the mines caused the death, injury and disability of more than 1,200 people in Taiz and most of them were women and children.

In early November 2019, Brigadier Amin Saleh Al-Aqili, the Executive Director of the National Demining Program in Yemen, said, "Yemen is facing a humanitarian catastrophe as a result of the indiscriminate minefields laid by the Houthi militias and they are spread in large areas of the country." He pointed out that the Houthis laid more than a million mines. He stressed that more than 500,000 mines have been removed so far, explaining that the most affected areas were the West Coast and the governorates of Taiz, Aden, Abyan, Al-Jawf, Ma'rib, Shabwa, Hajjah and Al-Dhale.



# ESTIMATES OF REMOVED MINES

During the war and waves of conflict in the Yemeni governorates, mines were a method used by the Houthi militia and other unknown militia such as Al-Qaeda and other armed militia.

A number of initiatives, organizations, programs and teams have contributed to removing these mines in many Yemeni governorates. Those efforts started with voluntary initiatives by demining experts and volunteers trained by the experts in Taiz, Aden, Ma'rib and Al-Bayda.

Rights Radar has monitored some of the activities of those teams that, although they worked with limited capabilities, removed hundreds of mines during 2015 and 2016. Most of these activities were carried out within the framework of the engineering teams of the government forces, especially in the governorates of Taiz, Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale, Ma'rib, Al-Jawf, Hajjah, Al-Bayda and Saada.

2019 **103.737** 

Masam Project indicated that the program managed to remove approximately 103,737 mines in Yemen



201/ **310.000** 



number of mines and projectiles in areas under government control that did not explode reached 310,000 The National Demining Center began working significantly during 2017, according to an official report issued by the center. Brigadier General Amin Al-Aqili, the Executive Director of the National Demining Program, confirmed that the National Demining Center recorded about 750 deaths due to mines during 2017 and all of them were civilians, including children, women and elderly people. In addition, more than 1,700 people were injured and most of them were permanently disabled.

A government report issued by the Media Center of the Yemeni Armed Forces on the mines laid by the Houthi militia during 2017 stated that the number of mines and projectiles in areas under government control that did not explode reached 310,000, which were removed in the governorates of Al-Jawf, Saada, Ma'rib, Lahj, Taiz, Sana'a, Aden, Al-Hodeidah, Al-Bayda, Hajjah, Al-Dhale and Perim Island (Mayyun). These mines included anti-personnel mines, anti-vehicle mines and IEDs.

In late June 2018, Saudi Arabia announced the Masam Project for demining in Yemen in agreement with the Yemeni government to remove mines and unexploded ordnance. It aims to clear the Yemeni lands of landmines and unexploded ordnance, train Yemeni cadres to remove mines and establish a mechanism to support Yemenis build a sustainable demining program.

In a statistic issued on its official page on November 14, 2019, the Masam Project indicated that the program managed to remove approximately 103,737 mines in Yemen since the beginning of the project. "According to estimates, the Houthis have laid more than a million mines and more than 500,000 mines have been removed so far. It is expected that the number of laying mines is more than the announced number," said Brigadier Amin Saleh Al-Aqili, the Executive Director of the National Demining Program in Yemen in an exclusive interview with Xinhua. Al-Aqili confirmed that more than 6,000 civilians were killed, injured and disabled, including women, children and students and the true numbers are much higher.





# **CHAPTER 2:**MINE CASUALTIES

During the period from the beginning of 2015 until the end of 2019, Rights Radar monitored and documented the killings of 685 people in 18 Yemeni governorates. Taiz Governorate comes at the top of the list of casualties with 160 deaths, followed by Al-Hodeidah Governorate with 114 deaths, Al-Bayda Governorate with 94 deaths, Al-Jawf Governorate with 54 deaths, Al-Dhale Governorate with 52 deaths, Lahj Governorate with 47 deaths. The remaining number of deaths were in the governorates of Ma'rib, Shabwa, Hadhramaut, Sana'a, Aden, Hajjah, Abyan, Ibb, Dhamar and Saada. As for the categories of casualties, the number of dead casualties reached 484 men, 67 women, and 134 children.

## KILLING AND DISABILITY

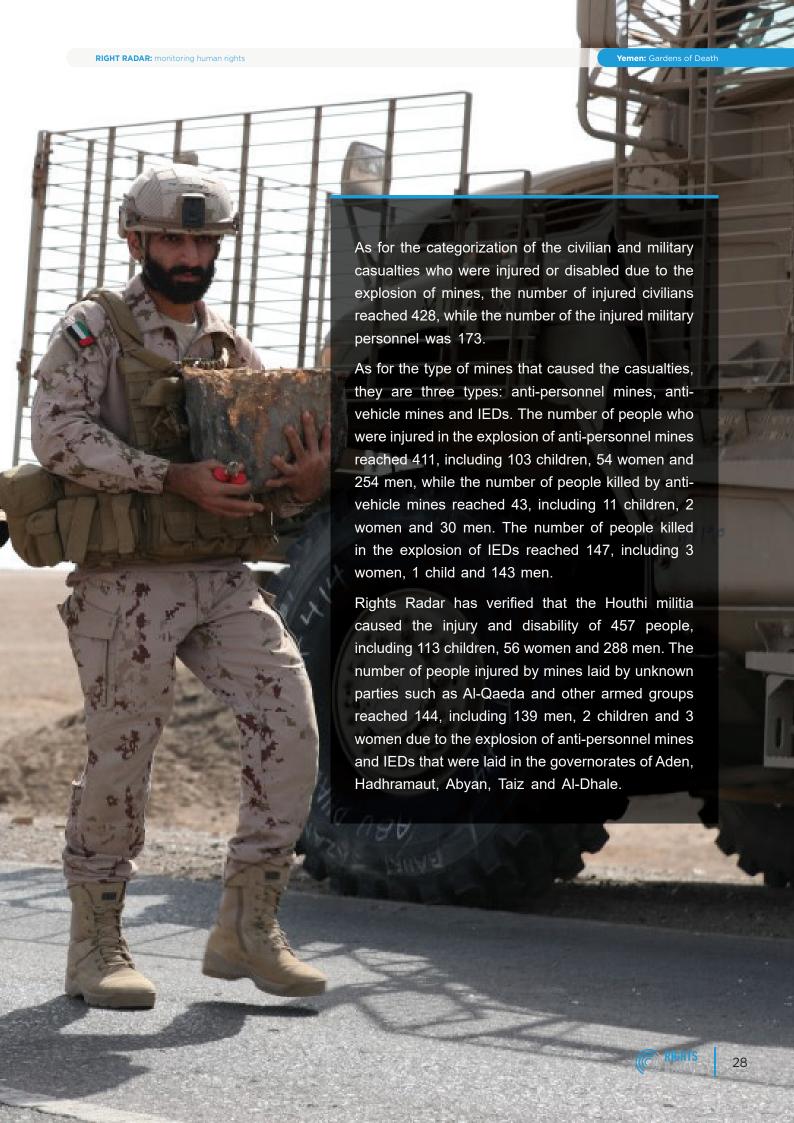
According to the categorization of civilian and military casualties, civilian deaths reached 609 and military deaths reached 76 during the monitoring period. This is the number that Rights Radar was able to access and verify.

Through its monitoring field team, Rights Radar also managed to differentiate those who were killed by anti-personnel mines, those who were killed by anti-vehicle mines and those who were killed by IEDs. The number of deaths from anti-personnel mines was 546 Yemenis, including 105 children, 60 women and 381 men. The number of deaths due to the explosion of anti-vehicle mines was 41, including 8 children and 33 men. The number of deaths due to explosive devices and equivalent devices reached 98, including 21 children, 7 women and 70 men.

Rights Radar has verified that the Houthi militia killed 580 people as a result of the mines that it laid in a number of Yemeni governorates, including 104 children, 60 women and 416 men. The unknown militia such as the extremist organizations and other armed militia killed 105 people in the governorates of Sana'a, Aden, Hadhramaut, Taiz, Abyan and Al-Dhale, including 30 children, 7 women and 68 men.

Rights Radar's statistics indicate that the number of people disabled and injured in mine explosions in Yemen during the monitoring period reached 601 Yemenis, including 427 men, 115 children and 59 women. Taiz Governorate had the highest number of casualties with 134, followed by Al-Hodeidah Governorate with 88, Aden Governorate with 75, Al-Dhale Governorate with 65, Al-Bayda Governorate with 54, Shabwa Governorate with 48, followed by the governorates of Abyan, Al-Jawf, Ma'rib, Sana'a, Lahj, Hadhramaut, Hajjah, Ibb and Saada.





#### **CASES OF MINE CASUALTIES**

#### TAIZ GOVERNORATE

- On Friday, March 11, 2016, in Al-Tabah Al-Hamra on Al-Dhabab Road (the southern port of Taiz), Ali Muqbel Ahmad Hammadi, aged 20, was injured in the explosion of a landmine when he was leaving with a group of citizens to participate in the celebration of the opening of Al-Dhabab road in Taiz after the government forces managed to open the road. This was considered a partial break of the siege imposed on Taiz to date and a victory against the Houthi militants and the Republican Guard Forces loyal to former President Saleh at that time. This siege is still ongoing on the rest of the city's outlets by the Houthi militia. According to witnesses obtained by Rights Radar, the Houthis laid minefields in the vicinity of those closed outlets in Taiz.
- At 11:00 am on Saturday, March 12, 2016, a water tanker (truck) exploded due to an anti-armor mine while it was driving in the village of Al-Mihal in Al-Dhabab District. The child Mohammed Farouq Naji Mohsen, aged 10, and his brother Omar, aged 12, were killed in the explosion. A third child, Moeen Khalid Yahya, aged 10, was wounded. Moeen said, "Mohammed and Omar Farouq and I were running after the truck of water to ride it. They were able to climb the truck and ride on it. As for me, I could not catch up with them. Meanwhile, the mine blew up the truck and Mohammed and Omar Farouk died, but I was hit with shrapnel in my face and head."
- According to witnesses obtained by Rights Radar, 8 civilians were killed and 6 others were wounded when an anti-vehicle mine exploded in the traffic along a secondary road in the village of Matea in the southern countryside of Taiz after the asphalt road was closed by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces. On Saturday, April 23, 2016, a bus was blown up by a mine. It was carrying two citizens traveling along the village of Matea Al-Rubaie towards Al-Dhabab District and Sabr Al-Mawadim District which was under the control of the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces. At that time, a medical source said that 8 dead and 6 wounded people were brought to a rural hospital after the bus exploded. The dead were Mohammed Khaled Sultan Al-Asbahi, aged 23,

RIGHTS

Mahdi Sultan Salam, aged 35, Hawab Ahmed Ali Farea, Amin Abdo Shaker, aged 50, Munir Abdullah Mohammed Al-Thabhani, aged 25, Mohammed Amin Al-Asbahi, aged 8, Salah Omar Mohammed Al-Najashi, aged 22, and Nu'm Ahmad Thabit Al-Habashi, aged 70. As for the injured persons, they were Hussein Abdul-Jalil Mohammed, aged 19, Helmi Nabil Hazzaa, aged 19, Mohammed Abdo Nu'man, aged 40, Ayoub Mohammed Abdo Nu'man, aged 2, Abdul Aziz Mohammed Abdo Nu'man, aged 11, and Rahma Abdul Rahman Qassem, aged 32.

 Jamila Qasim Mahyoub Ahmed, aged 60, was grazing her sheep and when she returned to the house, an anti-personnel mine exploded and she lost one of her feet and the other was broken.
 She was on the way back with her sheep from Al-Jarjar Hill near

Taiz University at about 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, 2016.

An anti-personnel mine exploded in an area that was still under the control of the Houthis and Saleh's forces. Jamila said, "The mine exploded and

I felt like I was flying in the air, then I fell on another mine, but it did not explode. After that I went into a coma and I woke up in Al-Thawra Hospital in Taiz. I got a great shock when I found out that one of my feet was completely severed and the other one was broken and suspended by the skin."

Youssef (an eyewitness) said, "I was in the house of the neighborhood head (Aqil) which was about 100 meters away from the location of the accident. As soon as I heard the sound of the explosion, I looked out of the window and I saw something that flew upward. Then

I went out and found that it was Jamila Qasim lying on the ground with blood covering her body and one of her feet had been completely severed and it was about two meters away. The other foot was still hanging in the skin after it had been broken. She was screaming loudly and young men came from the neighborhood and took her to Al-Thawra Hospital where an operation was carried out to amputate her right leg from the top of the knee and the left one from below the knee."

Mohammed Saif Mohammed was returning in his car from a farm.
 The Toyota Hilux car was carrying a number of civilians and when it entered a bend to the village of Al-Hashama, Hannah Valley, Al-

Wazi'ah District, it exploded from an anti-vehicle mine. 12 civilians were killed, including 7 children, and 9 people were wounded. One of the eyewitnesses who met with Rights Radar's team said, "On Tuesday, August 9, 2016, Mohammed Saif Mohammed was returning in his Hilux car to his village, Hannah Valley, Mashawla, Al-Wazi'ah District and there was a large number of the village's residents who were returning with him. When he entered the asphalt road towards his village, the car exploded from a mine that was laid on the road at the entrance to the village. The deaths were as follows: Ahmad Mohammed Ali Obaid, aged 38, Al-Hassan Mohammed Saif Ahmad Al-Hanni, aged 3, Ahmad Mohammed Ali Ubaidah, aged 42, khatab Mohammed Saif Ahmad Al-Hanni, aged 13, Zaid Ahmad Suwaid, aged 41, Abdul Latif Mohammed Hassan Halas,

aged 12, Abdullah Ali Saif Mohammed Ahmed, aged 7, Ali Mohammed Saif Haidar Saleh, aged 23, Haroun Awad Hassan Abdo Ghanem, aged 8, Ha'il Saeed Ali Ajim, aged 20. An eyewitness called Asmaa said that the injured people were Ali Saeed Ali Ajim, Mohammed Saif Mohammed Al-Hanni, Saif Mohammed Saif Mohammed, Mohammed Mahyoub Yahya Al-Talbi and Mohammed Ali Saeed Ajim, aged 7. One of the survivors of this accident called Mohammed Ahmed, aged 47, told the Rights Radar team what happened, saying, "On Tuesday morning, August 9, 2016, I went out with six of my children, 13 of my relatives and the neighbors' children who were displaced with us in the village of Al-Hashama in Al-Wazi'ah District, heading to our farm in Hannah Valley to go hiking. We walked until we reached the farm and it was nice, but it rained suddenly. We were forced to leave the place fearing that the torrents would prevent us from returning to the village." He added, "At eleven o'clock in the morning, we reached the end of the valley before entering the main road in Ya'yan District, specifically near a water well called Al-Shutriya, the driver swerved from the secondary road to the right, and then a landmine exploded under the car. The body parts of 11 passengers, including 6 children, were littered around and 9 others were seriously injured. Then they were transferred to Al-Barah Hospital and the hospitals of Al-Hodeidah City. The owner of the car survived, but he had minor injuries.

• In Al-Salu town, east of Taiz, Ha'il Saeed Saif, aged 50, and Bassam Mohammed Othman, aged 33, were killed by a landmine on Saturday, August 13, 2016 according to witnesses obtained by Rights Radar. The mine was planted in the road leading to the village of Al-Batna and Al-Musatah, below the village of Al-Sayyar, which is under the control of the Houthi and Saleh's forces. An eyewitness said that the mine explosion occurred while a car loaded with goods was passing in the branch of the road leading to Al-Batna and Al-Musatah in Al-Salu district, south-east of Taiz Governorate.

 Zakia Mohammed Ali Hassan, aged 55, and three of her children, were killed on Wednesday evening, August 17, 2016, in the explosion of a landmine laid by the Houthi and Saleh's

> forces in the village of Beit Al-Tahesh, near Wadi Ghorab outlet, north-west Taiz. A witness to the accident said that Zakia left her house in the

> > village of Beit El-Tahesh to escape from the armed confrontations taking place west of Taiz, taking her two children, Ossan, aged 11, and Raghad, aged 14, and her granddaughter, Habiba, aged 6. While they were on their way to their relatives' house in the north of the city, a landmine exploded at the outlet of Wadi Ghorab. Some people tried to rescue them by taking them to Ibb Governorate, but they died before arriving at the hospital due to the unstoppable bloodshed, in addition to the long distance.

• While the child Mohammed Abdullah Abdo Aqlan, aged 14, and the young man Wasil Mohammed Abdo Othman, aged 19, were riding their donkey to the market to get necessities for their families, a landmine laid by the Houthi and Saleh's forces exploded on the road leading to their village (Al-Dhaa'a) which leads to the Aqaba market in the village of Al-Sayyar in Al-Salu District on Tuesday morning, August 30, 2016. The child was killed and the young man was wounded. An eyewitness said that that the child Mohammed and the young man Wasil were riding their donkey to the Aqaba market in the village of Al-Sayyar to bring some necessities for their family. While they were on the way to the market, a landmine exploded and turned the child's body and the donkey into scattered body parts. This made it difficult to find

all of his body parts when some citizens tried to collect them. The second person was wounded with some shrapnel throughout his body. The child's mother was shocked when she saw the body parts of her son who went to buy necessities for the family. She spoke with tears on her cheeks, saying, "The Houthi and Saleh militia killed him by laying their damned mines which cause death, noting that Mohammed was on his way to buy necessities for the family." She added, "He was an obedient, intelligent and excellent child and he looked after his young brothers by working on the farm after his father died. The militia killed him in cold blood despite his innocent childhood."

While grazing sheep on the outskirts of their village Al-Dhabh in Al-Dhabab District, south of Taiz, Nahla Saeed Ghaleb Al-

Omari, aged 19, was injured and her foot was severed in the explosion of a mine planted in the grazing

injured with shrapnel in her face on Saturday, November 5, 2016. Some eyewitnesses said that the Houthi militia and the Republican Guard forces loyal to the former President Saleh had laid mines in the village of Al-Dhabh and its outskirts after their residents were displaced.

road. Ruwaida Marwan Dabwan, aged 7, was

 In the village of Al-Thobani in Al-Mocha City, the western coast of Taiz, mines were planted by the Houthis and Saleh's forces after their alliance. As a result, a number of civilians were killed. On Saturday, March 25, 2017, two civilians were wounded due to a landmine explosion at the western entrance to the village of Al-Thobani in Al-Mocha District. An eyewitness

said, "A mine exploded at the western entrance to the village of Al-Thobani in Al-Mocha District while a truck driven by Mansour Saleh Al-Hayek was passing. This resulted in his injury and the injury of his companion Hamza Yahya Mohammed and the back of the truck was completely destroyed.

 On Thursday, March 30, 2017, an anti-personnel landmine laid by the Houthi forces and the Republican Guard forces loyal to the late President Ali Saleh in Al-Haijah Al-Sawdaa exploded in the east of the village of Al-Thadal in Al-Houd District, Al-Salu town. Mohammed Ali Shamsan, aged 35, was injured with serious wounds on his body as a result of the explosion.  On Monday, April 3, 2017, a landmine exploded in the village of Fatrah adjacent to the villages of Al-Gharafi and Al-Thobani in the city of Mocha. This led to the death of Khaled Ali Qafri, aged 39. An eyewitness said that the mine exploded while Khaled Ali Qafri was riding his motorcycle on the road leading to Wahjah District.

• While a bus carrying some citizens was travelling in the village of Al-Halilij Derkhaf, Jabal Habashi District, a mine exploded injuring 5 citizens, including Abdel-Rahman Ahmed Abdullah, aged 25, and the child Ammar Naji Al-Afiri, aged 13. An eyewitness said, "On Saturday, April 8, 2017, five civilians were injured with a landmine explosion next to a passenger bus in the village of Al-Halilij Derkhaf on the main road of Jabal Habashi District." He added, "The mine was laid by the Houthi militants when they invaded the

district. As a result, the child Ammar Naji Al-Afiri's right leg was amputated." The Rights Radar team also visited the child in Al-Safwa Hospital in Taiz where he was transferred. They also examined the effects of his disability caused by the mine explosion.

- On Tuesday, April 18, 2017, a mine exploded on the road of Al-Rahba Village in Jabal Habashi District, Taiz Governorate. It led to the death of two children, Abdullah Ismail Ahmed Ghaleb, aged 13, and his sister Naseem, aged 14, and wounded Khalil Ismail Ahmed Ghaleb, aged 11. According to eyewitnesses from the village residents, the area was laid with mines by the Houthi militants and Saleh's forces after they took control of it.
- The Military Supply Center in the east of Taiz is crowded with houses and hundreds of residents. It was laid with mines by the Houthi militants and the military forces loyal to Saleh after they took it over in 2015. On Thursday, April 20, 2017, three members of the government forces were killed in an anti-vehicle mine explosion in that neighborhood. An eyewitness said that a mine laid by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces exploded in the Military Supply Center, east of Taiz, while a bus driven by Mohammed Hamid Al-Amiri was passing. When he tried to help the two wounded people, the three were killed instantly. The dead were Mohammed Hamid Al-Amiri, aged 42, Nashwan Hazzam, aged 32, and Hamid Sultan, aged 34.



In Al-Thobani District in the coastal district of Al-Mocha, Taiz, two civilians were killed and a third was injured in mine explosions in two separate incidents within one day. An eyewitness said that one of Al-Thobani village's residents called Ahmad Mohammed Al-Muaiti, aged 40, was killed on Monday morning, April 24, 2017 when a mine exploded while he was on his way from Al-Mocha City to Mawza District. Another eyewitness stated that a mine laid by members of the Houthi militia and forces loyal to Saleh exploded in the Al-Thobani and Al-Gharafi districts that morning. It led to the death of Mohammed Ahmad Abdo Khalaf, aged 39, while Ali Saeed Nasseri, aged 35, was seriously wounded.

On Thursday, June 1, 2017, 3 children were killed by an antipersonnel mine when they were riding a motorcycle in

Najd Qasim in Al-Misrakh District, south of Taiz. An eyewitness said that the children - Faris Mohammed

Hazza, aged 15, Maher Abdel Basit, aged 14, and Badri Al-Saba'ie, aged 13 - were riding a motorcycle in Najd Qasim market and a mine exploded and killed them. He added that those mines were laid by the Houthi and Saleh militants after they took over the area in 2016.

A teenager girl called Taiba Ahmed
Mahyoub was one of the casualties
when a mine laid by members of the
Houthi militia and Saleh's forces exploded
in her village, Khor Bilad Al-Wafi, Taiz
Governorate, on Tuesday, July 5, 2017. The
girl told her story, saying, "I was waiting for my
wedding day which was to be on the second day of
Eid Al-Fitr when something unexpected happened. At

that moment, I felt that all my dreams had been destroyed." She added, "I went out of the house towards Al-Fadha Hill in my village, Khor, in Jabal Habashi District, to return the livestock that were grazing there. I stepped on a mine on my way up the hill, so it exploded and caused my right foot to be severed and my left foot was broken."

 Two women from the Al-Shaqab District in Sabr Al-Mawadim decided to break the siege imposed by the Houthi militia on their village. They decided to go to a well to fetch water, but a mine planted beside the well exploded on Thursday, July 6, 2017. This explosion led to 30-year-old Dalilah Abdu Ahmed Muqbel having her leg amputated. When her niece, Afaf Ahmed Muqbel, aged 38, tried to save her, another mine exploded and led to her leg being amputated too. Dalila stated that the two mines exploded when they were on their way home from fetching water, noting that the Houthi militants controlling the area were laughing and celebrating. She said, "The explosion caused the amputation of her foot and Afaf's foot and we were taken to a hospital in Taiz."

 Walid Mohammed Hassan, aged 39, was a landmine casualty in the Tha'abat residential neighborhood in Sala District, east of Taiz.
 He did not expect that he would become a person with special needs, but indeed he became physically handicapped. Walid lives in Tha'abat neighborhood, east of Taiz, which has been under siege

as an employee at the Electricity Corporation. On Saturday, July 15, 2017, when he was returning home a mine exploded after he stepped on it.

since the summer of 2015. He has three children and works

home, a mine exploded after he stepped on it.

According to what he told Rights Radar, Walid confirmed that he used to pass through the road where the mine exploded, but the Houthi militants controlling the area did not accept this situation, so they laid mines on the road. One of these mines exploded and he was exposed to severe injuries throughout his body and narrowly escaped death, but his left leg was amputated from the knee.

On Tuesday, August 15, 2017, a landmine exploded in Al-Lasb neighborhood of Sala District, east of Taiz, and killed Assia Bagash Thabet, aged 30. An eyewitness to the accident confirmed that Assia was grazing sheep in Al-Lasb neighborhood in the morning and a mine exploded, leading to her death, along with a number of sheep. The eyewitness indicated that this mine was one of the mines laid by the Houthi and Saleh's forces in the area.

 Rawda Ahmad Shamsan Al-Faqih, aged 50, and her son Abdullah Ghaleb, aged 14, were killed by an explosive device laid on the road to their home in the village of Al-Sayyar in Al-Salu District on Thursday, September 14, 2017. A villager told Rights Radar that the Houthi and Saleh's forces militants controlled the village of Al-Sayyar, the birthplace of the victim. He said, "Rawda Shamsan was previously wounded by a sniper from the Houthi militants a month and a half before she was killed. On Thursday, September 14, 2017, Rawda and her child were killed by an explosive device laid on their way after being spotted by one of the Houthis in the village of Beit Al-Qadi. He had previously incited the Houthis against Rawda and lured her through a call to one of her sons telling his mother to come to the Houthi leadership in the area or her house would be blown up. Rawda went out with her child to meet the Houthi leader for fear that her house would be detonated and she did not know that an explosive device had been laid for her on the way. It turned her body and her child Abdullah into scattered parts.

 As they were passing near their house in the village of Al-Qouz in Jabal Habashi District in the countryside of Taiz Governorate, a

> landmine planted near the house exploded and the 17-yearold, Khawla Mohammed Al-Sharhi, was injured and her left foot was severed. In addition, the young

> > woman Doa'a Ahmed Al-Jabali, aged 23, was wounded with some shrapnel on her right side and other parts of her body, on Thursday, November 9, 2017. The Rights Radar

team visited the two patients in Al-Burihi
Hospital in Taiz after they were treated.
The two wounded persons were in a
difficult and painful situation. The team
heard from one of their relatives who
confirmed that the two girls were on their
way to the mountain to graze sheep and a
mine exploded near the village houses. The
two casualties' relative said that the village
was under the control of the Houthis.

 Rights Radar heard the witness account of photojournalist Mohammed Al-Shalabi in which he told

the story of the death of 35-year-old Shihab Ahmed Al-Zuqari, his wife and wife's mother, as well as the injury of his female child. Al-Shalabi added that the Ramah farms in the northeast of Mukha were controlled by the Houthi and Saleh's forces before they were liberated in February 2017, so the young man, Shihab, went out with his family to work on his farms and a landmine planted among the trees exploded. Shihab, his wife and her mother were killed and one of his children was wounded on Saturday, February 3, 2018. Al-Shalabi said, "The Houthi militias have laid many mines on the citizens' farms, roads, and villages on the West Coast. The Houthi militia deliberately lay mines on farms, roads, and residential

villages where many citizens, most of them women and children, have been killed."

• In the village of Al-Gharafi in Al-Mokha Destrict, Rights Radar monitored the death of Abdullah Ibrahim Heikan, aged 40, when a mine exploded when he was on his way to his village. He and his two children, Ibrahim, aged 13, and Moussa, aged 14, were killed on Saturday, March 10, 2018. An eyewitness said that the mines were laid in the village by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces and several residents were badly affected.

 Sabah Sultan Saif, aged 30, was returning home, and her 6-yearold child, Ali Moaz Al-Abbasi, was carrying water from the reservoir of her village in Al-Regma in Hadhran District in Taiz and a mine exploded on their way, killing Sabah and her child instantly

on Tuesday morning, May 1, 2018. According to witnesses obtained by Rights Radar, Hadhran District is still under the control of the Houthi militants and it has laid mines as a fence to protect themselves from the government forces and hindering the citizens of Taiz from entering their city where the international road passes through it, which connects Taiz Governorate with Al-Hodeidah Governorate from the west.

- Jabal Habashi District in the countryside
   of Taiz is one of the most heavily mined
   areas in Taiz governorate and it is laid
   with mines. Rights Radar has documented
   many incidents there, including the casualties
   caused by mines laid by the Houthi militia.
- Randa Ali Hassan Ali Othman and her two children, Rafik and Samira Tawfiq Muqbel, were bringing water from their well in Al-Ashrouh village and an anti-personnel mine exploded on their way back on the morning of Wednesday, May 30, 2018. The mother was injured and her left leg was amputated and her two children had several injuries.
- Remote-controlled IEDs have been used frequently in Taiz since the middle of 2018. Rights Radar recorded a number of incidents in which military figures, public markets or government leaders were targeted. According to the witnesses obtained by Rights Radar, the evidence indicated that people linked to extremist organizations and armed groups used this type of device. On Thursday evening,

July 5, 2018, the officer in the 35th Armored Brigade, Samid Al-Masah, was assassinated during his wedding with an explosive device laid by unknown persons near the location of the wedding in Al-Turbah city in the south of Taiz Governorate. According to the information obtained by Rights Radar, Al-Masah was killed in the explosion of that device.

Ali Hashem Al-Amiri and his companion, Imran Aidarous Al-Amiri, were killed in a mine explosion when riding their motorbike on the bridge linking Hayfan and Tor Al-Baha on Monday September 10, 2018. A relative of the victim said that Al-Amiri and his companion were killed and three other children were wounded because they were near the location of the mine explosion in the village of Al-Adheer in Al-Aabous District in the east of Taiz Governorate.

•The casualties were from the village of Al-Aamor in

Hayfan District and a mine exploded on them over the Al-Atheer Bridge, which the Houthi militia had detonated a few days before this incident. When they tried to cross the destroyed bridge, a mine exploded, killing them and wounding other children. Rights Radar was unable to obtain the identity of those children.

 On Saturday noon, February 2, 2019, an officer in the government forces was killed and four others were wounded by an explosive device on a main road in Wadi Hanash District in the western side of Taiz. According to a security source in the Taiz Governorate police, the officer was killed and others were injured by an explosive device laid

by the Houthis. Eyewitnesses told Rights Radar that the explosion was of an explosive device laid along the route of the casualties in areas under the control of the government forces and far from the stationing of the Houthi forces. They added that this area witnessed the explosion of explosive devices more than once. Rights Radar obtained the name of the dead man who was the commander Qasim Ali Mohammed, as well as the names of the wounded persons, namely, Badr Mahyoub Saeed Al-Samei, Issam Muqbel Ahmed Ali Al-Samei, Fahim Naji Abdu Ismail Al-Samei and Raafat Hassan Mohamed Ahmed Al-Samie.

 Two civilians were killed and three others were wounded by a landmine that blew up the car they were travelling in on their return from Taiz to Al-Ashmala in Maqbanah District on Monday, May 6, 2019. An eyewitness told Rights Radar that Omar Tawfiq Nasr Abd Al-Qadir and Abd Al-Majid Abdullah Al-Okri were killed in the incident while Ali Abd Al-Aleem Mohammed, the driver of the car, Abdo Saeed Mahyoub and Sami Abd Al-Wahab Al-Sagheer were wounded. The mine exploded in Al-Mudabi, Al-Ashmala, Maqbanah District.

 An explosive device, located in a pile of rubbish, exploded in an upmarket area in the center of Taiz city, on Sunday, May 12, 2019.
 Three citizens were killed and five others were injured. The security forces deactivated a second device planted a few meters away from the explosive device.

Rights Radar obtained the names of the dead. They were Qais Yassin Saeed Sultan, aged 25, who was injured with shrapnel in the abdomen, Fatima Qaid Ahmed, aged 70, who was injured in her head, and Abd Al-Salam Atef Mohammed, aged 19. Rights Radar did not find out the kind of the device that exploded or the identity of those who planted it.

On Friday evening, September 13, 2019, two children were killed and a third was injured as a result of a landmine explosion laid by the armed Houthi militia in Habeel Shwaia area of Sala District, east of Taiz during their control of the area. All the casualities belonged to one family. Rights Radar obtained the names of the casualties. They were the dead child Tamim Marwan Tarish Abdullah, aged two, and the dead Samaa Marwan Tarish, aged 4, and the injured child Asum Marwan Tarish, 6.

aged 6.



# **AL-DHALE GOVERNORATE**

- On Wednesday morning, February 3, 2016, an anti-personnel mine exploded under Salah Mohammed Saleh Al-Shami, aged 26, in Jabal Al-Dhari, northwest of Maris, Al-Dhale Governorate, causing his right foot to be amputated. Salah said; "That morning, I was walking as usual in Jabal Al-Dhari after the Houthis left it and I didn't know that they had laid a mine network in it. Suddenly a mine exploded and as a result my right foot was severed." An eyewitness was located near the location of the mine explosion. He added that he had prepared his car to rescue Salah Al-Shami and found him with a pale face after the mine had severed his right foot. He saw some shrapnel in his body, then he took him to Al-Salam Hospital in Qa'atabah for treatment.
- On Wednesday, March 23, 2016, at half past five, a mine exploded under a vehicle on Mashouqa Road to the west of the city of Qa'atabah, killing Abdul Basit Ahmad Mohammed Qasim, aged 24, and Muntasir Mahmoud Al-Bakri, aged 22, and injuring Abdullah Mahmoud Al-Bakri, aged 26.
- Abdullah Mahmoud Al-Bakri, who survived the incident, said, "We were in my car
  on our way to the village of Mashouqa, west of Qa'atabah District, and the mine
  exploded at the front of the car leading to its destruction and the death of Abdul Basit
  Ahmed and my brother Muntasir Al-Bakri. I was injured in my left leg." He added
  that the mine was among the mine networks laid by the armed Houthi militia and the
  Republican Guard forces on the road leading to the area.



• A mine exploded under a car of khat sellers while it was passing on Al-Ma'sar road in Maris District, Al-Dhale Governorate, on October 13, 2016. The mine explosion led to the death of Musa Ahmad Mohammed Abdul Rahim, aged 30, Younis Ali Ahmed Al-Kalali, aged 27, and Farouq Mohammed Musleh Al-Aaqam, aged 23, and the injury of three others from among the khat sellers. An eyewitness in Maris District said that the car driven by Raydan Abdul Rahim was in Al-Ma'sar Valley and a landmine exploded suddenly, killing three civilians and three others escaped death. The eyewitness added that these mines were laid by the militants of the Houthi militia and the forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the main road between the villages of Al-Ma'sar and Warma, west of Maris District, Al-Dhali Governorate in southern Yemen.

 Children were playing with a projectile from the remnants of war in the village of Al-Qadamah in Maris District, Al-Dhale Governorate, on Tuesday evening, August 16, 2016, when the projectile exploded and the child Mohammed

Adel Ahmed, aged 12, died. His relatives Jamal Ahmed Ghaleb, aged 10, Jawaher Ahmed Ghaleb, aged 12, Sufyan Mazen Ahmed, aged 11, Ahhood Mazen Ahmed, aged 11, and the two brothers Qassam and Qandil Mazen Ahmed were injured. An eyewitness stated that he and other people treated the children. He said, "I used to chew khat next to my house and suddenly I heard an explosion, and then there were screams of children. When I approached, I found that the child Mohammed Adel was dead and the rest of the children were injured with shrapnel in their bodies, so we took them to the hospital." Adel Ahmed, the dead child's father, said, "The projectile that exploded was fired from a B-10 cannon and it killed my child and injured other children

a B-10 cannon and it killed my child and injured other children and the wounds of some of them are critical." He stated that children from the village of Al-Qadamah were playing with the projectile before it exploded. He added, "The projectile was one of several projectiles fired by the Houthi militants and Saleh's forces from Al-Hamri and Al-Arfaf in our village. This projectile fell without exploding at the time."

 On Thursday morning, March 9, 2017, Najm Al-Din Saleh Al-Tiri, aged 19, was walking down Al-Tuhami Mount, north of Maris, and an antipersonnel mine exploded and his right foot was severed. An eyewitness called Ibrahim said, "Najm Al-Din was walking on the road down Al-Tuhami Mount, and suddenly a mine exploded leading to the severing of his right foot and an injury in the left thigh. The blood was flowing from his feet, so another person and I carried him to the asphalt road and took him to Al-Salam Hospital in Qa'atabah District, and then to Al-Wali Hospital in Aden."

- On Monday evening, June 19, 2017, there was a severe explosion in front of the Yemeni Economical Corporation gate, next to the northern wall of Qa'atabah Cemetery. The child Wa'ela Qaid Mohammed, aged 10, was killed and her sister Ahlam, aged 23, Abdul Aziz Hazam Al-Muresi, aged 38, Abdo Al-Yajouri, aged 45, and Ahmed Naji Ahmed, aged 55, were injured. The injured persons were taken to Al-Nasr General Hospital in Al-Dhale and two others were transferred to the MSF Hospital.
- The Rights Radar team met with an eyewitness who said, "There was a severe explosion in front of the Yemeni Economical Corporation

a child who had been torn by shrapnel, Abdulaziz AlMursi was screaming and two wounded persons who
were Abdo Al-Yajouri and Ahmed Naji Ahmed Abu
Haddal and the latter's condition was serious."
He added, "The explosion was caused by an
explosive device laid by unknown persons
near Qa'atabah Cemetery in front of the khat
market which was crowded with sellers and
passers-by".

and there were flames, so we rushed to the place and found

- Zainab Ali Abdul Qawi Al-Shajea, aged 6, was killed, while Maria Nabil Al-Shajea, aged 7, was injured in the explosion caused by a projectile from the remnants of war in a waste dump next to their house in the village of Al-Dhwaharia in Maris District, Al-Dhale Governorate on Sunday evening, February 25, 2018. Ali Abdul Qawi, the father of the dead girl, said, "Zainab and her friend Maria were burning some rubbish near my house in the village when a projectile exploded in the place and it resulted in the death of my daughter Zainab and her relative Maria was seriously injured."
- A family was driving their car on the main road in Sanah District of Al-Dhale Governorate and the car exploded from an explosive device that was planted on the road. The incident took place on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, and resulted in the death of Omar Khaled Mohamed, aged 30, Mohammed Khaled Ali, aged 28, and Aida Khalid Mohammed, aged 27. An eyewitness told Rights Radar that the explosion occurred on a white passenger bus carrying a whole family of people from Ba'dan District in lbb Governorate as they were returning from Aden where they obtained

their passports." He added, "We rushed to the site of the explosion and carried the casualties to Al-Salam Hospital supervised by Doctors Without Borders in Qa'atabah District." A medical source told Rights Radar that three persons died on the spot. They were a father, his wife and the bus driver. Their child was injured and her condition was critical, so she was transferred to Al-Nasr Hospital in Al-Dhale.

On Saturday, March 2, 2019, two women were injured by an explosive device planted by Houthi militants at the door of their house in the village of Al-Haqab in Damat Al-Dhale District. An eyewitness told Rights Radar that while Iman Qassem Hydra, aged 23, and Rateel Fouad Ahmad Al-Sayyadi visited their house in the village to move some furniture to where they were displaced to in Maris, the explosive device exploded at the door of the house and the two women were seriously injured in the face and chest.

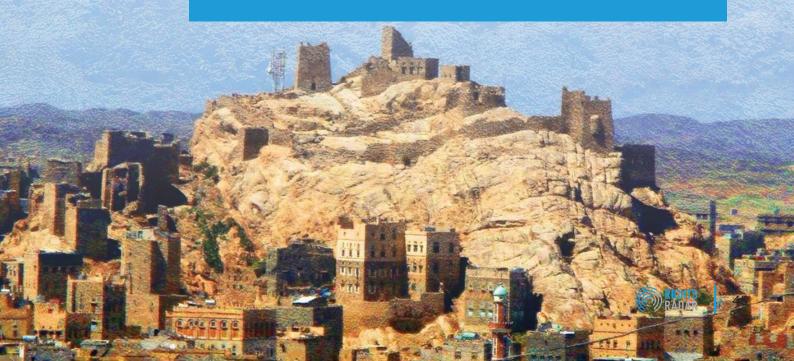


When Abdel-Wahid Al-Sayyadi, aged 69, visited his farm in Najd Al-Qurain, south of Damt in Al-Dhale Governorate, an anti-personnel mine planted among the trees exploded. He was injured in his hands and stomach. The explosion occurred on Friday, March 15, 2019. The victim told the Rights Radar team that he was burning some grass next to his farm when the mine exploded and injured him with some shrapnel in his hands and stomach. He added that he believed that the mine was planted by the Houthi militants during their control of the area. He also said that after he was injured, he was taken to Aden for medical treatment.

• A child was killed and three others were injured when a landmine exploded on the road to their village of Al-Haqab in Damt District. According to information obtained by Rights Radar, the children were walking while the mine exploded on their way. As a result, Jabr Saddam, aged 9, died and Ahmad Muthanna Al-Haqab, aged 13, Khaled Muammar Abdo Muthanna, aged 8, and Maktoum Muammar Abdo Muthanna, aged 5, were injured. The explosion occurred on Friday morning, May 17, 2019. This was a few days after the Houthi militants withdrew from the village.

# AL-BAYDA GOVERNORATE

- In She'b Al-Naqoub District, Al-Bayda Governorate, a mine exploded under the car of Ahmed Mohammed Saleh Al-Harawi, aged 45. He and his wife and daughter died. Rights Radar spoke to a witness, one of the relatives of the casualties. He said that Al-Harawi was the director of Imam Al-Ghazali School. On Tuesday, April 5, 2016, while he was returning from the school in his car on the main road in She'b Al-Naqoub District in the village of Al Al-Tom, a mine exploded and killed Al-Harawi and his wife and daughter. The victims' relative added that the Houthi militants and Saleh's forces prevented the residents from assisting the casualties at that time. There was a tribal mediation to treat them, but it was in vain.
- The village of Muthla in Al-Zahir District, Al-Bayda Governorate, was one of the villages invaded by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces in 2016. They laid mines on the outskirts of the village to prevent the advance of the Popular Resistance Forces, but the rainfall brought out a number of those mines, so the child Mohammed Al-Sudi took one of the mines and carried it to the center of the village, where he and a group of children could play with it, but the mine exploded. Mohammed was killed and four others were wounded, including his mother. Rights Radar met with an eyewitness, named Khalil, who said that the torrential rain had revealed mines laid by the Houthis and Saleh's forces in the village. The child Mohammed Al-Sudi took one of those mines and brought it to the center of the village where he and his fellow children played in his father's house. While they were playing with the mine, it exploded and killed Mohammed. Ahmed Hassan Saif, aged 14, Ahmed Mahmoud Awad, aged 12, and his brother Hassan, aged 10, and Mohammed's mother, Intisar Ahmed Mohsen Awad, were injured. This incident occurred on Friday, April 22, 2016.



**Yemen:** Gardens of Death

• The child Suleiman Mahmoud Gharib Al-Humayqani, aged 13, was killed by a mine that was planted in Al Al-Jaradi District, Al-Zahir, Al-Bayda Governorate on Sunday, October 2, 2016. A relative of the child said that Suleiman was grazing sheep and a mine exploded on the village road. He stated that the Houthis were believed to have laid these mines in the area after they took control of it.

 Bakhita Ali Dhaifallah Al-Baqshi, aged 65, was grazing her sheep in the village of Masouda, Radman District, Al-Bayda Governorate. While she was walking, a mine exploded and killed her and a number of her sheep. The explosion occurred on Monday morning, April 24, 2017. Rights Radar obtained information about this incident from Bakhita's relative. They also obtained the victim's death certificate.

On the way to his school, Fahd Abdullah Jarwan Al-Wehbi, aged 13, was exposed to a severe pain that would accompany him throughout his life after his feet were severed in a mine explosion. The Rights Radar team obtained witnesses to the incident, confirming that the village of Jabra Al-Aswda, in Al-Bayda Governorate was laid with mines after the Houthi militia took control of it. The child Fahd was going to his school in the village when the mine exploded on Tuesday morning, May 9, 2017. Fahd is an orphan and he is his mother's only child. He became disabled after being injured by the landmine.

 Wednesday, October 18, 2017 was a sad day for the village of Qayfah in Al-Quraisha District, Al-Bayda Governorate as four of its residents were killed in a landmine explosion in the path of their vehicle. It is believed that the Houthi militants and Saleh's forces laid that landmine on the way to the village according to witnesses obtained by Rights Radar. This explosion caused the death of Mohammed bin Mohammed Saleh Abu Suraima, aged 37, Habib Mohammed Saleh Abu Suraima, aged 43, Wissam Salem Ali Abu Suraima, aged 37, and Naif Saleh Mohammed Abu Suraima, aged 38.

On Thursday, November 2, 2017, a mine exploded and caused

the injury of the child Mohammed Saleh Qaid Al-Mudhafari, aged 12. His left hand was amputated and his eyes were badly affected. The explosion occurred in the village of Al-Mudhafar, Al-Bayda Governorate. According to an eyewitness, the child Mohammed was grazing sheep in his village which was a path for the Houthi and Saleh's forces after they took control of the city of Al-Bayda.

 The village of Ghoul Al-Siqil, Al-Humaiqan, in Al-Zahir District, Al-Bayda Governorate, was one of the areas invaded by the Houthi and Saleh's forces. Mines were laid indiscriminately and led to a number of casualties who were injured.

On Saturday, February 17, 2018, an anti-personnel mine exploded,

killing the two children Mohammed Ahmed Abdullah Ali Al-Wahishi, aged 15, and Ahmed Abdullah Mohammed

Al-Banna, aged14. The eyewitness, Mustafa, stated that the two children were on their way to Al-Zahir Clinic in Al-Humaiqan and that the

mine exploded and killed them.

Within one day, a number of mines exploded, killing five people from the village of Dhi Kalb in Al-Qurayshah District, Al-Bayda Governorate, including two women. Eyewitnesses told Rights Radar that there were two explosions of mines laid in the village that was controlled by the Houthi militants and Saleh's forces during their invasion of the area. The explosions occurred on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. Hazzam Abdullah Mohammed Abu Suraima, Ahmad Qaid Saleh Abu Suraima, Shams Mohammed

Ali Al-Fatini were killed in the first explosion. Bedour Abdullah Ahmad Al-Nuaimi and her father, Abdullah Ahmad Al-Nuaimi were injured in the second explosion.

## **SHABWA GOVERNORATE**

- District, Shabwa Governorate, four civilians were returning to the village in a car on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 when a mine exploded and destroyed the car and they were killed. Rights Radar obtained the names of the casualties, namely Mohsen Ali Bin Dayel Al-Harthi, Hathal Mohammed Bin Saeed Al-Harthi, Abdullah Ahmed Musaed Al-Harthi and Khalid Bin Saleh Alawi Al-Harthi. The information obtained by Rights Radar indicated that the area was under the control of the Houthi forces, but they were forced to leave it.
- Children Khalil Mohammed Abd Rabuh Al-Mazab, aged 12, Abd Rabuh Mohammed Al-Mazab, aged 15, and Alawi Abdul Qadir Qaraah, aged 17, were injured in their feet due to the explosion of a mine planted on the route to their homes in the village of Haid Dakam, Beihan District, on Thursday, December 27, 2018. According to one of the casualties' relatives, the Houthi militia laid mines in this area after they took control of it.
- On Sunday, July 1, 2018, a mine exploded and caused the death of Salem Abdullah Omar Al-Harthi, aged 38, in the Dar Al Munsar District, Osailan. An eyewitness told Rights Radar that the Houthi militants laid mines in this area.

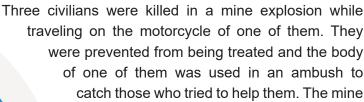


# **AL-HODEIDAH GOVERNORATE**

- The fisherman, Adel Mohammed Al-Shanini, aged 45, anchored his boat on the shore of the Al-Faza District a day after fishing, but he did not realize that death was waiting for him at sea. One of his relatives told Rights Radar that a sea mine explosion destroyed the fisherman's boat and he died on Saturday, April 29, 2017.
- The Al-Tahita District, where the Al-Faza beach is located, was controlled by the Houthis before it was returned in late June 2018 by the joint forces under the command of the Emirati forces on the West Coast.
- Abadlah Abdullah Ahmad Delb, aged 40, went out to collect firewood at her home on Thursday, June 29, 2017. A landmine exploded on her way along the coast of Al-Ghuwairiq, Al-Tahita District of Al-Hodeidah Governorate. An eyewitness told Rights Radar that Abadlah went out to search for firewood and a mine planted along the route exploded and killed her.
- A man found a mine and took it to his home, then it exploded and killed him and two of his sons. Rights Radar documented this incident by recording the witness statement of one of the relatives of the casualties. He explained that Saeed Hassan Buhairi, aged 55, had found a mine that was planted in the village of Al-Qataba in Al-Khokha District, south of Al-Hodeidah Governorate. He took the mine to his house and while they were examining it, it exploded and killed Saeed and his two children, Riyad, aged 8, and Idris aged 10. His wife, Hajjah Tom, aged 40, and her children, Nidaa, aged 15, Tawfiq, aged 11, Maryam, aged 9, Fatima, aged 8, and Bashaer, aged 7 months, were injured. The relatives of the casualties stated that the accident took place on Thursday, November 2, 2017 and the mine is believed to be a remnant of mines that the Houthi and Saleh's forces planted in the area during their control over it for fear of the advance of the government military forces.



• Two children were killed and two others were injured in the explosion of a bomb from the remnants of war found by the children behind Tariq Bin Ziyad School in the village of Al-Shujairah, Al-Durayhimi District, Al-Hodeidah Governorate. According to a witness obtained by Rights Radar, at 10 am on Sunday morning, February 18, 2018, the two children, Rabie Ibrahim, aged 11, and Ali Onaib, aged 12, were killed. The child Abdo Naami, aged 14, was injured in his head and chest and the child Walid Sakhami, aged 13, was injured in his legs as a result of the explosion of a grenade from the remnants of the war that took place in the area between the Houthi forces on one side and the UAE-backed forces (The Giants Brigade) on the other. The children found the grenade and played with it before it exploded.



catch those who tried to help them. The mine explosion took place in an area controlled by the Houthi militants who prevented the casualties from being treated and targeted those who were trying to rescue them. Rights Radar documented this incident and listened to the eyewitness, Fadel, who said, "On Tuesday noon, March 6, 2018, three residents of the village of Jumaina, including a woman, were killed in a landmine explosion on a motorcycle." He explained that the motorcycle was driven by Khaled Mashaal who died hours after the motorcycle explosion. Yasser Jadoul and his wife were killed, too. A patrol of the Popular

Resistance Forces was called for help. When they tried to approach the casualties, the patrol was hit with a missile fired by the Houthi militants. He added, "Other people tried to save Khaled Mashaal because his moan was clearly heard and he could have been saved, but the Houthis used him in an ambush to catch those who approached him. They surrounded him for hours while he was bleeding, but his moan stopped after he died."

• There was a mine in a pile of rubbish and a child took it to the house, where it exploded and injured him and his mother. The child Abdo Mohammed Ali Rajeh, aged 10, found a mine in a pile of rubbish near his house in the Al-Khokha District where he was displaced with his family. He took the mine and went back to his house and while he was playing with it, it exploded. The child was wounded with several pieces of shrapnel and his left leg was broken. His mother, Matarah Salem Ali, aged 39, was also injured. The incident took place on Wednesday, April 4, 2018. According to information obtained by Rights Radar, the child and his family were newly displaced. They were displaced from the city of Hayes to the Al-Khokha District.

Humanitarian workers were exposed to mine risk laid by the Houthi
militia in the West Coast. Rights Radar documented the killing of
Ha'el Saeed Qina'i, aged 36, who was the head of the field survey
team of the Yemeni Development Network for NGOs working in
the West Coast by the explosion of an anti-personnel mine laid on
his way to work in Al-Jah District, Beit Al-Faqih District. One of
the victim's colleagues, who spoke to Rights Radar, said,

"Ha'el had been working for months on arranging a humanitarian campaign for families affected by the war in the West Coast. When he went to examine a humanitarian case, a mine exploded and killed him on Thursday, June 21, 2018."

- A father and two of his children were killed on their motorcycle in a mine explosion on Thursday, July 19, 2018. Mohammed Mashaal Awad Hajir, aged 43, and his two sons, Thabet, aged 25, and Hamid, aged 18, were killed when a mine exploded under their motorcycle. The Rights Radar team listened to an eyewitness who explained that Mohammed Mashaal was a displaced person with his family from the village of Al-Danin, south of Al-Tahita District, who was displaced to live with one of his relatives in the village of Hajir Al-Aqel, north of Al-Khokha District. He added that the incident occurred when Mashaal, together with his two sons Thabet and Hamid, went out on their motorcycle which was blown up by a landmine that was believed to be among the mines laid by the Houthi militia in the city of Al-Khokha.
- In Al-Ghuwairq, a coastal town in Al-Tahita District, a number of fishermen went to the coast to catch small fish called Al-Wazef in the Yemeni dialect, using simple traditional boats. As they pulled in the fishing nets, a marine mine exploded in their boat, killing two fishermen and wounding 12 others on Monday morning, July 23, 2018. Rights Radar team listened to a relative of the casualties and

local residents who confirmed that the explosion of the marine mine in the fishing boat killed the fisherman Ali Mohammed Qasim Antar, aged 45, and his relative Awada Ali Mohammed Antar, aged 25, who was helping to pull in the fishing nets. Another 12 fishermen from the area were wounded in the explosion, namely Mohammed Antar, Abdullah Sabti Antar, Abdo Ali Ayal Nahari, Fayez Saeed Nahari, Khamis Ali Ayal Nahari, Nakheb Mohammed Yahya Antar, Abdo Salem, Sabti Abdullah Antar, Khalid Hassan Ghazal Nahari, Majid Mohammed Abdo Madawir, Ismail Ahmed Shrihi and Saeed Yahya Ali Antar.

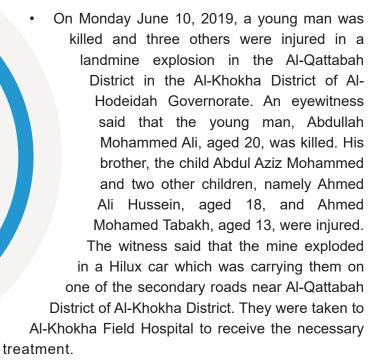
 Hays Field Hospital received five people injured by a landmine explosion under their car while they were traveling in Irfan District, Dahmash Crossroads, south of Hays, Al-Hodeidah, on Thursday afternoon, October 25, 2018. A medical source

in Hays Hospital reported to Rights Radar that the citizen Ahmed Khadem Dahmash was brought to the hospital after he died, adding that the visible signs of injuries indicated that they were due to a mine explosion. The hospital also received four other wounded people, namely Al-Sallal Al-Ezzi, Fouad Abdullah Suleiman, Abdullah Omar Kabishi and Ali Mohammed Tabla. The medical source confirmed that the injured people were taken to Al-Kaddah Hospital because of the lack of capabilities in Hays Hospital to carry out the necessary operations for them.

- Two brothers were killed when a landmine exploded on the way to their house in Al-Masnaa neighborhood, south of Al-Hodeidah city. According to a relative of the two children, Jamil Ali Mohammed Zuraitah, aged 10, and his brother Adil, aged 8, went out to get water from the grocery store next to the neighborhood, and then a mine exploded and killed them on Tuesday, January 1, 2019.
- On Friday evening, February 1, 2019, Fatima Muhaim Musa, aged 35, was killed, and her child, Dawood Khubaish Khubash, aged 14, was wounded in his leg and lower chest, and his sister, Khawla, aged 14, was seriously wounded in the head, chest, hands and legs. A medical source at Al-Khokha Field Hospital told Rights Radar that the mother and her two children were taken to the hospital but the mother had died. The wounds of her daughter Khawla were serious. They were taken to the hospital through

the 16 km road, east of the city of Al-Hodeidah. Khawla and her brothers, Dawood, continued to receive care in the hospital until their condition stabilized. According to Rights Radar's information, the 16 km road in the east of Al-Hodeidah city is the road linking the city of Al-Hodeidah with the capital, Sana'a, in which large Houthi forces holed up and laid many mines as a fence protecting them from the advance of the forces supported by the Arab coalition.

 On the same 16 km road, a mine exploded under a motorcycle on Monday afternoon, February 4, 2019. Three children were riding on the motorcycle as they returned from the sea to their homes. According to a medical source at Al-Deraihmi Hospital, the hospital received the bodies of three children, namely Hassan Saleh Hassan Mallah, aged 15, Ibrahim Abdel-Latif Ibrahim, aged 12, and Musa Adam Mallah, aged 13, who were killed in the landmine explosion and they had traces of wounds.



In Al-Salam and Al-Insha'at neighborhood of Al-Hodeidah city, the
two children, Farid Al-Wasabi, aged 15, and Ahmed Amer Khaled,
aged 11, collected plastic and metal boxes from the neighborhood
waste and they found mines that looked like metal strips. One of
these mines exploded and killed Al-Wasabi and his friend Amer
was injured on Wednesday, June 19, 2019.

# **AL-JAWF GOVERNORATE**

- Saeed Hassan Al-Salasi, aged 33, was killed by a landmine while grazing
  his livestock in Sabreen District of Al-Jawf Governorate. An eyewitness
  told Rights Radar that Saeed went out to graze his sheep on Wednesday,
  February 17, 2016 in Sabreen District which was under the control of
  the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces. It is a vast open grazing area, so
  Saeed went there to graze his sheep and a mine exploded and killed him
  instantly.
- On Friday morning, February 9, 2018, five citizens, including two children and two women, were killed in a mine explosion on a road in Al-Bayda District, Al-Masloub, west of Al-Jawf Governorate. According to witnesses obtained by the Rights Radar team, the area was laid with mines by the Houthi militants and Saleh's forces after they took control over the area in 2017. One of those witnesses said that this accident occurred when two mines exploded. A mine exploded and killed two children and two women while they were transferring water on three donkeys. Another mine exploded when Hussein Bin Hamad Ghurza was trying to rescue them. The two explosions killed Hussein Hamad Ghurza, aged 40, Abdullah Ali Ghurza, aged 11, Saadah Adlan, aged 9, Fatima Ali Fazaan, aged 33, and Hamda Mohammed Al-Zara'i, aged 40, and all of them belonged to



A man, his wife, and three of their children were killed when a landmine exploded under their car in the village of Affi, Bart Al-Anan District. The Rights Radar team listened to a relative of the casualties who said that Sheikh Yahya Qaid Al-Salahi, aged 45, his wife Salha Mohsen Saleh, aged 39, and their children Hammam, aged 13, Saada, aged 10, and Saleh, aged 6, were returning to their village Affi on Friday, March 30, 2018. On the way to their village, a mine exploded under the car and killed all of them. He added that the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces were stationed on that road leading to the entrance to Al-Masloub District.

The distinct characteristic of the casualties of mines in Al-Jawf
 Governorate is that they belonged to one family in

many incidents. One of these incidents was the death of a child and the injury of his mother and brother with a mine that was planted on the road to their village Al-Kherba in Al-Hazm District, the capital of the Governorate.

An eyewitness said that the child Dhafer Faisal Al-Shaqi, aged 13, his brother Mohammed Faisal, aged 11, and their mother Khamisa Hamid Al-Shaqi, aged 40, were walking near their house and a mine exploded and killed the child Dhafer and his mother and it injured his younger brother on Thursday, May 3, 2018. While they were going from their displacement camp to Al-Hazm city market, a mine exploded

and killed a child and injured four others. The Rights

Radar team obtained witnesses from the accident. One of the eyewitnesses reported that five children from Hamad Mutlak Al-Saidi's family, who were displaced in Jabal Shihat camp, were going to the market in Al-Hazm to buy firewood on Monday, April 15, 2019. On the way to the market, a mine exploded and killed the child Jamal Mabkhout Hamad Mutlaq, aged 13. The children Mohsen Mabkhout Hamad Mutlaq, aged 15, Ali Mabkhout Hamad Mutlaq, aged 17, and Mansour Mubarak Hamad Mutlaq, aged 16, were injured.



# HADHRAMAUT AND ABYAN GOVERNORATES

- On Tuesday morning, February 27, 2018, a soldier was killed and two others were injured in the explosion of an explosive device laid by unknown persons on the road leading to a security crew in Wadi Al-Masaini in the west of the city of Al-Mukalla, the capital of the Governorate. A security source told the Rights Radar team that two soldiers, namely Saif Bin Saif Harhara, aged 38, and Mohammed Omar Bin Ali Al-Hajj, aged 30, were killed in the explosion. The two soldiers, Hassan Ali Hussein Talib, aged 29, and Hassan Ahmed Yasslam Al-Hindi, aged 25, were injured. He added that the explosion was believed to be due to an explosive device that blew up the vehicle that was carrying the soldiers. There are active extremist militia belonging to Ansar Al-Sharia in Hadhramaut Governorate and they are in conflict with the government forces.
- In Abyan Governorate, Rights Radar has monitored several explosions, most of which were due to explosive devices planted on the way to the government forces and the UAE-backed Security Belt Forces. On Friday morning, February 16, 2018, a soldier was killed and three others were injured by the Security Belt Forces when an explosive device exploded in a military crew belonging to the Hazm 3 battalion in Al-Mahfad District, Abyan Governorate. An eyewitness reported that a military crew of the Security Belt went out on an official mission in the Al-Mahfad District where an explosive device laid by unknown persons exploded on the way. The explosion killed the soldier Qarir Omar Basanbel, aged 27, and injured three other soldiers, namely Ibrahim Mohammed Saeed Al-Omari, aged 30, Ahmed Abdel Hamid, aged 26, and Mohamed Saeed Al-Radami, aged 31.

# **MA'RIB GOVERNORATE**

- On Saturday, January 16, 2016, the family of a displaced citizen called Hassan Al-Ameri were grazing animals near Al-Khambashi farm in Saelat Al-Jufainh, south of Ma'rib. While they were in their Toyota Hilux car, a mine exploded and resulted in injuries to the family members. One of the casualties, called Fana Hassan Al-Ameri, aged 18, said that her family was displaced to Saelat Al-Jufainh seven months before this accident. She added that while they were grazing their animals, a mine blew up their car and her brother, Mabrouk, aged 10, suffered a brain injury. He was carried to Ma'rib General Hospital for treatment. Her brother Jaafar, aged 5, had a broken leg. It is noteworthy that Saelat Al-Jufainh is located in the outskirts of Ma'rib City and it was controlled by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces in 2015. They had laid mines in it before the resistance forces in Ma'rib liberated it in September 2015, according to multiple sources.
- The Houthi militia and Saleh's forces were stationed on the road linking the south of Ma'rib Governorate with Al-Sawadiyah District of Al-Bayda Governorate. They had checkpoints on it, so they laid mines on the sides.
- On Sunday evening, October 16, 2016, a car carrying several passengers was travelling on the road when a mine exploded and killed five people. An eyewitness told the Rights Radar team that the explosion

- took place on Sunday evening and the car was carrying at least ten citizens and five of them were killed. The people killed were Ali Mohammed Haddaj, Ghanem Nasser Mohammed Haddaj, Tariq Mohammed Al-Ghanemi, Mohammed Ali Haddag Al-Ghanemi and Ali Bin Ali Al-Zubaidi.
- Hamda Mohammed Al-Mashra'i, aged 67, and her daughter, Amina Mohammed Jaber Al-Mashra'i, aged 20, were grazing sheep in Sinumah District of Al-Mahjazah, the town of Sirwah. While they were grazing their sheep, a mine exploded, killing the mother and wounding the daughter. An eyewitness said that he heard the explosion that occurred on Tuesday morning, July 4, 2017 and he came with some of the recruits to the scene of the explosion to take the two casualties to Ma'rib City Hospital.
- On Monday, April 9, 2018, while Muhsin Mohammed Jahza Al-Ajdai was driving with some of his relatives to search for his lost sheep in Najd Al-Ma'sal District in Medghal District, a mine blew up the car, killing four of his relatives and wounding another person. Mohsen, one of the survivors of the explosion, stated that he was searching for sheep when a mine blew up the car, killing Abd Al-Rab Mohsen Mohammed Jahza, Mohammed Mohsen Mohammed Jahza, Bashar Saeed Mohammed Jahza and Musab Jaber Saeed Jahza. Jaber Saeed Mohammed Jahza was also wounded.

# LAHJ GOVERNORATE

- The young man Mohammed Abdullah Jazem Bishr, aged 19, was walking with his mother to visit his grandfather on the day of Eid Al-Fitr corresponding to Saturday, July 9, 2016. On their way, an antipersonnel mine exploded in Najd Al-Qufail in the village of Givat, in Al-Qabbaytah District. Mohammed was wounded and one of his legs was severed. When his mother tried to save him, a second mine exploded leading to the severing of one of her legs. When two villagers came to rescue them, another mine exploded. An eyewitness who met with the Rights Radar team stated that Mohammed Abdullah Jazem and his mother were going to visit one of their relatives on the day of Eid Al-Fitr when a mine exploded and injured the young man. He added that when his mother tried to save him, another mine exploded. The two young men, Abdullah Saleh Thabet, aged 22, and Majdi Mohammed Abdullah Ali, aged 23, tried to rescue the young man and his mother, but a third mine exploded and injured them with its shrapnel. The eyewitness said that these mines had been laid by the Houthi militia and Saleh's forces during their control of a number of villages in Al-Qabbaytah District.
- Dalila Abd Al-Samad Al-Suwaidi, aged 39, was killed in a landmine explosion. This landmine was laid in Al-Shuaib, west of Al-Sharijah District. Her two children, Azzam and Layla Abdo Abdul-Baqi Suleiman were wounded. One of their relatives stated that Dalila and her two children were returning home. While they were passing by Al-Shuaib where the Houthi militants were stationed, a mine exploded and killed her and injured her two children on Saturday, January 26, 2019.
- While the child Ghaidaa Mahboub and her friend Omaima Ali were going to get water from one of the wells in their village, Al-Youssefain, Al-Qabbaytah District, a mine exploded, killing the first child and wounding the second one on Sunday afternoon, March 17, 2019. One of their relatives stated that there were some Houthi militants in the village and they were believed to be laying mines in a number of places in the village.

# **ADEN GOVERNORATE**

- On Saturday afternoon, February 24, 2018, two car bombs exploded in front of the headquarters of the anti-terrorist forces in Al-Tawahi District in the temporary capital, Aden. According to a security source, 3 people were killed and 53 were wounded as a result of the accident. That source told Rights Radar that the accident was carried out by parties loyal to the so-called Islamic State. Rights Radar obtained a number of the names of the casualties, among them the three dead, namely the soldier Samed Abd Al-Salam, the soldier Ghassan Muthanna and the soldier Mohammed Abdullah Abd Al-Nabi. As for the injured, Rights Radar was able to obtain 21 of their names. They are as follows: Maher Mohammed Ali Saleh, Abdullah Ali Hassan, Abbas Saif Hassan Al-Bakri, Salah Mohsen Ali Hassan, Wijdan Hammoud Ali, Abdul Hakim Mohammed Abdullah, Ahmed Saif Salem Hussein, Muheib Mohammed, Haroon Abdullah, Abdullah Mohammed. Ali Nasser Ahmed. Omar Abdullah Mohammed, Saeed Abdullah Abdullah, Yaslim Zaid Manea, Salam Saleh
- Salam, Yasser Hussein Muqbel, Mohammed Abdul Wahid Muthanna, Abu Bakr Fadl Majd, Raafat Abdul Raouf, Abdo Ali Ben Ali and Ali Qaid Ghaleb Ahmed.
- A woman was killed and five others were injured by an explosive device in a military crew of the 20th infantry brigade stationed in the city of Al-Mocha in the western coast. The explosion occurred while the crew were in the Al-Kara'a market in Dar Saad District. in the middle of the temporary capital, Aden on Friday, March 23, 2018. The Rights Radar team came to the area after the incident and they listened to eyewitnesses in the market. All of them confirmed that a planted explosive device exploded on the military crew. Rights Radar was unable to obtain the identity of the dead woman, who was a beggar in the market. Most of the wounded persons were members of the crew and they were Sultan Nasser Hanash, Munir Abdul Qawi Jowaih, Mohammed Saleh Al-Dhars. Mohsen Okasha and Mohammed Abdul Qawi Thabit.



## **HAJJAH GOVERNORATE**

- In the village of Al-Dashush in the city of Harad which was under the control of the Houthi militia, the child Omar Yahya Ahmed, aged 13, was killed on Wednesday evening, March 13, 2019 in a landmine explosion on his way home. According to one of his relatives, Omar was carried to Al-Twal Hospital in Saudi Arabia after he was injured with shrapnel in his body and his left leg was severed. He died before reaching the hospital.
- Al-Obaisah District in the town of Kushr, Hajjah Governorate, was
  the scene of severe military operations between the Houthi militia on
  one side and tribal militants on the other during February and March
  2019. The Houthi militia was able to bring the area under its control.
  A number of activists from the area and displaced residents said that
  during the military operations, the Houthi militants laid mines in that
  area. As a result, there were a number of casualties.
- Four girls were killed one Monday, May 6, 2019 with a landmine laid in the Al-Obaisah District. Rights Radar was able to document the incident. One of the area's residents said, "We rushed to the site of the explosion in the neighborhood and we found the scattered bodies of the girls who were grazing sheep. We collected their body parts and buried them in the village cemetery. Rights Radar obtained the names of the girls from another source and they are as follows: Ahlam Mohammed Hassan Azib, Khadija Abdullah Ahmad Azib, Hafsa Ali Mohsen Azib and Samoud Mohammed Ali Azib.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- We, Rights Radar, call on the Houthi armed militia to commit to the provisions of the Ottawa Convention and all the charters of the international humanitarian law and human rights to stop planting mines of all kinds or using them as a weapon of war in Yemen.
- We call on the Houthi militia to provide maps to the Yemeni government and programs working in the field of demining in Yemen of all the fields and areas in which it has laid mines in recent years.
- We call on the Houthi militia to stop making explosive devices and all forms of explosives and to destroy its stockpiled mines.
- We call on all parties to the conflict in Yemen, including the extremist groups and the other armed militia, the government forces and the UAE-backed forces to stop using mines and other IEDs and explosives.
- We call on the United Nations to use its powers to exert international pressure on the Houthi militia and the other parties to stop laying all kinds of mines in Yemen.
- We call on the prominent teams of experts of the United Nations and the UN Security
  Council to keep investigating the issue of mine laying and its impact on Yemenis to
  ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice and to compensate the casualties
  and the affected persons.
- We call on the United Nations and its agencies in Yemen and the countries with influence in Yemeni affairs to allocate programs for demining in Yemen and rehabilitate all the casualties of these mines.
- We call for the return of the displaced and deported persons to all the places from which they were displaced and to secure their areas from the mines laid there, as well as ensuring a safe and decent life for them after their return.
- We call on all the parties to stop targeting civilians and commit to the Rules of Engagement and the Law of War.
- We call on all the international institutions and organizations to allocate the psychological and material support programs for mine casualties, especially for children and women.
- We call on all the parties to the conflict to respect Yemen's international obligations regarding the prohibition and non-use of mines and all other relevant obligations that Yemen has committed to.

### **RIGHTS RADAR**

### WHO WE ARE?

Rights Radar foundation is a civil society organization for Human Rights, Non-Profit and Non-Governmental organization for monitoring, promoting and defending Human rights in the Arab world.

Founded by some Arab human rights defenders, and activists. Allocated for monitoring, documenting, and reporting violations against Human Rights, as well as providing advocacy, and legal support for victims and capacity building for human rights activists. It is focusing on all topics and areas of human rights, including freedom of expression, media and press freedom, women's rights, children's rights, disability rights, refugee rights, rights to justice.

Rights Radar working through a wide and professional network of reporters and monitors in the ground in most of the areas covered by its activities, using up-to-date techniques of monitoring and documenting human rights cases.

### **OUR OBJECTIVES:**

Monitoring and documenting violations against human rights in the Arab World.

Providing advocacy and legal support for victims of human rights' violations.

Networking and partnership with human rights organizations.

Capacity building and leadership developing for human rights activists.

### **OUR VISSION:**

Excellence in monitoring, documenting, and advocacy of human rights in the Arab world.

### **OUR MISSION:**

A non-profit human rights foundation to defend Arab human rights and advocate their essential rights through monitoring and documenting violations, issuing statements and reports, networking and partnership with regional and international human rights organizations, as well as creating training and capacity building opportunities for human rights activists and leaders.

### **OUR VALUES**

Responsibility Credibility.

Independency.

Transparency.

### **OUR PROGRAMS**

#### MONITORING

Rights Radar regularly monitors the human rights status and abuses in the Arab world, through local qualified monitors and reporters working to world-class standards and using cutting-edge techniques, as well as through collaborations with local human rights organizations that work in the same field with the same quality of work.

### **DOCUMENTING**

Rights Radar documents human rights abuses committed by various parties, individual or collective, across the Arab world. Through a variety of approaches, we obtain material proof and documented evidence of the abuses of human rights to be used to bring the perpetrators to justice.

### **ADVOCACY**

As part of our mission, Rights Radar provides advocacy and legal support, both material and moral support, for victims of human rights abuses in the Arab world, thanks to our capacity and expertise, and in collaboration with international organizations with complementary programs and aims.

### **NETWORKING**

We achieve our objectives and goals through collaborating with a wide network of local, regional and international human rights organizations. Sharing experiences and working together, we drive outcomes and defend human rights through collective action and large-scale campaigns.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

As well as defending human rights, Rights Radar is committed to training the human rights activists working as internal staff members as well as external organizations that share the same goal of defending human rights. Capacity building is a major part of our program and mission to improve human rights.

### **FIELDS OF FOCUS**

Rights Radar believes the right to freedom of expression and justice, rights for women, children, people with disabilities and refugees are fundamental issues and represent the core topics of our work and activities.

### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

We advocate for freedom of expression to advance media freedom and public liberties, and promote its potential to play a vital role in developing democracy and protecting the public interest. We believe that democracy will not be fully achieved unless freedom of expression is guaranteed as a basic right.

### **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Rights Radar promotes women's empowerment and supports their vital role and participation in society. We believe that society cannot reach its full potential unless women enjoy the same equal rights and opportunities as men, including education, health care, jobs, etc.

### **CHILDREN'S RIGHTS**

We are working to enhance children's basic rights and assist them to fully enjoy their rights, including education, health care and protection. We look to children as our bright future, and this dream will not come true unless children are integrated fully into social development and public policies.

#### **DISABILITY RIGHTS**

Rights Radar promotes the empowerment of people with disabilities and supports their integration and participation in society. We want to see equality, where people with disabilities enjoy all their fundamental rights and opportunities, including education, jobs, health care, etc.

### **REFUGEE RIGHTS**

We work to enhance refugee rights and support them to be smoothly integrated into society and granted their humanitarian rights with no discrimination. We believe that refugees should have access to basic rights, such as education, health care and job opportunities.

### **RIGHT TO JUSTICE**

We promote the values of justice within society to grant fair prosecution for victims and prisoners. We believe that life will not be protected unless justice, law and order govern the behavior of all people from top to bottom, and the right to justice becomes a fundamental right for all.



## YEMEN: GARDENS OF DEATH

A HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON MINE CASUALTIES

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