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Introduction

The 1997 “Ottawa” Mine Ban Treaty came into force on 1 March 1999 and comprehensively prohibits use, production, transfer, and stockpiling of antipersonnel landmines as well as assisting with these banned activities.¹ The treaty provides the humanitarian framework for eradicating landmines and mitigating human suffering by requiring clearance of mined areas within ten years, destruction of stocks within four years, and assistance to mine victims.

Of the 164 countries that have joined the Mine Ban Treaty, nine are in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region: Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Ten of the 33 states that remain outside the treaty come from the MENA region: Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates.

This Briefing Paper was led by Human Rights Watch and draws from Landmine Monitor² reporting, particularly country profiles that examine the positions and actions of all states in adhering to ban treaty provisions.

Use, Production, Transfer, and Stockpiling

Twelve MENA states have used antipersonnel mines in the past, including Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Syria, and Yemen. Additionally, non-state actor groups have used antipersonnel mines in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen.

Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Israel have produced and exported mines in the past, but all four states reportedly have ceased their production and export processes.

Seven MENA states likely continue to stockpile antipersonnel mines: Egypt, Iran, Israel, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen. The size of each country’s stockpile is not public due to security concerns. Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Tunisia, and Yemen have destroyed their stockpiles during their implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty.

Status of Contamination

12 states in the Middle East and North Africa are known to be contaminated by antipersonnel mines: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Syria, and

¹ [Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction](#), 18 September 1997, also called the Mine Ban Treaty

² Monitor website at <http://www.the-monitor.org/en-gb/home.aspx>.

Yemen.³ An additional four states have residual or suspected contamination: Algeria,⁴ Kuwait,⁵ Saudi Arabia,⁶ and Tunisia.⁷ That leaves just three states - Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates - without contamination.

There was new contamination in 2017 and/or 2018 in State Party Yemen and in non-signatory Syria, as well as unconfirmed new use in Libya and Saudi Arabia. Most new mine contamination is from improvised mines, which are often referred to as “improvised explosive devices (IEDs).” IEDs constitute improvised mines if they are “designed to be exploded by the presence, proximity, or contact of a person.”⁸ Most states and areas with contamination reported some clearance in 2017-2018, with the exceptions of Egypt and Libya.

Mine Ban Policy by Country

Algeria

The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 3 December 1997, and became a State Party on 1 April 2002. Algeria believes that existing national laws, including the penal code, are sufficient to deal with implementation and any violations of the Mine Ban Treaty.⁹ Algeria has submitted its Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 report every year, most recently in 2019.

Algeria has never produced or exported antipersonnel mines but did import and use them in the past. On 21 November 2005, Algeria completed the destruction of its stockpile of 150,050 antipersonnel mines. In May 2010, Algeria reported that no additional stockpiles of mines belonging to the armed forces had been discovered after completion of its stockpile destruction program.¹⁰ Algeria's previous Article 7 reports indicated small numbers of antipersonnel mines were discovered by citizens or security personnel each year.¹¹ However, Algeria has not reported any new seizures of antipersonnel mines since February 2010.

³ See *Landmine Monitor 2018*, "[Contamination and Clearance](#)" chapter, ICBL, November 2018.

⁴ From January to October 2017, 137 emplaced “isolated” antipersonnel mines were destroyed. See, Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report 2018, Form C, p. 26.

⁵ Antipersonnel mine casualties were reported in Kuwait in 2017.

⁶ Reports of mine use and seizures have occurred in southern Saudi Arabia on its borders with Yemen, in Aseer and Jazan provinces.

⁷ There were casualties from improvised mines in Tunisia in 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. It is likely that these devices were recently laid when they exploded.

⁸ Mine Ban Treaty Article 2(1)

⁹ This includes Law Number 97-06 on war material, arms, and munitions (enacted on 21 January 1997) and Executive Order Number 98-96 (18 March 1998) implementing Law 97-06. Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Sections 1.1 and 1.2, 1 May 2003.

¹⁰ “Updated information regarding the implementation by Algeria of certain provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines,” Letter NR061/10/TD, provided to the Monitor by Amb. Abdallah Baali, Embassy of Algeria to the United States, 11 May 2010.

¹¹ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Section 5.4, January 2011. Prior to February 2010, Algeria included a chart of “isolated” antipersonnel mines that were discovered and destroyed.

Bahrain

The Kingdom of Bahrain has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. Bahrain last expressed serious interest in accession to the treaty in 2007, but it has not demonstrated similar enthusiasm since then.¹² Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have said that the country has never produced, exported, or used antipersonnel mines and is not mine-affected.¹³ Ministry of Defense officials have said Bahrain keeps a “limited” stock of antipersonnel mines for training purposes only.¹⁴

In January 2011, Bahrain’s Undersecretary of International Affairs stated, “Bahrain participated in all meetings of the convention but did not accede for security reasons, and the agreement at the Gulf Cooperation Council to join collectively.”¹⁵ Previously, in a letter to the ICBL, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, “Bahrain endorses the treaty’s aims and principles and continues to study closely the possibility of accession. Such accession would involve complex legal, domestic and international issues, and a number of relevant authorities in Bahrain are continuing to carry out close study of such issues.”¹⁶ Officials have cited the need to coordinate with other Gulf Cooperation Council member states regarding accession.¹⁷ In November 2010, Bahrain’s Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander Shaikh Salman bin Hamad al Khalifa stated that he was open to becoming a State Party.

Egypt

The Arab Republic of Egypt has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. Egypt has regularly stated its reasons for opposing the treaty, reiterating that antipersonnel landmines are seen as a key means for securing its borders and that responsibility for clearance is not assigned in the treaty to those who laid the mines in the past.¹⁸ Egypt has participated in a few meetings of States

¹² In November 2007, during an ICBL mission, members of the Bahraini House of Representatives, including the vice-speaker, expressed support for accession to the treaty, and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative spoke of accelerating the accession process. In May 2007, in response to an ICBL letter, Bahrain wrote, “His Highness the Prime Minister and his Government are tackling this issue with sincere concern and full commitment.” During a March 2007 ICBL mission, several Bahraini officials and legislators expressed support for accession to the treaty.

¹³ Notes from ICBL meeting with Mohamed Ghassan Shaiko, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Manama, 12 April 2005.

¹⁴ Amb. Satnam Jit Singh, “Mission Report – Bahrain, 26–30 September 2004,” 30 September 2004.

¹⁵ Oral response by Amb. Karim Ebrahim Al-Shakar, Undersecretary of International Affairs, Bahrain Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the request by attendees of the Monitor report release event for Bahrain to join the Mine Ban Treaty and draft an accession law, Manama, 2 January 2011.

¹⁶ Letter from Amb. Fouad Darwish, Director of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 24 November 2008.

¹⁷ Various officials expressed this to ICBL members during advocacy visits in 2008 and 2009, as well as to the ICRC during a mission to Bahrain in November 2008.

¹⁸ “Egypt abstained in the voting on draft resolution A/C.1/72/L.40, because that instrument, which was developed and concluded outside the framework of the United Nations, lacks balance. Mindful of the humanitarian considerations surrounding landmines, Egypt imposed a moratorium on its capacity to produce and export landmines beginning in the 1980s, long before the conclusion of the Ottawa Convention. We believe that the Convention lacks balance between the humanitarian concerns related to anti-personnel landmines and their legitimate military uses for border protection, particularly in countries that have long borders and deal with exceptional security challenges. Furthermore, the Convention does not make States legally responsible for removing anti-personnel mines that they have placed on the territory of other States, thereby rendering it almost impossible for many States to meet demining requirements on their own. That is particularly true in the case of Egypt, which is one of the countries most affected by

Parties and the Third Review Conference in 2014, but has not attended any subsequent meetings.

Previously, military authorities stated to an Egyptian newspaper that they had begun to lay landmines around military outposts in Sinai in May 2015, which resulted in the reported deaths of two militants.¹⁹ A military official also reportedly stated that Egyptian armed forces laid a minefield in 2011 on the country's border with Libya.

Militants linked with the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) claimed to have placed mines on the perimeter of a police station during a May 2015 attack in the Sinai town of Sheikh Zuweid.²⁰ State officials have claimed that IS is manufacturing munitions from explosives recovered from mines in uncleared minefields in Egypt.²¹ In April 2017, the Ministry of Interior reported that it had uncovered a small cache of Iranian-made mines.²²

Egypt has stated that it stopped production of antipersonnel mines in 1988 and stopped exports in 1984.²³ In December 2004, Egypt's Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister stated that "the Egyptian government has imposed a moratorium on all export and production activities related to antipersonnel mines."²⁴ This was the first time that Egypt publicly and officially announced a moratorium on production.²⁵ In December 2012, Egypt said that it "imposed a moratorium on its capacity to produce and export landmines in 1980."²⁶ However, in February 2017, the Egyptian Ministry of Military Production advertised Heliopolis plastic antipersonnel landmines for sale at its display at IDEX in Abu Dhabi.²⁷ Egypt is believed to have a large stockpile of antipersonnel mines, but no details are available on the size and composition of the stockpile, as it is considered a state secret.

this problem, with more than 22 million landmines placed on its territory during the Second World War." Egypt, Explanation of Vote on Resolution L.40, 72nd Session, UNGA First Committee, New York, 31 October 2017, UNGA, Official Records, A/C.1/72/PV26, pp. 13/29.

¹⁹ "New security plans to 'entrap' Sinai militants by landmines," *The Cairo Post*, 20 May 2015.

²⁰ Erin Cunningham and Loveday Morris, "[Militants launch major assault in Egypt's Sinai](#)," *Washington Post*, 1 July 2015.

²¹ Ernst D., "[ISIS digs up Nazi-era land mines of the Sahara, adds weapons to modern arsenal](#)," *Washington Post*, 10 August 2016.

²² "كيف وصلت أسلحة إيران لخلابا الإخوان الإرهابية بمصر؟" *Al Arabia*, 17 April 2017. Photograph shows what appears to be an Iranian No. 4 antipersonnel blast mine. This type has been previously found in Sudan, but Egyptian authorities allege it was smuggled from Gaza.

²³ Statement of Egypt, Mine Ban Treaty Seventh Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 22 September 2006; and statement of Egypt, "Explanation of Vote on Resolution on the Ottawa APLM Convention, L.8," UNGA First Committee, New York, 27 October 2010.

²⁴ Statement of Egypt, Mine Ban Treaty First Review Conference, Nairobi, 2 December 2004.

²⁵ Egypt told a UN assessment mission in February 2000 that it ceased export of antipersonnel mines in 1984 and ended production in 1988, and several Egyptian officials over the years also told the Monitor informally that production and trade had stopped. There is no publicly available evidence that Egypt has produced or exported antipersonnel mines in recent years. See, *Landmine Monitor Report 2004*, p. 957.

²⁶ Statement of Egypt, "[Explanation of Vote on Resolution on the Ottawa APLM Convention, L.8](#)," UNGA First Committee, New York, 2 December 2012.

²⁷ Brochure, Heliopolis Co. for Chemical Industries, National Organization for Military Production, Ministry of Military Production, Arab Republic of Egypt, p. 23. AP T78 and AP T79 plastic antipersonnel landmines. Received from Omega Research via Twitter, 3 March 2017.

Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. It has cited its perceived need for antipersonnel mines on its borders as the primary reason for not joining the treaty.²⁸ Iran has not attended any international meetings of the Mine Ban Treaty in the past decades. Its only attendance was at the intersessional meetings of May 2001.

In October 2015, several newspapers published a report that alleged new use of antipersonnel mines by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps on the border of Iran and northern Iraq. The allegation states that the mines were laid to prevent incursion by Kurdish militants and smugglers, but this allegation has not been verified.²⁹

In September 2002, the Ministry of Defense declared, “The Islamic Republic of Iran, since the termination of its war [1988], has not produced anti-personnel mines.”³⁰ However, the Monitor received information in 2002, 2003, and 2004 that demining organizations in Afghanistan were removing and destroying many hundreds of Iranian YM-I and YM-I-B antipersonnel mines, date stamped 1999 and 2000, from abandoned Northern Alliance frontlines.³¹

Iran is thought to have a large stockpile of antipersonnel mines, but no official information is available on its size and composition. Iran exported a significant number of antipersonnel mines in the 1990s and earlier. An export moratorium was instituted in 1997, but it is not known if it is still formally in effect. Iranian antipersonnel mines have been seized in Afghanistan in 2008,³² Tajikistan in 2007,³³ and Somalia in 2006.³⁴

Iraq

The Republic of Iraq acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 15 August 2007 and became a State Party on 1 February 2008. Iraq has not enacted legislation to implement the Mine Ban Treaty, but a government official said in 2012 that draft legislation was being prepared.³⁵ Iraq had not

²⁸ In a February 2006 letter to the Monitor, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, “Due to our expansive borders and problems resulting from narcotics and terrorist trafficking, our defense institutions are considering the use of landmines as a defensive mechanism.”

²⁹ “[لجيش الإيراني - نزاع الألغام على الحدود مع كردستان العراق](#),” *Al Araby Algaded*, 25 October 2015.

³⁰ Letter to the Monitor from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the UN in New York, 6 September 2002.

³¹ Information provided to the Monitor and the ICBL by HALO Trust, Danish Demining Group, and other demining groups in Afghanistan. Iranian antipersonnel and antivehicle mines were also part of a shipment seized by Israel in January 2002 off the coast of the Gaza Strip.

³² One report cites 113 mines recovered, including 50 antipersonnel mines. “Landmine deport smuggled from Iran discovered,” *Pajhwok Afghan News*, 25 January 2008. See also, “Iranian Land Mines Found in Taliban Commander’s House,” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)*, 25 January 2008.

³³ Tajikistan Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form B2, 3 February 2008.

³⁴ “Report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia pursuant to Security Council resolution 1676 (2006),” S/2006/913, 22 November 2006, p. 62.

³⁵ Meeting with Bakhshan Assad, Head of Rehabilitation Department, Ministry of Public Health, with Maythem Obead, Head of Victim Assistance and Mine Risk Education Department of Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (MAVAA), with Soran

previously indicated if national implementation legislation to enforce the treaty's prohibitions domestically was being pursued or if existing laws were considered adequate.³⁶

Since the Second Review Conference in 2009, Iraq has attended almost every meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty.³⁷ At the Sixteenth Meeting of States Parties in December 2017, Iraq filed a request to extend its deadline for fulfilling Article 5 clearance requirements by 10 years, which was granted.³⁸

Iraq produced antipersonnel mines in the past, including in the period leading up to the 2003 conflict. All mine production facilities were apparently destroyed by the coalition bombing campaign in 2003.³⁹ Iraq reported that it has no intention to reconstruct its production capacity.⁴⁰ There have been no reports or allegations of landmine transfers from Iraq since the 1990s.

Islamic State forces used improvised landmines, other types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and victim-activated booby-traps extensively from 2014–2018.⁴¹ The extent to which the IEDs are command-detonated or victim-activated is not clear.

Iraq's treaty deadline for destruction of its stockpiles of antipersonnel mines was 1 February 2012.⁴² In June 2011, Iraq stated that it destroyed 645 out of 690 antipersonnel mines stockpiled in the Kurdistan region, retaining 45 mines for training purposes.⁴³ In its Article 7 report for

Majeed, Victim Assistance Officer, and with Ibrahim Baba-Ali, UN Development Programme Iraq, in Geneva, 23 May 2012. See also, Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013), Form A.

³⁶ Iraq has only reported on the legal framework for mine action. Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for calendar year 2009), Form A.

³⁷ Iraq did not participate in the intersessional meetings held in June 2010.

³⁸ [Decision](#) on the request submitted by Iraq for an extension of the deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, 21 December 2017.

³⁹ Interview with Mowafak Ayoub, Director, Disarmament Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Geneva, 10 February 2004. Iraqi and United States (US) sources requesting anonymity indicated that the Aloa'oa'a and Hutten factories in Alexandria and the Aloudisie factory in Al Youssfiz were destroyed. For details on previous production, see, *Landmine Monitor Report 1999*, pp. 886–887. In 2005, the Monitor removed Iraq from its list of countries producing antipersonnel mines or reserving the right to produce them, following the destruction of Iraq's production facilities and the government's statements in support of banning antipersonnel mines.

⁴⁰ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form E, 31 July 2008. The report also states: "The PMN Anti-Personnel mine was produced in this factory. Shortly before the war of 2003 however, a defect in these mines resulted in restricting the use of these mines. As far as can be determined, the stocks of these mines in military ammunition dumps have been dealt with by the US Corps of Military Engineering Conventional Munitions Destruction Project. Iraq also developed the capacity to produce Valmara 69 mines but apparently this capacity was never used to physically produce Valmara mines."

⁴¹ See, for example, "[ISIS's latest threat: laying landmines](#)," *IRIN*, 6 November 2014; Mike Giglio, "[The Hidden Enemy in Iraq](#)," *Buzzfeed*, 19 March 2015; and Peter Beaumont, "[People are scared: Deadly legacy of Isis continues to shape lives in Iraq](#)," *The Guardian*, 15 November 2018.

⁴² The Monitor has previously noted that Iraq was believed to stockpile, at some point, mines manufactured by Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Italy, Romania, Singapore, the former Soviet Union, and the US, in addition to Iraqi-manufactured mines.

⁴³ Statement of Iraq, Mine Ban Treaty Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction, Geneva, 20 June 2011.

calendar year 2011, Iraq reported that an additional 50 stockpiled antipersonnel mines were destroyed in the Kurdistan region.⁴⁴

Israel

The State of Israel has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. Israel's long-standing position is that "regional circumstances prevailing in the Middle East prevent Israel from committing to a total ban on anti-personnel mines."⁴⁵ Israel has said that "it is unable to disregard its specific military and security needs" and that "it cannot commit to a total ban on anti-personnel mines as they are a legitimate means for defending its borders against possible incursions such as terrorist attacks."⁴⁶ Israel last attended a formal meeting of the Mine Ban Treaty in November–December 2004. It has abstained from voting on UN General Assembly Resolutions in support of the Mine Ban Treaty.

On 28 March 2011, Israel's parliament adopted the Mine Field Clearance Act. The law establishes a national mine action authority to manage the clearance of Israel's "non-operational" minefields, but it does not refer to the Mine Ban Treaty.⁴⁷ On 31 December 2007, the Defense Export Control Act entered into force in Israel. The act "criminalizes, *inter alia*, any violation of the export without an export license or contrary to its provisions. This Act serves as Israel's statutory framework for the implementation of its obligations under the CCW regarding restrictions and prohibitions on transfer and the Moratorium on any sales of [antipersonnel mines]."⁴⁸

Israel has said it "ceased all production and imports of antipersonnel mines in the early 1980s."⁴⁹ It has dismantled its antipersonnel mine production lines.⁵⁰ Israel declared a moratorium on the transfer of all antipersonnel mines in 1994 that was extended until July 2020.⁵¹

⁴⁴Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 supporting documentation on Iraqi Kurdistan (for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011), Form G. Note that this was one of two reports submitted by Iraq as part of its transparency reporting, but it is not the official Article 7 report for Iraq.

⁴⁵ Letter from Eyal Propper, Director of Arms Control Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 14 November 2010.

⁴⁶ Email from Joshua Zarka, Counselor for Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 18 April 2007. Israel made a similar statement at the UN First Committee meetings in October 2011, stating "as long as the regional security situation continues to impose a threat on Israel's safety and sovereignty, the need to protect the Israeli borders – including through the use of AP [antipersonnel] mines – cannot [be] diminished." See, statement of Israel, UN General Assembly First Committee, New York, 4 October 2011.

⁴⁷ Mine Field Clearance Act, 5771-2011, 14 March 2011.

⁴⁸ CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form D, November 2007.

⁴⁹ Email from Meir Itzchaki, Regional Security and Arms Control Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 10 February 2003. In the past, Israel produced low metal content blast antipersonnel mines (No. 4, No. 10), a bounding fragmentation mine (No. 12), and Claymore-type directional fragmentation munitions, designated M18A1.

⁵⁰ Interview with members of the Israeli delegation to the Eighth Session of the CCW Group of Government Experts, Geneva, 8 July 2004.

⁵¹ CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form F, 20 March 2019.

The size and composition of Israel's stockpile of antipersonnel mines remains unknown, but it includes both hand-emplaced and remotely-delivered mines.⁵² The NGO Mine-Free Israel estimates that there are approximately one million operational and non-operational mines laid in minefields covering more than 197,000 dunams (197 km²) in Israel and Palestine.⁵³ In the summer of 2017, the Israeli Mine Action Authority (INMAA) began a three-year effort to clear minefields in the Golan Heights under Israel's control.⁵⁴

Jordan

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 11 August 1998, ratified on 13 November 1998, and became a State Party on 1 May 1999. On 1 April 2008, Jordan enacted the National Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Law, which incorporated the treaty into Jordan's domestic law.⁵⁵ Jordan consistently submits annual Article 7 reports and attends meetings of the treaty.

Jordan has never produced or exported antipersonnel mines, and last used them in 1978. It completed the destruction of its stockpile of 92,342 antipersonnel mines in April 2003. Jordan included Claymore mines in its stockpile destruction. As of 2019, Jordan reports that it retains 200 mines for training and research purposes.⁵⁶

Kuwait

The State of Kuwait acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 30 July 2007 and became a State Party on 1 January 2008. Kuwait has not submitted an annual Article 7 report since May 2010. In its last report, Kuwait indicated that efforts were "in progress to enact the required legislation to meet the elements of this convention," but provided no further detail.⁵⁷ Kuwait has also cited articles of existing law as serving to implement the Mine Ban Treaty.⁵⁸ Kuwait has attended some meetings of the treaty.

⁵² Israel reported that in 2005 the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) destroyed 15,510 outdated mines at an ammunition disposal facility. It has not reported any further destruction of mines since that time. CCW Amended Protocol II Article 13 Report, Form C, 22 November 2005.

⁵³ Rebecca Anna Stoil, "[Knesset paves way for landmine clearance effort](#)," *Jerusalem Post*, 14 March 2011.

⁵⁴ Anna Ahronheim, "[New Golan Mine-Clearing Project to Begin This Summer](#)," *The Jerusalem Post*, 16 March 2017.

⁵⁵ National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation, "The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Law: Law Number 10 for the year 2008," Amman, April 2008. For more details see *Landmine Monitor Report 2008*, p. 459.

⁵⁶ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form A, 24 March 2019.

⁵⁷ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form A, 24 May 2010. The report is dated 24 May 2010, but was received by the UN on 29 April 2010.

⁵⁸ Letter M 236/2009 from the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the UN to the ISU, GICHD, 11 November 2009. The letter refers to Articles 1 and 3 of Act 35 of 1985, and Article 171 of Act 16 of 1960. Kuwait also wrote in its Article 7 reports submitted in 2009 and 2010 that "recent panel [sic] code for the state of Kuwait" is applied, which has "prohibited such acts mentioned in the convention" Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form A, 24 May 2009; and Article 7 Report, Form A, 24 May 2010.

Kuwait is not known to have produced or exported antipersonnel mines. It did not declare any production facilities in its Article 7 reports.⁵⁹ Officials from the Ministry of Defense stated in 2002 that Kuwaiti forces have never used mines.⁶⁰

In its initial Article 7 report of May 2008, Kuwait declared a stockpile of 91,432 antipersonnel mines, composed of six types.⁶¹ In a July 2009 letter, Kuwait informed States Parties that it had destroyed its stockpile.⁶² Kuwait has stated that it does not retain any mines for training purposes, and has not indicated in previous Article 7 reports that it retains mines.⁶³

Lebanon

The Republic of Lebanon has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty, but indicated in December 2009 that it “hopes to sign...in the future” and it “looks forward to joining the Mine Ban Treaty.”⁶⁴ Previously, in 2004, Lebanon had said that it was unable to join the Mine Ban Treaty due to the continuing conflict with Israel.⁶⁵ The 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah further heightened concerns about the security of its southern border. In August 2013, Lebanon’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adnan Mansour, reportedly stated that landmines “are protecting the border” with Israel.⁶⁶ Lebanon has attended a few meetings of the treaty as an observer state. It has abstained from voting on UN General Assembly resolutions promoting the treaty.

⁵⁹ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Reports, Form E, 24 May 2010, 24 May 2009, and 28 May 2008.

⁶⁰ Information provided by the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense, 10 April 2002.

⁶¹ This total quantity of mines was inconsistent with the quantity listed next to each of the six mine types, which added to 87,582. These included: 12,151 P-40 bounding fragmentation mines (apparently with fuze assemblies, produced by Italy); 6,848 TS-50 blast mines (apparently without fuzes, provided by Egypt); 2,765 NR-409 blast mines (produced by Belgium); 64,033 C3A1 Elsie blast mines (produced by Canada); 446 M14 blast mines (origin not specified); and 1,339 of an unknown type of high explosive mine with, presumably, a tripwire. Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form B, 28 May 2008.

⁶² The letter states that Kuwait “would like to communicate that the Competent Authorities in the State of Kuwait (Ministry of Defence) have destroyed the stockpile of Anti-Personnel Mines as mentioned in the State of Kuwait’s report on transparency measures (7.1b) reporting period 1st June 2008 – 30 March 2009,” Letter M 134/2009 from the Permanent Mission of Kuwait to the UN to the ISU, GICHD, 9 July 2009. The reference to the Article 7 report presumably applies to Kuwait’s initial report dated 28 May 2008, which erroneously lists the reporting period as 1 June 2008 to 30 March 2009.

⁶³ Statement by Kuwait, Tenth Meeting of States Parties, Mine Ban Treaty, 2 December 2010. Also Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Reports, Form D, 24 May 2010, 24 May 2009, and 28 May 2008.

⁶⁴ Statement by Gen. Mohamed Femhi, Director, Lebanon Mine Action Center (LMAC), Second Review Conference, Mine Ban Treaty, Cartagena, 4 December 2009. More fully, Lebanon said, “Regardless of the fact that Israel refuses to accede to the Ottawa or Oslo Conventions...Lebanon will not follow that same path. Lebanon understands the tragic consequences that cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines have on civilian populations. Lebanon has signed the Oslo treaty and hopes to sign the Ottawa Convention in the future...Lebanon, here again, confirms his beliefs in the principle of the Ottawa Convention and its noble objectives, and looks forward to joining the Mine Ban Treaty.”

⁶⁵ Statement by Amb. Michel Haddad, Mine Ban Treaty First Review Conference, Nairobi, 3 December 2004. The ambassador cited the “failure of the Government of Israel to submit all the maps showing the deployment of landmines” and the “continued occupation by Israel of parts of Southern Lebanon.”

⁶⁶ “[Mansour Says Lebanon Confronts Israeli ‘Bats’ With Landmines](#),” *Naharnet Newsdesk*, 8 August 2013.

In December 2009, Lebanon confirmed that it “has never produced or exported antipersonnel mines.”⁶⁷ There have been no allegations of new use by Lebanese forces of antipersonnel mines or antipersonnel mine-like devices in Lebanon since 2006.⁶⁸ In late 2011 and in 2012, the Syrian Army laid antipersonnel and antivehicle mines along its borders, including the border with Lebanon in al-Buni, Heet (PMN-2 and TMN-46 mines), and Masharih al-Qaa.⁶⁹ In August 2017, the Lebanese Army launched a military operation to expel Islamic State (IS) militants from an area they occupied in the western Qalamoun Mountains, near Arsala, on Lebanon’s border with Syria. The area occupied by IS was found to have extensive contamination from IS-laid improvised mines.⁷⁰

Lebanon has retained a small quantity of mines for training purposes, which it reports as being lower than the maximum number permitted by the Mine Ban Treaty for training purposes.⁷¹

Libya

The State of Libya has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. In October 2017, a representative said that Libya “supports the concerns of the international community about the humanitarian impact of anti-personnel mines and their destruction and the fact that they hinder sustainable development. We need only look at the effects of anti-personnel mines since the Second World War. We are also well aware of the damage caused by occupation. However, the Convention does not make reference to the responsibility that occupying States bear for repairing the damage they have caused and assisting the countries they have colonized.”⁷² Previously, in October 2011, two Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials informed the ICBL that there was support for joining the Mine Ban Treaty, but that the matter must wait until the new government was established and for the legislative body to consider accession.⁷³ Libya has voted in favor of UN General Assembly resolutions supporting the universalization and implementation of the Mine

⁶⁷ Statement by Gen. Femhi, LMAC, Second Review Conference, Mine Ban Treaty, Cartagena, 4 December 2009.

⁶⁸ See, *Landmine Monitor Report 2007*, pp. 893–895, for allegations regarding Hezbollah, Fatah al-Islam, and Israel; and response to Monitor questionnaire by the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the UN in Geneva, 26 August 2011. Lebanon confirmed in the August 2011 letter that “Antipersonnel mines were never used in Lebanon in 2010 or 2011.”

⁶⁹ The Lebanese president confirmed in November 2011 that Syria had planted landmines along its border with Lebanon, on the Syrian side. See, “[Sleiman: Syria regrets incursions into Lebanon](#),” *The Daily Star*, 10 November 2011; “[2 Syrian Nationals Wounded by Landmine at Northern Border-Crossing](#),” *Naharnet*, 9 February 2012; and “[Syria plants mines along Lebanon border](#),” *The Daily Star*, 13 June 2012.

⁷⁰ Landmine Monitor interview with Brig. Gen. Ziad Nasr, Director, LMAC, in Geneva, 4 September 2017.

⁷¹ Interview with Gen. Fehmi, LMAC, Beirut, 3 March 2008. While the text of the Mine Ban Treaty does not specify a maximum number that may be retained for demining training purposes, most States Parties have agreed that the number should be in the hundreds or thousands, or less, and not in the tens of thousands.

⁷² Libya, Explanation of Vote on Resolution L.40, 72nd Session, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) First Committee, New York, 31 October 2017, UNGA, Official Records, A/C.1/72/PV.26, p. 7/29.

⁷³ ICBL meeting with El-Mahdi El-Maghreby, Director, International Organizations, and Salaheddin El Mesalati, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Libya, in New York, 18 October 2011.

Ban Treaty since 2012. Libya has participated as an observer in many of the treaty's Meetings of States Parties as well as the first and third Review Conferences.⁷⁴

As the Gaddafi government progressively lost control of the country in 2011, massive weapon depots containing landmines and other munitions were abandoned by government forces and left unsecured.⁷⁵ Local and international mine action organizations have worked with Libyan authorities and the UN since mid-2011 to collect and destroy abandoned ordnance, but it is unclear how many landmines were removed by anti-government rebels, civilians, and others.

Prior to 2011, Libya consistently stated that it had never produced or exported antipersonnel mines and that it no longer stockpiled the weapon.⁷⁶ Yet abundant evidence subsequently emerged showing that Libya accumulated a stockpile of hundreds of thousands of antipersonnel and antivehicle mines under Gaddafi's leadership, and that his forces used tens of thousands of these mines during the 2011 conflict. In December 2016, Chinese-made Type 84 scatterable antivehicle mines appeared in Benghazi in the possession of the Libyan National Army.

The post-Gaddafi government in Libya began to destroy landmine stocks in early 2012, but no information is available on the numbers or types of landmines destroyed and it is not clear if systematic stockpile destruction efforts are still being undertaken.⁷⁷

Landmine use by some of the many militias active in Libya has occurred occasionally since the overthrow of the Gaddafi regime. HRW confirmed the use of five types of mines in six separate locations by pro-Gaddafi forces during the 2011 conflict.

Prior to 2011, Libya last used antipersonnel mines during its 1980–1987 war with Chad. Libya is contaminated by mines and unexploded ordnance from World War II, as well as from wars with Egypt (1977) and Chad (1980–1987). Minefields are said to exist in desert, port, and urban areas; however, no nationwide survey has ever been conducted. Previously, some facilities were protected by minefields, such as an ammunition storage area outside of Ajdabiya that HRW then confirmed was partially surrounded by a minefield marked solely by a deteriorating fence.⁷⁸

⁷⁴ It was absent from the Meetings of States Parties held in 2001, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, and the Second Review Conference in 2009.

⁷⁵ This included the 60-bunker Hight Razma facility near Benghazi, a 35-bunker facility near Ajdabiya, and a smaller facility near Tobruk. In September 2011, HRW visited in a Khamis Brigade base in the Salahadin neighborhood of Tripoli that included a farm compound holding approximately 15,000 antipersonnel mines and a nearby storage facility housing more than 100,000 antipersonnel and antivehicle mines. HRW, "Landmines in Libya: Technical Briefing Note," 19 July 2011; and HRW, "Libya: Secure Unguarded Arms Depots," 9 September 2011.

⁷⁶ Interview with Col. Ali Alahrash, Ministry of Defense, Geneva, 16 March 2004.

⁷⁷ HRW, "Libya: Secure Unguarded Arms Depots," 9 September 2011. In March 2012, HRW witnessed the destruction of Type-72SP antivehicle landmines.

⁷⁸ HRW, "[Landmines in Libya: Technical Briefing Note](#)," 19 July 2011.

Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. Officials from Morocco have repeatedly stated that the dispute over Western Sahara is the only obstacle preventing Morocco from acceding.⁷⁹ In 2017, Morocco stated it “fully subscribes to the founding principles and humanitarian goals” of the treaty, and has been voluntarily active in its obligations to clear minefields and destroy stockpiles.⁸⁰ In December 2018, Morocco voted in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 71/61 calling for universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty, as in previous years. Morocco regularly submits voluntary Article 7 transparency reports.

Morocco has acknowledged extensive use of mines in the past, most notably at the berms built from 1982 to 1987 to secure the northwest corner of Western Sahara. There have been no confirmed instances of mine use since that time.⁸¹ In May 2009, Morocco told States Parties that it still possesses antipersonnel mines that are used for training its army for participation in peacekeeping operations.⁸² Morocco maintains that it has never produced or transferred antipersonnel mines.⁸³

Oman

The Sultanate of Oman acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 20 August 2014 and the treaty entered into force for the country on 1 February 2015.⁸⁴ In May 2017, Oman reported that it had taken several legal measures to implement the Mine Ban Treaty. These measures included Sultan’s Order 26/2014 on joining the convention, the inclusion of the convention articles in Omani Penal and Military Judicial Law, and the ordering of all military institutions to cease

⁷⁹ Interview with Gen. Ben Elias, Royal Moroccan Army, and the two generals heading the second and third military zones, Agadir, 27 October 2008; interview with Nasser Bourita, Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rabat, 29 October 2008; and Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UN, “Response to Questions from the Canadian NGO Mines Action Canada,” 18 May 2009.

⁸⁰ [Statement of Morocco](#), Mine Ban Treaty Intersessional Meetings, Geneva, 8-9 June 2017.

⁸¹ The government of Morocco and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguía el Hamra and Río de Oro (Polisario) have periodically traded accusations of new mine use, but both have denied it. See, *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*, p. 1,023.

⁸² Statement of Morocco, Standing Committee on General Status and Operation, Geneva, 25 May 2009. Morocco also said it only kept mines for training in 2006 and 2007. Response to Monitor questionnaire by Morocco, July 2006; and statement of Morocco, Addressing the Human Costs of Anti-personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War, Seminar for States of the Maghreb, Tunis, Tunisia, 9-10 September 2007.

⁸³ [Statement of Morocco](#), Mine Ban Treaty Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 2 December 2013.

⁸⁴ Oman’s Ambassador Lyutha Sultan Al-Mughairy deposited the accession instrument at the United Nations (UN) in New York on 20 August 2014. In a statement, she said the move “demonstrates that all States from all parts of the world have a role to play in ending the suffering caused by these insidious weapons.” Mine Ban Treaty Implementation Support Unit, [“Oman becomes the 162nd State Party to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,”](#) 20 August 2014. Oman participated in the Ottawa Process leading to the Mine Ban Treaty and has remained sporadically engaged. The ICBL engaged with Oman on the Mine Ban Treaty for years, with visits to Muscat by its diplomatic adviser in 2012 and other representatives in 2007. In March 2014, Oman’s Foreign Affairs Minister, Youssef bin Alawi bin Abdullah, informed the Mine Ban Treaty envoy, Princess Astrid of Belgium, of the government’s decision to join the Mine Ban Treaty.

providing instruction on antipersonnel landmine use.⁸⁵ Oman has participated in most of the treaty's Meetings of States Parties and intersessional meetings.

Oman's deadline for stockpile destruction was 1 February 2019. In its initial Article 7 transparency report in 2015, Oman declared a stockpile of 17,260 antipersonnel mines of Belgian, British, and German manufacture.⁸⁶ It has stated its intention to retain 2,000 antipersonnel mines and has established an implementation unit to organize stockpile destruction and clearance.⁸⁷ Oman noted in its initial Article 7 report that while it possessed an operational stock of claymore mines, they were limited to command detonation mode.⁸⁸ Oman completed the destruction of its stockpile in September 2018.⁸⁹

Officials previously stated that Oman has never produced or exported antipersonnel mines, but imported and used them in the past.⁹⁰

Palestine

The State of Palestine acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty on 29 December 2017, and the treaty entered into force on 1 June 2018.⁹¹ Palestine reported in 2012 that a Higher Committee for Mine Action, within the Ministry of Interior, was established as an interministerial body to develop legislation regarding mine action, and as of 2018 reports that it is still working on the legislation.

The Landmine Monitor has not found any allegations of use of antipersonnel mines or mine-like devices by any Palestinian entity in recent years.⁹² In its 2012 voluntary transparency report, Palestine stated that it does not possess a stockpile of antipersonnel mines, that it will not retain

⁸⁵ [Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report \(in Arabic\)](#), Form A, 8 May 2017. No details or names of laws were provided, nor copies of their texts.

⁸⁶ Oman listed a stockpile of 1,556 No. 7 (UK); 12,560 PRB M409 (Belgium); and 3,144 DM31 (German) antipersonnel mines. [Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report \(in Arabic\)](#), August 2015. Translation by the Monitor.

⁸⁷ It stated the intention to retain 300 No. 7; 1,000 PRB M409; and 700 DM31 antipersonnel mines for training. [Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report \(in Arabic\)](#), August 2015. Translation by the Monitor. The Article 7 report noted that there could be 99,000km² of suspected hazardous areas containing antipersonnel and antivehicle mines and explosive remnants of war remaining from the 1962–1976 Dhofar rebellion.

⁸⁸ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (in Arabic), August 2015. Translation by the Monitor.

⁸⁹ ["Oman fulfils Convention obligation by destroying its stockpile of anti-personnel mines,"](#) Mine Ban Treaty Implementation Support Unit, 29 November 2018.

⁹⁰ Interview with Staff Cmdr. Maj. Elbarami, Ministry of Defense, Mine Ban Treaty Eighth Meeting of States Parties, at the Dead Sea, 19 November 2007.

⁹¹ UN, [C.N.810.2017.TREATIES-XXVI.5](#) (Depositary Notification).

⁹² Palestinian militias have produced and used command-detonated improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The Mine Ban Treaty prohibits use of victim-activated IEDs and booby-traps, which function as antipersonnel mines, but does not prohibit use of command-detonated IEDs. Media and other reports are not always clear whether devices involved in explosive incidents in Palestine are victim-activated or command-detonated, and reports often use a number of terms interchangeably, citing the use of bombs, landmines, booby-traps, and IEDs.

any mines for training purposes, and will only transfer mines for destruction. The report also stated that it never had production facilities for antipersonnel mines.⁹³

Clearance efforts in Palestine are ongoing. In May 2016, the HALO Trust began clearing landmines around Christian holy sites in the West Bank.⁹⁴ Palestine reported in 2018 deminers assisted by HALO Trust have removed 796 antipersonnel mines, fully clearing the districts of Hebron, Bethlehem, and Qalqilya, while Jenin district has three regions with ongoing clearance needs. Palestine reported in 2018 that it projects completion of clearance by the end of 2020, but notes that it may need additional resources to meet its deadline.⁹⁵

Qatar

The State of Qatar signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 4 December 1997, ratified on 13 October 1998, and became a State Party on 1 April 1999. Qatar has never used, produced, exported, or imported antipersonnel mines, including for training purposes. It believes that existing legislation is sufficient to enforce the antipersonnel mine prohibition domestically. Qatar consistently provides updated Article 7 transparency reports and has attended most meetings of the treaty.

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty, and has made no recent statements indicating its position toward the treaty. It consistently abstains from the vote on UN General Assembly resolutions in support of the treaty, most recently in December 2018. Officials have previously stated that Saudi Arabia does not want to forego its option to use antipersonnel mines in the future.⁹⁶ Saudi Arabia has participated as an observer in most recent meetings of the convention.

In 2016 and 2017, reports of mine use and seizures have occurred in southern Saudi Arabia on its borders with Yemen, in Aseer and Jazan provinces. Saudi Arabia has attributed the use of mines on its borders to Yemeni Houthi rebels as well as smugglers.⁹⁷ In December 2013, representatives of Saudi Arabia stated to the ICBL that they were not using mines on their border with Yemen.⁹⁸ In some cases, significant quantities of landmines have been seized.⁹⁹

⁹³ Mine Ban Treaty Voluntary Article 7 Report (covering period until August 1, 2012), September 2012.

⁹⁴ Oren Liebermann, "[Decades after war, churches near Jesus' baptism site to be cleared of mines](#)," *CNN*, 15 May 2016.

⁹⁵ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, 26 November 2018.

⁹⁶ Statement by Brig.-Gen. Ibrahim Bin Mohammed al Arifi, Ministry of Defense, First Review Conference, Nairobi, 3 December 2004

⁹⁷ See, "[Saudi soldier killed by landmine near Yemen border](#)," *Middle East Online*, 9 December 2016; and Mohammed Al-Sulami, "[Saudi Border Guards stops efforts to plant land mines, smuggle weapons in southern Kingdom](#)," *Arab News*, 20 March 2017.

⁹⁸ ICBL meeting with representative of Saudi Arabia to Mine Ban Treaty Thirteenth Meeting of States Parties, Geneva, 5 December 2013. Notes by the ICBL.

⁹⁹ Mohammed Al-Sulami, "[Saudi Border Guards stops efforts to plant land mines, smuggle weapons in southern Kingdom](#)," *Arab News*, 25 March 2017.

Previously, in 2008, Saudi Arabia stated to the Monitor, “the Kingdom has not produced nor exported any type of mines...The Kingdom possesses a stockpile of old anti-personnel mines however; these mines have never been used.” It went on to note that it has “a number of legislations and procedures...that regulate importing, producing and storing anti-personnel mines.”¹⁰⁰

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, involving partners Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates, is responsible for extensive contamination of Yemen with explosive remnants from airstrikes and ground attacks, including the use of cluster munitions.¹⁰¹ The Saudi government has touted its demining activities in Yemen, but Human Rights Watch has criticized their methods, noting a lack of transparency and high number of deminer casualties, indicating poor training methods and lack of expertise.¹⁰²

Syria

The Syrian Arab Republic has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty. Syria has articulated the same position on the ban treaty for years: it is concerned with the plight of mine victims, but views antipersonnel mines as necessary weapons, as shown by its use of the weapons since 2011. Syria also considers Israel’s continued annexation/occupation of part of the Golan Heights as a key reason for not joining the treaty.¹⁰³ Syria last participated as an observer in a Mine Ban Treaty meeting in 2006.¹⁰⁴ Since 1996, Syria has abstained from voting on every annual UN General Assembly resolution on landmines.

Syria is not known to have produced or exported antipersonnel mines. The size and origin of Syria’s mine stockpile is not known, but it is believed to be significant and comprised mainly of Soviet/Russian-manufactured mines.

In late 2011, the first reports emerged of Syrian government use of antipersonnel mines in the country’s border areas.¹⁰⁵ A Syrian official acknowledged the government had “undertaken many measures to control the borders, including planting mines.”¹⁰⁶ In January 2016, Doctors Without Borders reported that Syrian government forces laid landmines around the town of Madaya in Rif Dimashq governorate, some 10 kilometers from the Lebanon border. In October

¹⁰⁰ Letter from Saud M. Alsati, Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Washington, DC, 9 July 2008.

¹⁰¹ HRW, “[Yemen: Brazil-Made Cluster Munitions Harm Civilians](#),” 23 December 2016.

¹⁰² HRW, “[Yemen: Houthi Landmines Kill Civilians, Block Aid](#),” 22 April 2019.

¹⁰³ Telephone interview with Milad Atieh, Director, Department of International Organizations and Conventions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 29 January 2008; and interview with Mohd Haj Khaleel, Department of International Organizations and Conventions, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Damascus, 25 February 2007. See also, statement of Syria, Seminar on Military and Humanitarian Issues Surrounding the Mine Ban Treaty, Amman, 19-21 April 2004.

¹⁰⁴ A Geneva-based Syrian diplomat attended as an observer the Seventh Meeting of States Parties in Geneva in September 2006.

¹⁰⁵ ICBL Press Release, “[ICBL publicly condemns reports of Syrian forces laying mines](#),” 2 November 2011.

¹⁰⁶ “[Assad troops plant land mines on Syria-Lebanon border](#),” *The Associated Press*, 1 November 2011.

2016, residents of Madaya claimed that the Lebanese armed group, Hezbollah, operating together with government forces, laid mines around the town.

In 2016, reports of mine use by the Islamic State (IS or ISIS) increased. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported several incidents resulting from mines that IS fighters likely laid as the group controlled the territory for prolonged periods of time.¹⁰⁷ An investigation by HRW in October 2016 collected the names of 69 civilians, including 19 children, killed by improvised mines, which were laid in schools, homes, and on roads.¹⁰⁸ Landmine use continued in 2017, with SNHR reporting 12 casualties in Raqqa governorate in just August and September.¹⁰⁹ As IS retreated from former strongholds, it used improvised landmines and booby-traps in a last effort to kill civilians and opposition forces.

Between September 2015 and January 2017, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) successfully cleared 7,500 improvised mines and other improvised devices from Iraq and Syria.¹¹⁰

Prior to the current armed conflict that began in 2011, Syria was last believed to have used landmines in 1982 during the conflict with Israel in Lebanon. Little was known about the extent of its landmine problem, but the most significantly mined areas were in the Syrian-controlled Golan Heights, in the southwest of the country, in addition to its borders.

Tunisia

The Republic of Tunisia signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 4 December 1997, ratified on 9 July 1999, and became a State Party on 1 January 2000. Tunisia considers 10 of its existing laws to be implementation measures for the Mine Ban Treaty.¹¹¹ Tunisia consistently submits Article 7 transparency reports and has participated in most meetings of the treaty.

¹⁰⁷ For example, in Aleppo governorate alone, SNHR reported civilian casualties in August, September, and October 2016 from landmines that IS apparently laid in the villages of Najm, Abu Qalqal, Al Humar, and Al Dadat. See, SNHR, "[Children died in ISIS landmine explosion in Najm village in Aleppo governorate, August 23](#)," 23 August 2016; SNHR, "[Victims died due to ISIS landmine explosion in Abu Qalqal town in Aleppo governorate, September 2](#)," 2 September 2016; SNHR, "[Children died in ISIS landmine explosion in O'wn Al Dadat village in Aleppo governorate in October 4](#)," 4 October 2016; and SNHR, "[Civilians died due to ISIS landmines explosion in Mazzyounet Al Humar village in Aleppo governorate, September 21](#)," 21 September 2016.

¹⁰⁸ HRW Press Release, "[Syria: Improvised Mines Kill, Injure Hundreds in Manbij](#)," October 26, 2016.

¹⁰⁹ SNHR, "[Civilians killed in ISIS landmine planted by ISIS in Kasrat Srou village in Raqqa governorate on September 23](#)," 24 September 2017; SNHR, "[Civilians killed in ISIS's landmine explosion in al Tayyar neighborhood in Raqqa city on September 14](#)," 16 September 2017; SNHR, "[Children killed in ISIS's landmine explosion in Raqqa city on August 14](#)," 15 August 2017; SNHR, "[A mother and her son killed by ISIS landmine explosion in Raqqa city on August 7](#)," 8 August 2017; SNHR, "[Victims killed by ISIS landmine explosion near the southern entrance of Raqqa city on August 4](#)," 5 August 2017; SNHR, "[Aziz Aijan killed in ISIS's landmine explosion in Hneida village in Raqqa governorate on August 6](#)," 7 August 2017.

¹¹⁰ Chris Loughran and Sean Sutton, "[MAG: Clearing Improvised Landmines in Iraq](#)," *The Journal of Conventional Weapons Destruction*, April 2017.

¹¹¹ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for the period April 2017 to April 2018), Form A. The most salient actions include Law No. 2003-1266, dated 9 June 2003; Law No. 2005-47, dated 27 June 2005; and Law No. 2006-464, dated 15 February 2006.

Tunisia has never produced or exported antipersonnel mines, but has imported them in the past.¹¹² Tunisia completed the destruction of 18,259 stockpiled antipersonnel mines in September 2003.¹¹³

In its initial declaration in July 2000, Tunisia reported retaining 5,000 antipersonnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Mine Ban Treaty.¹¹⁴ In its Article 7 report submitted in 2019, Tunisia reported that it retains 4,405 mines for training and that 55 mines were used for training purposes during the April 2018 to April 2019 reporting period.¹¹⁵ Tunisia has not specified the type of retained mines that it has destroyed, nor has it reported in detail on the intended purposes and actual uses of retained mines.

Since April 2013, new use of improvised mines by non-state armed groups has been reported during the Tunisian armed forces' ongoing operations against Islamist rebel forces near the Algerian border.¹¹⁶

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has not acceded to the Mine Ban Treaty, although it has, on occasion, expressed interest in joining. In November 2007, a UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs official told the ICBL that the UAE planned to join the treaty in the near future.¹¹⁷ The UAE has not attended a Mine Ban Treaty Meeting of States Parties since the twelfth meeting in Geneva in December 2012, and has never submitted a voluntary Article 7 report. The UAE has previously voted in favor of a UN General Assembly Resolution promoting the treaty, but did not vote on the most recent resolution in December 2018.

The UAE has stated that it has not produced, used, or exported antipersonnel mines.¹¹⁸ While some officials have said that the UAE does not have a stockpile of antipersonnel mines, the *Landmine Monitor* has received conflicting information from another governmental source.¹¹⁹

¹¹² See, *Landmine Monitor Report 2005*, p. 577.

¹¹³ See, *Landmine Monitor Report 2004*, p. 821.

¹¹⁴ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form D, 9 July 2000.

¹¹⁵ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for the period April 2018 to April 2019), Form D.

¹¹⁶ Previously two Islamist groups in the area reportedly merged in January 2014: Ansar al-Sharia Tunisia and the Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade.

¹¹⁷ Interview with Abdallah al-Naqbi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mine Ban Treaty Eighth Meeting of States Parties, at the Dead Sea, Jordan, 22 November 2007.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁹ The Secretary of Defense stated in September 2004 there were no stockpiles. Email from Amb. Satnam Jit Singh, Diplomatic Advisor, ICBL, 7 October 2004. This was also claimed in a presentation by Ali al-Hosni, UAE military officer, at the Workshop on the Risks of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), Sharjah, 8-9 December 2003, organized by the Arab Network for Research on Landmines and ERW. In 2006, an official who asked not to be identified told the ICBL that there were some stockpiles of antipersonnel mines.

Yemen

The Republic of Yemen signed the Mine Ban Treaty on 4 December 1997, ratified it on 1 September 1998, and became a State Party on 1 March 1999. Yemen enacted legislation to enforce implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty on 20 April 2005,¹²⁰ but it last referred to Presidential Law No. 25 in its 2007 transparency reports for the Mine Ban Treaty, and continued to omit any reference in subsequent reports.¹²¹ Yemen has participated in all of the Mine Ban Treaty's Review Conferences and most other meetings of the treaty.

Yemen has stated that it has never produced or exported antipersonnel mines. Yemen has reported the destruction of a total of approximately 108,000 antipersonnel mines from its stocks, but evidence of further use of antipersonnel mines in 2016 suggests either that the 2002 declaration to the UN Secretary-General on the completion of landmine stockpile destruction was incorrect, or that these mines were acquired from another source after 2002. In 2017, Yemen again reported the retention of 3,760 antipersonnel mines of four types for training and research purposes, the same quantity and types declared retained since 2008.¹²²

Yemen is heavily contaminated with mines as a result of decades of conflict. The Islamist armed group Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) used antipersonnel mines in Yemen in 2016.¹²³ Houthis forces are responsible for most contamination in recent years, reportedly having used landmines along the coast, along the border with Saudi Arabia, around key towns, along roads, and to cover retreats.¹²⁴ The Yemen Mine Action Center reported that Houthi forces laid more than 300,000 landmines between 2016 and 2018.¹²⁵ According to the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, landmines have killed at least 140 civilians since 2018, and have prevented humanitarian organizations from reaching many more.¹²⁶

¹²⁰ Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form A, 30 March 2007. On 16 December 2004, the Yemeni Parliament endorsed national implementation legislation; on 20 April 2005, Presidential Law No. 25 was issued to bring the legislation into force. Yemen has listed its ratification legislation, stating that "The Parliament of Yemen issued, and the President signed law on 8\98 in June 1998. The law states that the Government of Yemen will enforce the ban from the day the law was issued." Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for the period 31 March 2012 to 31 March 2013), Form A.

¹²¹ Yemen's 2017 transparency report states that during 2016, "no legal, and other measures were taken as additional measures to the [ratification] law issued by the Parliament of Yemen and signed by the president in 1998." Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report, Form A, April 2017.

¹²² Yemen declared the following mines: 940 PPMISR-2, 940 PMD-6, 940 POMZ-2, and 940 PMN. Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017), Form C. It declared the same number (3,760) of retained mines in its Article 7 reports provided in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, and 2014. Yemen's 2011 report declared a total of 4,000 antipersonnel mines retained for training and research purposes, including 240 additional mines (60 more of each type): 1,000 PPMISR-2, 1,000 PMD-6, 1,000 POMZ-2, and 1,000 PMN. Mine Ban Treaty Article 7 Report (for the period 30 March 2010 to 30 March 2011), Form D. Yemen has not provided any explanation for the increased number listed in the 2011 report.

¹²³ HRW, "[Yemen: Houthi-Saleh Forces Using Landmines](#)," 20 April 2017.

¹²⁴ Elana DeLozier, "[The Problem of Landmine Proliferation in Yemen](#)," *The Washington Institute*, 3 July 2018.

¹²⁵ Conflict Armament Research, "[Mines and IEDs Employed by Houthi Forces on Yemen's West Coast](#)," September 2018, p. 4.

¹²⁶ HRW, "[Yemen: Houthi Landmines Kill Civilians, Block Aid](#)," 22 April 2019.

There has been no evidence to suggest that members of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition have used landmines in Yemen, but Yemen is also heavily contaminated by explosive remnants of war resulting from Saudi coalition air strikes and ground attacks, including the use of banned cluster munitions.

Human Rights Watch has covered the problem of landmines in Yemen extensively, calling for the Houthi government to cease use of mines and punish commanders responsible for their use, as well as for humanitarian demining organizations to share information through a coordinated response guided by the International Mine Action Standards to better understand contamination types and areas, resulting in safer demining practices.¹²⁷

¹²⁷ Ibid.